

Genealogy Rocks!

Newspapers Reveal Ancestor Secrets!

Newspapers have often been described as the first draft of history. They can be an excellent source for researching the lives of our ancestors. Early newspapers covered the news, reported on local events, and recorded the births, marriages and deaths of the people in their community. Newspapers are also a great source for obituaries, which can give details of a person's life and clues to locate relatives. Articles involving suspenseful or illegal events are beneficial to genealogists and family historians.



Kathy Patrick

Finding newspapers published in a city during a specific time is to consult the city directory located at most libraries. Many older newspapers from 1600s to current are online for free or fee based. The Library of Congress website (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers>) on Historic American Newspapers includes a directory of newspapers that are located in libraries across the nation.

Historical Newspapers Online

website features a list of many historical U.S. newspapers by state that are available online at no cost at <http://gethelp.library.upenn.edu/guides/hist/onlinenewspapers.html>.

Another beneficial website is www.cyndislist.com. This categorizes various websites by subject, so you can search for the name of the newspaper or by location where it was published.

Newspapers are particularly useful in countries where government records are limited or non-existent. There are several foreign language newspapers available online at the popular www.ancestry.com, available by personal subscription or at Fort Collins and Loveland libraries and Family History Centers for free. The local Family History Centers have the 19th Century British Library Newspapers website available too. Look for yourself to find your ancestor's secrets!

❖ *Kathy Patrick is our society's vice president and genealogy instructor for Larimer County Genealogical Society. Our society has informative programs on every third Thursday except December starting at 6:30 pm at Harmony Library in Fort Collins. Visit our website: www.lcgsc.org or Facebook page for details of our events.*