



Newspaper Research

How to Find Your
Family History in
Newspapers

Webinar with Lisa Louise Cooke

In This Session You'll Learn

- What you can find
 - in newspapers about your ancestors
- 3 Cool Tools for Identifying newspapers
 - What newspapers
 - Where Can I find them
 - For what dates – years are the newspapers available
- Web sites that have digitized newspapers
 - Not all online
 - Growing number digitized
- Top tips to Remember



Key Family History Information Found in Historical Newspapers

- Vital Records – substitute data
- Maiden Names
- Photographs
- Insight into their community & lives
- Names of their friends & relatives
- Clues for your next record search
- It's really limitless



Key Family History Information Found in Historical Newspapers

- Social News – Don't miss the Social Column
- School Events
- Classified Ads & Advertising
- Legal Notices
- Events affecting their lives & decisions
 - Employment/Employer
 - Economy/Community
 - Disasters
- Tip – Make a copy of the front page



Where to look

- Town where they lived
- Neighboring Towns
- Countywide newspapers
- Out of area newspapers of close relatives
- Foreign Language neighborhood newspapers
- Church or Religion related newspapers



Identifying the Right Newspapers for Your Research

- Establish the Criteria
 - Location
 - Time Frame

- Tip – Use a Newspaper Research worksheet



3 Cool Tools for finding Newspapers

- Tool #1 – Stanford Newspaper Data Visualization
 - http://www.stanford.edu/group/ruralwest/cgi-bin/drupal/visualizations/us_newspapers
- Tool #2 – Newspaper Map
 - <http://newspapermap.com/>
- Tool# 3 – World Cat
 - <http://www.worldcat.org/>



Identifying the Right Newspapers

More Help

- The Directory of State Archives
 - www.statearchivists.org/states.htm
- The US Newspaper Program
 - www.neh.gov/projects/usnp.html
- US GenWeb Project
 - www.usgenweb.org Look by state>county>newspapers
- Penn Libraries: History Research Guides: Newspapers
 - <http://gethelp.library.upenn.edu/guides/hist/onlinenewspapers.html>



Identifying the Right Newspapers

More Help

- Reference Librarians at the State Library
 - www.PublicLibraries.com/state_library.htm
- Local Genealogical or Historical Society
 - <http://www.censusfinder.com/genealogy-society-directory.htm>
 - <http://fgs.org/membership/members.php>
- Google Search
 - “San Francisco” “Newspapers” 1850-1900 –Wikipedia



Top Web Sites to Search

- Google News Archive (1840-current)
 - <http://www.google.com/archivesearch>
- Chronicling America (1880-1922)
 - <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>
- Ancestry.com \$\$
- GenealogyBank.com \$\$
- NewspaperArchive.com \$\$
- WorldVitalRecords.com \$\$



Top 5 Tips

- **1-** Only a fraction of newspapers are visible online
- **2-** Newspapers are a secondary source
- **3-** Create Your Go-To Bookmark-Favorites File of Newspapers Web sites
- **4-** Look to the Future
- **5-** Ask for Help

