



S. C. Computer / Genealogy Class SIG  
Thursday, November 13, 2014, 10:00 a.m.  
*Karen Ristic*

Finding Your  
Ancestors in  
Online  
Newspapers





# Finding Your Ancestors in Online Newspapers

## 1. Introduction

## 2. What Can I Find in Online Newspapers?

## 3. Some Online Newspaper Collections

## 4. Some Tips for Searching Online Newspapers

## 5. Three Newspaper Websites in Detail

# 1. Introduction

- In the past, if local newspapers were microfilmed, they could be viewed on microfilm readers.



- More recently, newspapers are increasingly being digitized and placed on the Internet, some with free subscriptions and others with paid subscriptions.
- Only a small fraction of newspapers are visible online, but more are coming.
- Genealogists commonly look in newspapers for notices related to births, deaths, and marriages. However, newspapers provide details and clues to historical happenings: local and family news, religious notes, advertisements, probate, court, real estate, biographies, photographs, and a lot more.

- ▶ United States, Michigan, Hillsdale - Maps ( 4 )
- ▶ United States, Michigan, Hillsdale - Military records ( 2 )
- ▶ United States, Michigan, Hillsdale - Military records - Civil War, 1861-1865 ( 1 )
- ▶ United States, Michigan, Hillsdale - Military records - World War, 1914-1918 ( 1 )
- ▶ United States, Michigan, Hillsdale - Naturalization and citizenship ( 1 )
- ▶ **United States, Michigan, Hillsdale - Newspapers ( 1 )**

[Obituary, birth and marriage card file, Hillsdale County, Michigan, ca. 1900-2004]

Author: Mitchell Research Center (Hillsdale, Michigan); Friends of Mitchell Public Library

- ▶ United States, Michigan, Hillsdale - Obituaries ( 4 )

FamilySearch.org



## 2. What Can I Find in Online Newspapers?

- Small-town newspapers are extremely useful for genealogists since they regularly reported the goings-on of the community. This could include items such as:

- General news of the community
- Birth, marriage, and death notices
- Home-town activities
- Personal ads
- News of the court
- Church and school events
- Family news
- Social news and gossip
- Photographs
- Military service
- Organization affiliation
- Sports activities

St. Petersburg Times,  
Apr 13, 1959  
[news.google.com](http://news.google.com)

**REX W. TORBRON, 72, of 14070 W. Parsley Dr., Madeira Beach, died yesterday in a St. Petersburg hospital.**

Born in Hillsville, Mich., Mr. Torbron moved to Madeira Beach seven years ago from Youngstown, Ohio. He was a member of the Elks Club and was formerly assistant secretary and treasurer of the Standard Slag Co., Youngstown.

Survivors include wife, Kathleen M.; two sons, James B. Youngstown, and Robert W., Miami; two sisters, Mrs. George Coones, Euclid, Ohio, and Mrs. R. Waldo Hart, St. Petersburg.

Friends may call this evening at the Seminole Beach Memorial Home.



### 3. Online Newspaper Collections

#### a. Finding Aids

**1. The Directory of State Archives:**

[www.statearchivists.org/states.htm](http://www.statearchivists.org/states.htm); lists home page of each state's archives.

**2. The US Newspaper Program:**

<http://www.neh.gov/projects/usnp.html>; lists sources of each state's newspaper holdings.

**3. US GenWeb Project:** [www.USGenWeb.org](http://www.USGenWeb.org); go to your county website and look for "Newspapers."

**4. Reference librarian at each of the state libraries:**

[www.PublicLibraries.com/state\\_library.htm](http://www.PublicLibraries.com/state_library.htm)

**5. Newspaper Maps:** <http://www.newspapermap.com/>; using this map, you can pinpoint the places with newspapers.

**6. \*\* Library of Congress, Chronicling America:**

<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>; Click on *digital collections* and then search the state of your choice. 8 million pages available, 1836-1922, Free.



## a. Finding Aids (cont.)

8. **World Catalog:** [www.WorldCat.org](http://www.WorldCat.org); narrow search by using “Advanced Search” and “Newspapers.”
9. **\*\* Elephind:** <http://www.elephind.com/>; search 2,633,188 Newspapers — 2,677 newspaper titles, free; click *Advanced Search* to see countries and titles.
10. **Linkpendium:** <http://www.linkpendium.com>; divided by states and surnames; few newspaper articles, but interesting site.
11. **Newspaper Abstracts:** <http://newspaperabstracts.com>; has a few other countries besides the USA.





## **b. Some Online Newspaper Collections**

### **1. Free Newspaper Archives in the US:**

<http://www.freewebnewspaperarchives.us>; makes it easy to access free newspaper archives.

### **2. Historical Newspapers and Indexes on the Internet:**

<http://www.researchguides.net/newspapers.htm>; free, lists state newspapers.

### **3. Historical Newspapers on the Internet:**

<http://www.LegacyURL.com/bgsuhistnews>; a guide to U.S. newspapers which are freely available.

### **4. Historical Newspapers Online:** <http://www.LegacyURL.com/upennnews>; contains free cultural heritage collections

### **5. List of Online Newspaper Archives:**

<http://www.LegacyURL.com/wikipedianewsonline>; free wikipedia sources.

### **6. Newspaper Archives/Indexes/Morgues:**

<http://www.LegacyURL.com/locnewsarchives>; free newspaper sources on the web.

### **7. Online Historical Newspapers Website:**

<https://sites.google.com/site/onlinenewspapersite>; an aid to finding online newspapers on the web.



## c. Top Newspaper Websites

Once you have some idea which papers you are looking for, check the major websites to see if the newspapers are digitized and online. They are still a good resource for determining which newspapers are digitized.

1. **\*\* GenealogyBank:** [www.genealogybank.com](http://www.genealogybank.com); 1 Billion Records Online; Membership: Annual \$5.83/month (billed annually). Monthly \$19.95/month.
2. **Ancestry:** [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com); 1,420 collections in over 50 million pages; U.S. subscription \$189.00 for 1 year. Search>Card Catalog>Newspapers.
3. **WorldVitalRecords:** [www.worldvitalrecords.com](http://www.worldvitalrecords.com) ; 2 billion + names, \$199.99 for 1 year.
4. **NewspaperArchive:** [www.newspaperarchive.com](http://www.newspaperarchive.com); 145 Million+ Pages, 400 Years of Papers (1607 to today), all 50 U.S.States & 19 Countries; \$29.95 for 6 months.
5. **Google News Archive:** <http://news.google.com/newspapers>. Free. Search for articles older than 30 days
  1. **To Search for newspaper articles for a certain place:**
  2. Go to [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) and type in your search term [*your name of state/county*] *newspapers or digitized newspapers* and click Enter.
  3. To search for articles in a specified date range:
  4. Go to **Search tools** below the search box.
  5. From the menu that appears, click the **Any time** drop-down list and select the **Custom range** option in the box that appears, type your specified dates, i.e. 1880-1881.
  6. The search results you see will be within the dates you entered.
6. **Newspapers.com:** [newspapers.com](http://newspapers.com); Historical newspapers from the 1700s–2000s. Over 3,300 newspapers across the United States. 79+ Million pages. \$39.95 for one year





# Some Tips for Searching Online Newspapers

- **Try Exact spellings.** Because of the OCR technology used to index newspapers can help narrow your search. If there is no “exact” field, try putting quotes around the whole name to research for the words right next to each other.
- Also if your surname has more than one syllable, **the newspaper might have separated it by syllables onto the next line.** For example “Freestone” might be “Free” or “stone.”
- Try **limiting your search to both a hometown and nearby locality.**
- **Use dates and places** to limit your search
- Because it may have taken a long time for an event to get into a newspaper, **extend your time frame.**
- To search for stories about your ancestor’s hometown, **enter the town name in the keyword field if available.**
- **Be sure to get the name, date, and issue of the newspaper!**

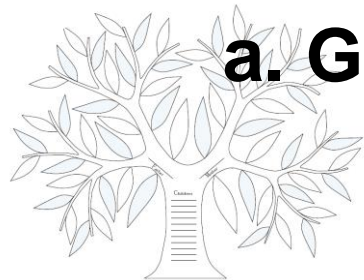


## 5. Three Newspaper Websites in Detail

### a. Genealogy Bank ([www.genealogybank.com](http://www.genealogybank.com))

- **Contents:**

- **Historical Newspapers.** GenealogyBank's 6,100+ historical newspapers from all 50 states, dates from 1690, and includes letters, speeches, opinion pieces, advertisements, hometown news, photographs, illustrations and more.
- **America's Obituaries.** 1977-present total more than 130 million.
- **Historical Books.** 1801-1900 includes family genealogies, local histories, biographies, and more.
- **Historical Documents.** 17989-1980 includes military records, casualty lists, Revolutionary and Civil War pension requests and more.
- **One-year membership** is \$69.95.



# a. Genealogy Bank (www.genealogybank.com)

**Refine your search**

Last Name  ?

First Name  ?

Include Keywords  "Orin Torbron" ?

Exclude Keywords  ?

☒ Date Range  to  ?

☐ Date

Added Since  ▼

[Newspaper Search Tips](#)

[Clear Form](#) [Begin Search ▶](#)

**Search U.S. Newspaper Archives By State**

Check your selection to search U.S. newspapers by state, city, or newspaper title.

<input type="checkbox"/> Alabama	<input type="checkbox"/> Montana
<input type="checkbox"/> Alaska	<input type="checkbox"/> Nebraska
<input type="checkbox"/> Arizona	<input type="checkbox"/> Nevada
<input type="checkbox"/> Arkansas	<input type="checkbox"/> New Hampshire
<input type="checkbox"/> California	<input type="checkbox"/> New Jersey
<input type="checkbox"/> Colorado	<input type="checkbox"/> New Mexico
<input type="checkbox"/> Connecticut	<input type="checkbox"/> New York
<input type="checkbox"/> Delaware	<input type="checkbox"/> North Carolina
<input type="checkbox"/> Dist. of Columbia	<input type="checkbox"/> North Dakota
<input type="checkbox"/> Florida	<input type="checkbox"/> Ohio
<input type="checkbox"/> Georgia	<input type="checkbox"/> Oklahoma
<input type="checkbox"/> Hawaii	<input type="checkbox"/> Oregon
<input type="checkbox"/> Idaho	<input type="checkbox"/> Pennsylvania
<input type="checkbox"/> Illinois	<input type="checkbox"/> Rhode Island
<input type="checkbox"/> Indiana	<input type="checkbox"/> South Carolina
<input type="checkbox"/> Iowa	<input type="checkbox"/> South Dakota
<input type="checkbox"/> Kansas	<input type="checkbox"/> Tennessee
<input type="checkbox"/> Kentucky	<input type="checkbox"/> Texas
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Louisiana	<input type="checkbox"/> Utah
<input type="checkbox"/> Maine	<input type="checkbox"/> Vermont
<input type="checkbox"/> Maryland	<input type="checkbox"/> Virginia
<input type="checkbox"/> Massachusetts	<input type="checkbox"/> Washington
<input type="checkbox"/> Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/> West Virginia
<input type="checkbox"/> Minnesota	<input type="checkbox"/> Wisconsin
<input type="checkbox"/> Mississippi	<input type="checkbox"/> Wyoming
<input type="checkbox"/> Missouri	

**4**

# a. Genealogy Bank Results

## 1 Orin F. Torbron Record in Newspaper Archives

(Result 1 of 1) [Refine Search Results](#)

Sort by Best matches

### 1. Newspaper Article

Date: Saturday, March 18, 1944

Location: Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Paper: *Advocate*

Article type: Newspaper Article

Bill Dickey, left, for the New York Yankees, receives congratulations from Maj. Orin F. Torbron, commander of the armed service induction station at Little Rock, Ark., after the former passed his physical examination. Dickey, a native of Bastrop, La., and former Jackson, Miss., team member, was assigned to the Navy. In his sixteenth consecutive year with the Yankees in 1943, he batted .351. (AP Wirephoto.)

Bill Dickey, left, of Little Rock, Ark., veteran catcher for the New York Yankees, receives congratulations from Maj. Orin F. Torbron of Houston, Tex., commanding officer of the armed service induction station at Little Rock, after the former passed his physical examination. Dickey, a native of Bastrop, La., and former Jackson, Miss., team member, was assigned to the Navy. In his sixteenth consecutive year with the Yankees in 1943, he batted .351. (AP Wirephoto.)

## Baseball Good to 'Yankee Bill' Dickey, and Vice-Versa. Says Martin; Catcher to Enter Navy



Bill Dickey, left, of Little Rock, Ark., veteran catcher for the New York Yankees, receives congratulations from Maj. Orin F. Torbron of Houston, Tex., commanding officer of the armed service induction station at Little Rock, after the former passed his physical examination. Dickey, a native of Bastrop, La., and former Jackson, Miss., team member, was assigned to the Navy. In his sixteenth consecutive year with the Yankees in 1943, he batted .351. (AP Wirephoto.)

[Home](#) > [Newspaper Archives](#) > [Search Results](#) > Result 1 of 1

► This item refers to *Torbron; Orin;*

F..

Date: Saturday, March 18, 1944 Paper: *Advocate* (Baton Rouge, LA) Page: 12

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HIGHLIGHTS: ☒ Torbron; Orin; F.

# b. Library of Congress, Chronicling America

(<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/search/titles>)

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

ASK A LIBRARIAN DIGITAL COLLECTIONS LIBRARY CATALOGS

Search Search Loc.gov GO

The Library of Congress > Chronicling America > The Homer index.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

CHRONICLING AMERICA  
Historic American Newspapers

Search America's historic newspaper pages from 1836-1922 or use the U.S. Newspaper Directory to find information about American newspapers published between 1690-present. Chronicling America is sponsored jointly by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress. [Learn more >](#)

Search Pages Advanced Search All Digitized Newspapers 1836-1922 US Newspaper Directory, 1690-Present

Select State(s):  
Oregon  
Pennsylvania  
Piedmont  
South Carolina  
South Dakota  
Tennessee  
Texas  
Utah  
Vermont

Or Select Newspaper(s):  
The Honolulu times. (Honolulu [Hawaii])  
The Hood River glacier. (Hood River, Or.)  
Hopkinsville Kentuckian. (Hopkinsville, Ky.)  
Houma Ceres. (Houma, Parish of Terrebonne, La.)  
The Houma courier. (Houma, La.)  
The Houston daily post. (Houston, Tex.)  
The Howard union. (Glasgow, Mo.)  
The huntsman's echo. (Wood River, Buffalo County, N.T.)

Select Year(s)\*  
Newspaper pages are available for newspapers published between 1836-1922\*  
from 1836 to 1922

Or Date Range  
from to

Limit Search: ☐ only front page or Specific page ☐

Language All

Enter Search  
...with any of the words: ...with all of the words: ...with the phrase:  
...with the words: within 5 words of each other

Clear Search

Pages Available: 8,423,994

Print Subscribe Share/Save Give Feedback

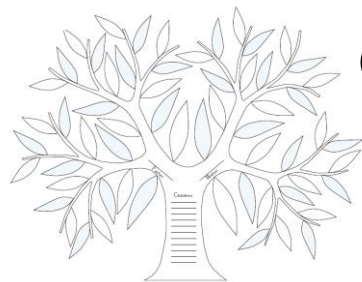
CLOSE-LOWE—Alvin, Texas, August 26.  
Mr. Robert Close and Miss Hattie Lowe  
were united in marriage at the residence  
of Jesse Hobbs last evening.

HANDLEY-MOORE — Cleburne, Texas,  
August 26.—Claude Handley, a druggist  
of Venus, and Miss Emma Moore of Grand  
View were licensed to marry yesterday.

TORRIBON-WHITE—Cleburne, Texas,  
August 24.—Frank Torrison and Miss Laura  
White were married yesterday. They met  
the preacher in the road and were there  
united in matrimony between Cleburne and  
Bone.

*The Houston daily post. (Houston, Tex.), 28  
Aug. 1897. Chronicling America: Historic  
American Newspapers. Lib. of Congress.  
<<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn86071197/1897-08-28/ed-1/seq-3/>>*





## c. Elephind.com (<http://www.elephind.com>)



Search the world's  
historical newspapers  
online now!



enter key words into the search box

SEARCH

refine results by clicking 'advanced search'  
or by using the side bar:

You can also [browse](#) all of the  
newspaper publications available:

### List of titles

...  
...

### New Zealand

[Papers Past \(National Library of New Zealand\)](#) +

### United States

[University of Illinois](#) +

### Refine Search

#### Country of Publication

[United States \(4160\)](#)

[New Zealand \(2122\)](#)

#### Source

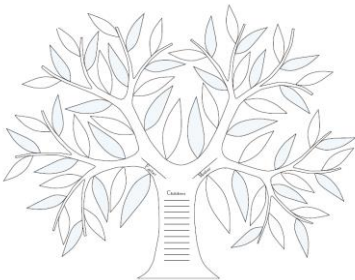
#### Publication

#### Decade

### Advanced Search

Search within:	Full text	Results per page:	20				
From:	Day	Month	Year	To:	Day	Month	Year
Publication title							
Country of publication:	<a href="#">All countries</a> Australia New Zealand Singapore United States						
Collection source	<a href="#">All sources</a> Boston College California Digital Newspaper Collection (UC Riverside) Cambridge Public Library, Massachusetts Chronicling America (US Library of Congress)						





## c. Elephind Results

Pensions granted Texans: Original—John D. Reed, Tittle, \$8; John L. Gough, Eagle Pass, \$10. Increase—Joshua Davis, Springtown, \$6; Nelson M. Turner, Hail, \$6; Henry L. Rankin, Jewett, \$12; Thimmon H. Laney, Hiram, \$8; Paul E. La Frae, Austin, \$8; Isaac G. Ricks, Rusk, \$12; Samuel W. Young, Houston, \$8; Richard **Torbron**, Cleburne, \$8; Isalah Weston, El Paso, \$12; Martin Boatright, Llano, \$12; Harvey A. Gregory, Park Springs, \$12; John C. Shields, Cleburne, \$10; Frederick Freitag, Bee Caves, \$12. Mexican war increase—William P. M. Dean, Lewis Ferry, \$12; Job W. B. Hughes, Boyd, Tehua Mustang, \$12. Original war with Spain—James B. Halcomb, Waterloo, \$10. Widows—Martha J. Edwards, Fort Worth, \$8.

*The Houston Daily Post (Houston, Tex.), Vol. XVIII YEAR, No. 317, Ed. 1, Saturday, February 15, 1902*

### Fort Worth gazette., January 30, 1895, MAILABLE EDITION., Page 3, Image 3

About Fort Worth gazette. (Fort Worth, Tex.) 1891-1898

Image provided by: University of North Texas; Denton, TX

Image viewer interface showing a newspaper page. The interface includes a toolbar with zoom (+/-), home, and print icons. Below the toolbar, the status bar shows "Image: 3 of 8", navigation buttons for "Page", "All Pages", "Issues", and "All Issues", and a dropdown menu with options "Text | PDF | JP2 (2.0 MB)". The newspaper page content is visible below the interface. The text on the page includes:

ne and Hurst's as Re-lation, at con-t debt-

Two railroad men (names not known) got into a row at the Turf saloon last night. They beat each other over the head considerably, making a few cuts and bruises, but breaking no bones. Conductor Gawson is sick. Frank **Torbron** is quite sick. Trainmaster Pendell has returned from Gainesville. Superintendent Davidson went to

of the character that should be submitted to arbitration. There is no question as to the interpretation of the treaty. It is perfectly clear and explicit, without a single clause over which dispute can be raised. But the present administration of Guatemala does not like the provisions of that treaty, and wishes to ignore it or withdraw from it. In proposing to submit the subject to arbitration it merely wishes that matters which have been fully discussed and definitely agreed upon by the

ue and Thirty-fo



The following newspaper clipping was **NOT** found online. . .

From June 23, 1881 in the  
Marshall (Michigan) Statesman

A rather sudden and mysterious death occurred Sunday night at the residence of Robert Wixsom. The particulars are about as follows: John **Truax**, a weak-minded and inoffensive man, sixty years of age, has been boarding with Mr. Wixsom of late. Sunday afternoon he went to his room to take a nap or rest, and on departing, said to Wixsom in a familiar way, "Robert, if I should not wake, you will see that I am decently buried, won't you?" Wixsom said he would, and supposed John was joking, as he had been accustomed to use about the same language on previous occasions. When called to supper **Truax**

failed to respond, and he was found breathing very loudly. A physician was soon at hand who pronounced the case a result of opiates. Efforts were made to restore him, but without avail, as he died about midnight. Mr. Wixsom wrote several letters for the deceased during the fore part of the day, and it is probable that an end to his earthly career was contemplated at that time. An inquest was held Tuesday forenoon, and the conclusion reached was that the deceased came to his death by an overdose of opium administered by himself.



S. C. Computer / Genealogy Class SIG  
Next Computer Class  
December 11, 2014  
Karen Ristic

***Ancestor  
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