

Session 6:
Sunday, October 1 2017, 10:45 – 12:00

Historical Newspapers

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Having noticed that all his recent personal breakthroughs, some retiring decades-old brick-walls, have newly digitized historical newspapers in common, James will describe what makes newspapers peerlessly exciting resources for genealogists; check in with the British Newspaper Archive and other digitization projects; suggest how to identify and access non-digitized titles and issues; promote some surprisingly useful but under-appreciated titles; and offer search tips and strategies for taking advantage of this spectacular new dawn of historical newspaper research.

Experiences with Digitized Historical Newspapers

- My search for the death of Nicol Thomson
- My search for the marriage of James C. Scott and Anne Matheson

Examples of Helpful Content

- BMD notices, obituaries and reports of coroners' inquests
 - My search for William Gooding
- Bankruptcy and insolvency proceedings
- Partnership formation and dissolution, and other legal notices
- Trade advertisements and want ads, and missing person notices
- Casualty lists and other military notices
- Court reports and (breathless or even salacious) descriptions of crimes and accidents
- Local news, of interest to the wise family historian who appreciates the importance of context

For much of such content, newspapers are a unique resource or the most illuminating resource. This has always been known, but until recently the great impediment to their use has of course been the lack of text searchability; nominal indexes were available only for a few titles and had limited ambits.

Determining What Newspapers Were Published – Selected General Resources

British Library: Help for Researchers:

Newspapers <http://www.bl.uk/reshelp/bldept/news/index.html>

Newspapers and Comics <http://www.bl.uk/reshelp/findhelprestype/news/index.html>

NEWSPLAN <http://www.bl.uk/reshelp/bldept/news/newsplan/newsplan.html>

Gibson, Jeremy, Brett Langston and Brenda Smith. *Local Newspapers 1750-1920, England and Wales, Channel Islands, Isle of Man: A Select Location List*. Third Edition. Bury, England: The Family History Partnership, 2011.

King, Andrew, Alexis Easley and John Morton, eds. *The Routledge Handbook to Nineteenth-Century British Periodicals and Newspapers*. Abingdon, England: Routledge (Taylor & Francis), 2016.

The *Waterloo Directories* of English, Irish and Scottish newspapers and periodicals, at various libraries. For titles, see <http://nwap.on.ca/english-directory/>. See also *Academic Subscription Databases*, below.

Determining What Newspapers Were Published – Country-Specific Resources

Newspapers – National Library of Ireland: <http://www.nli.ie/en/family-history-newspapers.aspx>

National Library of Scotland – Newspapers Collections: <http://www.nls.uk/collections/newspapers>

The National Library of Wales – Newspapers:

<https://www.llgc.org.uk/en/collections/learn-more/printedmaterials/newspapers/>

The British Newspaper Archive

<http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>

Newspaper Titles: <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/titles>

Latest updates: <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/titles/recently-added/7days>

Blog: <http://blog.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>

Help & Advice: <http://help-and-advice.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>

Hints & Tips: <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/titles/recently-added/7days>

About: <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/help/about>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/BNArchive>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TheBritishNewspaperArchive>

YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=british+newspaper+archive

Modes of Access:

Free registration: <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/account/register>

Personal subscription: <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/account/subscribe>

FindMyPast: <http://www.findmypast.com/> or <http://www.findmypast.co.uk/>

Discussion of modes of access:

- BNA subscription v. FindMyPast

- A note about FindMyPast at Family History Centres

Other Historical Newspaper Resources: Selected General Guides

The Ancestor Hunt: Newspaper Research Links

<http://www.theancestorhunt.com/newspaper-research-links.html>

British Library – Help for Researchers

Newspapers Digitisation Projects:

<http://www.bl.uk/reshelp/findhelprestype/news/newspdigproj/index.html>

Other UK Newspaper Digitisation Projects

<http://www.bl.uk/reshelp/findhelprestype/news/newspdigproj/other/index.html>

CyndisList - Newspapers: <https://www.cyndislist.com/newspapers/>

United Kingdom & Ireland: <https://www.cyndislist.com/uk/>

(Newspapers pages are arranged by jurisdiction)

GENUKI: <http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/Newspapers>

(and see Newspapers pages listed under countries and counties)

Richard Heaton's Index to Digitalised British and Irish Newspapers

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~dutilleul/BritishandIrishNews.html>

Wikipedia: List of online newspaper archives

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:List_of_online_newspaper_archives

Other Historical Newspaper Resources: Selected Free Digitized Resources

Note: For other titles, check general guides such as those listed in the preceding section.

FamilySearch – digitized microforms and wikis:

<https://www.familysearch.org/>

The Gazette – Official Public Record:

<https://www.thegazette.co.uk/>

Google News Archive:

<https://news.google.ca/newspapers>

Internet Archive:

<https://archive.org/>

National Library of Scotland: Guide to Scottish Newspaper Indexes

<http://www.nls.uk/collections/newspapers/indexes/index.cfm>

Welsh Newspapers Online:

<http://newspapers.library.wales/>

Local resources, such as:

ambaile - Highland History and Culture: <http://www.ambaile.org.uk/en/pages/ambaile.html>

The Belfast Newsletter Index, 1737-1800: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/lse/lse/ucsf/bnl/>

Newspapers in databases freely accessible at Family History Centres, such as:

- 19th Century British Library Newspapers
- AccessNewspaperARCHIVE
- Ancestry
- MyHeritage

Overseas Newspapers

Suggestion: Don't overlook overseas papers, as news items / announcements originally published in British Isles papers may have been republished in them.

Examples of collections of digitized historical newspapers:

Australia: *Trove* <http://trove.nla.gov.au/>

Europe: *Europeana Newspapers* <http://www.europeana-newspapers.eu/>

New Zealand: *Papers Past* <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/>

United States: *Chronicling America* <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>

Don't overlook: *The Ancestor Hunt* <http://www.theancestorhunt.com/>

Elephind.com <https://elephind.com/>

Other Historical Newspaper Resources: Selected Subscription / Pay-Per-View Resources

Notes: For other titles, check general guides such as those listed on the previous page.

Check whether a title of interest also is available in an academic subscription database which is freely accessible on campus to members of the public.

GenealogyBank [US] <https://www.genealogybank.com/>

Irish Newspaper Archives <https://www.irishnewsarchive.com/>

The Irish Times Newspaper Archive <https://www.irishtimes.com/archive>

LastChanceToRead: <http://www.lastchancetoread.com/>

NewspaperArchive <https://newspaperarchive.com/>

Note: Check whether a title of interest is freely accessible at a Family History Centre (above)

Newspapers.com <https://www.newspapers.com/>

The Scotsman Digital Archive <http://archive.scotsman.com/>

Note: Freely accessible on campus at the University of Guelph Library

Examples of Historical Newspaper Resources at Academic Libraries

Notes: Print Editions and/or Microforms and/or Subscription Databases

Databases may be freely accessible to members of the public on campus

Titles may be catalogued individually or “hidden” in microform or digital collections

Some resources may also be available at public libraries or by individual subscription

Examples of digitized resources which may be available at academic libraries:

Gale Historical Newspapers

<http://www.gale.com/primary-sources/historical-newspapers>

ProQuest Historical Newspapers

<http://www.proquest.com/products-services/news-newspapers/pq-hist-news.html>

The Waterloo Directory of English Newspapers & Periodicals: 1800-1900

<http://www.victorianperiodicals.com/series3/index.asp>

As an example of an academic library collection of historical newspapers on microform:

<https://mediacommons.library.utoronto.ca/content/newspapers-periodicals>

Holdings include the *Early English Newspapers* microform collection:

<https://mediacommons.library.utoronto.ca/content/early-english-newspapers-home>

See also, for instance, *Ireland: Politics & Society through the Press 1760-1922*:

<https://mediacommons.library.utoronto.ca/content/ireland-politics-society-through-press-1760-1922>

Some Titles which May not be fully Appreciated – Selected Examples

- *The Hue and Cry / Police Gazette*
- *The Law Advertiser*
- *Lloyd's List*
- *London Gazette*

Also: a substantial range of publications of special interest in British military history research.

<http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>

<http://www.bl.uk/reshelp/findhelpprestype/news/britmilhist/britmilhist.html>

<http://www.bl.uk/reshelp/findhelpprestype/news/britmilhist/scopecollections/scopebritmilhist.html>

<http://www.bl.uk/reshelp/findhelpprestype/news/britmilhist/famhistresearch/familyhistbritmil.html>

Search Tips and Strategies – Selected Resources

Tips and tutorials available for the sites above

Suggestion: Keep an eye out for *The British Newspaper Archive* webinars

The Ancestor Hunt: Newspapers!

<http://www.theancestorhunt.com/newspapers.html>

Other search suggestions

<http://www.pbs.org/genealogy-roadshow/genealogy-tips/newspaper-research/>

<https://www.gouldgenealogy.com/2017/03/13-tips-for-searching-troves-historical-newspapers/>

<https://blog.findmypast.co.uk/your-top-questio-1743819176.html>

<https://www.thoughtco.com/search-tips-for-google-news-archive-1422213>

etc.