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# OPERATION GRANNY FILES

Historic Newspaper Access Resource List

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*A state-by-state guide to finding your ancestors in the headlines*

Reference List

Mission 08: Extra! Extra! — Newspapers & Obituaries

Clearance Level: Biscuit-Tin Operative

[operationgrannyfiles.substack.com](http://operationgrannyfiles.substack.com)

**DISCLAIMER**

Compiled February 2026. URLs and coverage details may change as projects receive new funding. When in doubt, start at [Chronicling America](https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov) ([chroniclingamerica.loc.gov](https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov)) and [The Ancestor Hunt](https://theancestorhunt.com) ([theancestorhunt.com](https://theancestorhunt.com)).

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## Part 1: Free National Resources

Start here. These resources are free, substantial, and cover the entire United States.

### Chronicling America

**URL:** [chroniclingamerica.loc.gov](https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov)

**Cost:** Free — no account required

**Coverage:** 20+ million pages from 3,900+ newspaper titles, 1756–1963. All 50 states, D.C., Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands.

**Operated by:** Library of Congress / National Endowment for the Humanities

The foundational resource for newspaper genealogy research. Full-text searchable with advanced date, state, and keyword filters. All content is public domain. Start every newspaper search here.

*Limitation: Coverage ends at 1963 for most content. OCR quality varies on older pages—try alternate spellings.*

### Fulton History

**URL:** [fultonhistory.com](https://fultonhistory.com)

**Cost:** Free (registration required)

**Coverage:** 50+ million pages. Primarily New York State (~1,000 titles, 1795–2008), plus other states and Canada.

The largest free, single-creator newspaper database in the U.S. Created by Tom Tryniski, who has been scanning microfilm since 1999. Unmatched for New York State research. Also includes cemetery records, censuses, and city directories.

*Limitation: Interface is dated and searches return large result sets. Use Boolean search to narrow results.*

## Elephind

**URL:** [elephind.com](http://elephind.com)

**Cost:** Currently free; may move to freemium model

**Coverage:** 13+ million pages from 1,600+ titles across 24+ organizations.

A meta-search engine that searches across multiple free newspaper collections simultaneously. Relunched in September 2025 with AI-powered semantic search. Excels at finding small regional papers missed by other databases.

*Limitation: Still rebuilding its index. Does not host images—links to source archives.*

## FamilySearch Newspaper Collections

**URL:** [familysearch.org/en/search/newspapers/](http://familysearch.org/en/search/newspapers/)

**Cost:** Free (requires free account)

Integrates newspaper search with the world's largest free genealogy platform. Free access to subscription databases (Newspapers.com, GenealogyBank) at FamilySearch Centers and Affiliate Libraries.

## Google News Archive

**URL:** [news.google.com/newspapers](http://news.google.com/newspapers)

**Cost:** Free

**Coverage:** 2,500+ newspapers. Discontinued 2011 but content remains browsable.

Some titles are uniquely available here. Browsing by title and date is more effective than keyword search.

## Advantage Archives / Community History Archives

**URL:** [advantagearchives.com](http://advantagearchives.com)

**Cost:** Free

**Coverage:** 125+ million images across 735+ collections from 44 states.

Partners directly with local libraries and newspaper publishers. Many small-town papers not available anywhere else.

## SmallTownPapers / STP Archive

**URL:** [smalltownpapers.com / stparchive.com](http://smalltownpapers.com/stparchive.com)

**Cost:** Free

**Coverage:** 200+ million records from 250+ small-town newspapers, 1840s–present.

Specializes in small-town local newspapers—exactly the papers that document everyday people. Digitized from bound volumes with superior image quality.

## The Ancestor Hunt — Newspaper Research Links

**URL:** [theancestorhunt.com/newspaper-research-links.html](http://theancestorhunt.com/newspaper-research-links.html)

**Cost:** Free

**Coverage:** 85,500+ links to free newspaper titles across the U.S. and Canada.

The single best starting point for finding what free newspapers are available for any state or county. Organized by state. Check here before searching any database.

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## Part 2: Subscription / Commercial Databases

These paid services offer content not available for free. Always check your local library first—many provide free access.

| Database             | Price Range        | Coverage                             | Library Access?                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Newspapers.com       | ~\$7.95–\$12.45/mo | 4,000+ titles, 43 countries          | Yes — Library Edition via ProQuest |
| GenealogyBank        | ~\$75–\$99/yr      | 16,000+ US titles, 95% exclusive     | Yes — FamilySearch Centers         |
| NewspaperArchive.com | Varies             | 15,500+ titles, 280M+ pages          | Some libraries                     |
| Accessible Archives  | ~\$90/yr           | Early American, manually transcribed | Many academic libraries            |
| ProQuest Historical  | Library only       | 17 major US papers, full runs        | Yes — public & university          |

### Newspapers.com

**Owned by:** Ancestry

**Pricing:** Basic ~\$7.95/mo; Publisher Extra ~\$12.45/mo (billed annually). Free trial available.

The largest commercial newspaper archive. Integration with Ancestry.com records. Clipping and sharing features. Check your library for the free Library Edition first.

### GenealogyBank

**Pricing:** \$19.95/mo or \$74.95–\$99/yr

95% of content is exclusive to GenealogyBank. Particularly strong for Colonial New England, NY, CA, MA, TX, PA. Includes recent obituaries (1977–present). Single-tier pricing—one subscription covers everything.

### NewspaperArchive.com

The oldest major newspaper archive (founded 1999). Strongest for small-town papers. Particularly good for Mid-Atlantic, Great Lakes, and Upper Midwest. Adding 1–2 million pages monthly.

### Accessible Archives / History Commons

Manually transcribed (not just OCR'd) early American newspapers. Unique collections: Pennsylvania Gazette (1728–1800), African American newspapers (1827–1902), Civil War-era papers.

## ProQuest Historical Newspapers

Library-only access. 17 major U.S. newspapers with complete runs from first issue. The gold standard for major metropolitan papers. Check your local library's database offerings.

**GRANNY PRO TIP:**

No single database has everything. Newspapers.com, GenealogyBank, and NewspaperArchive each have exclusive publisher contracts. An obituary on one may not appear on the others.

## Part 3: State-by-State Digital Newspaper Projects

Nearly every U.S. state has a digital newspaper project, most funded through the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP). Below is a state-by-state guide. In addition to these portals, always check *Chronicling America* for your state.

### Alabama

**Project:** Alabama Dept. of Archives and History

**URL:** [chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers/?state=Alabama](http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers/?state=Alabama)

16+ titles, 1831–1963. Civil War and Reconstruction Era newspapers (4,177 issues, 1865–1877). Content on *Chronicling America*.

### Alaska

**Project:** Alaska's Digital Newspaper Program

**URL:** [library.alaska.gov/hist/newspaper/digital\\_home.html](http://library.alaska.gov/hist/newspaper/digital_home.html)

103,000+ pages on *Chronicling America*. Newspapers from 119 communities, some pre-dating the U.S. purchase of Alaska.

### Arizona

**Project:** Arizona Digital Newspaper Program

**URL:** [azmemory.azlibrary.gov](http://azmemory.azlibrary.gov)

120+ titles, 1859–present. NDNP content covers 1880–1929.

### Arkansas

**Project:** Arkansas Digital Newspaper Project

**URL:** [chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers/?state=Arkansas](http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers/?state=Arkansas)

300,000+ pages from the 1700s through 1963. Includes the first *Arkansas Gazette* (1819).

### California

**Project:** California Digital Newspaper Collection (CDNC)

**URL:** [cdnc.ucr.edu](http://cdnc.ucr.edu)

23+ million pages, 1846–present. The largest state-level project. Includes English, German, Spanish, and Swedish publications. Note: Experienced funding issues in 2025; verify current accessibility.

## Colorado

**Project:** Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection

**URL:** [coloradohistoricnewspapers.org](http://coloradohistoricnewspapers.org)

7.5+ million pages from 945+ titles, 1859–2025. All 64 counties. See also: Plains to Peaks project ([ppc-historicnewspapers.org](http://ppc-historicnewspapers.org)) for Wyoming coverage.

## Connecticut

**Project:** Connecticut Digital Newspaper Project

**URL:** [ctdigitalnewspaperproject.org](http://ctdigitalnewspaperproject.org)

~500,000 pages from ~54 titles, 1690–1963. Content on Chronicling America.

## Delaware

**Project:** Delaware Digital Newspaper Project

**URL:** [chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers/?state=Delaware](http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers/?state=Delaware)

107 historical newspapers, 1798–1923. Content on Chronicling America.

## Florida

**Project:** Florida Digital Newspaper Library

**URL:** [newspapers.uflib.ufl.edu](http://newspapers.uflib.ufl.edu)

600,000+ pages of historic newspapers through 1963+. Also includes Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands content.

## Georgia

**Project:** Georgia Historic Newspapers

**URL:** [gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu](http://gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu)

1,123 titles, 4+ million pages, 1763–2025. One of the strongest state programs in the country.

## Hawaii

**Project:** Hawaii Digital Newspaper Program

**URL:** [hdnp.library.manoa.hawaii.edu](http://hdnp.library.manoa.hawaii.edu)

15+ newspapers, 1834–1980. Papers in English, Hawaiian, and Portuguese.

## Idaho

**Project:** Idaho (Multiple Sources)

**URL:** [chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers/?state=Idaho](http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers/?state=Idaho)

No unified state portal. Content spread across Chronicling America, Advantage Archives, and University of Idaho Library.

## Illinois

**Project:** Illinois Digital Newspaper Collections

**URL:** [idnc.library.illinois.edu](http://idnc.library.illinois.edu)

Historical Illinois newspapers, 1831–2011. Free to search, browse, and download.

## Indiana

**Project:** Hoosier State Chronicles

**URL:** [newspapers.library.in.gov](http://newspapers.library.in.gov)

186,601 issues, 1,589,638 pages, 1804–2018. Well-organized, browsable by title and county.

## Iowa

**Project:** Iowa Digital Newspaper Project

**URL:** [chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers/?state=iowa](http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers/?state=iowa)

400,000+ pages of historic Iowa newspapers via Chronicling America.

## Kansas

**Project:** Kansas Digital Newspapers

**URL:** [kansashistory.gov/p/kansas-digital-newspaper-program/16126](http://kansashistory.gov/p/kansas-digital-newspaper-program/16126)

Nearly 12 million pages. Nearly every paper from every city and town, 1854–1923. Pre-1923 papers free to Kansas residents on Newspapers.com.

## Kentucky

**Project:** Kentucky Digital Newspaper Program

**URL:** [uky.edu/NDNP/](http://uky.edu/NDNP/)

416,860+ pages on Chronicling America. Separate KDNP provides nearly 1 million pages via Internet Archive.

## Louisiana

**Project:** Digitizing Louisiana Newspapers Project

**URL:** [guides.lib.lsu.edu/c.php?g=440633](http://guides.lib.lsu.edu/c.php?g=440633)

128 titles, 328,900 pages, 1836–1922. Searchable by Parish, Decade, and Language.

## Maine

**Project:** Maine Newspaper Project / Digital Maine

**URL:** [digitalmaine.com/newspapers/](http://digitalmaine.com/newspapers/)

100,000+ pages. Includes Franco-American newspaper digitization initiative.

## Maryland

**Project:** Historic Maryland Newspapers Project

**URL:** [digital.lib.umd.edu/collecting-areas/maryland/gateway-digitized-maryland-newspapers](http://digital.lib.umd.edu/collecting-areas/maryland/gateway-digitized-maryland-newspapers)

400,000+ pages since 2012. Gateway page links to newspapers on external sites.

## Massachusetts

**Project:** Massachusetts (via Boston Public Library)

**URL:** [chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers/?state=Massachusetts](http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers/?state=Massachusetts)

100,000+ pages per grant cycle. Boston Globe, Boston Post, and others. BPL also has MyHeritage partnership for ~7.5 million pages.

## Michigan

**Project:** Digital Michigan Newspapers

**URL:** [digmichnews.cmich.edu](http://digmichnews.cmich.edu)

Nearly 2 million pages from across the state. Annual DigMich Newspaper Grant program.

## Minnesota

**Project:** Minnesota Digital Newspaper Hub

**URL:** [mnhs.org/newspapers/hub](http://mnhs.org/newspapers/hub)

Millions of pages, 1849–present. Includes Swedish American collection (300,000+ pages). St. Paul Pioneer Press 1861–1961 fully digitized.

## Mississippi

**Project:** Mississippi Digital Newspaper Project

**URL:** [chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers/?state=Mississippi](http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers/?state=Mississippi)

257+ newspapers, 238,000+ pages. Titles from 1820–1963 across 53 counties.

## Missouri

**Project:** Missouri Digital Newspaper Project

**URL:** [shsmo.org/collections/newspapers/mdnp](http://shsmo.org/collections/newspapers/mdnp)

2.25+ million pages online (1808–1995). The State Historical Society holds the largest state newspaper collection in the nation (41+ million physical pages).

## Montana

**Project:** Montana Historical Society Digitized Newspapers

**URL:** [mths.mt.gov/Research/collections/newspapers/mtnews](http://mths.mt.gov/Research/collections/newspapers/mtnews)

2.5 million pages from 150+ newspapers, 1864–2018. Every county represented.

## Nebraska

**Project:** Nebraska Newspapers

**URL:** [nebnewspapers.unl.edu](http://nebnewspapers.unl.edu)

500,000+ pages, 1854–present. Includes Czech American titles and The Omaha Bee.

## Nevada

**Project:** Nevada Digital Newspaper Project

**URL:** [chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers/?state=Nevada](http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers/?state=Nevada)

300,000+ pages. Coverage from every Nevada county via Chronicling America.

## **New Hampshire**

**Project:** New Hampshire Digital Newspaper Program

**URL:** [chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers/?state=New+Hampshire](http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers/?state=New+Hampshire)

100,000+ pages. NH was the 50th state to join the NDNP (2022).

## **New Jersey**

**Project:** New Jersey Digital Newspaper Project

**URL:** [collections.libraries.rutgers.edu/new-jersey-digital-newspaper-project](http://collections.libraries.rutgers.edu/new-jersey-digital-newspaper-project)

3.15 million microfilmed pages; significant digitized content on Chronicling America dating back to 1777.

## **New Mexico**

**Project:** New Mexico Historical Newspapers

**URL:** [digitalrepository.unm.edu/nm\\_newspapers/](http://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nm_newspapers/)

200,000+ pages from 80+ titles. Includes Santa Fe New Mexican (1889–1913).

## **New York**

**Project:** NYS Historic Newspapers + Fulton History

**URL:** [nyshistoricnewspapers.org](http://nyshistoricnewspapers.org)

920 titles from all 62 counties, 11.7+ million pages. Plus Fulton History's 50+ million pages. New York has the best free newspaper coverage of any state.

## **North Carolina**

**Project:** North Carolina Newspapers (DigitalNC)

**URL:** [newspapers.digitalnc.org](http://newspapers.digitalnc.org)

1,000+ titles, 1751–1898. Operated by the NC Digital Heritage Center at UNC-Chapel Hill.

## North Dakota

**Project:** State Historical Society of ND

**URL:** [chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers/?state=North+Dakota](http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers/?state=North+Dakota)

Nearly 400,000 pages on Chronicling America plus Advantage Archives content. Papers dating to 1883.

## Ohio

**Project:** Ohio's Digitized Newspapers at Ohio Memory

**URL:** [ohiomemory.ohiohistory.org/newspapers](http://ohiomemory.ohiohistory.org/newspapers)

1+ million full-text searchable pages. Ohio Memory (450,000+ pages) plus Chronicling America (520,000+ pages).

## Oklahoma

**Project:** The Gateway to Oklahoma History

**URL:** [gateway.okhistory.org](http://gateway.okhistory.org)

Hundreds of thousands of pages, 1840s–1920s. Includes African American, ethnic, and political newspapers. One of the oldest state archives online.

## Oregon

**Project:** Historic Oregon Newspapers

**URL:** [oregonnews.uoregon.edu](http://oregonnews.uoregon.edu)

2.7+ million pages, 1846–2025. Adding ~100,000 pages/year. Strong community partnerships.

## Pennsylvania

**Project:** Pennsylvania Newspaper Archive

**URL:** [panewsarchive.psu.edu](http://panewsarchive.psu.edu)

Growing collection aiming to cover all 67 counties. Uses the Open ONI platform.

## Rhode Island

**Project:** Rhode Island Digital Newspaper Project

**URL:** [rinewspapers.org](http://rinewspapers.org)

50,000+ pages from 1,700+ newspapers published in RI, 1732–2010.

## South Carolina

**Project:** Historical Newspapers of South Carolina

**URL:** [historicnewspapers.sc.edu/scdnp/](http://historicnewspapers.sc.edu/scdnp/)

100+ titles, 300,000+ pages on Chronicling America. 168 additional titles on the state site.

## South Dakota

**Project:** South Dakota Newspaper Digitization

**URL:** [history.sd.gov/archives/newspaperonline.aspx](http://history.sd.gov/archives/newspaperonline.aspx)

Historical newspapers from 1880+. Multiple cities covered. NDNP participant partnering with Minnesota Historical Society.

## Tennessee

**Project:** Tennessee Newspaper Digitization Project

**URL:** [chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers/?state=Tennessee](http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers/?state=Tennessee)

134+ newspapers on Chronicling America dating to 1791.

## Texas

**Project:** Texas Digital Newspaper Program / Portal to Texas History

**URL:** [texashistory.unt.edu/explore/collections/TDNP/](http://texashistory.unt.edu/explore/collections/TDNP/)

~10 million pages. The gold standard for state newspaper programs. Eight consecutive NDNP grants.

## Utah

**Project:** Utah Digital Newspapers

**URL:** [newspapers.lib.utah.edu](http://newspapers.lib.utah.edu)

9+ million pages from 400 newspapers, 1850–2023. All 29 counties represented. Excellent statewide coverage.

## Vermont

**Project:** Vermont Digital Newspaper Project

**URL:** [library.uvm.edu/vtnp/](http://library.uvm.edu/vtnp/)

100,000+ pages, 1836–1922. Includes French-language and abolitionist papers. See also: VTNP Catalog Database at [vtnp.uvm.edu](http://vtnp.uvm.edu).

## Virginia

**Project:** Virginia Chronicle

**URL:** [viriniachronicle.com](http://viriniachronicle.com)

6+ million pages, 661,228 issues. One of the original NDNP partners. User-friendly interface with community text-correction features.

## Washington

**Project:** Washington Digital Newspapers

**URL:** [washingtondigitalnewspapers.org](http://washingtondigitalnewspapers.org)

600,000+ pages from earliest Territorial newspapers to present. Digital collection remains free despite state library funding cuts.

## West Virginia

**Project:** West Virginia Newspapers

**URL:** [wvnewspapers.advantage-preservation.com](http://wvnewspapers.advantage-preservation.com)

500,000+ pages from 105+ newspapers, 1791–1927. Also on Chronicling America. Advantage Archives partnership.

## Wisconsin

**Project:** Wisconsin Historical Society Newspaper Collection

**URL:** [wisconsinhistory.org/wisconsinnewspapers](http://wisconsinhistory.org/wisconsinnewspapers)

4,000+ titles including 1,600 Wisconsin titles. Includes the largest collections of African American and Native American newspapers in the country.

## Wyoming

**Project:** Wyoming Digital Newspaper Collection

**URL:** [wyomingnewspapers.org](http://wyomingnewspapers.org)

400+ titles, 5+ million pages, 1849–present. Also available through Plains to Peaks partnership with Colorado.

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## Research Strategy Tips

- **Start free, go paid.** Search Chronicling America and your state's portal first. Then check Fulton History, Elephind, and Advantage Archives. Only subscribe to a paid service after confirming it has what you need.
- **Check your library.** Many public libraries offer free access to Newspapers.com Library Edition, ProQuest Historical, and GenealogyBank. A library card may save you hundreds of dollars.
- **No single database has everything.** Each major service has exclusive publisher contracts. An obituary on GenealogyBank may not appear on Newspapers.com.
- **Use The Ancestor Hunt as your map.** Visit [theancestorhunt.com](http://theancestorhunt.com) to see what free collections exist for your ancestor's state and county.
- **Try multiple name spellings.** OCR on old newsprint is imperfect. Search for "Smyth" and "Smith," try initials, and experiment with partial names.
- **Think beyond obituaries.** Birth announcements, court reports, land transfers, classified ads, society columns, and school honor rolls can all place your ancestor in a specific time and place.
- **Record your sources.** Note the newspaper name, date, page number, and database. If found on Chronicling America, save the persistent URL.

### GRANNY SAYS:

Every headline is someone's Tuesday. Go find out what happened on your family's.

*Share your stories. Pass the biscuits.*