

9 Steps to Success in Searching Old Newspapers for Your Ancestors

1. Not Everything is ONLINE! Only about 15% is online in free and subscription sites in the U.S. Spend time offline too

2. Deliberately Misspell When Searching Online OCR is not perfect and scanning 100 year old newsprint creates errors

3. Looking for an Obituary Online? Add "beloved" or "dear" in your online search criteria

4. ALWAYS use Advanced Search Booleans, proximity, location, title, etc. yield better results than just using the simple or basic online search

9. Visit The Ancestor Hunt at <http://www.theancestorhunt.com/newspapers.html> to get hundreds of articles and links to help you become a master newspaper researcher

5. Don't Just Search for Names! Try addresses, occupations, business names, clubs, churches and other words

6. Can't Afford a Subscription? Go to a library; get a free trial; plan your searches and just subscribe for a short time

7. Remember to Search Hyphenated Words In the old days, many words were hyphenated so search portions of names

8. GET SMART! Don't just jump in and enter a surname in a box. There are webinars, tutorials, and articles that will show you the tricks