

What next? Telling the Story with Newspapers and Obituaries

Instructor: Scott M. Spencer, MBA / VP, Customer Experience, GenealogyBank
Email: sspencer@genealogybank.com

DESCRIPTION:

Newspapers are one of the most underutilized resources in family history research and yet they can be one of the most valuable. Attendees will learn more about how newspapers can take them far beyond the names and dates of their ancestors by enriching their research with unique stories and details that can only be found in newspapers.

Whether the challenge is overcoming a brick wall or learning more about the life of an ancestor, this class will teach you practical tips on how to get the most out of newspapers and obituaries.

COURSE OBJECTIVE:

Participants will learn about the more than 9,000 online newspaper titles, published from 1690-today while walking away with knowledge and resources that will allow them to immediately begin making discoveries of their own.

Examples will be taken from: <https://www.genealogybank.com>.

COURSE TOPICS:

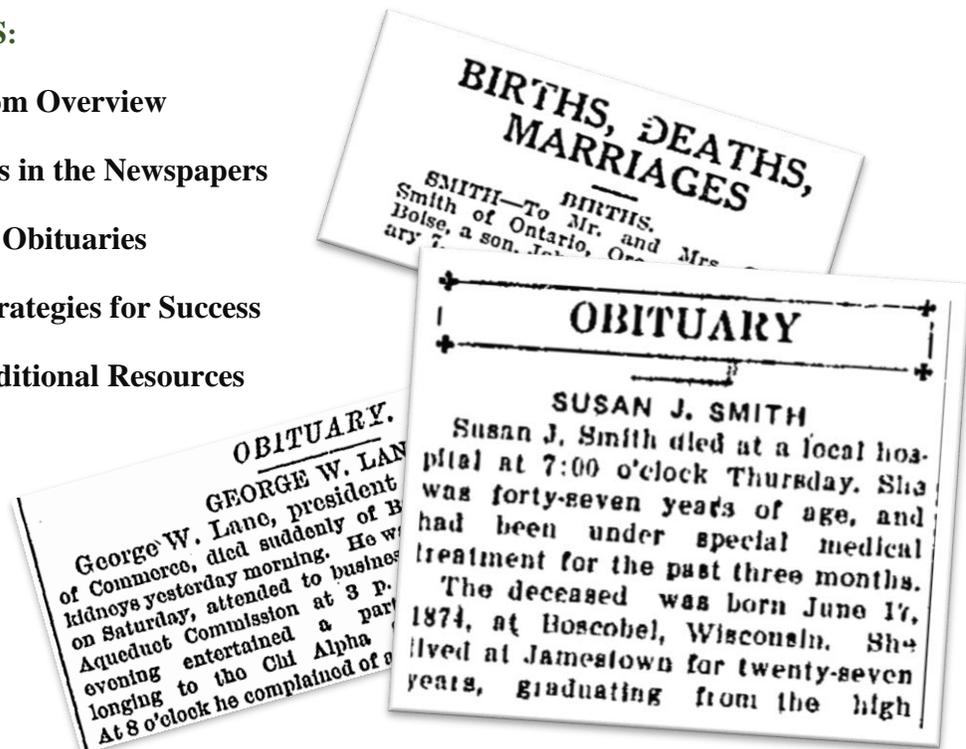
GenealogyBank.com Overview

Discovering Stories in the Newspapers

Tips on Searching Obituaries

General Search Strategies for Success

Where to Find Additional Resources



BASIC TIPS:

Start broad and then narrow: Whenever you use an online search engine consider that the more information you add the fewer results you will receive. Start by searching the first and last name, then narrow by date and then by location.

Search surrounding locations: Remember that news traveled. News from small towns can often be found in newspapers and surrounding newspaper publications. Try including all states when searching newspapers.

Abbreviate locations: Try searching a location as a keyword using the abbreviation for the location of interest such as: Calif, CA, San Fran, SF.

Expand your date range: When using a date remember to start broad and then narrow your results from there. The newspaper article may not have been published on the exact date of the event, so it is best to start by using a broad date range.

Be flexible: Search using just a name and location, or simply a name and date. Also try searching name variations such as William, Will, Bill, Wm., W.

ADVANCED TIPS:

Using Boolean Operators: Boolean operators permit you to create more complex queries and can be combined with Wildcards and Proximity Operators. They are especially effective when searching newspapers. Examples will be demonstrated during this course.

Using Proximity Operators: Proximity operators are a great way to locate relevant articles. They allow you to specify just how close two words must occur from one another in order to be included in your results. Examples will be demonstrated during this course.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- GenealogyBank's Guide to Searching: <http://bit.ly/1DeQywZ>
- Tips on using Boolean Operators: <http://bit.ly/2glsmHa>
- Explore Your Ancestors' Lives in Old Newspapers: <http://bit.ly/1nplVR1>
- Tips for Genealogy Research with Historical Newspapers: <http://bit.ly/1PTWn5A>
- Sign up for GenealogyBank's free newsletter, blog feeds and social media updates
- Contact a site expert for assistance: 1-866-641-3297

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