

Chronicling America: Using Historical Newspapers

Robin Butterhof
Digital Conversion Specialist
Serial and Government Publications Division

FDLP Academy
December 13, 2022



Chronicling America

- Free, publicly accessible database of newspapers from 1777-1963
- 20,117,543 pages
- 3,811 newspaper titles

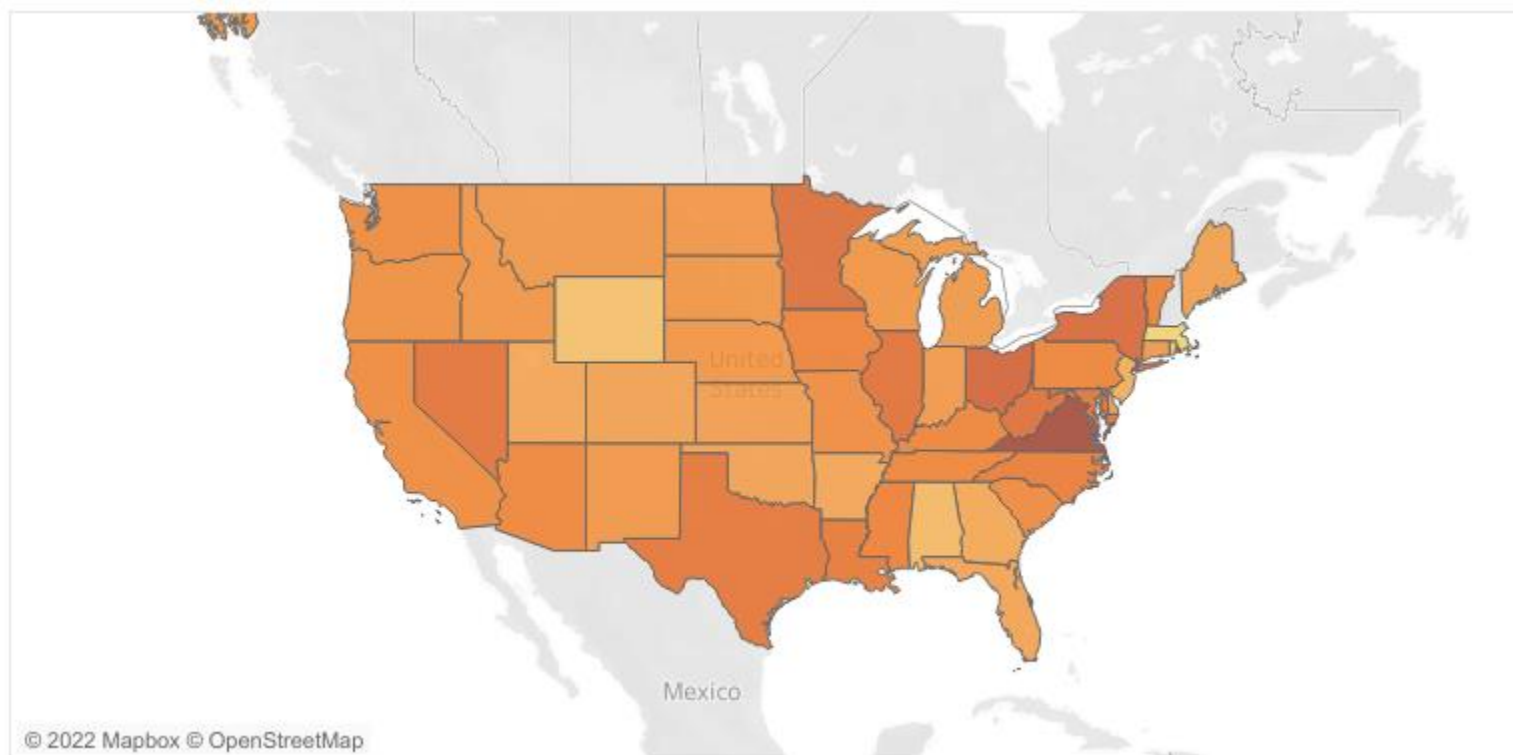


Chronicling America

- Digitized content submitted via the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP)
 - Partnership between LC, NEH, and state partners
 - State partners choose titles to digitize
 - NEH funds 2-year digitization awards
 - LC hosts content



Chronicling America: States



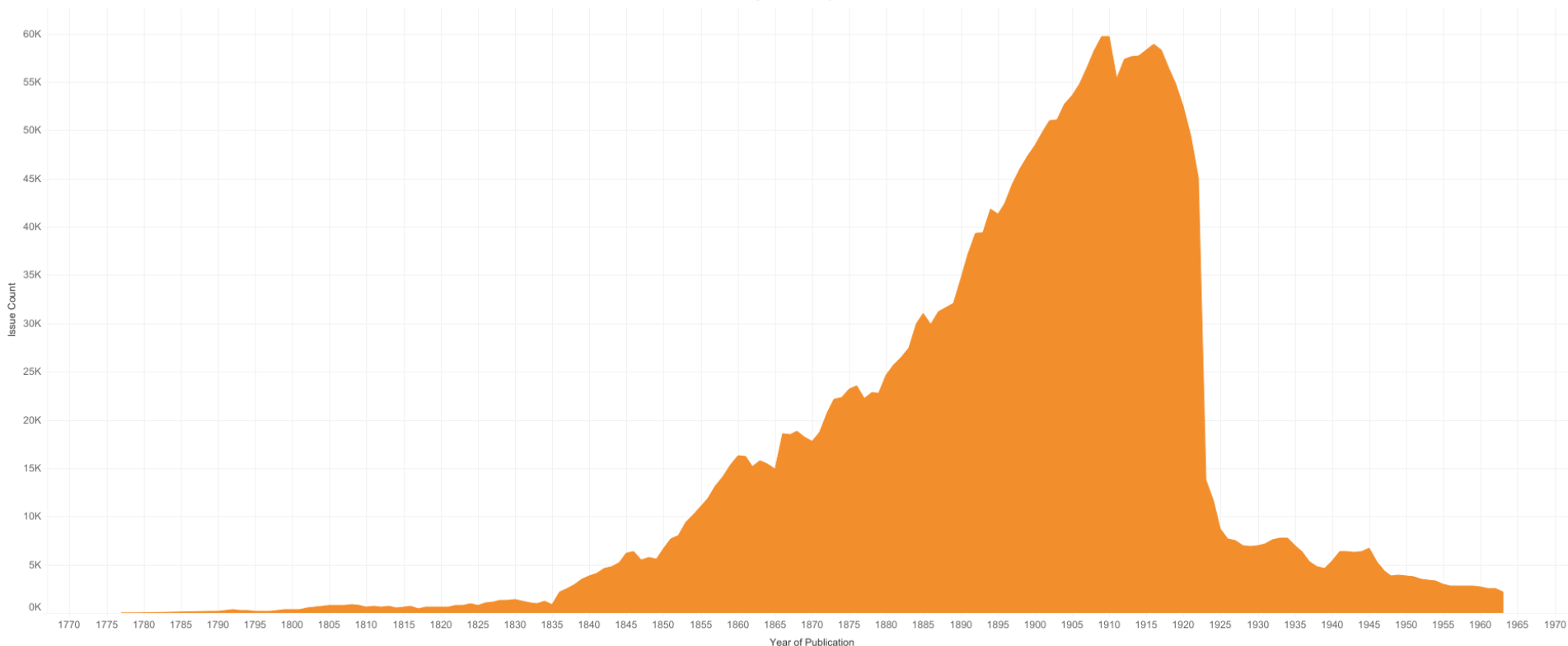
<http://www.loc.gov/ndnp/data-visualizations/>

Chronicling America: Dates (1777-1963)

Chronicling America Temporal Coverage

Chart shows the number of newspaper issues available between 1690-1963 broken down by year of publication.

Coverage as of July 2022



About:

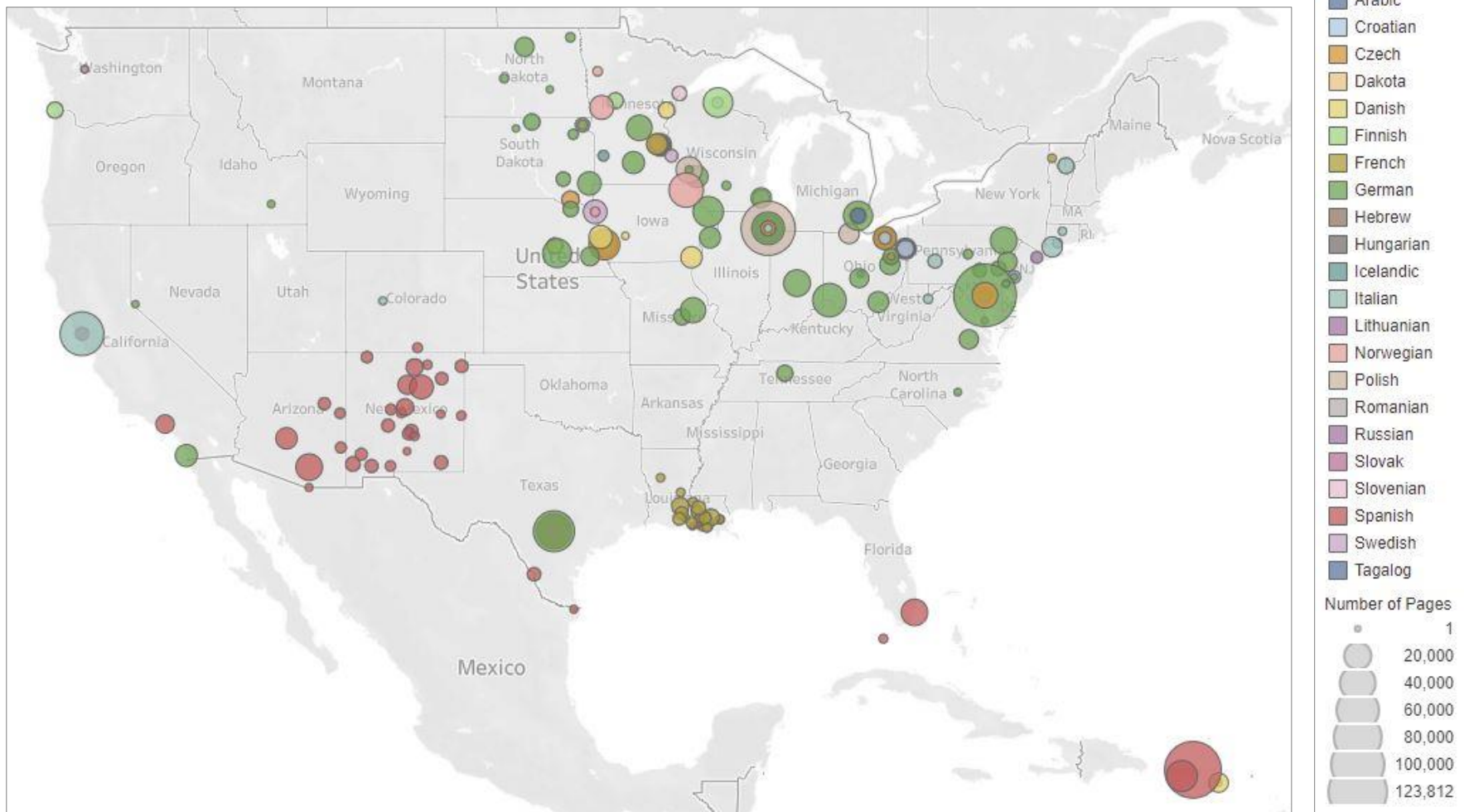
Data in this visualization is from <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov> as of 7/6/2022.

The area chart shows the number of newspaper issues available between 1690-1963 broken down by year of publication. Click on areas of the plot for more details. More info at: <https://www.loc.gov/ndnp/data-visualizations/>.

<http://www.loc.gov/ndnp/data-visualizations/>

Non-English Newspapers

- 1+ million pages of non-English content



Chronicling America: Digitization

- Content primarily digitized from microfilm
 - Cost
 - Efficiency
 - Preservation medium
- Some digitization from print
- Grayscale images due to microfilm



Chronicling America: Digitization

- Digitization package
 - Images
 - PDF for quick, full page downloads
 - TIFF for preservation – not accessible through website
 - JP2000 for high-res downloads, zooming in/display
 - ALTO XML file for Optical Character Recognition text (OCR)

Chronicling America: Digitization

- OCR – Optical Character Recognition
 - What a machine “reads” when looking at the page
 - What you’re searching

Image

ALASKA.

The Boston Journal has a graphic and racy correspondent in Alaska, who is there for the purpose of furnishing that paper with such reliable information as he can collect and collate for the columns of that leading New England journal. His first letter is dated at Sitka, Nov. 9, and is replete with much important and instructive intelligence respecting this recent purchase.

As our readers know, we have favored the treaty which conveys to the United States these provinces formerly belonging to Russia; and we

OCR

The Boston Javnut hi ft grphle and. racy cor
respondents Alaska, who It there forth pur
roie of furnishing thit paper with such reliable
Information be can eollect a nd coll At for the
columni of that leading Hew .England Journal.
HiiflfitlftttrU dAted at SltkA, Not. a, and ii
replete with much la portent end Instructive In
telligence respecting thli recent purchise.
Aa our readeri know, we hare favored the
treat) wblch convey to the United States these
rro infra formerly belonging to Russia) end we

Chronicling America: Digitization

- OCR particularly bad for newspapers
 - Damaged/poorly printed original print
 - Scanning from microfilm, not the original
 - Multi-column instead of single column (like a book)
 - Tiny text
- OCR quality variability
 - Varies from title to title due to factors above
 - Also varies as NDNP has 2005 OCR to 2022 OCR and OCR engines have dramatically improved in that time

ALASKA.

The Boston Journal has a graphic and racy correspondent in Alaska, who is there for the purpose of furnishing that paper with such reliable information as he can collect and collate for the columns of that leading New England journal. His first letter is dated at Sitka, Nov. 9, and is replete with much important and instructive intelligence respecting this recent purchase.

As our readers know, we have favored the treaty which conveys to the United States these provinces formerly belonging to Russia; and we

National Republican.
Washington City, D. C.
OFFICE COR. TENTH AND D. NEAR PENN. AVENUE
W. J. MURTAGH, PROPRIETOR.
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1867.

ALASKA.

The Boston Journal has a graphic and racy correspondent in Alaska, who is there for the purpose of furnishing that paper with such reliable information as he can collect and collate for the columns of that leading New England journal. His first letter is dated at Sitka, Nov. 9, and is replete with much important and instructive intelligence respecting this recent purchase.

As our readers know, we have favored the treaty which conveys to the United States these provinces formerly belonging to Russia; and we think that we cannot do our readers and the public generally a better service than to lay before them in our columns some of the facts and incidents stated by this writer, which go to show the geography, the condition of the people, and the resources of that far-off land.

Of the extent of this Territory this correspondent says:

"It lies between the 120th and the 180th degrees of western longitude, and lying with the shores of the Frozen ocean on the north and the Pacific

PEN, PENCIL, AND SCISSORS.
It is fashionable now-a-days to advertise. Boxer has cured Dexter of dying. The best thing out—an aching tooth.—Funch. The population of Spain is 15,000,000. John Mitchell is wanted as Fenian President. HARNUM has an infant Esau of the female population. O'BALWIN, the Irish giant, is mildeewing for the want of a fight. The Kentucky Legislature has under advisement to forbid a man from marrying his cousin. Lo, the poor Indian, has found Friends among the New England Quakers. Milan gentlemen think they can punish Napoleon by refusing to wear French hats. Providence, R. I., has a novelty. It has promenade concerts on its skating ponds. Sympas and ladies' skirts show which way the wind blows. "Old Sol" yesterday was in a "melting mood." SHAD have cast their shad-shs in Charleston harbor. No nation enjoys so many and varied pleasures as the Swiss. The greatest luxury of the holiday season—the luxury of doing good. Try it. PRINCE ALFRED was met by 25,000 school children, all singing, when he arrived at Adelaide. The Newburyport Herald says that the best ship-carpenters are working for \$1.25 per day.


LATEST TELEGRAPHIC NEWS
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.

NEWS FROM EUROPE.
THE EXCITEMENT IN ENGLAND.
THE CLEMMERWELL EXPLOSION.
INTERESTING FROM ITALY.
THE POSITION OF FRANCE.
The Cession of West India Islands.
THE SOUTHERN STATES.
Difficulties in the Georgia Convention.
AFFAIRS IN RICHMOND.
A CONGRESSMAN KILLED BY HIS SON.
MURDER AND BANK ROBBERY.
ANOTHER FATAL RAILROAD ACCIDENT.
FIRES IN NORTHERN CITIES.

FROM EUROPE BY CABLE.
LONDON, Dec. 23.—Fenianism is still engrossing a fair share of public attention, though the excitement caused by the recent outrages has pretty much died out.

Searching Chronicling America

chroniclingamerica.loc.gov

**NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE
Humanities**





CHRONICLING AMERICA
Historic American Newspapers


Search America's historic newspaper pages from 1777-1963 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 1777-1963** | **US Newspaper Directory, 1690-Present**

All states ▼ + from 1777 ▼ to 1963 ▼ + enter one or more search words **GO**


Pages Available: 20,100,800


    Print | Subscribe | Share/Save | Give Feedback


**About Chronicling America**
About the Site and API
Recommended Topics
Maps and Visualizations
Help

More Resources
▶ [National Digital Newspaper Program](#)
▶ [NDNP Award Recipients](#)
▶ [Newspaper and Current Periodicals Reading Room](#)
▶ [Ask LC Newspaper & Current Periodicals Librarian](#)
▶ [Historic Newspapers on Flickr](#) (part of the LC Flickr Commons photostream)
▶ [Newspaper Navigator](#) (Search historic newspaper photos)

100 Years Ago Today: 11/7/1922 (97 issues)


**The West Virginian. [volume]**
(12pp.)
Fairmont, W. Va.

**The Nenana news. (4pp.)**
Nenana, Alaska

**Norwich bulletin. [volume]**
(10pp.)
Norwich, Conn.

Basic Search

chroniclingamerica.loc.gov

**NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE
Humanities**

CHRONICLING AMERICA
Historic American Newspapers

Search America's historic newspaper pages from 1777-1963 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 1777-1963** | **US Newspaper Directory, 1690-Present**






All states ▼ + from 1777 ▼ to 1963 ▼ + enter one or more search words

GO

Pages Available: 20,100,800

[Print](#) [Subscribe](#) [Share/Save](#) [Give Feedback](#)




100 Years Ago Today: 11/7/1922 (97 issues)



- About Chronicling America
- About the Site and API
- Recommended Topics
- Maps and Visualizations
- Help

More Resources

- National Digital Newspaper Program
- NDNP Award Recipients
- Newspaper and Current Periodicals Reading Room
- Ask LC Newspaper & Current Periodicals Librarian
- Historic Newspapers on Flickr® (part of the LC Flickr Commons photostream)
- Newspaper Navigator (Search historic newspaper photos)



The West Virginian. [volume]
(12pp.)
Fairmont, W. Va.

The Nenana news. (4pp.)
Nenana, Alaska

Norwich bulletin. [volume]
(10pp.)
Norwich, Conn.

Advanced Search

chroniclingamerica.loc.gov

[Search Pages](#)[Advanced Search](#)[All Digitized Newspapers 1777-1963](#)[US Newspaper Directory, 1690-Present](#)

close X

Select State(s):

All states
Alabama
Alaska
Arizona
Arkansas
California
Colorado
Connecticut

Or Select Newspaper(s):

All newspapers
The Abbeville banner. (Abbeville, S.C.)
The Abbeville bulletin. (Abbeville, S.C.)
The Abbeville messenger. (Abbeville, S.C.)
The Abbeville press and banner. (Abbeville, S.C.)
Abbeville press. (Abbeville, S.C.)
Abbeville progress. (Abbeville, Vermilion Parish, La.)
Abendblatt der Illinois Staats-zeitung. (Chicago, Ill.)

Select Year(s)*

Newspaper pages are available for newspapers published between **1777-1963***

☒ from 1777 to 1963

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](#)

All Digitized Newspapers

Search Pages Advanced Search All Digitized Newspapers 1777-1963 US Newspaper Directory, 1690-Present

North Carolina + from 1777 to 1777 + enter one or more search words GO

Pages Available: 20,100,800 Print Subscribe Share/Save Give Feedback

Results: Digitized Newspapers

128 newspapers from North Carolina are available for viewing on this site.

State	Newspaper	Browse Issues	No. of Issues	Earliest Issue	Latest Issue	More Info
North Carolina	African expositor. [volume] Raleigh, N.C., 18??-18??		1	1886-10-01	1886-10-01	
North Carolina	Africo-American Presbyterian. [volume] Wilmington, N.C., 1879-1938		1	1899-12-21	1899-12-21	Yes
North Carolina	The Asheville citizen. [volume] Asheville, N.C., 1885-1889		547	1885-04-21	1889-01-19	
North Carolina	Asheville daily citizen. [volume] Asheville, N.C., 1890-1900		1461	1890-04-01	1894-12-31	
North Carolina	The banner-enterprise. [volume] Wilmington, N.C., 1883-18??		22	1883-04-19	1884-08-09	Yes
North Carolina	The Burke County news. [volume] Morganton, N.C., 1899-1901		103	1899-01-13	1900-12-28	Yes
North Carolina	The Carolina news. [volume] Forest City, N.C. ;, 1952-19??		1	1952-04-01	1952-04-01	
North Carolina	The Carolina tribune. [volume] Raleigh, N.C., 19??-1940		3	1935-03-02	1939-06-03	Yes

Click on a specific title

Title Record

About The Burke County news. [volume] (Morganton, N.C.) 1899-1901

Morganton, N.C. (1899-1901)

[Browse Issues](#) | [About](#) | [Libraries that Have It](#) | [MARC Record](#)

Title:

The Burke County news. [volume] : (Morganton, N.C.) 1899-1901

Place of publication:

Morganton, N.C.

Geographic coverage:

▪ Morganton, Burke, North Carolina | [View more titles from this: City County, State](#)

Publisher:

T.G. Cobb

Dates of publication:

1899-1901

Description:

- Ceased in Nov. 1901.
- Vol. 1, no. 1 (Jan. 13, 1899)-

Frequency:

Weekly

Language:

- English

Subjects:

- Burke County (N.C.)--Newspapers.
- Morganton (N.C.)--Newspapers.
- North Carolina--Burke County.--fast--(OCoLC)fst01207079
- North Carolina--Morganton.--fast--(OCoLC)fst01224396

Notes:

- Archived issues are available in digital format from the Library of Congress Chronicling America online collection.



Burke County News

On January 13, 1899, Theodore Gettys Cobb (1867-1916) launched the *Burke County News*, in Morganton, North Carolina. Distributed weekly on Friday, the newspaper included news from Morganton and surrounding Burke County in western North Carolina. Bearing the subtitle "First of all--the news," the *News* augmented its local coverage with short articles about farming and maintaining a home. In the newspaper's debut issue, Cobb noted that he would bring readers stories from beyond Burke County, promising that "the more important news of the State and nation will not be neglected." A three-month subscription to the *News* cost 25 cents, with a six-month subscription increasing to 40 cents, and a one-year subscription totaling 75 cents.

The Burke County news.
[volume] January 13, 1899 ,
Image 1

Browse:

 [Calendar View](#)

[All front pages](#)

[First Issue](#) | [Last Issue](#)

Calendar View

Browse Issues: The Burke County news. [volume]

Morganton, N.C. (1899-1901)

[Browse Issues](#) | [About](#) | [Libraries that Have It](#) | [MARC Record](#)

Issues for: 1899 ▼

[Show all front pages](#)

Single edition:
dates in **bold**.

Multiple editions:
dates in ***bold italics***.

January, 1899						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

February, 1899						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

March, 1899						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

April, 1899						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

May, 1899						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

June, 1899						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

July, 1899						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

August, 1899						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

September, 1899						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

October, 1899						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

November, 1899						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

December, 1899						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Genealogy: Top Tips for Newspapers

- Important dates and locations – birth, marriage, death
- Limit searches to the time and place a person would likely live
 - Particularly for common last names
- Modern day newspapers different than older newspapers.
 - Death notices/obituaries aren't always in a separate section
- Why would this person be in a newspaper?
 - Sensational accident or crime
 - Scandal or gossip
 - Involved in politics or community organization

Genealogy

- Local notices column
- Name variations
 - Initials
 - Mr/Mrs/Miss/Messrs
 - Titles – Dr. and Judge, Capt., Col, Lt., Master, Sheriff, Mayor, Rev., etc.
 - Married women referred to by husband's name

J. M. Weeks, the efficient editor of the Iberian was in our town the early part of this week and made us a short call. Come again Bro.

J. S. Lann, a leading business man of Abbeville, who has been to New York buying stock, was at the Commercial Friday.--New Orleans Picayune.

Miss Lily French, a charming young lady of New Iberia arrived in Abbeville Monday evening to spend a few weeks with here numerous friends and relatives.

Dr. R. P. Nelson and family were summoned to Opelousas by telegram last Monday to the bedside of Mrs. Nelson's brother, Judge Thomas B. Brooks, who died that night.

Dr. Ira Pierce is in the city a guest of his parents Mr and Mrs. S. W. Pierce on Iris street. The doctor is full of life and makes things lively in the neighborhood.

Genealogy

- First name of children not mentioned at all
- Check for common misspellings
- Check the site every other year or so for new results

A little child of Mr. Womack was kicked by a horse last Tuesday, but we are glad to state is doing well.

PLANT DISEASE SPECIALIST TO AID COUNTY FARMERS.

Dr. Massey, Specialist in Plant Diseases, will cooperate with the office of Farm Demonstration in aiding farmers of Atlantic County in the selection of disease-free Sweet Potato Seed. Good seed selection is not only a great patriotic duty but is the very best type of farm efficiency. Good seed is the first step in the production of large and profitable crops. Any farmer not practising seed selection is handicapped before the crop is planted. Demonstrations will be held at the following places: Henry Pfeiffer, Cologne, Oct. 7, 9.30 a. m.; Joe Arelllos, Hammonton, Oct. 7, 1.30 p. m.; Thomas Weber, Egg Harbor, Oct. 8, 9 a. m.; Wm. Karrer, Egg Harbor, Oct. 8, 11 a. m.; Joseph Butterhoff, Egg Harbor, Oct. 8, 1.30 p. m.; Ernest Werner, Egg Harbor, Oct. 8, 3.30 p. m.

Genealogy

[Text](#)

[PDF](#)

[JP2 \(4.2 MB\)](#)



- Ohio newspaper from 1915
- Use OCR text (and a translation tool for languages you don't speak to get a rough approximation

Hochherziger Bischof.

Um nicht durch Annahme einer 11.000 Erbschaft den direkten Erben unrecht zu thun, hat Bischof James M. McFaul der römisch-katholischen Diocese von New Jersey erklärt, daß er den Nachlaß des Farmers John Butterhof von Egg Harbor City unter die vier Kinder desselben vertheilen will. Butterhof starb kürzlich, neunzig Jahre alt, und vermachte seinen Kindern nur je \$5, weil sie angeblich im Alter ihn schlecht behandelt hätten. \$200 bekam eine Schwester in Deutschland, \$50 eine deutschländische Kirche. Der

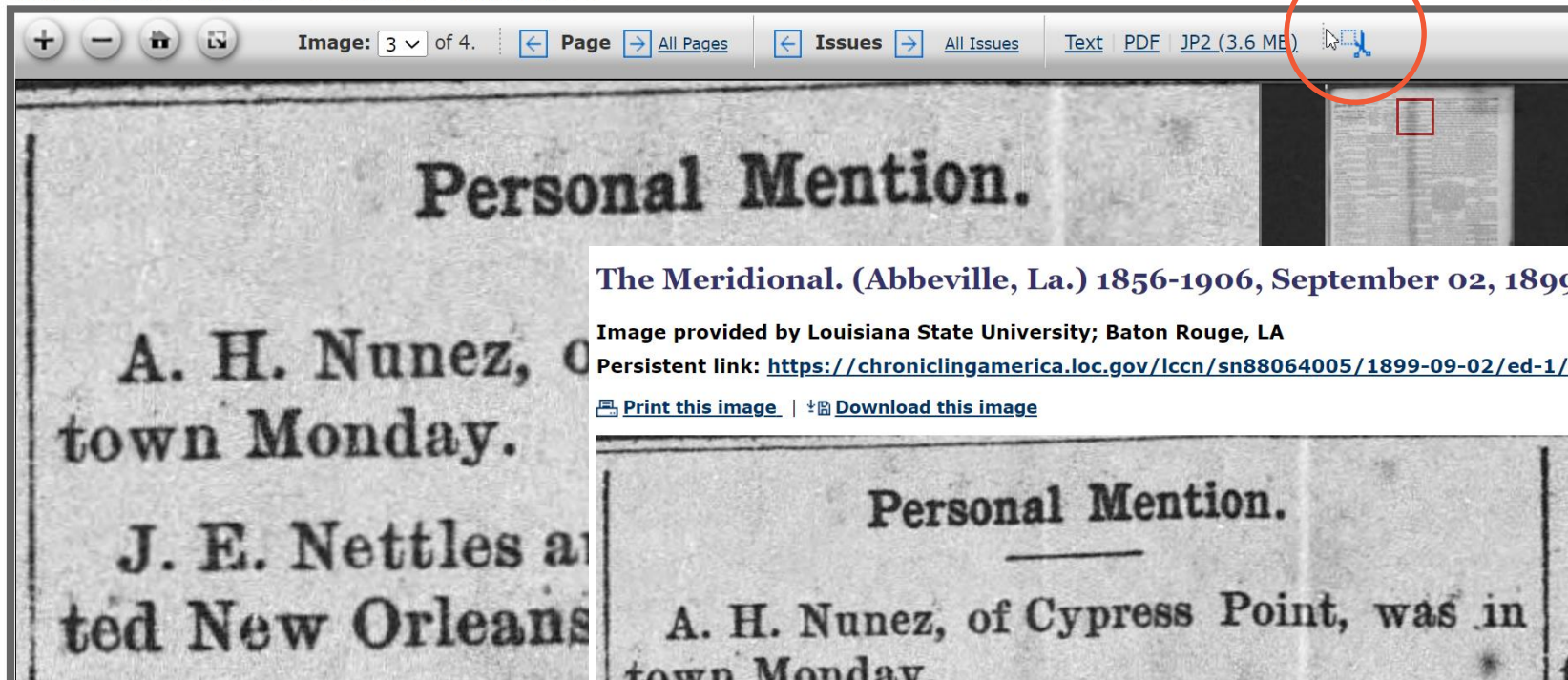
— Hochherziger Bischof.
Um nicht durch Annahme einer \$11,000 Erbschaft den direkten Erben unrecht zu thun, hat Bischof James M. McFaul der römisch-katholischen Diocese von New Jersey erklärt, daß er den Nachlaß des Farmers John Butterhof von Egg Harbor City unter die vier Kinder desselben vertheilen will. Butterhof starb kürzlich, neunzig Jahre alt, und vermachte seinen Kindern nur je \$5, weil sie angeblich im Alter ihn schlecht behandelt hätten. \$200 bekam eine Schwester in Deutschland, \$50 eine deutschländische Kirche. Der

Genealogy: Clipping Tool

The Meridional., September 02, 1899, Image 3

About [The Meridional. \(Abbeville, La.\) 1856-1906](#)

Image provided by: Louisiana State University; Baton Rouge, LA

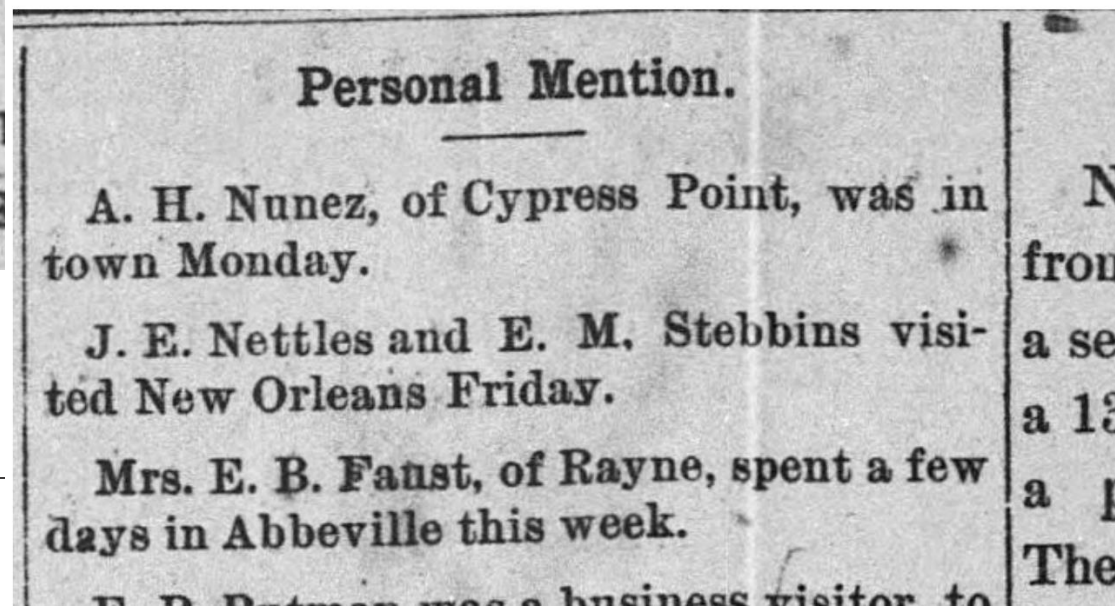


The Meridional. (Abbeville, La.) 1856-1906, September 02, 1899, Image 3

Image provided by Louisiana State University; Baton Rouge, LA

Persistent link: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn88064005/1899-09-02/ed-1/seq-3/>

[Print this image](#) | [Download this image](#)



Genealogy: Undigitized Newspapers

- US Newspaper Directory/Directory of US Newspapers in American Libraries – same thing, two interfaces
 - <https://www.loc.gov/collections/directory-of-us-newspapers-in-american-libraries/>
 - <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/search/titles/>

NEWSPAPER

Der Zeitgeist (Egg Harbor City, N.J.) 1867-1898

Spirit of the times

[About this Newspaper](#)

[Libraries that Have It](#)

HOLDING: American Antiquarian Soc, Newsp Proj, Worcester, MA

Available as: Original

Notes: Single issue

Dates:

- <1876:4:22>

Last updated: 12/1984

HOLDING: New York Pub Libr Res Libr, New York, NY

Available as: Microfilm Service Copy

Notes: On reel 2 of the Steiger Collection of German-American Newspapers [1872-1875].

Dates:

- s=<1874:6:6>

Last updated: 11/1990

Teaching with Primary Sources: Newspapers

- “First draft of history”
- Good reading level for students
- Designed for a general audience
- Good for finding the local spin on national news – how did your area experience WW1?
- Multiple perspectives on a single event



Teaching with Newspapers: Language

- Historic vocabulary
 - Current terms vs. older terms
 - women's rights vs. suffrage.
 - Modern vs. historic spellings
 - airplane vs. aeroplane
 - bicycle vs. velocipede
- Offensive language



Tips for Using Newspapers

Establish context

- Newspaper articles came from a particular time and space in history
- Consider what was happening during that time and if any of that could relate to the newspaper article, potential bias, or how people/events were portrayed.
- Check for newspapers written for and by various ethnic or labor groups involved in the stories being covered.

Read articles that ran several days after the event happened

- After in-the-moment events happen, more information becomes available
- Seek articles from different Newspaper Titles/Publishers

Check the newspaper's title essay

- Most newspapers in Chronicling America have a title essay.
- Essay provides valuable context into the publisher and audience for the newspaper.

Teaching: Topics Pages

<https://guides.loc.gov/chronicling-america-topics>

Topics in Chronicling America Research Guides

Introduction

Guides in Alphabetical Order

Guides by Date Range

Guides by War or Conflict

Guides by Subject

Guides by Themes in History

Guides by Subject

This research guide gathers together a collection of topical guides that tell various stories of America through the newspapers available in [Chronicling America](#). Listed here are research guides, organized by various subject categories, intended to be a starting point for research. If you have any questions or need assistance, use the [Ask a Librarian](#) contact form.

African American Studies

- [Booker T. Washington: Topics in Chronicling America](#)
Booker T. Washington worked for the advancement of the Black community during the early 20th century. This guide provides access to material related to "Booker T. Washington" in the Chronicling America digital collection of historic newspapers.
- [Emancipation Proclamation: Topics in Chronicling America](#)
In 1863, more than 3.5 million enslaved African Americans in the Confederate states were declared free. This guide provides access to material related to "Emancipation Proclamation" in the Chronicling America digital collection of historic newspapers.
- [Fugitive Slave Ads: Topics in Chronicling America](#)
A guide for researching the topic of "fugitive slave ads" in the Chronicling America digital collection of historic newspapers.
- [Harpers Ferry: Topics in Chronicling America](#)
A guide for researching the topic of abolitionist John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry in the Chronicling America digital collection of historic newspapers.
- [Harriet Tubman: Topics in Chronicling America](#)
Harriet Tubman is an African American abolitionist remembered for her contributions to the Underground Railroad. This guide provides access to materials related to "Harriet Tubman" in the Chronicling America digital collection of historic newspapers.
- [Ida B. Wells: Topics in Chronicling America](#)
Ida B. Wells was a civil rights activist who wrote in newspapers to advocate against lynching and racial discrimination. This guide provides access to material related to "Ida B. Wells" in the Chronicling America digital collection of historic newspapers.

Alaska Gold Rush: Topics in Chronicling America

Alaska Gold Rush: Topics in Chronicling America

In 1879, the Alaskan territory organizes its first mining district. This guide provides access to materials related to the "Alaskan Gold Rush" in the Chronicling America digital collection of historic newspapers.

Introduction

Search
Articles

Summary

Newspapers & Current Periodicals

Ask a Librarian

Have a question? Need assistance? Use our [online form](#) to ask a librarian for help.

Chat

Monday through Friday, 12-2 pm Eastern Time (except Federal Holidays).

About Chronicling America

Chronicling America is a searchable digital collection of historic newspaper pages from 1777-1963 sponsored jointly by the National Endowment for the

During the mid 19th century, eyes were focused on California's Gold Rush; however, little did many know, the next American Gold Rush would occur years later in Alaska which was not yet a state. When word spread among the public, prospectors rushed to the land of opportunity and gold. [Read more about it!](#)

The information in this guide focuses on primary source materials found in the digitized historic newspapers from the digital collection Chronicling America.

The timeline below highlights important dates related to this topic and a section of this guide provides some suggested search strategies for further research in the collection.



"First Miners on Cleary Creek, the Banner Stream, and their wives" April 2, 1905. *The Times Dispatch* (April 2, 1905). Image 31. Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers.

TIMELINE

May 10, 1879	Organization of the first mining district in Alaska.
1880	Major gold strike at Silver Bow Basin by prospectors Joe Juneau and Richard Harris. More prospectors head to the area and found the town of Juneau.
1884	Congress creates a civil government for Alaska in the Organic Act of 1884.
August 1896	Gold discovery is made at Bonanza Creek which would prompt a great Klondike Gold Rush.
April 3, 1898	Deadly avalanche kills over 60 people on the Chilkoot trail.
1899	News of another gold strike prompts many to head to Nome.
1902	Gold Discovery in the Tanana Hills leads to the founding of Fairbanks.

Alaska Gold Rush: Topics in Chronicling America

Introduction

Search Strategies & Selected Articles

Search Strategies

Selected Articles

Search Strategies & Selected Articles

The links below provide access to a sampling of articles from historic newspapers that can be found in Chronicling America. You can further explore the topic of the "Alaskan Gold rush" using the following search strategies:

- Use the following terms in combination, proximity, or as a phrase:
Alaska, Klondike, Yukon, Juneau, Skagway, Dyea, Dawson, Nome, Fairbanks, Chilkoot Trail, Chilkoot Pass, White Pass Trail, Gold, Gold Rush, Miners, Prospectors, Stampeders, Claims, Mines

SELECTED ARTICLES FROM CHRONICLING AMERICA

- "The Gold Fields of Alaska"
Omaha Daily Bee (Omaha, NE), May 4, 1890, Page. 5, Image 5, col. 1-7.
- "The Rush to the Yukon"
The Sun (New York, NY), March 1, 1896, Page. 4, Image 28, col. 1.
- "Inexhaustible Riches of the Northern El Dorado"
The San Francisco Call (San Francisco, CA), July 20, 1897, Page. 1, Image 1, col. 1.
- "Gold Fever Raging"
Kansas City Journal (Kansas City, MO), July 20, 1897, Page. 2, Image 2, col. 3.
- "The Call's' Map of the Alaskan Gold Region"
The San Francisco Call (San Francisco, CA), July 25, 1897, Page. 1, Image 1, col. 1.
- "Alaska, A Chance for the Poor Man and the Capitalist"
The San Francisco Call (San Francisco, CA), December 19, 1897, Page. 4, Image 4, col. 6-7.
- "Killed on the Trail"
The Salt Lake Herald (Salt Lake City, UT), April 9, 1898, Page. 1, Image 1, col. 6.
- "Buried by a Mighty Avalanche"
The San Francisco Call (San Francisco, CA), April 9, 1898, Page. 8, Image 8, col. 1-2.
- "Nome's Golden Sands"
The Saint Paul Globe (St. Paul, MN), October 15, 1899, Page. 21, Image 21, col. 1.
- "Tanana, Alaska's New El Dorado: \$100 in Gold to the Pan"
The Times Dispatch (Richmond, VA), April 2, 1905, Page. 1, Image 1, col. 1.

Teaching: Newspaper Title Essays

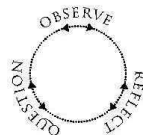
The Broad Ax

Throughout its history, the *Broad Ax* (Salt Lake City and Chicago) was issued weekly by its founder, publisher, and editor, Julius F. Taylor (1853-1934). Born into slavery near New Market, Virginia, Julius Taylor was the 13th of 14 children of Gilbert and Mary Ann Taylor. Taylor's parents and older siblings had earlier been sold to different owners but remained in relatively close proximity in the Shenandoah Valley. In the mid-1860s Taylor made his way to Philadelphia and settled successively in St. Paul, Minnesota; Fargo, North Dakota; and Chicago, before arriving in Salt Lake City in 1895. There Taylor founded the *Broad Ax*, which joined two other black newspapers published in Salt Lake City at a time when there were fewer than 1,000 African Americans in the state.

The first issue, published on August 31, 1895, carries the motto that remained with the paper until it ceased in 1931: "Hew to the line." Taylor announced that his paper would be "Democratic in politics, advocating the immortal principles of Jefferson and Jackson." He advocated racial equality, religious tolerance, and support for Free Silver (and, later William Jennings Bryan). As one scholar observed, "a sharp-tongued, Democratic, atheistic, African American editor in Utah in the 1890s stood out as an anomaly" (Michael S. Sweeney,

Teaching: Analyzing Primary Sources

TEACHER'S GUIDE ANALYZING NEWSPAPERS



Guide students with the sample questions as they respond to the primary source. **Encourage them to go back and forth between the columns; there is no correct order.**

OBSERVE

Ask students to identify and note details.

Sample Questions:

Describe what you see • What do you notice first?
• What text do you notice first? • What do you see other than news articles? • How is the text and other information arranged on the page? • What details indicate when this was published? • What details suggest where this was published?

REFLECT

Encourage students to generate and test hypotheses about the source.

Who do you think was the audience for this publication? • What can you tell about what was important at the time and place of publication? • What can you tell about the point of view of the people who produced this? • How would this be different if produced today? • How would this be the same?

QUESTION

Invite students to ask questions that lead to more observations and reflections.

What do you wonder about...
who? • what? • when? • where? • why? • how?

FURTHER INVESTIGATION

Help students to identify questions appropriate for further investigation, and to develop a research strategy for finding answers.

Sample Question: What more do you want to know, and how can you find out?

A few follow-up activity ideas:

Beginning

Read one article without its headline. Write a headline for the article. Compare this to the original headline.

Intermediate

Look at individual stories from a newspaper front page. Which is the most important? Why do you say that? How would you organize the stories on the page? What factors might explain any differences between your version and the original?

Advanced

Choose one news item. Find another item on the same topic published on a different day, in a different place, or both. Compare the coverage of the same topic in the two news items. What is different? What is the same? What are possible explanations for the differences?

For more tips on using primary sources, go to

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers>

Teaching with Primary Sources: Webinars

Historical Newspapers for National History Day (2022)

<https://www.loc.gov/item/webcast-10539/>

Historic Newspapers - Online Office Hours (2020)

<https://www.loc.gov/item/webcast-9203/>

Teaching with Historical Newspapers
with Tom Bober, school librarian
(2015)

<https://www.loc.gov/item/webcast-7213/>



Chronicling America Historical Newspapers for National History Day

Amber Paranick, Reference Librarian
Mike Saelee, Digital Conversion Specialist
Serial & Government Publications Division

@ChronAmLOC
ndnptech@loc.gov



Webinar Tips

Use the Q&A panel to ask questions.

This presentation will be recorded and available for viewing afterwards in the Library's [Event Videos](#) collection.

[loc.gov/collections/event-videos/](https://www.loc.gov/collections/event-videos/)

Teaching: Analyzing Primary Sources

Classroom Materials (Lesson Plans, Primary Source Sets, etc.):

<https://www.loc.gov/programs/teachers/classroom-materials/>

Teaching with Primary Sources Blog: <https://blogs.loc.gov/teachers/>

Teaching with the LC Twitter Account: @TeachingLC



<https://blogs.loc.gov/headlinesandheroes/>

Chronicling America Twitter: @ChronAmLOC

Citizen History Project: History Unfolded

<https://newspapers.ushmm.org/>

- Project started in 2015 by US Holocaust Museum
- Researchers investigate what US newspapers published about the Holocaust
- Can participate solo or join a research sprint
- LC-sponsored two online research sprints last year

Observer Describes Wrecking Of Jewish Shops in Berlin

**Outbreak Declared Worst Anti-Semitic
Demonstration Ever Seen in Reich**

By the Associated Press.

BERLIN, Nov. 10.—In a tour of Berlin this afternoon this correspondent saw few Jewish stores or synagogues that escaped damage in 12 hours of anti-Jewish violence. Many buildings were destroyed.

The rioting reached a high point at the center of Berlin, where at noon, thousands gathered in the streets to watch gangs pound to bits dozens of stores.

<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83045462/1938-11-10/ed-1/seq-1>

All Data Projects

Application Programming Interface (API)

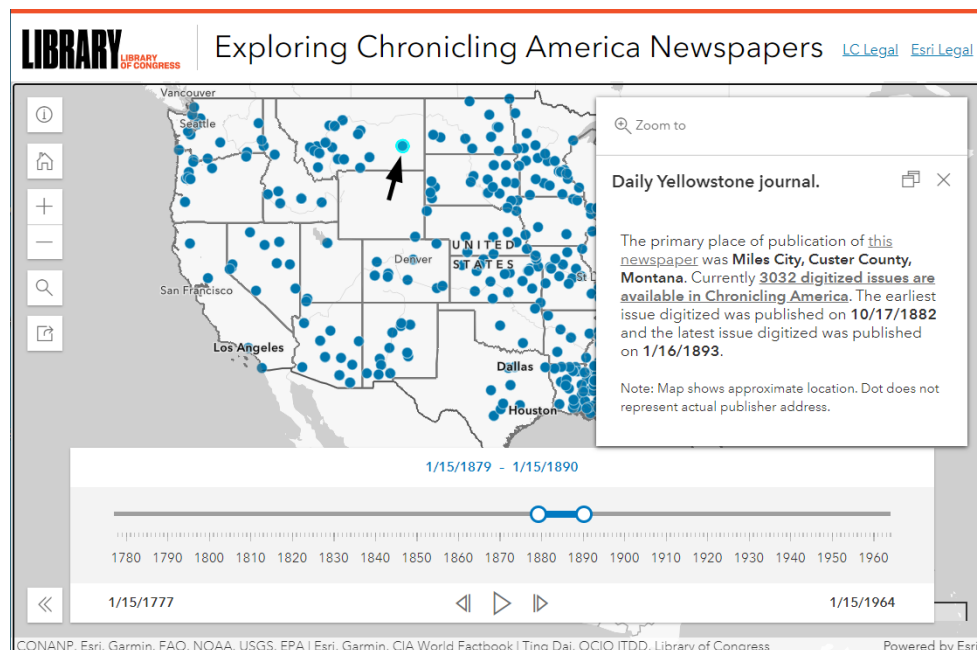
- <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/about/api/>
- &format=json to any search URL

Listservs and Emails

- CHRONAM-USERS@LISTSERV.LOC.GOV
- ndnptech@loc.gov

Tableau visualizations & ESRI Map

- <https://www.loc.gov/ndnp/data-visualizations/>



Large-Scale Data Projects

- <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/ocr/>
- <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/data/>
- Public AWS S3 bucket (s3://ndnp-batches)

OCR Data

What is OCR?

Optical character recognition (OCR) is a fully automated process that converts the visual image of numbers and letters into computer-readable numbers and letters. Computer software can then search the OCR-generated text for words, phrases, numbers, or other characters. However, OCR is not 100 percent accurate, and, particularly if the original item has extraneous markings on the page, unusual text styles, or very small fonts, the searchable text OCR generates will contain errors that cannot be corrected by automated means.

Although errors in the process are unavoidable, OCR is still a powerful tool for making text-based items accessible to searching. For example, important concept words often appear more than once within an article. Therefore, if OCR misreads one instance of a key word in a passage, but correctly reads the second instance, the passage will still be found in a full-text search.

To enable research and external services Chronicling America provides bulk access to its OCR data. The table below itemizes a list of data files available for download. Each file will decompress into directory structure that lets you easily map the OCR file to the URL identifier for that page. For example a file such as `sn830030214/1903/05/01/ed-1/seq-1/ocr.txt` maps to the URL <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn830030214/1903-05-01/ed-1/seq-1/>.

If you are interested in automated access to this data you may want to use the [Atom](#) and [JSON](#) versions of this table.

Please note: Some batches contain digitized newspaper pages that lack corresponding OCR text. For this reason, after decompressing the downloadable files, the number of ocr.txt files may not match the page count available within the HTML, Atom and JSON batch views.

Update (July 2019): In early June 2019, an error was identified with the [OCR Bulk Data download files](#) available from the [OCR](#) report. These errors have been corrected but any files downloaded between February 5th and June 3rd 2019 should be replaced with the current versions. The source OCR data for all newspaper pages currently ingested in Chronicling America are also available at <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/data/batches/>. Contact ndnptech@loc.gov with any questions.

Filename	Batch	Created	Size	SHA-1 Checksum
dlc_elfis_ver01.tar.bz2	dlc_elfis_ver01	2022-11-14T20:22:05:00	290.5 MB	1833f4d0d21e66972a215ce3f2ef198534371a9c
curiv_xantiana_ver01.tar.bz2	curiv_xantiana_ver01	2022-11-10T14:15:33:05:00	829.9 MB	eece86184b126e6e82f2c3d8f072f421750b3bfd
curiv_yerbabuena_ver02.tar.bz2	curiv_yerbabuena_ver02	2022-11-10T14:14:19:05:00	822.9 MB	12087544d021fcc608fed8a8f6b0c4d2f1bf697f
wvu_jordan_ver03.tar.bz2	wvu_jordan_ver03	2022-11-10T14:08:53:05:00	1.3 GB	2e26b19b8f904dc4399d1728d7316c6d2addb6b3

Large-Scale Data Projects

- Newspaper Navigator - <https://news-navigator.labs.loc.gov/search>
 - Ben Lee, former LC Innovator-in-Residence
 - Uses machine learning to identify similar photos in newspapers
- Viral Texts - <https://viraltxts.org/>
 - Ryan Cordell & David Smith
 - Identifying reprinted content in 19th C. newspapers



Student Data Project

Learn more

- Arizona State University
<https://libguides.library.arizona.edu/newspapers-as-data>



- **Newspapers as Data: Descriptions and Locations** 📄: Lesson to introduce the historical Arizona newspapers used in the project.
- **Newspapers as Data: Context**: Lesson about understanding key factors about the broader context of newspapers in Arizona, the scope of the newspapers, and what Optical Character Recognition (OCR) is.
- **Intro to Text Mining**: Lesson about text mining, word frequencies, and text mining tools.

Newspaper data

- Also recommended - dLOC as Data: A Thematic Approach to Caribbean Newspapers
<https://dlocasdata.domains.uflib.ufl.edu/>



- **Borderlands newspapers on GitHub**: Includes Jupyter Notebook lessons and a sample data set of three newspapers: *Bisbee Daily Review*, *Border Vidette*, and *El Tucsonense*, 1917-1919
- **UA Data Repository**: Includes text data files of the eight newspapers used for the CAD project.

NDNP Extras

<https://www.loc.gov/ndnp/extras/>

Extra! Extra! NDNP Extras!

- [Tips for Searching Chronicling America](#)
- [Teaching Resources](#)
- [Using Chronicling America to Advance Research and Scholarship](#)

Tips for Searching Chronicling America

[Chronicling America Guide : Searching African American Newspapers](#) ↗

US Caribbean and Ethnic Florida Digital Newspaper Project

[Using Chronicling America for Genealogical Research, Find Your Ancestors in the Newspapers](#) (PDF, 10.8 MB)

Library of Congress

Teaching Resources

[DLNP K-12 Resources](#) ↗

Louisiana State University

[EDSITEment! Chronicling America Lesson Plans](#) ↗

National Endowment for the Humanities

[Lesson Plans](#) ↗

Ohio History Connection

[Thinking Like a Historian: Using Digital Newspapers in the Classroom](#) ↗ (PDF, 3.9 KB)

Montana Historical Society

Using Chronicling America to Advance Research and Scholarship

[American Lynching: Uncovering a Cultural Narrative](#) ↗

Andrew Bales

University of Cincinnati

[An Epidemiology of Information: Data Mining the 1918 Influenza Epidemic Project Report](#) ↗

Virginia Tech

University of Toronto

Connect with us!

National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP)

<https://www.loc.gov/ndnp>

Chronicling America – Subscribe to RSS for event and program updates!

<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>

Ask a Librarian (Research Questions)

<https://ask.loc.gov/newspapers-periodicals>



<https://blogs.loc.gov/headlinesandheroes/>



Follow Chronicling America on Twitter @ChronAmLOC



Technical Questions: ndnptech@loc.gov