

Finding your ancestors in the Newspapers and Periodicals

A Talk by Richard Heaton

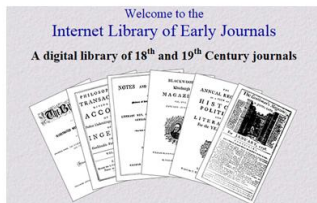
For Bolton Family History Society 4th May 2016



The talk aims to give an introduction into Newspaper and Periodicals as a source for Family History

Finding your ancestors in the Newspapers and Periodicals

- British and Irish Newspapers & Periodicals Online
- Examples of what we might find in one newspaper
- More Unusual Newspapers – The Police Gazette - Occupations & Sports
- “Foreign” Newspapers Online



The talk highlighted four sources for Periodicals e.g. The Gentleman’s Magazine, the Hibernian, or the European Magazine

Internet Library of Early Journals <http://www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/ilej/> ;

Hathi Trust Digital Library <https://www.hathitrust.org/>

Internet Archive <https://archive.org/details/texts>

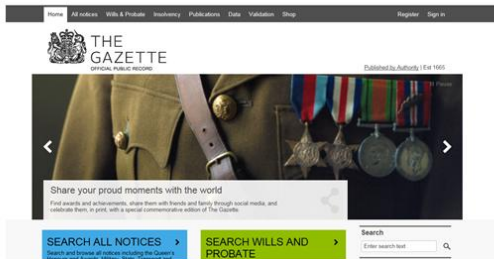
Google Books <https://books.google.co.uk/>

Discussion then focused on the British Newspaper Archive. Which allows searching by a number of combinations – Region, County, Title, Date. Searching is free – you pay for view. Or you can subscribe to Findmypast.

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

London Gazette & The Times

Important because they are well (albeit not perfectly) Indexed and via a Library Subscription you should be able to access the Times for FREE



Free Access is available for the London Gazette <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/>

And you will also have free access to the Times online at home through your local library card

I showed examples of what you could find – including a cessations of a partnership which led to an agreement for the benefit of creditors (with some indication of how your ancestors networks operated),

We can also check how complete coverage is not every newspaper may survive ...

1825 (49) **Berkshire Chronicle**

1826 (52)

1827 (52)

1828 (52)

1829 (48)

Missing the first three weeks of January 1825

I also explained the British Newspaper Archive makes it clear whether the date of the newspaper in which your ancestor might appear has survived in the British Library and the benefits of seeking the original entry for an ambiguous obituary (which just didn't fit details given in the 1851 census).

Free Index to Digitalised UK & Irish Newspapers

Content of 34 Collections over 2900 lines England (London / Other Counties), Scotland, Wales, Ireland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man

City/Town	County	Publication Title / Variant Title	Online Collection	No. of Issues	Format	Free or Pay	Start Date	End Date	Comments
Leam	Berkshire	Leam Times and Advertiser	British Newspaper Archive		Newspaper	£ or Subscription	1854	1854	
Reading	Berkshire	Reading Mercury	British Newspaper Archive		Newspaper	£ or Subscription	1770	1851	
Reading	Berkshire	Reading Mercury and Oxford Gazette	British Newspaper Archive		Newspaper	Free Higher or Further Education	22 Dec 1771	20 Jul 1771	
Reading	Berkshire	Berkshire Chronicle	British Newspaper Archive		Newspaper	£ or Subscription	1821	1870	
Windsor	Berkshire	Windsor and Eton Express	British Newspaper Archive		Newspaper	£ or Subscription	1839	1878	
Artes	Island	Waters Daily Press	British Newspaper Archive		Newspaper	£ or Subscription	1838	1848	
Brant	Island	Brant Mercury	British Newspaper Archive		Newspaper	£ or Subscription	1714	1860	Complete Year Commences 1818/19

Links: [England etc. London](#), [London](#), [Ireland](#), [Scotland](#), [Wales](#), [Channel Islands](#), [Isle of Man](#)

Free Index to British and Irish Newspapers on Line (which can help you identify what is available and where)

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

More Unusual Newspapers Police Gazette, London, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand

Police Gazette / Hue & Cry

- Commenced Publication 1772
- It is estimated c.61% of published Police Gazette's & Supplements have survived
- Surviving copies are scattered
- Great Source for Deserters, Criminals, Vagrants, and others who may disappear from the records and who might have used alias's



Available through

The British Newspaper Archive with 165 Issues

<http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/search/results?newspapertitle=polic%20gazette&sortorder=dayearly>

The Original Record <http://www.theoriginalrecord.com/> which has 1923

My site Last Chance to Read with 2,330 issues from London and Dublin (includes 1923)

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

Ancestry – Excellent Indexed Collection currently covering the Criminal Section of the Police Gazette

<http://search.ancestry.co.uk/search/db.aspx?dbid=60861>

Findmypast has an excellent collection of the Australian Police Gazette



Australian Police Gazette's

Victoria 1855 – 1900

New South Wales 1862 – 1900

South Australian 1862 – 1900

Queensland 1864 – 1900

Tasmania 1884 - 1900

New Zealand a few are online (I intend to put online the year 1911) and Australian Police Gazette's recently added to my collection (found over 20 years ago under the lino in a disused wooden Police Station dating from the late 1860's when it was refurbished as beach home)

Ireland I have over 1000 copies online at lastchancetoread

Newspaper Titles for Sport



1822 - 1886



1851



1856



Commenced
1863

Important Titles for Sport include the essential Bell's Life in London

We know of Newspapers like The Age (great for theatre folks) but there are plenty of other occupational Newspapers – a few examples ...

The Farmer's Journal (1807 – 32)

British Library has 1810-17 1821-32



Agricultural

Vital Records

Competitions
(including mentions
of Ag Labs)

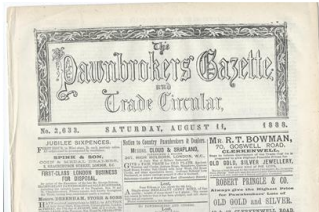
Letters

Advertisements

The Farmers Journal may prove useful for Farmers and Ag Labs

Pawnbrokers Gazette (1838 – 1958 ?)

British Library has full set ?



Crime Reports

Advertisements

Pawnbrokers
Protection
Society

Other Unusual Occupational Titles included the Pawnbrokers Gazette

The Nautical Standard (1846 -1854)



Navy Reports

Letters

Vital Records

The Military Register (1814 -1820)



Army Reports

Letters

Vital Records

And the Army and Navy were represented by the less usual titles above

Foreign Newspapers – We covered

Elephind brings together newspapers from a number of sites at <https://www.elephind.com/>

Including (all Free)

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

Chronicling America (USA) <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>

Singapore and Malaya <http://eresources.nlb.gov.sg/newspapers/default.aspx>

New Zealand Papers Past <http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/cgi-bin/paperspast>

Fulton History (USA) Huge Collection watch out for the Goldfish

<http://fultonhistory.com/>

Genealogy Bank (£ Subscription USA) <http://www.genealogybank.com/>

Canada Gazette <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/canada-gazette/index-e.html>

Canada Peels Prairie Provinces <http://peel.library.ualberta.ca/index.html>

Ontario <http://www.ourontario.ca/demo/news.html>

Bermuda <http://bnl.contentdm.oclc.org/>

Europe with Europeana <http://www.europeana.eu/portal/>

And for other Foreign Newspaper Sites Globally try links at

ICON <http://icon.crl.edu/>

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

I also recommended joining the Wellcome Library for access to their amazing databases free from home, including the Burney Collection and the 1800-1900 British Library Collection (both originally launched in 2008)

<http://wellcomelibrary.org/using-the-library/joining-the-library/>

LAST BUT NOT LEAST - KNOW YOUR NAMES

And think about how your ancestors name was spelt –

Do you have Williams with a W starting VV

or the long S appearing as an f in digitalised newspapers Spanfwick which should be Spanswick

or a capital H e.g. H for the H in Heaton

Also I highly recommended even when wild card searches are available when searching consider splitting the surname search e.g. South wood