



Learning More About Your Ancestors Through Newspapers

NYG&B Website:

<https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/subject-guide/online-new-york-newspapers>

Newspapers are important resources that help researchers learn about their ancestors' lives by bringing stories to light. Newspapers provide contextual and contemporary details from the time period of interest, and can provide multiple accounts of an event.

Website Links:

- <https://www.newspapers.com/>
- <https://www.genealogybank.com>
- <https://www.newspaperarchive.com>
- <https://www.proquest.com/products-services/pq-hist-news.html>
- <https://www.fultonhistory.com> AND <https://www.fultonsearch.org>
- http://fultonhistory.com/Fulton_help.html
- <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>
- <http://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/>
- <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/nysnp/>
- <http://www.theancestorhunt.com/blog/new-york-online-historical-newspapers-summary1#.XDZqq1xKiUk>

Boolean Operators and Modifiers

Boolean Operators (such as AND, OR, and NOT) are used to focus searches, particularly those with multiple search terms.

Boolean Modifiers (such as *, ?, and "") are used to further refine searches to quickly and efficiently find better search results.

AND

The AND operator is inclusionary and limits your search. Searching for two keywords using the word "AND" in between (in all capitals) will limit the number of results you get. The AND operator forces the search form to search for only the specific keywords listed.

Example:

- James Banks AND Albany

OR

The OR operator is more flexible than the AND operator and broadens your search results by allowing you to search for similar concepts. Not an either/or search, using the OR operator (in all capitals) tells the search engine that at least one of the keywords used must be returned.

Example:

- Herkimer County OR Montgomery County

NOT

The NOT operator is exclusionary. Specific keywords are excluded and results with those keywords will not be returned. Using the NOT operator (in all capitals) allows you to narrow your search by instructing the database to ignore words or concepts.

Example:

- Charlie Brown NOT Peanuts

Note: Some search engines allow you to use a “-” in place of NOT.

ASTERISKS

An asterisk can be used as a root word, stem, or truncation search. It does so by standing in place for any number of characters (including none). When an asterisk is used, the search engine will return any word that begins with the root/stem of the word truncated by the asterisk. Placing the asterisk between letters will return all results for words beginning and ending with the letters provided. The asterisk is referred to as a “wildcard” operator.

Example:

- Ann* (returns results for Ann, Anne, Annabelle, etc.)

QUESTION MARKS

The question mark stands for one character and can be used you are unsure how a word should be spelled. This modifier is useful when trying to find a word with variant spellings (such as “endeavor” in America, and “endeavour” in England). Multiple question marks in a row stand for the same number of characters as there are question marks.

Examples:

- Sm?th (returns results for Smith and Smyth)
- Sm?th? (returns results for Smith, Smithe, Smyth, and Smythe, etc.)

QUOTATION MARKS

A Boolean Modifier, quotation marks can be used when searching for exact phrases of more than one word. These modifiers indicate to the search engine that the phrase should not be split into individual keywords and restricts the search to only the phrase or keywords listed (no variants or similar results will be provided).

Example:

- “Gettysburg Address”
- “Pearl Harbor”