



North Carolina Historic Newspapers

by Terry Moore, CG

“D[ied] at Fayetteville, on Tuesday night last, Dr. T. AUSTIN. He was a native of Connecticut; but came from New York to Fayetteville about twelve months ago . . . was highly esteemed. It is believed he had relations in New York. RR [Raleigh Register] Fri 2 Oct 1812 3:5

D[ied] in Greene county, on the 7th of Feb., Mrs. NANCY HAWE POPE, the amiable consort of JOHN POPE and dau of the late Rev’d SETH SPEIGHT, in the 19th year of her age . . . RR [Raleigh Register] Fri 13 Mar 1812 3:4./ RaNCSw Fri 21 Feb 1812 31:4.

M. [arried] In Mecklenburg [county], Mr. ANDREW SPRINGS, Merchant of Charlotte, to Miss FANNY HENDERSON, dau of THOMAS HENDERSON of Rockingham [county] . . . RaNCSw Fri 11 Nov 1814 179:4”¹

Birth, death, and marriage dates, relationships, the name of a father, and the place from where someone immigrated are important factors in correctly identifying an individual in time. The above facts were printed in newspapers long before birth and death dates were recorded in North Carolina, and although marriage dates were recorded by Justices of the Peace and Ministers of the Gospel, most of these records have not survived or cannot be located.

Likewise, not all newspapers have survived, but searching the ones that have has never been easier. However, newspaper research can also be confusing. Are all of the North Carolina historic newspapers online? Are they on one website? Are the newspapers on a subscription website or can they be accessed for free?

It was impossible for me to determine if all surviving historic newspapers are online or if they are on one website, but North Carolina’s newspapers can be found on subscription as well as free websites. The key is knowing which newspaper is on which website and if the newspaper will be helpful in your research. Also, even though a range of dates is provided for the newspaper on a particular website, the newspapers within that range could be spotty as not all issues survived. Newspapers are usually listed under the city or town in which they were published. If the city or town where an ancestor lived did not publish a newspaper, look in a nearby town or in the nearest large city. Newspapers in Raleigh, for example, published marriage and death information from all over the state and the *Fayetteville Observer* carried announcements from the surrounding counties.

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¹ Lois Smathers Neal, *Volume I, Abstracts of Vital Records from Raleigh, North Carolina Newspapers, 1799-1819*, (reprint 1997, Raleigh, NC: North Carolina Genealogical Society, 1979), 17, 407, 473.

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As of 15 December 2016, the following websites carried the listed newspapers, but remember that web content changes and should be checked regularly. The current county, which is not necessarily the historic county, is listed next to the city for convenience.

Ancestry.com. A subscription website, which is indexed

Lumberton	Robeson	Robesonian	1897-1977
Burlington	Alamance	The Daily Times News	1931-1977
Burlington	Alamance	Burlington Daily Times	1930-1931, 1957
Burlington	Alamance	Burlington Daily Times News	1931-1932
Burlington	Alamance	Daily Times News	1957
Statesville	Iredell	The Landmark	1876-1877, 1880-1907, 1921-1933, 1945-1949, 1951, 1953-1954
Statesville	Iredell	Statesville Daily Record	1945, 1947-1955, 1974
Statesville	Iredell	Statesville Record Landmark	1947, 1954-1955
Statesville	Iredell	Statesville Record	1946, 1949, 1953-1954
Statesville	Iredell	Statesville Landmark	1874-1877
High Point	Alamance	The High Point Enterprise	1960-1977
Gastonia	Gaston	The Gastonia Gazette	1920, 1925-1928
Kannapolis	Cabarrus	Daily Independent	1954-1956
Raleigh	Wake	Weekly Standard	1859-1865

Check **Ancestry's card catalog** for the names of North Carolina newspapers and the dates they cover. The list also includes papers not published in North Carolina that contain news of North Carolina and its people.

To search Ancestry for newspaper titles:

- Click on SEARCH in the menu at the top of the Ancestry.com main page.
- At the bottom of the right-hand side column of the next page, click on VIEW ALL IN CARD CATALOG.
- In the left-hand column, click on Newspapers & Publications.
- Then select Newspapers again.
- Then select North America,
 - select USA,
 - and select North Carolina.
- You may also filter by county, if desired.

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GenealogyBank.com. A subscription website, which is indexed

<i>City</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Name of newspaper</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Charlotte	Mecklenburg	Africo-American Presbyterian	21 Dec 1899
Charlotte	Mecklenburg	Carolina Israelite	1 Feb 1944 – 1 Dec 1958
Charlotte	Mecklenburg	Charlotte News	11 Dec 1888 – 29 Sep 1922
Charlotte	Mecklenburg	Charlotte Observer	13 Mar 1892 – 31 Dec 1935
Charlotte	Mecklenburg	Charlotte Semi-Weekly Observer	15 Dec 1916
Charlotte	Mecklenburg	Miners' and Farmers' Journal	11 Oct 1830 – 11 Oct 1834
Edenton	Chowan	Edenton Gazette	26 Feb 1806 – 26 Feb 1821
Edenton	Chowan	Encyclopedian Instructor, and Farmer's Gazette	21 May 1800
Edenton	Chowan	State Gazette of North Carolina	11 May 1793 – 20 Feb 1799
Fayetteville	Cumberland	American	26 Apr 1816
Fayetteville	Cumberland	Carolina Observer	9 Dec 1824 – 23 Feb 1863
Fayetteville	Cumberland	North Carolina Chronicle or Fayetteville Gazette	1 Feb 1790 – 19 Jul 1790
Fayetteville	Cumberland	North Carolina Presbyterian	5 Jan 1861 – 4 Jul 1863
Greensboro	Guilford	Central Protestant	22 Jun 1876
Greensboro	Guilford	Greensboro Daily News	3 Jan 1906 – 31 Dec 1982
Greensboro	Guilford	Greensboro Record	17 Mar 1906 – 16 Mar 1984
Halifax	Halifax	North Carolina Journal	1 Aug 1792 – 11 Sep 1797
Hillsborough	Orange	Hillsborough Recorder	10 Mar 1824 – 10 May 1865
Lincolnton	Lincoln	Lincoln Courier	2 May 1846 – 15 Feb 1851
Lincolnton	Lincoln	Lincoln Republican	23 Jan 1840 – 25 May 1842
Littleton	Halifax	True Reformer	25 July 1900
Milton	Caswell	Milton Gazette and Roanoke Advertiser	3 May 1822 – 21 Apr 1825
Murfreesboro	Hertford	Hornets' Nest	1 Oct 1812 – 22 Jul 1813
New Bern	Craven	Carolina Federal Republican	12 Jan 1809 – 25 Apr 1818
New Bern	Craven	Morning Herald	17 Sep 1807 – 30 Dec 1808
New Bern	Craven	Newbern Herald	20 Jan 1809 – 26 Feb 1810
New Bern	Craven	New Bern Sentinel	21 Mar 1818 – 21 Dec 1836
New Bern	Craven	North Carolina Gazette	24 Mar 1775 – 14 Jul 1775
New Bern	Craven	Radical	28 Jan 1867
New Bern	Craven	State Gazette of North Carolina	9 Aug 1787 – 7 Feb 1788

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<i>City</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Name of newspaper</i>	<i>Dates</i>
New Bern	Craven	True Republican, and Newbern Weekly Advertiser	2 Apr 1802 – 7 Aug 1811
Raleigh	Wake	Biblical Recorder	10 Feb 1844 – 23 Aug 1876
Raleigh	Wake	Christian Advocate	4 Nov 1863 – 14 Mar 1865
Raleigh	Wake	Gazette	16 Dec 1893 – 19 Feb 1898
Raleigh	Wake	Holden Record	12 Mar 1868 – 16 Apr 1868
Raleigh	Wake	North Carolina Advertiser	8 Jul 1865 – 30 Dec 1865
Raleigh	Wake	North Carolina Minerva	26 Nov 1799 – 31 Dec 1804
Raleigh	Wake	North Carolina Standard	9 Jan 1835 – 14 Dec 1850
Raleigh	Wake	Observer	24 Feb 1877 – 11 Sep 1880
Raleigh	Wake	Raleigh Register	4 Jun 1819 – 9 Sep 1842
Raleigh	Wake	Raleigh Register and North Carolina Gazette	18 Nov 1823 – 29 Dec 1843
Raleigh	Wake	Raleigh Times	1 May 1908 – 31 Aug 1912
Raleigh	Wake	Republican Touchstone	13 Mar 1840
Raleigh	Wake	Semi-Weekly Standard	14 Jan 1852 – 8 Mar 1868
Raleigh	Wake	Star	3 Nov 1808 – 29 Sep 1852
Raleigh	Wake	Weekly Constitution	26 Oct 1876
Raleigh	Wake	Weekly News and Observer	5 Apr 1917 – 28 Jun 1917
Raleigh	Wake	Weekly Sentinel	21 Oct 1875
Tarboro	Edgecombe	Tarboro Press	4 Jan 1840 – 2 Mar 1844
Washington	Beaufort	American Recorder	28 Apr 1815 – 27 May
Washington	Beaufort	Rough and Ready	14 Oct 1848
Wilmington	New Hanover	Cape Fear Recorder	28 Nov 1818 – 11 Apr 1827
Wilmington	New Hanover	Daily Journal	29 Nov 1852 – 16 Sep 1876
Wilmington	New Hanover	North Carolina Presbyterian	27 Sep 1876
Wilmington	New Hanover	True Republican or American Whig	3 Jan 1809 – 7 Nov 1809
Wilmington	New Hanover	Wilmington Centinel and General Advertiser	18 Jun 1788
Wilmington	New Hanover	Wilmington Gazette	1 Jan 1801 – 13 Jan 1816
Winston-Salem	Forsyth	Twin City Sentinel	27 Dec 1906
Winston-Salem	Forsyth	Winston-Salem Journal	30 Aug 1898 – 31 Dec 1929

At the bottom of GenealogyBank.com's home page is a section titled, "Search U.S. Newspaper Titles by State." Click on North Carolina to access the list of North Carolina newspapers. Membership is not required to access this list.

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Newspaperarchive.com. A subscription website, which is indexed

<i>City</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Aberdeen	Bertie or Moore	1993-1996
Burlington	Alamance	1887-2016
Concord	probably Cabarrus	1897-1904
Gastonia	Gaston	1880-2015
High Point	Guilford	1886-2009
Jacksonville	Onslow	2003-2015
Kannapolis	Cabarrus	1928-1994
Kinston	Lenoir	2003-2015
Lexington	Davidson	1925
Lumberton	Robeson	1807-1977
Mount Airy	Surry	1896-1977
New Bern	Craven	1987-2016
Raleigh	Wake	1799-1977
Rocky Mount	Nash or Edgecombe	1894-1970
Shelby	Cleveland	2002-2016
Statesville	Iredell	1874-1977
Tarboro	Edgecombe	2009-2011
Trenton	Jones	2013-2014
Wilson	probably Wilson	1792-2003
Winston-Salem	Forsyth	1974-1989

Newspaperarchive.com is available for free at your local Family History Center.

Newspapers.com. A subscription website, which is indexed

There are so many North Carolina titles on Newspapers.com that they could not be listed here. Browse by country, state, city, and name of newspaper or date to determine which paper will be most helpful. This is the website to which I personally subscribe.

Free newspaper websites

chroniclingamerica.loc.gov. (This free website can be searched by keywords and phrases.) *Chronicling America, Historic American Newspapers*, is on the Library of Congress website and has far too many North Carolina titles

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to list here, although not all newspapers listed on Chronicling America have been digitized yet. A search on the website can be done for a list of all North Carolina newspapers or for a specific city, county, or newspaper. Again, if you do a global search make sure you know which newspapers you are searching. On the Chronicling America home page, in the left hand column, click on help and read before beginning your search. In my opinion, this website was not user friendly.

www.digitalnc.org/collections/newspapers. Digital North Carolina is a project supported by the North Carolina State Library, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the UNC-Chapel Hill University Library. The newspaper home page includes a list of newspapers on the website that have been digitized. I found the search function on this website awkward. You will get your best results by using the advanced search.

Published newspaper abstracts

A list, by county, of abstracts and transcriptions of North Carolina newspapers that the State Library of North Carolina has in its collection can be found on the library's website at statelibrary.ncdcr.libguides.com.

The following newspaper abstracts are available on the NCGS website in archived journals.

Robert M. Topkins, "Marriage and Death Notices from Extant Lincolnton Newspapers: 1836-1853, Part I Marriages," *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal*, volume 2, number 2 (April 1976): 62-84.

Robert M Topkins, "Marriage and Death Notices from the Iredell Express (Statesville) 1858-1865, an Index," *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal*, volume 3, number 4 (November 1977): 242-253.

Lois S. Neal, "Excerpts from Early Raleigh Newspapers," *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal*, volume 3, number 4 (November 1977): 253.

Lois Smathers Neal, "Abstracts of Vital Records from Raleigh, N.C., Newspapers 1840," *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal*, volume 27, number 2 (May 2001): 123-157.

Lois Smathers Neal, "Abstracts of Vital Records from Raleigh, N.C., Newspapers 1841," *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal*, volume 27, number 3 (August 2001): 243-290.

Lois Smathers Neal, "Abstracts of Vital Records from Raleigh, N.C., Newspapers 1842," *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal*, volume 27, number 4 (November 2001): 363-386.

Lois Smathers Neal, "Abstracts of Vital Records from Raleigh, N.C., Newspapers 1843 and 1844," *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal*, volume 28, number 1 (February 2002): 3-43.

Lois Smathers Neal, "Abstracts of Vital Records from Raleigh, N.C., Newspapers 1845," *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal*, volume 28, number 2 (May 2002): 123-142.

Raymond A. Winslow, Jr., "Marriages and Deaths from the Raleigh Register 1846," *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal*, volume 30, number 1 (February 2004): 3-46.

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Raymond A. Winslow, Jr., "Marriages and Deaths from the Raleigh Register 1848," *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal*, volume 30, number 3 (August 2004): 239-277.

Raymond A. Winslow, Jr., "Marriages and Deaths from the Raleigh Register 1849," *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal* volume 30, number 4 (November 2004): 335-365.

Raymond A. Winslow, Jr., "Marriages and Deaths from the Raleigh Register 1850," *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal* volume 31, number 1 (February 2005): 3-31.

Raymond A. Winslow, Jr., "Marriages and Deaths from the Raleigh Register 1851," *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal*, volume 31, number 4 (November 2005): 291-322.

Victor T. Jones, Jr., "Marriages and Deaths from the Raleigh Register 1852," *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal*, volume 33, number 1 (February 2007): 58-71.

Victor T. Jones, Jr., "Marriages and Deaths from the Raleigh Register July through December 1852," *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal*, volume 35, number 2 (May 2009): 101-122.

Katharine Kerr Kendell "Marriage and Death Notices from Milton Newspapers, Caswell Co., N. C. 1818-1854," *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal*, volume 3, number 4 (November 1977): 35-37.

Robert M Topkins, "Marriage and Death Notices from Extant Asheboro, N. C. (Randolph Co.) Newspapers, 1836-1857: An Indexed Abstract," *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal*, volume 4, number 4 (November 1978): 222-253.

Brent H. Holcomb, C.A.L.S., "Marriage and Death Notices from The North Carolina Argus, 1848-1861," *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal*, volume 5, number 2 (May 1979): 105-113.

Brent H. Holcomb, C.A.L.S. "Marriage and Death Notices from The North Carolina Argus, 1848-1861," *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal*, volume 6, number 1 (February 1980): 27-36.

Hugh Buckner Johnston, Jr., "Information from Old Goldsboro Newspapers," *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal*, volume 6, number 1 (February 1980): 59-61.

Robert M. Topkins, "Marriage and Death Notices from Extant Rutherfordton (Rutherford Co., N.C.), Newspapers, 1830-1850: An Indexed Abstract," *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal*, volume 7, number 4 (November 1982): 215-224.

Raymond A. Winslow, Jr., "Marriage and Death Notices from Miscellaneous Washington, N.C., Newspapers, 1807-1881," *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal*, volume 7, number 1 (February 1986): 26-35.

Katherine K. Walls, "Marriage & Death Notices in The American Advocate of Kinston, NC, 1855-1859," Newspapers, 1830-1850: An Indexed Abstract" *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal*, volume 13, number 1 (February 1987): 2-12.

Katharine Kerr Kendall "Marriage and Death Notices from the North Carolina Presbyterian, 1859," *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal*, volume 21, number 2 (May 1995): 115-138.

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Katharine Kerr Kendall “Marriage and Death Notices from the North Carolina Presbyterian, 1861,” *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal*, volume 22, number 2 (May 1996): 151-164.

Katharine Kerr Kendall “Marriage and Death Notices from the North Carolina Presbyterian, 1864,” *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal*, volume 23, number 1 (February 1997): 35-55.

Katharine Kerr Kendall “Marriage and Death Notices from the North Carolina Presbyterian, 1867, 1868,” *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal*, volume 24, number 1 (February 1998): 9-41.

Elliott R. Futrell, “Marriages, Deaths, and Selected News Items from the North Carolina Christian Advocate, 1856,” *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal*, volume 31, number 2 (May 2005): 99-149.

Diane L. Richard and Alysia A. Richard, “Runaway Slave Advertisements in North Carolina Newspapers,” *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal*, volume 36, number 2 (May 2010): 164-171.

Diane L. Richard and Alysia A. Richard, “Runaway Slave Advertisements in North Carolina Newspapers,” *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal*, volume 36, number 3 (August 2010): 231-238.

Diane L. Richard and Alysia A. Richard, “Newspaper Notices Seeking the Lost, Misaid, and Stolen,” *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal*, volume 37, number 1 (February 2011): 49-71.

Carolyn N. Gibbons, “Abstracts from Fayetteville Newspapers, 1816-1820,” *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal*, volume 37, number 1 (February 2011): 72-76.

Carolyn N. Gibbons, “Abstracts from Fayetteville Newspapers, 1816-1820,” *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal*, volume 37, number 2 (May 2011): 159-172.

Carolyn N. Gibbons, “Abstracts from Fayetteville Newspapers, 1816-1820,” *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal*, volume 37, number 3 (August 2011): 254-265.

Carolyn N. Gibbons, “Abstracts from Fayetteville Newspapers, 1816-1820,” *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal*, volume 37, number 4 (November 2011): 350-361.

Carolyn N. Gibbons, “Abstracts from Fayetteville Newspapers, April to May 1825,” *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal*, volume 40, number 4 (November 2014): 320-328.

Carolyn N. Gibbons, “Abstracts from Fayetteville Newspapers, June to July 1825,” *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal*, volume 41, number 2 (May 2015): 153-163.

Carolyn N. Gibbons, “Abstracts from Fayetteville Newspapers, 6 October 1825-10 November 1825,” *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal*, volume 42, number 4 (November 2014): 154-161.

Carolyn N. Gibbons, “Abstracts from Fayetteville Newspapers, 17 November 1825-22 December 1825,” *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal*, volume 42, number 4 (November 2014): 154-161.

Barry Munson, “Obituaries of N. C. Confederates Serving in the Regiments of Other States 1861-1862,” *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal*, volume 38, number 2 (May 2016): 341-349.

Barry Munson, “Obituaries of N. C. Confederates Serving in the Regiments of Other States 1864,” *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal*, volume 40, number 1 (February 2014): 68-72.

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The following volumes of Raleigh newspaper abstracts are available in hardback or on CD in the NCGS store.

Lois Smathers Neal, *Volume I, Abstracts of Vital Records from Raleigh, North Carolina Newspapers, 1799-1819* (1979; reprint, Raleigh, NC: North Carolina Genealogical Society, 1997).

Lois Smathers Neal, *Volume II, Abstracts of Vital Records from Raleigh, North Carolina Newspapers, 1820-1829* (1980; reprint, Raleigh, NC: North Carolina Genealogical Society, 1997).

Lois Smathers Neal, *Volume III, Part 1, Letters A-K, Abstracts of Vital Records from Raleigh, North Carolina Newspapers, 1830-1839* (Raleigh, NC: North Carolina Genealogical Society, 1995).

Lois Smathers Neal, *Volume III, Part 2, Abstracts of Vital Records from Raleigh, North Carolina Newspapers, 1830-1839* (Raleigh, NC: North Carolina Genealogical Society, 1995).

If you haven't begun newspaper research on your ancestors, now is the time to begin. Remarkable things may be found.