



**Irish
Special
Interest
Group**



Newspapers and family history research in Ireland

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Why look at newspapers?



- Newspapers are a source of:
 - stories about individuals
 - social history context to what your ancestors did
 - local history and great events of the time
 - advertisements
- You are unlikely to find much about a poor, but law abiding person



What is in old newspapers?



- Advertisements
- Local news
- The social goings on of the wealthier classes
- Assizes and other court reports
- Criminal activity and the committals of suspects
- Obituaries
- The quirky and unusual



How to get the content of old news



- When I started out the only way to access the newspapers was looking at paper originals or microfilms of originals
- The first question you might ask is 'it there a newspaper in the area I am interested in in the time frame of my interest?'
- A starting point is Newsplan at the National Library of Ireland
<https://www.nli.ie/en/catalogues-and-databases-printed-newspapers.aspx>
- An example of the data is:
<http://www.nli.ie/en/NewspapersDetails.aspx?IndexNo=950>



Where can we read old news



- As well as the collections in major libraries you can find copies of old newspapers in other libraries
- Local libraries in Ireland
- Some university libraries
 - [University of Limerick](#)
- Library of Congress
- Private collections



Where can we read old news



- Prior to the development of large scale image and OCR sites content of newspaper were shared as published abstracts or extracts from newspapers
 - Rosemary ffoliott's collections
 - O'Kief, Coshe Mang, Slieve Lougher, and Upper Blackwater in Ireland has included some abstracts
- Other websites with collections:
 - <https://nickreddan.net/newspaper/index.php>
 - <http://irelandoldnews.com/>
 - <https://eddiesextracts.com/>



Original copies photographed



- I was fortunate enough to be able to photograph the copies of the Limerick Chronicle from 1774 that were held by the Limerick Museum
- [Images](#)
- These images are available at the National Library of Australia



Internet newspaper images/OCR



- When I last talked in detail about newspaper the number of pages available on the internet was less than 10 million now there are 53,927,521 pages and growing in the British Newspaper Archive alone
- These are fantastic resources, but they are only as good as the images they scan and OCR. They can miss some things.
- See OCR and the Bleeding Obvious *The Ancestral Searcher* V42 No1 pp22-4 (March 2019)

D U B L I N, February 1
Friday last died suddenly James Seaton, the Elder,
of Youghall in the County of Galway, Esq. a Gentleman
greatly regretted by all his Acquaintance.



Trove



- Trove is a great source for newspapers in Australia
- You may find an obituary of a pioneer that reaches back to their origin in Ireland
- Sometimes live events notices refer to relations in other countries.



British Newspaper Archive



- The newspapers I use most are in this archive. It is based on the holdings in the British Library
- After the Act of Union the British Library was a deposit library for all of thw UK including Ireland
- The British Newspaper Archive includes many Irish titles
- Is available through our Library
- <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>



Irish Newspaper Archive



- Focussed on Irish titles
- Some overlap with the British Newspaper Archive
- Not as good search or display functions
- Is available for free through the NLA readers' ticket
- <https://catalogue.nla.gov.au/>
 - Then go to <https://archive-irishnewsarchive-com.rp.nla.gov.au/olive/APA/INA.Edu/Default.aspx#panel=home>



Clare Library



- The Clare Library has published 1805 editions of the Ennis Chronicle on their website.
- https://www.clarelibrary.ie/eolas/coclare/history/ennis_chronicle/index.htm
- These PDFs are searchable.
- They hold many other hard copy files of the Ennis Chronicle



Conclusions



- Newspapers are a wonderful resource
- Like many things in family history serendipity plays a part
- If you do not look you certainly find nothing
- More and more resources are coming on line so check back occasionally
- Good luck with your research



Some other links of interest



- <http://www.celtic-connections.org/>
- <https://www.worldcat.org/title/okief-coshe-mang-slieve-lougher-and-upper-blackwater-in-ireland/oclc/827660>
- <https://virtualtreasury.ie/browse>
- <https://virtualtreasury.ie/gold-seams>