

Newspapers

as a genealogical resource at the Portsmouth Public Library



Read all about it!

Newspapers can be a source of incredible genealogical information. Researchers can find their ancestors in articles including:

- Obituaries
- Birth, death, and marriage notices
- Legal transactions including probate notices and delinquent tax lists
- Military service
- Social items

Newspapers can also provide valuable context to the time period being studied. Everything from world events to neighborhood happenings are recorded in the papers. If you want to start looking for your ancestors in the newspaper, the Portsmouth Public Library has got you covered! We provide access to papers going back in time to 1756! Read through to learn about all of the ways you can access our collection of historic newspapers.

Newspaper formats

Newspapers are available at the PPL in three forms:

- Hard copy (available to researchers upon request)
- Microfilm
- Digital

We'll review PPL's holdings for each form on the next page.

Go digital!

We limit access to the original copies of historic newspapers in an effort to preserve them. We ask that you use digital or microfilm versions whenever possible.



Which format is best?

Each format has its pros and cons. Most researchers will have to become familiar with all three!

	Paper	Microfilm	Digital
Pros	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ See the historic document as it was originally intended ✓ Easily survey entire paper for relevant articles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Easily save, print, or email ✓ No harm to the original documents ✓ User can control magnification, focus, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Easy to search without knowing a specific date ✓ Easy to print, save, or email ✓ No harm to the original documents
Cons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Every use degrades the material ✗ Not easy to save or share (requires photocopy, scan, or high-quality photograph) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Can be difficult to read ✗ Need a narrow time-frame to search; can be like a needle in a haystack 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Limited years available ✗ Quality of image can vary greatly

PPL newspaper holdings

★ hard copy

▲ microfilm

⚡ digital

Atlantic News ★
Boston Globe ★▲
Christian Herald ★
Daily Evening Times ★▲
Daily Morning Chronicle ▲
Daily Portsmouth Journal ▲
The Edge ★⚡
Evening Visitant and Public Advertiser ★
Farmer's Museum ▲
Federal Observer ▲
Foster's Daily Democrat ★▲
Freeman's Journal ▲
Herald of Gospel Liberty ▲
The Hippo ★
Industrial Department Life Buoy ▲
Intelligencer ★▲
Morning Chronicle ★▲
New Hampshire Gazette ★▲⚡
New Hampshire Journal ▲
New Hampshire Mercury ▲
New Hampshire Observer ★
New Hampshire Profiles ★
New Hampshire Repository and Observer ▲
New Hampshire Seacoast Sunday ★
New Hampshire Seacoast Times ★
New Hampshire Spy ▲
New Hampshire Times ▲
New Hampshire Troubadour ★
New York Times ★▲⚡
New Hampshire Journal ▲
News and Courier ★
Novator ▲
Novator and Independent Expositor ▲
Oracle of New Hampshire ▲
Oracle of the Day ▲

Oracle Post ▲
Our Times ★
Paraclete and Tickler ▲
Penny Post ★
People's Advocate ▲
Piscataqua Weekly ★
Political Star ▲
Portfolio ★
Portsmouth Atlantic News ★
Portsmouth Daily Chronicle ★▲
Portsmouth Daily Republican ★
Portsmouth Herald ★▲⚡
Portsmouth Journal and Rockingham Gazette ★▲
Portsmouth Journal of Literature and Politics ★▲
Portsmouth Magazine ★
Portsmouth Mercury ★
Portsmouth Oracle ★▲
Portsmouth Periscope ★
Portsmouth Press ▲
Portsmouth Republican ▲
Publick Occurrences ★
Republican Ledger ▲
Seacoast Flyer ★
Seacoast Pilot ★
Seacoast Scene ★
Seacoast Times ★
Seacoast Ventures ★
The Shoreliner ★
State Herald ★
States and Union ★▲
United States Oracle of the Day ▲
War Journal ▲⚡
Weekly Chronicle ★
The Wire ★

Ask a Librarian about what years we have!

Portsmouth Herald

If you're looking for local news, The Portsmouth Herald (1884 - present) is a great source. The format of the edition depends largely on what YEAR you are looking for. The PPL offers the following holdings (note that some years are available in multiple formats):

1898 - 1977

digital via newspapers.com
(some years excluded; see chart on next page)

1898-present

microfilm

2016 - 2018

digital via Advantage Archive

Recent editions

digital via Seacoast Online
(limit of 5 free articles; ask a Librarian for assistance)



Research services

Special Collections staff offer research services for only the cost of copies. Because this service is in addition to other duties, research time is limited to 30 minutes. Anything found within that time frame will be sent by mail or email. Research requests can be submitted by emailing cfczajkowski@cityofportsmouth.com or by calling (603) 766-1723. Please be as specific as possible and include any details that may aid in our search.

Mastering microfilm

Microfilm of local and select national papers is available for public use at the Library. All researchers are welcome to use our two digital microfilm/microfiche readers. **No library card is required!** The digital readers allow users to clip individual articles that can be printed, saved, or emailed. If you've never used one before, just ask a Librarian to help you get started or take a look at the guide kept by the readers.



Do you have your own microfilm you want to look at? You can use our microfilm readers for that, too!

Quick Start Guide: Newspapers.com Northeast Collection

The PPL provides access to Newspapers.com Northeast Collection. This database is an easy and convenient way to search, print, save, and share articles from across hundreds of newspapers. The Northeast Collection includes papers from CT, DE, MA, ME, NH, NJ, RI, and VT. From Portsmouth, researchers can search through the War Journal from 1813 and the Portsmouth Herald from 1898-1977. Some months and years are missing from the Portsmouth Herald collection. This chart shows which dates are **unavailable**:

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1898	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
1903	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
1904	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
1905	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
1906	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
1907	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
1908	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
1926	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓
1927	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
1928	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
1929	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓
1930	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
1931	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
1932	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
1933	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
1934	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
1935	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
1937	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
1946	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
1947	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
1948	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
1965	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
1972	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
1973	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
1974	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
1975	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
1977	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗

To access newspapers.com, visit cityofportsmouth.com/library/research-databases and click on the newspapers.com link. Researchers can freely access this resource while at the PPL (no library card required). To access from home, enter your 14-digit library barcode then click Log In.

Searching

If you want to find articles about a specific person, type in the name of the person (first and last) in the search bar and hit enter. A list of results will appear. To narrow your results, use the parameters on the left-hand side. You can narrow by date, location, and newspaper. Another way to focus your search is to put quotation marks around your search. Try "dorothy vaughan" instead of just dorothy vaughan, for example.



It is best to try a broad search first (with no delimiters or quotations) and then narrow your search as you go. This way, you don't miss anything!

Browsing

If you want to read through a specific day's paper, you can do that using the Browse button on the top menu bar. From here, choose which state, city, paper, and date you want to see. Click on page 1 if you want to see the front page. You can then use the arrows at the bottom to scroll through the rest of the edition.



Clipping and saving articles

When you find an article that you want to save, you can clip it and then save it to your computer or flash drive, email it, or print it.

To clip an article, make sure the entire article is visible on the screen at once. If the article is very long or is on two separate pages, you will have to make two clippings. Once the article is in view, click the Print/Save button on the toolbar.



You can choose to save the entire page or clip a specific part of the page. To choose just one article, click "Select portion of page." A grid will appear. You can adjust the size to fit around the article you want. Make sure you don't clip off any of the edges!



When you have your article in frame, click Save. We recommend saving as a PDF, but saving as a JPG works, too! Clicking one of the options will prompt the save. It will automatically be placed in the Downloads folder of the computer and will be named with the title of the newspaper followed by the date of the article. From here, you can move the file onto a personal flash drive, upload it to an email, or print it out.

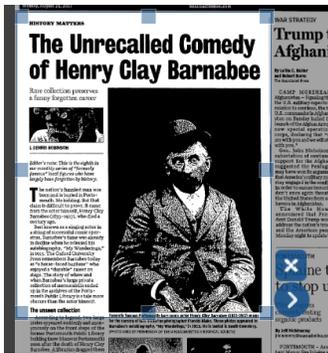


Even if you are going to print the article, it is good practice to save it first. That way, if you decide to email the article or you want another copy, you still have it ready to go on the computer.

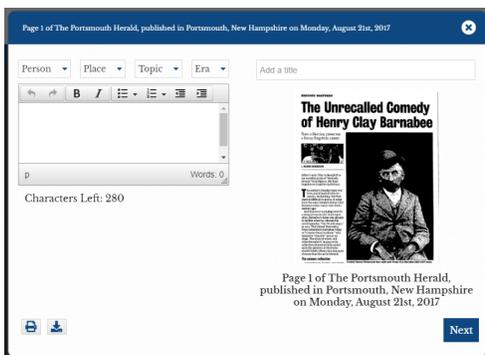
Researching recent articles

What if you're seeking articles from the past few years? The PPL has recently teamed up with Advantage Archives to create a Digital Community Archive. Beginning with 2016, all Portsmouth Herald issues will be available and searchable on this site. Visit portsmouth.advantage-preservation.com to start searching!

Similar to newspapers.com, Advantage allows users to clip, save, and print articles. Use the tools on the toolbar to crop, magnify, and search a newspaper. Using the crop feature, highlight an article you'd like to save or print then click the blue arrow at the bottom of the crop box.



A smaller screen will appear with an image of your clipping. Use the buttons in the bottom left to print or download (save) the item.



When searching, try various spellings of names! It is very common to find misspellings.

Other institutions' holdings

There are many other institutions whose newspaper collections complement that of the PPL. Visit their websites to see their holdings.

FamilySearch

familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_Newspapers

Library of Congress

chroniclingamerica.loc.gov



New Hampshire State Library

nh.gov/nhsl/services/public/newspapers.html

Portsmouth Athenaeum

portsmouthathenaeum.org

University of New Hampshire

library.unh.edu/find/newspapers-microforms

Birth, marriage, and death indexes

If you are looking for an ancestor's birth, marriage, or death announcement in a Portsmouth newspaper, start by asking a Librarian! Our staff and volunteers have compiled indexes of these types of articles. We can search by name and provide you with the date the announcement appeared in the paper. From there, you can easily search the microfilm and save, print, or email the clipping!

Vertical files

Researching an event or subject related to Portsmouth? Save yourself some time and ask a Librarian! We can pull information from our Vertical Files which include newspaper clippings from throughout the years, all organized by subject.

