



Ticking Through Time: Discovering Stories with Findmypast Newspapers

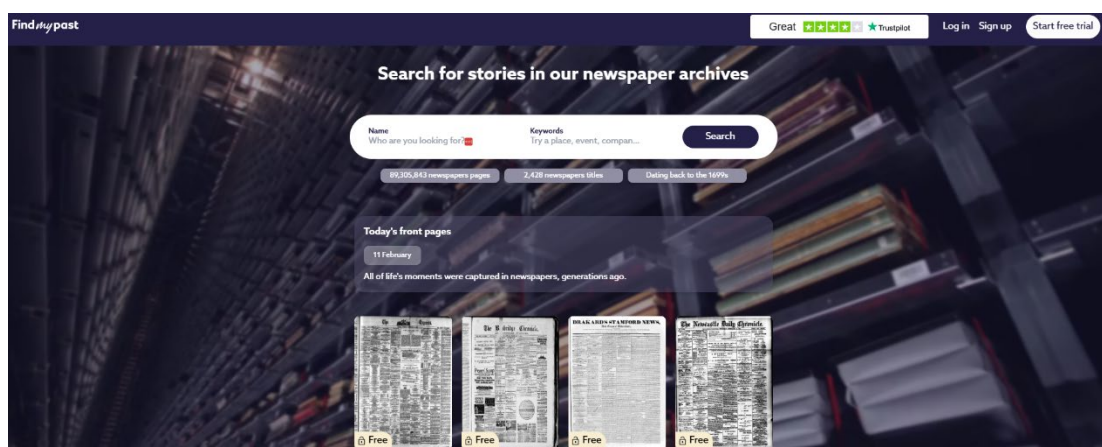
Rose Goodall, Newspaper Licensing Manager

Session aims

- Learn about Findmypast newspapers and how to search the Findmypast newspaper collection
- Learn about collections as a place to sort, store and share newspaper research
- Learn how to uncover stories that add colour and context to records
- Learn how to break down brick walls with newspapers

An introduction to Findmypast newspapers

- Access Findmypast newspapers via the URL: <https://www.findmypast.com/newspapers>
- Findmypast newspapers cover the United Kingdom and Ireland, as well as countries across the world
- These tips apply to all newspapers in the collection
- Findmypast newspapers span the years 1699 to 2009
- They feature national, regional and local newspapers, as well as specialist titles



How to search Findmypast newspapers (beginner)

- You can perform a **simple search** with either a name or keyword, directly from the newspapers homepage
- Results are arranged by relevance, with a preview of the article text, alongside details of the newspaper (date of publication, publication place, when it was added to the collection)

- You can filter your results by date, location and title
- Click through to view the newspaper page, where search terms are highlighted. From the newspaper viewer, you can browse through the pages of the newspaper

How to search Findmypast newspapers (intermediate/advanced)

- You can search (again directly from the homepage) for a name alongside a keyword to refine your results
- You can use the **advanced search form** to perform a range of search functions, including excluding words or phrases, prioritising search terms, searching within a set time frame, title or geographic area, and adjusting **phrase flexibility**
- You can **search two or more names together**, using a comma to separate each name
- **Women's names** can be harder to search, so familiarise yourself with historical naming patterns (e.g. a Mrs Anne Smith married to a Mr John Smith may be written as Mrs Anne Smith, Mrs John Smith, Mrs J. Smith) or search multiple names at once

An introduction to collections on Findmypast

- You can create a **collection** directly from the newspaper viewer, by creating a clipping, clicking 'add to collection,' and then 'create a new collection'
- Alternatively, you can create a collection directly from the collections page, URL www.findmypast.com/collections
- On the collections page, you can search Findmypast's **carefully curated collections** as well as collections made by other users
- Collections can be made **public** and **private**, and **can be shared** via a link, across email and social media

Bring it all together to uncover stories, and add colour and context to traditional record sources

- Use collections to **sort** and **store** your research, helping you to build out a timeline in between censuses and civil registration of your ancestor's movements
- Use keywords to search the newspaper collection for **themes** you discover around your ancestor in the newspaper (e.g. their profession, like farming, or something they experienced, like the blackout in the Second World War) – you can use date and location filters to make these themes more relevant to your research
- Explore **specialist titles** for themes around your ancestor – use the 'Explore our collection' option to browse through newspaper titles to discover relevant publications
- Discover our image-rich publications that are filled with **photographs** to help you bring the past to life (suggested titles: *Illustrated London News*, *The Sphere* and *Country Life*)

Use newspapers to help break down family history brick walls

- Stuck on a particular ancestor? Use newspapers to break down brick walls by searching for an ancestor's name
- Narrow down your search by searching their name alongside their occupation, spouse or location
- Combine what you know with what you have discovered through newspapers to create a rounded view of your ancestor's life, whilst hopefully breaking down your brick walls

- Still stuck? Use what you know, such as a place name, to discover more about your ancestor's life

Useful links and other ways to progress your newspaper journey

- Pro tips for using Findmypast newspapers:
<https://www.findmypast.com/blog/help/newspaper-search-tips>
- Be inspired by the discoveries made by the Findmypast community in the newspapers:
<https://www.findmypast.com/blog/discoveries/community-finds-from-our-newspaper-collection>
- Keep up to date with the new newspapers added to Findmypast on a weekly basis by checking the Fridays blog: <https://www.findmypast.com/blog/new>
- Join the Findmypast community on Findmypast, and tune into the Family History Expert Hour every other Friday (hosted either by Jen Baldwin or Rose Goodall), or the Family History Show for the Fridays in between (hosted by Ellie Ayton and Liam Boyle), to connect with other like minded researchers: <https://www.facebook.com/findmypast>
- Explore the Findmypast YouTube channel for inspiration on how to bring your past to life: <https://www.youtube.com/user/findmypast>
- Start a free trial with Findmypast: <https://www.findmypast.com/free-trial>
- Subscribe to Findmypast: <https://www.findmypast.com/subscribe>
- Discover millions of free to view newspapers on Findmypast via the **'Free to access'** filter