Old News is Good News: Using Historical Newspapers for Your Research
Taneya Y. Koonce, MSLS, MPH
Tennessee State Library & Archives Workshop
January 26, 2019

taneya@gmail.com | Twitter: @taneya | Genealogy Blog: www.taneya-kalonji.com/genblog
Handout available online at http://bit.ly/taneya-presentations

This talk covers the benefits of using historical newspapers and highlight strategies to make the newspaper research process even more successful. Improve your newspaper searching skills & learn more about the print, microfilm, and digitized formats available through the Tennessee State Library and Archives (TSLA).

WHY NEWSPAPERS?
Historical newspapers are gold mines of information. They contain a wealth of information to aid you with your research. The following resources give overviews and tips for understanding what kinds of information you can expect to find and various strategies to use.

• Using Newspapers to Research AROUND the 1890 Census loss in Genealogy - https://youtu.be/mSUPxcz8Rbl
• 5 Effective Tips for Research Newspapers - https://youtu.be/sDFaMo7f3oc
• Historical Newspaper Search Tips and What to Avoid - https://youtu.be/VKbE-T8h5lw
• The 7 MUST USE Abbreviations for Searching Genealogy Records and Newspapers - https://youtu.be/p0cE-t8WC3Y
A STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH
Unique challenges exist when using historical newspapers as a source. First, you must identify which newspaper to search. Then, it can be quite helpful to determine if anyone has done work to create an index, compile abstracts, or transcribe newspaper content. Digitized versions of historical newspapers can also greatly ease your searching. The resources below are helpful when going through this step-by-step approach.

Identifying Newspapers
2. Data Visualization: Journalism's Voyage West - http://web.stanford.edu/group/ruralwest/cgi-bin/drupal/visualizations/us_newspapers
4. TSLA Catalog – https://sos.tn.gov/tsla

Finding Indexes, Abstracts, and/or Transcriptions
Resource: Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center. Index, Abstract, Transcription or Copy? http://www.genealogycenter.org/Community/Blog/acpl-genealogy-blog/2011/02/19/Index_Abstract_Transcription_or_Copy

1. Books in the TSLA Reading Room
3. TNGenWeb Project – http://www.tngenweb.org

Digitized Newspapers
3. ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Tennessean - https://tntel.info/