

# Tracing Pasts: Google gets you to loads of archives

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I have written often about the many resources being added to online sites. This is especially true of newspapers.

While I was reading my Butler County, Pa., Genealogical Society Newsletter, I was reminded that Google is one place we need to check regularly. I went to Advanced Search at <http://news.google.com/archivesearch/advanced-search> and looked up some of my less common names. The array of things I found was amazing.

When I searched on my maiden name Pazics, I found links to obituaries and news stories, most of which I had, and some that I will be buying right online. My favorite find was two short mentions of my Uncle Eddie and his membership in a garden club in Beverly Hills, Fla. I never knew that he was interested in gardening, a trait he shared with my dad, his elder brother. This is a small thing, but it was something I probably wouldn't have found any other way.

There are a wide variety of time periods represented. I found family real estate transfers from 2002 and 1960. The Advanced Search picked up some of my newspaper columns but also highlighted several articles from the 1950s announcing that my dad, who was an Air Force recruiter, would be speaking at local high schools about job opportunities. I had no idea he had made these presentations.

One particularly interesting tidbit was taken from a college newspaper. It mentioned that my husband's grandfather had been called home in 1905 "on account of the death of his sister." I knew when this sister had passed away, but what a find if I had not! And these are only a few of my discoveries.

Using the Advanced News Archive Search is very helpful. The options can keep you from being overwhelmed if the names you're researching are more common ones. Being able to search by a date range can help locate obituaries. You can also search by a source such as a particular newspaper. But not only newspapers are represented.

One located source that surprised me was a cemetery list from Ancestry.com. According to information at <http://news.google.com/archivesearch/about.html>, you can search for "events, people or ideas and see how they have been described over time ... users can also see a historical overview of the results by browsing an automatically generated timeline."

The site says, "search results include content from a number of sources, including both partner content digitized by Google through our News Archive Partner Program and online archival materials that we've crawled. Search results can include content that is freely accessible as well as content that requires a fee."

Articles in a particular time period are "grouped together," the site says, "to allow users to see a broad perspective on the topics they are searching" As you can see, there's a wealth of information to be found.

When the days are too hot or too damp, spend some time at this Google news archive. You might find something amazing.