

PROQUEST HISTORICAL NEWSPAPERS™

Genealogists use ProQuest Historical Newspapers to enhance Family Narratives

As Janice Schultz sees it, genealogy research is a growth industry

Janice Schultz, who is the Genealogy Librarian at the Midwest Genealogy Center in Independence, Missouri, is seeing increasing numbers of people not only wondering about their family histories, but doing something about it. "I think the growing interest in genealogy research will continue for many years, in large part because of the Baby Boomer generation," she explains. "Baby Boomers are moving into the age when people tend to become more interested in their family history. They will not only have more interest in their family history, but they also will have the time to explore their interests."

"Boomers" spark new life in genealogy research

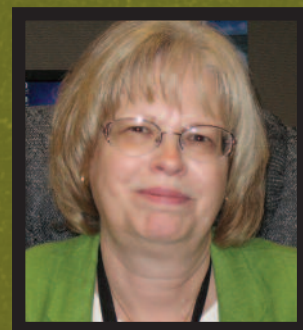
For a genealogy researcher, the fact that Baby Boomers are driving new demand is good news. According to Schultz, there is another piece of good news – the electronic resources available to her and her patrons are expanding to meet the growing demand for fast, efficient, and high-quality genealogy research. Schultz believes that *ProQuest Historical Newspapers* and other ProQuest genealogy resources, such as *HeritageQuest® Online* and *Digital Sanborn Maps™*, are leading the way in the expansion of genealogy research capabilities. ProQuest's online resources play an integral role in the services of the Midwest Genealogy Center, a nationally

known resource centre that draws people with an interest in genealogy from across the country and beyond. A part of the Mid-Continent Public Library, the Midwest Genealogy Center opened a new, 52,000 square foot facility in 2008 to better meet the growing interest in genealogy research.

ProQuest Historical Newspapers illuminate social context of the past

"We try to provide a lot of research aids for our patrons," Schultz says, adding that several ProQuest resources have proven extremely valuable in helping people expand the scope of their genealogy research. "We are trying to get people to use resources that are not genealogical, per se, so they can put their family history into a broader social context. Toward that end, we use *ProQuest Historical Newspapers* a lot because it helps our patrons look beyond the basic facts about their ancestors. By helping people see what was happening in society when their parents and grandparents were living, they get a deeper understanding of their family history."

In this regard, Schultz can speak from personal experience. She used *ProQuest Historical Newspapers* to help her in preparing a book about her great grandfather who emigrated from Norway



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Janice Schultz, Genealogy Librarian
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to Quincy, Michigan. "In writing the book, I wanted more information about a 1927 accident at the copper mine in Quincy that took the life of my great uncle," she says. "There was nobody living who could provide direct information, so I needed an alternative source." Since access to local newspapers of the time would only be possible if she travelled to Michigan, Schultz wanted a more efficient alternative.

Ancestor's mining accident uncovered

"One day I was teaching a class about our remote resources and decided to do a live search on the Quincy accident using *ProQuest Historical Newspapers*," Schultz explains. She found stories in the *Chicago Tribune*, *The New York Times*, and the *Los Angeles Times*. "These articles gave me the details on the accident that I wanted for the book," she says. "The *Los Angeles Times* article even mentioned my great uncle's name." Schultz used *ProQuest Digital Sanborn Maps* to show a visual of relationship between where her grandparents lived and where her grandfather worked. "On the day of the accident, my aunt, who was in kindergarten at the time, came home for lunch and was sent to the coal yard where my grandfather worked to inform him of the accident. Through use of the *Digital Sanborn Maps*, I was able to illustrate an important part of this family story."

Making the search process easy and productive

Schultz says the depth of the content in *ProQuest's* genealogy resources is impressive, but content isn't the only reason she views the resources as indispensable in her personal and professional genealogy research. She finds the functional capabilities impressive, too. "The ease of the search process is very beneficial," she says.

For more information about ProQuest Historical Newspapers and other resources for genealogy research, or to sign up for a FREE TRIAL, email marketing@proquest.co.uk and quote MKT 1025 09.

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"With ProQuest, you have a good optical character reader, so when you type in the words you want to search on, you get just the useful positive hits. With other resources, you get a lot of irrelevant hits that slow down the research process. The quality of the images is also very good," she says. "And, I like the fact that the search results appear in a PDF that is easy to grab and print."

The remote access capabilities of *ProQuest Historical Newspapers* and other ProQuest digital resources are another significant advantage, according to Schultz. "Part of our mission at the Midwest Genealogy Center is to make genealogy research easier to do," she says. "Library card holders can use these databases remotely. If they can't get to the library in person, they can work on their family history at home. The number of people using the remote access feature is very high and growing," Schultz says. "People love it when they can stay home and still work on their genealogy project."

Schultz is confident that demand for ProQuest products will grow, as well. "ProQuest does an excellent job researching and developing products before they launch them," she says. "Some companies will launch a product before it's ready for the public. But when ProQuest launches a product, you can be sure it's well researched and well tested. You can be confident it will work well."

"ProQuest has always been a good ally of libraries," she says. "They ask librarians what they need and then build their new products based on that information." The Mid-Continent Public Library has been using the *HeritageQuest Online* product since it was first launched and a number of other ProQuest resources for an equally long time.



Ohio State U. Grad First Negro Navy Ace

TOKYO—(By James L. Hicks. Special Call and Post War Correspondent)—An Ohio State University graduate, Ensign Jesse L. Brown, Friday became the first Negro naval aviator to fly a combat mission against an enemy of the United States. It was a glorious first achievement. The Hattiesburg, Miss., boy personally destroyed five railroad cars, damaged fifteen others and laid a wide area of burning runs by ten strafing and bombing runs near Chonji, above Tokyo.

A HAPPY FAMILY REUNION.
CHICAGO, April 11.—There was an unusual family reunion in this city to-day, when Michael Sullivan, after months of searching, found his wife and child. Sullivan left his home in Orebil, Conn., four years ago to seek his fortune in California. He did well there, and two years later sent for his family to come out to him. Mrs. Sullivan and the child went to San Francisco only to find that her husband had left there two weeks before, and had not been heard from. She hunted for him for months but could get no tidings, and finally started back for Connecticut. On the train, however, she reached Chicago penniless. Luckily she found a shelter in a war side cottage, and by hard work managed to support herself and child until to-day, when a detective employed by her husband found her and conducted Sullivan to the house. The husband's disappearance from San Francisco was the result of a trip to the Gaudiera, Arizona, where he was suddenly taken down by brain fever. It was three months before he could get back to California. Now detectives trying to find her.

LEAVING THE COUNTRY.
LINER FOR AMERICA TAKES 500 IRISH EMIGRANTS.
The Anchor liner, Caledonia, which sailed for New York on Sunday, embarked no fewer than 478 passengers at Moville. With the exception of a few tourists returning from a visit to this country, the passengers were emigrants seeking new homes in many parts of the United States. The majority were of the agricultural and domestic servant classes, but there was a fairly large proportion of business people also. There was a large party from Castleblaney, Co. Monaghan, and many came from Donegal, Cavan, Roscommon and other counties. A family of seven from Portadown, the mother and her six children, sailed to join the husband and father, while there was another family of seven from Belfast.

SEARCHERS RECOVER TWO MINERS' BODIES
HOUGHTON (Mich.) Oct. 30.—Bodies of two of the seven miners whose lives were snuffed out by an air blast explosion and the forty-first level of the Quincy copper mine yesterday, were recovered today. The bodies were those of John Israelson, 40 years of age, and Emil Ettams, 51, found near the top of a huge pile of stone at one end of the wrecked level. Rescue workers declared tonight it may be several days before the bodies of the other five victims are recovered.