

PAPER OF RECORD

<http://www.paperofrecord.com/>

THOUGH THIS IS not a new venture (it's been around since 1999), increased technological capabilities and perseverance have resulted in it offering 21 million images of newspapers for you to search and download!

Unlike some services providing access to newspapers, this site is free and it's more global in its offerings. It includes digitized papers from the UK, the US, Australia, Bahamas, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Ecuador, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain and Mexico. Some newspapers only have a few editions available and for others, there are complete runs for the specified time period.

Paper of Record's powerful search engine is easy to use. There are two ways to search, you can input a name or you can first browse the list of scanned newspapers, click on a newspaper of interest, identify a start date and input your search terms.

Recent research had me searching for a family in

Fayetteville, North Carolina, in the late 1800s. I found that Paper of Record has partially digitized the *Fayetteville Observer* for 1857-2002. I keyed in the name Overby and came up with numerous hits, most of which were for 1857.

When you choose a hit of interest, the full page of the newspaper will be viewable in a viewer. This viewer allows you to zoom in and out, scroll up and down and left to right. Additionally, you will find the search term(s) highlighted in yellow. This allows you to quickly identify the nature of the article about the person or event you are searching on.

Though the website is free, there is a download quota limit of 250 pages per day — this way more people can access its holdings.

Of the countries for which there are digitized newspapers, the collection includes extensive coverage of newspapers from Mexico and Canada. This better helps anyone researching their ancestry anywhere in North America. — DIANE L. RICHARD