

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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As many of our readers/members enjoy researching, we will periodically publish tips/articles on how to research different topics. These were pulled together by Tim Bennett. Tim Bennett is the sixth generation owner of the Warner Homestead farm, located on Buno Road. For the past fifteen years Tim has conducted extensive research on the historical and genealogical background of the family. Archaeological excavation of the site is one of the few, if only, by a direct descendant in Michigan. He has published a number of articles and presented on his research to various groups around the state. The Warner Homestead was recently recognized as Michigan's newest historic site with the installation of the Michigan Historical Marker in the front yard.

“Research Tips — Newspapers”

Nineteenth and early twentieth century newspapers provide an amazing amount of detail about the activities of ancestors. Besides news from across the country and world, entire front page sections were filled with the nuances of residents including where they went to shop, who they visited, and even who came over for dinner one evening. For example, the November 7, 1906 edition of the *Livingston Republican* wanted readers to be aware that "G. W. Warner and wife took a trip to Howell on business last week".

For many years, researchers needed to literally re-read old newspapers on microfilm to attempt to tease a tidbit here and there on past generations. In some cases, hard copy indexes and scrapbooks were compiled on family names to aid in the discovery of related information. While these still remain valuable resources, other methods have since been developed that also greatly increase the search success rate in a fraction of the time than reading through microfilm.

Researchers interested in activities in Livingston County are particularly lucky as a number of area newspapers have been digitized. Even though not specifically focused on Brighton, newspapers from adjacent towns often shared stories on residents from neighboring communities. The Pinckney Community Library maintains a website with editions of the *Pinckney Dis-*

patch and the *Gregory Gazette* at pinckneylocalhistory.weebly.com/pinckney-historical-newspapers.html. The FultonSearch.org website is another free service that allows the searching of many newspapers, including the *Milford Times* at fultonsearch.org/?paper=Milford+MI+Times. The Central Michigan University Digital Michigan Newspaper archive also has editions of the *Milford Times* as well as other newspapers from around the state at digmichnews.cmich.edu/. The Library of Congress Chronicling America section contains newspapers from around the country dating back to the 17th century with a free access website at chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/.

Arguably, though, the most valuable resource in this regard is Newspapers.com. The site features scanned newspapers from across the world but more importantly contains editions from defunct area newspapers such as the *Livingston Herald* (1886-1887) and *Livingston Democrat* (1843-1927). Recent editions of the *Livingston County Press & Argus* are online, as well as its predecessor, the *Livingston Republican*, dating back to 1856. Hundreds of editions are included, though a few are missing, likely lost years ago. The site does require a paid subscription, but is well worth it to serious researchers. Other regional papers such as the *Detroit Free Press* can also provide successful hits on ancestors. In one case, an article from 1834 listed letters not picked up at a Detroit post office and noted the name of a Brighton area ancestor, Nelson Fuller, placing him in Michigan years before statehood.

(Thank you to Tim Bennett for assembling this information.)

