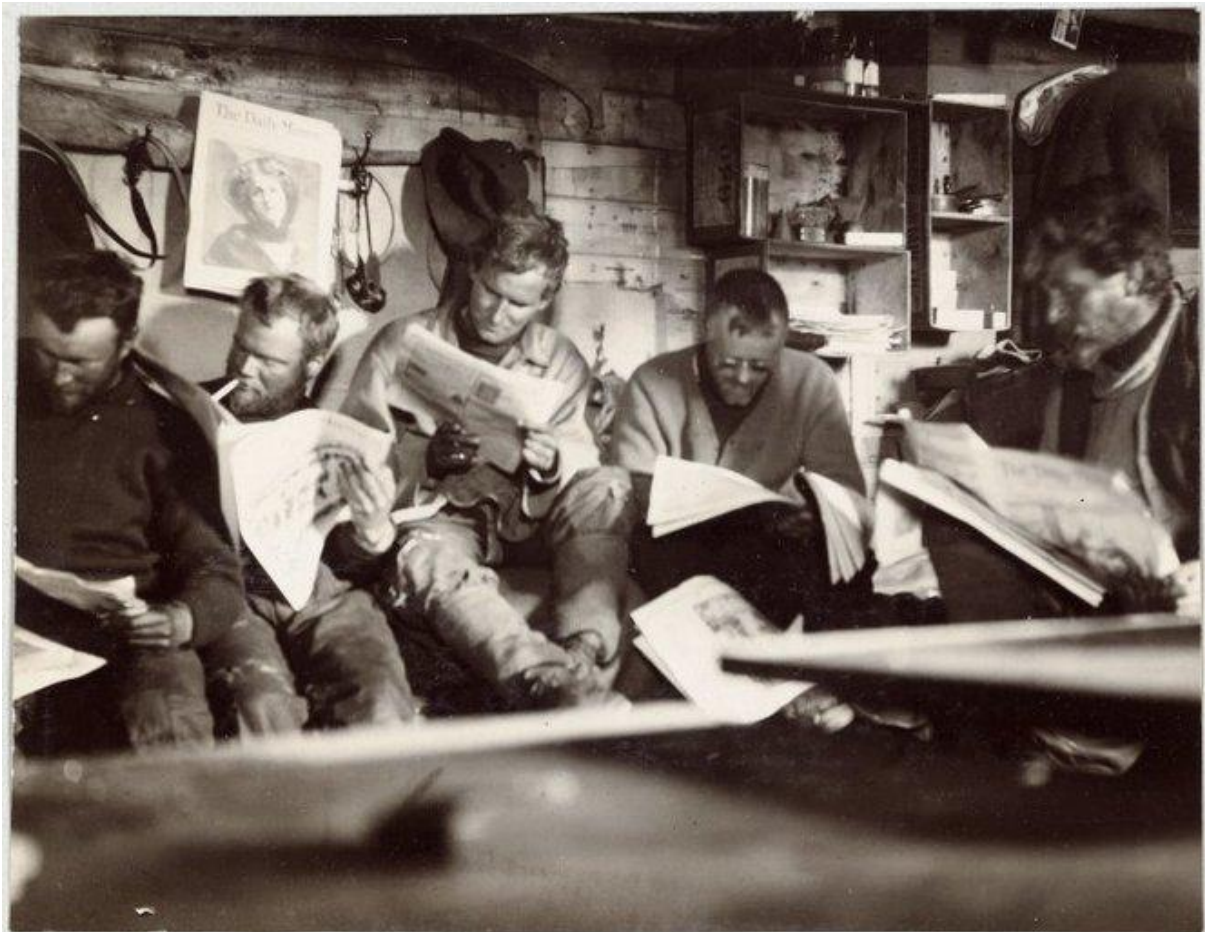




Getting It Right

Effective Research

Searching Newspapers



Men reading newspapers during the British Antarctic Expedition (1907-1909).

Kinsey, Joseph James (Sir), 1852-1936

Ref: PA1-o-463-37-3. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. [/records/23200360](#)

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This is part of the "Effective Research" series. These notes should be read in conjunction with the accompanying video which can be found on the [NZSG website](#).

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Newspapers and Printed Resources

Much of the information covered in this presentation and its accompanying notes relate to newspapers and other printed resources such as books.



Digitising and Transcribing



The digitising of newspapers and books is the same as most other records. The difference comes in the transcribing of them to provide a search function. Newspapers are "transcribed" by Optical Character Recognition (OCR) software so no human eyes have played a part. There are likely to be errors because of the quality of the originals. If text correcting is available, remember to transcribe **exactly** what is there, not what you'd like to be there!

The second big difference is that there are also no fields in newspaper searches. With other records, you fill in fields like first name and the search will only look for first names. With newspapers, your search searches every word in the database. If you search "Ebbs" as a name it will look for ebbs everywhere and search results will include anything that "ebbs and flows" as well as the name Ebbs.



Letters the OCR find difficult

If you're having trouble finding any results, then it could be you're searching a word that the OCR finds difficult. Here are some of the letters that get confused:

- b/B instead of h/H
- Ai or Al instead of M
- m and n
- c and e and a
- a and u
- i and l
- l and 1 and !
- f and s
- 8 for S
- v for y
- m instead of rn (and vice versa!)
- punctuation like '

Also note that newspapers often used some archaic ways of writing

- M' instead of Mac/Mc
- fs for ss

Try substituting letter or using wildcards (if allowed) to increase search results.



Search Tips



A key objective in our search is to get a manageable number of search results without missing any results that might be interesting.

If you know when something occurred, look at newspapers around that date. Many newspapers were printed in the evening so an event that occurred in the morning may be in the same day.

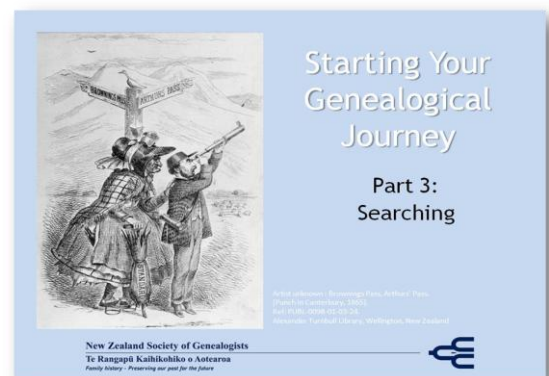
Search wide and narrow - use a very wide search term and a very narrow search term to reduce your results. Date and location are often options provided by websites as filters to reduce your results. Be aware that the "Content Type" filter (eg article, advertisement, family notice) is set by the OCR and may remove useful search results.

Try a more unique term such as a place name or a ship's name or an organisation. Your family member may be named by occupation rather than name.



Keep checking back - more newspapers are added all the time!

Remember the tips for general searching held in the *Getting It Right - Starting Your Genealogical Journey* series presentation on [Searching](#).



Places to find Newspapers

New Zealand

paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/cgi-bin/paperspast - Papers Past

natlib.govt.nz/collections/a-z/findnzarticles - find material by or about New Zealanders from a range of New Zealand newspapers and journals.

kinderlibrary.recollect.co.nz/ - Anglican Church newspapers

Your local library may have clippings collections and more recent newspapers on microfilm. They may also give you online access to periodical databases such as ProQuest Research Library and Academic Search Elite. These databases can provide more modern articles of interest (ie secondary sources) which may help you find further records on your family.

Australia

trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper?q= - Trove - digitised newspapers

British Isles

Wales - newspapers.library.wales/ (free)

Gales Primary Sources - British newspapers - available free if you're a member of the NZSG - www.genealogy.org.nz/

Find My Past (\$) - www.findmypast.co.uk/ - British, Irish, USA, World

British Newspaper Archive (\$) - www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/
(owned by FindMyPast)

United States

chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/ - Library of Congress

Europe

www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/tel4/newspapers

World

Newspapers.com (\$) www.newspapers.com/(owned by Ancestry.com)

Lists of newspapers

FamilySearch - www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Newspapers - lists English and foreign language newspapers



Glossary

Terms used in this presentation:

Fields – used to search for specific items in the records, eg first name, last name, place of birth etc

Optical Character Recognition (OCR) – technology used to read the text of digitised documents

Where to next?

This is part of the *Effective Research* series in *Getting It Right*. Have a look at our other resources genealogy.org.nz/Getting-It-Right/10915/

Getting It Right:

- **Starting Your Genealogical Journey**
- **Effective Research**
 - Genealogical Proof Standard
 - Recording conventions
 - **Getting Help**
 - DNA Basics
 - Searching Newspapers
 - Other People's Trees
- **Sharing Your Family History**



Photo Credits

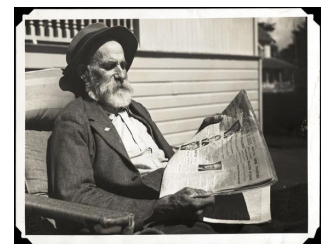
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Men reading newspapers during the British Antarctic Expedition (1907-1909). Kinsey, Joseph James (Sir), 1852-1936 :Photographs relating to Antarctica and mountaineering. Ref: PA1-o-463-37-3. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand.
[/records/23200360](#)

Span Farm neighbour reading the New Zealand Herald for September 27th 1938

Auckland Libraries Heritage Collections [1533-ALBUM-295-126-1](#)



Seated woman reading book, Auckland Museum [PH-2019-13-3-11](#)
1900-1915

Young woman holding reel of microfilm – Jay Sharp, 196?

Used with the permission of Brooklyn Public Library
www.bklynlibrary.org/digitalcollections/item/828e7547-c6b2-45e3-8d63-8cfc0ec3bf79



Newspaper Digital Scanner, courtesy of British Newspaper Archives

Apollo HS Microfilm Scanner
Courtesy of Sunrise Imaging Inc
(used to digitise NZ's newspapers)



COPY OF REGISTER OF MARRIAGE.

1869

No.	Place Married at	Names of Parties	Age	Rank or Profession	Religion	Place of Birth	When Registered
19	St. Andrew's Church, Wellington	William Frederick Ebbs Fanny Keeling	30 years 27 years	Lawyer Housewife	Protestant Roman Catholic	Wellington Wellington	1869 1869

Witnessed after the solemnity required by the Act of the General Assembly of New Zealand, entitled "The Marriage Act, 1846," by
John G. G. G.

This Marriage was solemnized between us,
John G. G. G. }
Fanny Keeling }
 In the presence of us,
John G. G. G. }
John G. G. G. }
 I certify that the above is a true copy of the Entry in the Register Book of Marriages kept by me.

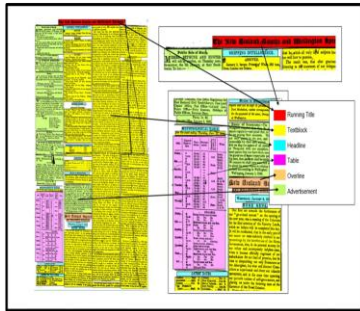
1869

Marriage of William Frederick Ebbs and Fanny Keeling

1869

BDM Ref: 1869/8826

www.bdmhistoricalrecords.dia.govt.nz/



Provided by Digitisation Services, National Library of New Zealand



Printing section of The Press newspaper. Ref: PAColl-8763-2.

Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand.

[/records/38879270](http://records/38879270)

Newspaper Clippings from PapersPast, National Library of New Zealand

paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/

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Other photos from the collection of Sarah Hewitt

