



Judge Pryor of the Court of Common Pleas yesterday appointed Paulino Cohen guardian ad litem of Lena Besser to appear for her in a suit for divorce brought by her husband, Leopold Besser. A decree was granted in the suit. Lena declares that she knew nothing of the proceedings. She will try to have the decree set aside.

New York Times – April 1892

## JEW IN THE NEWS: HISTORICAL NEWSPAPER RESEARCH

PAMELA WEISBERGER - 2012

The pages of a newspaper preserve the flavor of a time as no other document can. Along with reports of key historical events, one can find smaller, though no less-important items like vital statistics (records of births, marriages and deaths which function as substitutes for missing civil or religious registrations), biographical sketches, legal notices, public announcements, advertisements; immigration, migration, and shipping.

ProQuest Historical Newspapers™ is designed to be the definitive digital archive of leading newspapers in North America and is available as a paid service, through private organizations, free, on-site at most large public and university libraries. The database consists of:

The Atlanta Constitution (1868-1945)  
The Baltimore Sun (1837-1986)  
The Boston Globe (1872-1979)  
The Chicago Defender (1905-1975)  
The Chicago Tribune (1849-1988)  
The Christian Science Monitor (1908-1993)  
The Detroit Free Press (1831-1922)  
The Hartford Courant (1764-1986)  
The Historical Guardian (1821-2003), Observer (1791-2003)  
The Indianapolis Star (1903-1922)  
The Irish Times (1859-2010)  
The Los Angeles Times (1881-1988)  
The New York Times (1851-2008)  
The New York Tribune (1900-1922)  
The San Francisco Chronicle (1865 – 1922)  
The St. Louis Post-Dispatch (1874-1922)  
The Wall Street Journal (1889-1994)  
The Washington Post (1877-1992)



This database offers full-text and full-image articles for these papers dating back to their first issue. **Most public and university libraries offer Proquest, sometimes providing a remote password. Ask your local librarian. A home delivery subscription to the NY Times also qualifies.**

**SEARCH METHODS:** Keyword, subject, author, article title, journal title. Very user-friendly interface. There is no Soundex option on these search engines, and occasionally typeface mis-reads occur—a “b” is mistaken for an “h”, etc.—so various spellings or reversals—e.g. using last names first for obituary searches, should be tried, e.g., *Goldstein, Aaron*

**Old New York State Historical Newspaper Pages** – search over 17,000 pages including the Brooklyn Eagle:  
<http://fultonhistory.com/Fulton.html>

**GENEALOGYBANK** is an exclusive newspaper archive for family genealogy research. Over 5,700 newspapers provide first-hand accounts about your ancestors that simply can't be found at other genealogy websites. Discover the stories, names, dates, places and events that have played a role in your family history.  
<http://www.genealogybank.com/gbnk/>

## U.S. REGIONAL NEWSPAPERS – finding historical newspaper

Check public or academic libraries and genealogical or historical societies in localities of interest, as well as libraries and archives in the state capitols. The Library of Congress also has large collections of many newspapers, as does the periodical room of the New York Public Library on 42nd Street.

**Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers** at the Library of Congress allows you to search and view newspaper pages from 1880-1910 and find information about American newspapers published between 1690-present at: <http://www.loc.gov/chroniclingamerica> and “Stars and Stripes” - the U.S. military paper published during World War I from February 1918 to June 1919. The eight- page weekly-featured news from home, sports news, poetry and cartoons. Searchable at: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/sgphtml/sashtml/sashome.html>

**ANCESTRY.COM** – (paid service, free at most libraries) <http://www.ancestry.com>. Ancestry offers more than 16 million pages from over 1000 different newspapers across the US, U.K. and Canada dating back to the 1700's—a staggering number of resources spanning hundreds of years. Extremely useful for researching smaller towns throughout the U.S. The Obituary Collection contains more than 9 million obituaries. Their Historical Newspaper Collection has images of entire newspapers from the western frontier at the turn of the century and The New York Times. [www.ancestry.com/landing/historicnewspapers/newstoyou.htm](http://www.ancestry.com/landing/historicnewspapers/newstoyou.htm)

## JEWISH PERIODICALS AND JOURNALS

This is a rich resource for discovering more about your ancestors who lived in the smaller towns and cities throughout the United States. In addition to life-cycle events, there are countless social notices, articles of interest on foreign affairs or local community events, and advertisements for businesses your relatives might have owned. Though not usually indexed, if you know the approximate date of an event, trolling through these pages is a pleasurable excursion back in time as you search for your surname or business information.

**HEBREW UNION COLLEGE** – in its three locations, has an extensive collection of these periodicals, on microfilm, in both English and Hebrew, from cities and towns throughout the United States.

**KLAU LIBRARY** - HUC-JIR, NYC PH: (212) 674-5300 <http://www.huc.edu/libraries/newyork/index.html>

**THE FRANCES-HENRY LIBRARY**, 3077 University Ave. Los Angeles 90007

<http://www.huc.edu/libraries/losangeles> PH: 213-749-3424

**KLAU LIBRARY** - Cincinnati, OH 45220 PH: (513) 221-1875 <http://www.huc.edu/libraries/cincy/index.html>

**The Pittsburgh Jewish Newspaper Project** is composed of The Jewish Criterion (1895-1962), The American Jewish Outlook (1934-1962), and The Jewish Chronicle (1962-Present) <http://pjn.library.cmu.edu/>

**BRITISH NEWSPAPERS –The London Gazette:** The online archive currently covers the twentieth century London Gazette, Edinburgh Gazette and the Belfast Gazette. <http://www.gazettes-online.co.uk/>  
Most useful are the naturalization applications and “deed poll” name changes, business lawsuits, and death notices (for probate purposes) that were routinely posted in this paper.

**The Jewish Chronicle:** This online archive allows you to search through the pages of the chronicle from 1841 onwards for free, but a fee is required to download the article, The screen can be digitally photographed with excellent results.

<http://www.thejc.com/archLnk.aspx>

**The British Library Online Newspaper Archive:** <http://www.uk.olivesoftware.com/>  
Offers very limited searching capabilities...mainly for major historical events.

**Jewish News Archive** from the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, including “The Jewish Daily Bulletin” at: [http://cdn.jta.org/archive\\_pdfs/](http://cdn.jta.org/archive_pdfs/)

**STORIES FROM EASTERN EUROPE AND BEYOND:** Stories involving events, people, and communities overseas, were often published in U.S. newspapers. Make sure to do searches on surnames, city, town, village and even *shtetl* names, local industries, maritime disasters, fires, floods, and other significant keywords in the digital versions of the major newspapers to see what information about events overseas might have been covered.

