

Birth announcements

Mr. and Mrs. John Roy Kirksey of Chicago, Illinois, announce the arrival of a baby boy, Hillery, on Tuesday, Oct. 1, at St. Joseph's Hospital, Illinois. Mr. Kirksey is Mr. and Mrs. Roy Kirksey, Concord, Ave., Rockford. John Roy Kirksey is of Auburn High School the University of Illinois, Circle Campus. He is employed as

Birth Announcements

Mr. and Mrs. Henry G. Smith Grange are receiving congratulations on the birth of a baby boy, August 18, who has been named Porter Golden Smith for his maternal father. Miss Smith was formerly Miss Anna Golden of this city.

BORN

BORN—July 27, 1922, to Mr. and Mrs. John M. Craig, Jr. (nee Ethel Marie Laob), a boy, LAWRENCE EDMUND.
BORN—To Mr. and Mrs. Charles Schwartz (nee), at Touro Infirmary, on August 20, at 11:45 p. m., a boy, SCHWARTZ, JR.

BIRTHS

To Mr. and Mrs. Isalah T. 212 East Market street, a son
To Mr. and Mrs. Llewellyn July 11, 245 South Main street
To Mr and Mrs. Gordon June 17, 23 Miner street, a

BIRTHS

In this city, August 11th, the wife of Mr. Albert Daughter.
In Jackson, on the 5th of August, the wife of I. a son.
At Middletown, Shasta Co., August 3d, the wife

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Births

SHE'S HERE! THE RAY M. OWEN
3111 Alaska

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Published in Newspapers –
A Valuable Genealogy Resource

Thomas Jay Kemp

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Printed in the United States of America

GenealogyBank, a division of NewsBank, inc.

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About GenealogyBank

GenealogyBank is a leading online genealogical resource from NewsBank, Inc. GenealogyBank's exclusive newspaper archive features over 7,000+ small town and big city historical newspapers across the U.S. from 1690 to present day to help you discover and document your family story. You'll find births, marriages, engagement notices, hometown news, obituaries and much more! Search today and get a glimpse into the triumphs, troubles and everyday experiences of your American ancestors.

NewsBank, Inc. has been one of the world's premier information providers for more than 35 years. Through partnerships with the American Antiquarian Society, Wisconsin Historical Society and more than 3,000 publishers, NewsBank is uniquely qualified to offer some of the most comprehensive genealogical information available – and to provide new content regularly.

About the Author

Thomas Jay Kemp is the Director of Genealogy Products at GenealogyBank. Tom is an internationally known librarian and archivist. He is the author of over 45 genealogy books and hundreds of articles about genealogy and family history. Tom previously served as the Chair of the National Council of Library & Information Associations (Washington, D.C.) and as Library Director of both the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and the New England Historic Genealogical Society. He began his career in 1963 as the Assistant to the Librarian in the Genealogy & Local History Room at the Ferguson Library (Stamford, Connecticut).

Birth Announcements

Published in Newspapers – A Valuable Genealogy Resource

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS are a terrific resource that can be found in most newspapers.

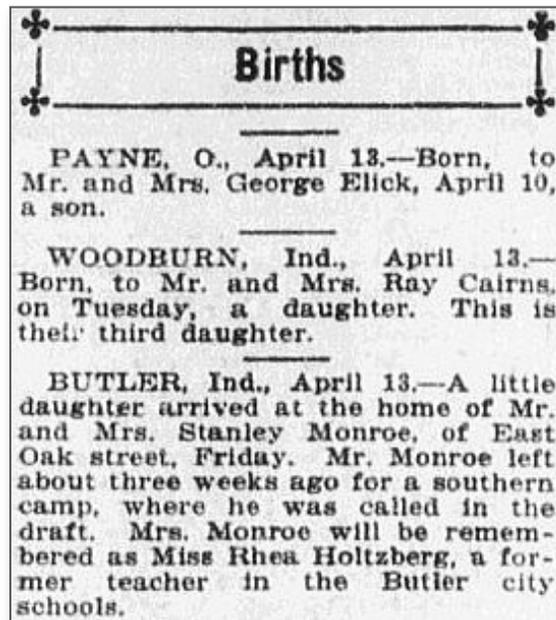
Birth announcements can do much more than just give the baby's name, date and place of birth – in fact, they often give more information than a birth certificate. In a birth announcement you may find the full names of both parents, as well as the full names of other family members and relatives, including grandparents and even great-grandparents. You may also discover other family history details, such as the mother's maiden name, and the parents' place of residence or occupation.

And if one of your ancestors had a significant or perhaps unusual name, you might be lucky enough to find a birth announcement that explains the origin of that name—such stories provide an interesting, and often humorous, glimpse into your ancestors' lives.

Birth Announcements

Newspaper editors realized long ago that stories about children sell newspapers; editors have included birth announcements in newspapers from the 1700s up to today. With GenealogyBank's archive of more than 7,000 newspapers, from 1690 to the present ([click here](#) to see the complete title list), you have a collection spanning over 300 years of American history—the birth announcements contained in these newspapers are often available for time periods in which vital records are hard to find or nonexistent, helping to fill in gaps in your family history.

Here is an example, printed by the *Fort Wayne Sentinel* (Indiana) on 13 April 1917, page 18:



Today's regulations usually require a family to name a child before leaving the hospital. This was not always the case. In this example none of the children born to these three families was named in the newspaper article, but we do learn the child's sex and place of birth.

Although we don't get the baby's name, we do get the names of the parents. Notice also the additional family details provided by the second and third listings in this birth announcement:

- This is the Cairns' third daughter
- The Monroes live on East Oak Street in Butler, Indiana
- Mr. Stanley Monroe was unable to attend the birth of his daughter, because three weeks prior he was called to a southern camp (army) because he was drafted
- Mrs. Rhea Monroe was formerly Miss Rhea Holtzberg and had been a teacher in the Butler city schools

Birth Announcements

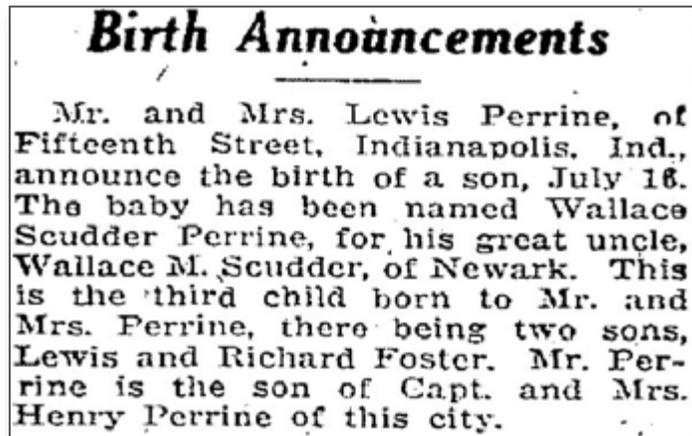
This is all great stuff. If your ancestors were the Cairns, now you know they had three daughters for you to track down. If Mrs. Monroe was your ancestor, now you have a vital clue to help you with your research: her maiden name, which is often hard to discover.

And in this simple birth announcement we get a picture of a stressful time for the country and the world. Think about it: the Monroe's daughter was born on 13 April 1917. Exactly one week earlier, the U.S. had declared war on Germany and entered WWI. What a time of upheaval that must have been for the Monroes! The country was plunging into war and young men were being drafted and called away for military training and service — including Stanley Monroe, forcing Rhea Monroe to give birth to their child without him.

Why Did a Child Receive That Particular Name?

Birth announcements are especially good at providing family information when they explain the origin of the baby's name, because such stories relate to the extended family or even ancestors, as in the following two examples.

In this birth announcement, printed by the *Trenton Evening Times* (New Jersey) on 18 July 1922, page 8, we learn that the baby boy was named for his great uncle, Wallace M. Scudder:



Look how much we learn from this one paragraph:

- The baby's full name is Wallace Scudder Perrine, in honor of his great uncle
- His birth date is 16 July 1922
- The Perrines live on Fifteenth Street, Indianapolis, Indiana
- The great uncle's name is Wallace M. Scudder, and he lives in Newark, New Jersey
- The Perrines now have three sons
- The other two boys are named Lewis and Richard Foster
- The baby's dad, Lewis Perrine, is himself the son of Capt. and Mrs. Henry Perrine of Trenton, New Jersey

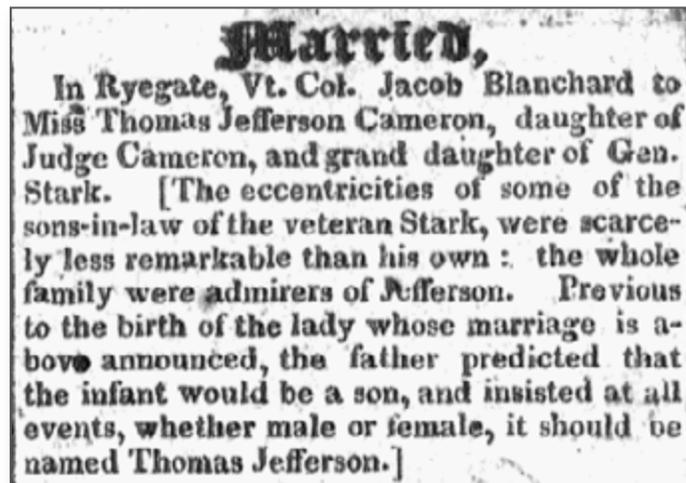
Birth Announcements

Now you have the names of three boys to include in your searching, as well as the name and place of residence of the great uncle. You also have information on three generations of this family, because in addition to the baby boy, his brothers, and parents, you also learn the names and place of residence of Mr. Perrine's parents.

Notice also that this birth, to a couple in Indianapolis, Indiana, was printed in a Trenton newspaper because of the family's New Jersey connections. This is a good reminder that birth announcements, like obituaries and other notices, can appear in places you might not expect.

Let's look at another notice explaining the origins of someone's name. This information actually appeared in a marriage announcement, not a birth announcement, but it makes the same point: name explanations often provide rich family history. And, in the case of unusual names, such explanations often give us a good chuckle—reminding us that our ancestors were no less interesting than people are today.

In this notice, printed by the *Essex Register* (Salem, Massachusetts) on 13 February 1824, page 3, we learn some humorous birth information: why the granddaughter of Revolutionary War General John Stark received the unusual name (for a girl) of "Thomas Jefferson Cameron":



Now that's a great story, although you can't help but wonder what Miss Cameron thought of growing up as a girl named "Thomas." But if Col. Jacob Blanchard, Miss Thomas Jefferson Cameron, Judge Cameron and Gen. Stark were your ancestors, this is a story you'd want to include in your family history.

Birth Announcements

Cradle Rolls

Newspapers often consolidate the announcements they receive from hospitals and families and publish them as “Cradle Rolls” or a similarly titled newspaper article: a group announcement of recent births in the area. Here is an example, printed by the *Trenton Evening Times* (New Jersey) on 4 October 1964, page 49:

Cradle Roll



Eugene Elder, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Abra Square 31 Ewing Street. Robin Ellen, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lee Owens, 63 Bellevue Avenue. Jeffrey Alan, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Edward Pyle, 120 Acres Drive, Hamilton Square. Paul Michael, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Morris Agabiti, 5 Cranbrook Road. Penny, Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Snell- enberger, Main Street, Cookstown, N.J. Ralph Francis, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Richard Welsh, 3 Toby Lane, Yardville. Karen Joyce, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph L. Ndolopy, 13 Banbury Road. Helen Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. How-	Ricky Lamar, Mr. and Mrs. John Alton Leonard, 371 Union Street. Corinna, Mr. and Mrs. Giovanni Per- rone, 573 Arena Drive. Karen Leigh, Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Francis Turner, 1010 Terrace Boulevard. Migdali, Mr. and Mrs. Jesus Santiago, 990 East State Street. Patricia, Mr. and Mrs. John Julian, 823 Quinton Avenue. Gary Ralph, Mr. and Mrs. William Snedeker, 309 Oak Tree Drive, Levittown, Pa. Brent Christopher, Mr. and Mrs. Don Wesley O'Connor, 155 Second Avenue Hightstown. Karen Louise, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin
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Announcements for First Year and Other Birthdays

In addition to birth announcements, newspapers often publish birthday greetings on a child's first, second or other birthday. These usually include a photograph.

Birth Announcements

Here is a good example, printed by the *Trenton Evening Times* (New Jersey) on 26 October 1917, page 5:



One Year Old Today

TITUSVILLE, Oct. 26.—This happy tot is Clark Harbourt, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Harbourt and grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Clark Harbourt, Sr. Baby Clark who is one year old today, weighs 30½ pounds. He is very bright for his age and is very fond of animals and birds. His mother before her marriage was Miss Susie Hunter, of Philadelphia. His father is employed at the Mercer County Workhouse.

Look at how much information is packed into this short birthday announcement:

- The child's full name: Clark Harbourt, Jr.
- Child's weight: 30½ pounds
- Child's disposition: "happy," "very bright for his age" and "very fond of animals and birds"
- Father's name: Roy Harbourt
- Grandparents' names: Mr. and Mrs. Clark Harbourt, Sr.
- Father's work: "employed at the Mercer County Workhouse"
- Mother's maiden name: Susie Hunter, and she was "of Philadelphia"

Birth Announcements

That's a lot of family information to help you with future searches. There are several names here, including the mother's maiden name combined with the helpful information of where she lived before marrying. You also learn where the father worked, another good clue. And now you know why the baby was named Clark, Jr.; he was named after his grandfather.

Be sure to do a wide search for information about your ancestors, covering a number of years. For example, if you were looking for the birth announcement of Clark Harbourt, Jr., and limited your search to October and November of 1916, you would miss this one-year-old birthday announcement with all its good family information.

Here is another example, printed by the *Trenton Evening Times* (New Jersey) on 4 October 1964, page 49:

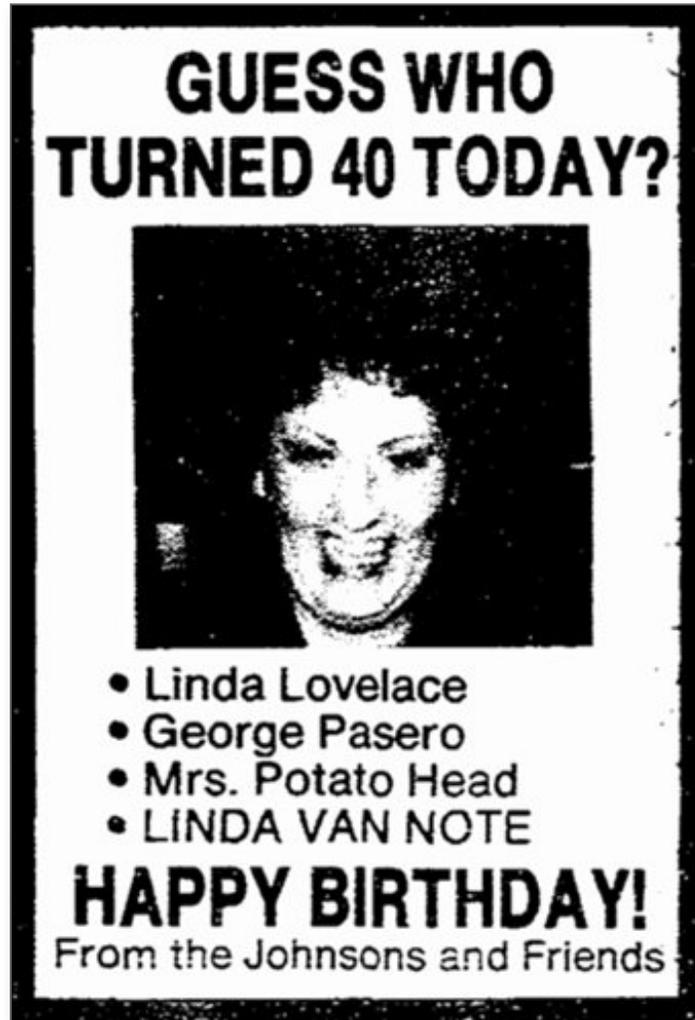
		
<p>Margaret M. Petryshin Four-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Petryshin of 1315 Deutz Avenue whose birthday was marked on August 2. She is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Petryshin of this city and of the late Mr. and Mrs. Bernard</p>	<p>Maryann and Charles Ireland Jr. Who are children of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ireland of 328 Mary Street and grandchildren of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Ireland and Joseph Riehl of this city and the late Mrs. Maryann Riehl. Maryann celebrated her eighth birthday on August 24. Charles was two years old on July 24.</p>	<p><small>Casperuso Photo</small> Gary Fisher Jr. Who is the one-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Gary Fisher of 1108 Anderson Street. Mrs. Margaret Pitcherello and Mrs. Loretta Fisher are his grandmothers and Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Pentek, Mrs. Mary Cutler and Mr. and Mrs. Pasquale Pica are his great-grandparents</p>

Notice that in these examples one child is celebrating her fourth birthday, another is eight years old with her two-year-old brother, and the last is one year old. Each of these announcements includes the names of the parents and grandparents, and the last one includes great-grandparents as well.

These birthday announcements have become so popular that some newspapers have added a touch of humor and fun, encouraging family and friends to take out ads celebrating a person on a significant birthday, such as the 40th.

Birth Announcements

Here's one, printed by the *Oregonian* (Portland, Oregon) on 6 July 1985, page 14:



These kinds of birthday announcements are great fun. They may or may not contain much genealogical information, but they at least provide a photograph of your ancestor.

Seek Out Birth Announcements

As you dig through GenealogyBank's collection of more than 7,000 newspapers, find and record all of their birth announcements – even if you already have a copy of the birth certificate. Birth announcements are a good source of hard-to-find genealogical information, such as the names of the great-grandparents, or the mother's maiden name. These newspaper articles explain the origins of your relative's names, filling in the rest of the story of your family history.

Birth Announcements