

# Yates County History Center Historic Newspaper Pages Now Available for Searching Online

by Paul Bullock

Since the summer of 2015 we have been imaging the pages of the historic newspapers archived in the Oliver House Museum. It is estimated that if all these 100,000 plus pages were piled the resulting stack would be at least 30 feet high. The images were then processed into searchable files and using these newspaper page files searches for people, places and events have been made on a computer at the History Center. Now, starting in January 2017, these historic newspaper pages are available for searching online.

The NYS Historic Newspapers project provides free online access to newspapers that reflect New York State's unique history. This free service was created and is administered by the Northern New York Library Network in partnership with the Empire State Library Network. They now have more than 6,000,000 pages of New York State newspaper pages available for searching. They had only two Yates County newspaper titles: Penn Yan Democrat and Penn Yan Express. Our 100,000 plus pages adds six Yates County newspaper titles: Chronicle-Express, Yates County Chronicle, Yates County Whig, Yates County Republican, Rushville Chronicle and the Rushville Chronicle and Gorham New Age. Also, our issues of the Express and Democrat add to what they already have with a little overlap. The link to NYS Historic Newspapers is: <http://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/>



Newcomers to the site will want to click on Help to read the FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) with answers and view the available video podcasts that will help you get started searching. In addition to the three podcasts listed a video of a Webinar done a while ago is available on YouTube at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I29S7\\_90N3o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I29S7_90N3o) . It is over an hour long and has audio problems but if you have the time it's well worth it.

This site is free and is available for your use from your own home. You are encouraged to search our historic newspaper pages and all of the pages available on the NYS Historic Newspapers site. If you have questions about searching our pages please contact me at the email address below. The imaging team consisting of Jim Hilton, Jim Koehler, Jim Wachob, Dale Ledgerwood and I have spent more than a year and a half working to make these newspaper pages available. Your use as a resource will put a big smile on our faces.

On the following pages you will find search comments and four search examples that may help you get started searching on this site.

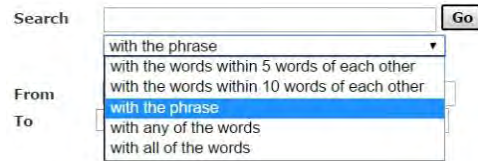
PDB – 2/20/2017

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## General Comments

### Search Behaviors

The five available selections are shown in the screen shot to the right.



- “with the phrase” - this selection is used when searching for an exact phrase such as a person’s name. Beware when searching for a name such as Susan B. Anthony, “susan b. anthony” should be entered in the search box since her name almost always included the middle initial. Entering “susan anthony” would not find Susan B. Anthony. To be sure do both searches. This selection works well when searching for places such as the Isle of Pines or Yellowstone National Park. Use “isle of pines” and “yellowstone national park” in the search box with this selection.
- “within 5 words” and “within 10 words” are proximity searches and are meant to find words that appear in the same short newspaper article. If you make a proximity search and get no hits be sure to try another search using “with all of the words”. The OCR processing sometimes merges two or more newspaper columns thus making a proximity search unreliable.
- “with all of the words” will find the newspaper pages that contain all of the words in the search box. This should be the default behavior selection.
- “with any of the words” – this selection should be used sparingly since it will almost always find too many pages.

### The Scissor Icon or Snipping Tool

A FAQ on the help page asks: *How can I print only the part of the newspaper page that I want?*

The answer is: *Adjust the zoom and positioning so that the portion of the page desired is visible. Then click the scissor icon on the image toolbar. This will open a new window displaying the desired section of the page. On this screen, select "Print this image".*

An alternate method that provides more flexibility is to use the Snipping Tool on your own computer. Contact me or the History Center if you need assistance.

### Downloading Files

If you want to download a page you are viewing to your computer, right click and select “Save as ...”. It is recommended that the PDF file be downloaded. When using files generated at the Yates County History, the PDF files will be the sharpest and clearest.

## Search Example 1

My late brother Phil told me about visiting D. Fenton Windnagle's radio repair shop in Penn Yan sometime in the late 1920s or 1930s. Fenton was our second cousin and Phil was a teenager at the time. *Where was Fenton's shop?*

We will confine our search to Yates County newspapers by clicking on little Yates County on the New York State map on the home page.



We enter the search terms “fenton windnagle radio” in the search box, the search behavior is selected to be “the words within 10 words of each other” and the date range is selected to include the late 1920s and all of the 1930s as shown in the screen shot to the right.

### Search All Yates County Titles

Search

with the words within 10 words of each other ▼

From

To

The search yields 16 hits; the first 4 are shown to the right.



After viewing all 16 hits we find that two help answer the search question. In the 4<sup>th</sup> hit we find that the radio shop was in Fenton's home as shown in this ad to the right from the April 15, 1932 issue of the Penn Yan Democrat. Fenton and family lived in the brick house facing Wagener St. which today is next to Nielson's chain saw business.

**If You Have Radio Troubles**  
Phone No. 2, D. **Fenton Windnagle**, or  
call at 110 Wagener St. I guarantee  
my work in every respect. 48w6

The 2<sup>nd</sup> hit is from the September 13, 1934 issue of the Chronicle-Express and shows that the shop had moved a short distance to a store front at 108 Water St.

D. **Fenton Windnagle** has moved  
his **radio** repair shop from his home  
to the store at 108 Water street, in  
the Chronicle annex.

In this example we selected “within 10 words of each other” as our search behavior and it worked. If in a search you get no hits from this selection try selecting “with all the words” as we will do in Search Example 2.

## Search Example 2

Sometime in the late 1800s Susan B. Anthony visited Penn Yan and gave a talk at the Sheppard Opera House. *When exactly did this take place?*

We will confine our search to Yates County newspapers by clicking on little Yates County on the New York State map on the home page.



We will do our search with “susan anthony sheppard opera” as our search terms, “with all of these words” as our search behavior and the date range in the 1880s and 1890s as shown in the screen shot to the right.

### Search All Yates County Titles

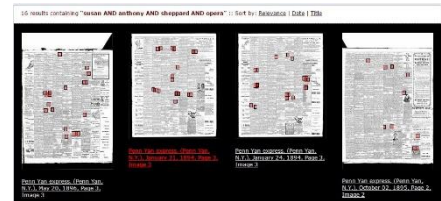
Search

with all of the words

From   1880

To   1900

The search yields 16 hits; the first 4 are shown to the right.



After looking at all 16 hits the 2<sup>nd</sup> hit was found to contain two items of interest. This is page 3 of the January 31, 1894 issue of the Penn Yan Express. The items are shown below.

**Woman Suffrage.**

The mass meetings held at the Sheppard **Opera** House on Thursday and Friday last, afternoons and evenings, in the interest of woman suffrage, were, all things considered, well attended, and were highly interesting throughout. The evening meetings especially attracted large and intelligent audiences. Although Mrs. **Anthony** has been long enlisted in the cause of equal rights, having spoken in Penn Yan 42 years ago, she still pleads with undiminished power and eloquence. The address of Harriett May Mills and Mary Seymour Howell were also remarkably interesting and forceful. Miss Carrie Allen, of Benton, read a paper on the subject of “Why Patrons of Husbandry and Tax-paying Women Believe in Equal Suffrage,” which was able and a credit to home talent. Apposite remarks were also made by Judge Struble and others of this village. Miss Anthony, in the course of her remarks, said that, after all the petitions, letters, and requests, they had received to change the dates of their meetings, they did not expect to be greeted by more than a corporal’s guard, but the audience present showed that there was much earnest thinking on the woman’s suffrage movement in Penn Yan and vicinity.

IN the course of her remarks at the **Opera** House on Thursday evening last, Miss **Susan B. Anthony** referred to the fact that she addressed a meeting in Penn Yan 42 years ago. Miss **Anthony** is a remarkably able woman and has long and valiantly contended for what she has believed to be the rights of her sex. What a triumph would be hers should the Constitutional Convention enfranchise women?

The item above begs us to do an additional search to learn about her earlier visit(s) to Penn Yan. See Search Example 3.

### Search Example 3

Miss Anthony mentioned visiting Penn Yan 42 years prior to her visit in 1894. This would make it sometime in the 1850s. *Let's try to find out more about her early visit(s) to Penn Yan?*

We will confine our search to Yates County newspapers by clicking on little Yates County on the New York State map on the home page.



We will do our search with “susan b. anthony” as our search term, “with the phrase” as the search behavior and the date somewhere in the 1850s as shown in the screen shot to the right.

#### Search All Yates County Titles

Search

with the phrase

From

To

The search yielded 18 hits, the first 4 are shown to the right.



Examining all 18 hits showed that an item from the June 6, 1860 Penn Yan Democrat indicates that Miss Anthony was to give a speech at the Court House in Penn Yan on Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup>. This was only 34 years prior to her 1894 visit so there must have been other visits.

**Miss Susan B. Anthony,**  
Of Rochester, is engaged to deliver an address before the Yates Co. Teachers' Association, at the Court House on Saturday, the 9th inst. Subject—"The True Woman."

Another hit on page 3 of the January 4, 1855 Yates County Whig contained an ad announcing a suffrage meeting at the Wesleyan Church on January 10th. That ad is shown to the right.

**WOMAN'S RIGHT TO SUFFRAGE!**  
**A** COUNTY WOMAN'S RIGHTS CONVENTION will be held at PENN YAN, on  
**WEDNESDAY Jan. 10, 1855.**  
for the purpose of discussing all reasons that impel woman to demand her  
**RIGHT OF SUFFRAGE.**  
The meeting will be held in the WESLEYAN CHURCH, First Session to commence at 1 o'clock, P.M. Second Session at 7 in the evening. We hope that every town in the county will be largely represented. Some of our best Speakers will be in attendance.  
By order of the Woman's Rights N. Y. State Committee.  
1855 **SUSAN B. ANTHONY** General Agent.

## Search Example 4

Prior to my birth in September of 1929, my family moved from Second Milo to Waterloo. My father, Homer Bullock, became manager of the Singer Sewing Machine store in Geneva. *When did the family move to Waterloo?*

We will confine our search to Yates County newspapers by clicking on little Yates County on the New York State map on the home page.



We will do our search with “homer bullock” as our search term, “with the phrase” as our search behavior and within the dates shown in the screen shot to the right. My father didn’t have a middle name so we didn’t have to worry about the middle initial.

### Search All Yates County Titles

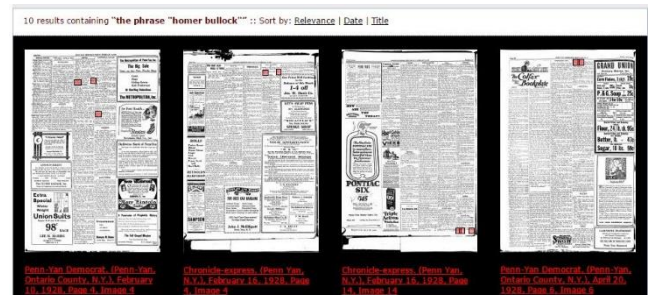
Search

with the phrase

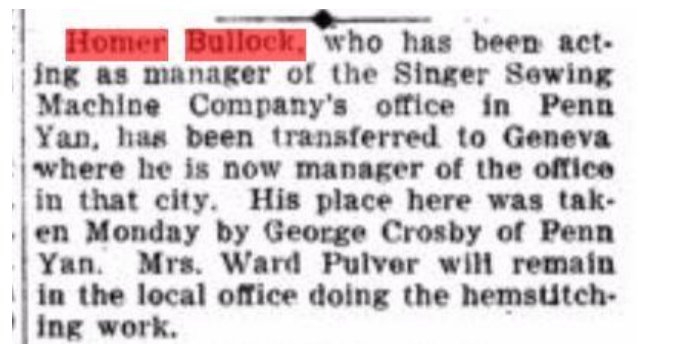
From

To

The search resulted in 10 hits – the first 4 are shown to the right.



Examining all 10 hits revealed that two were of interest. An item on page 11 of the September 20, 1928 issue of the Chronicle-Express tells about Homer getting the manager’s job in Geneva.



An item on page 16 of the October 25, 1928 issue of the Chronicle-Express mentions the move.

