

PERSI: The Pre-Internet, Internet

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What is PERSI?

- **PERiodical Source Index**
- Created by the Allen County Public Library, Ft. Wayne, Indiana
- Originally published in printed volumes, it is an index of pre-determined categories. Articles are reviewed by ACPL staff, who decide which category/ies apply to each article.
- Now the index is digitized on Findmypast ([Findmypast.com](https://www.findmypast.com)) in partnership with the Internet Archive ([Archive.org](https://archive.org))
- Index updated quarterly, images updated monthly

Why are periodicals important to our research?

- Indexes and transcriptions of hard to find records, especially in localities with very little online, or records that were lost after an article's publication.
- Articles about specific people or families
- Research methodology and case studies
- Queries that may name family members
- Book reviews by genealogists for genealogists

Getting Copies of Articles

- A digital copy of the article may be available on [Findmypast.com](https://www.findmypast.com). If it is, click on the image icon to read the article, and download it if you want. If you don't have your own Findmypast subscription, GFO members may submit a FREE research request through the Member Portal for a copy of the article.
- Check the [GFO catalog](#). There is an excellent chance we have the journal in our extensive periodical collection. GFO members may then submit a FREE research request through the Member Portal for a copy of the article.
- Search [Worldcat.org](https://www.worldcat.org) for the journal. Another library, somewhere, will have it. *FamilySearch* library/center catalogs are available on Worldcat, so you don't have to search the FS catalog separately.
- Perform an online search for the publisher. Many genealogical societies (such as the GFO) have their journals posted on their websites.

- Search online for the journal/article digitized elsewhere:
 - a. Google Books (books.google.com)
 - b. Digital Public Library of America (dp.la). DPLA partners with several digital-book organizations, but it's not clear if **all** of the partners' content is on DPLA. If you're otherwise stumped, it wouldn't hurt to try these partner sites individually:
 - Internet Archive ([Archive.org](https://archive.org))
 - HathiTrust ([HathiTrust.org](https://hathiitrust.org))
 - c. JSTOR (jstor.org). JSTOR (Journal **STOR**age) is a paid subscription site, but you can access it for free with your Multnomah County Public Library card (most metro-area county libraries are reciprocal with MCPL). The JSTOR inventory of digital content tends toward academic journals rather than strictly genealogy, but many historical societies are represented in their collection, and if you're looking for social history or background information about a particular locality or time period, JSTOR is an excellent resource.
 - d. American Ancestors ([AmericanAncestors.org](https://americanancestors.org)). This is the paid subscription website of the New England Historical & Genealogical Society, and some of its content available for free to non-members. They have a huge library with an excellent periodical collection, some of which are digitized. Searching their online catalog is free. If you find something you like but aren't a member, the GFO is. GFO members may access all American Ancestors content through the GFO Member Portal.
- Order a copy from the Allen County Public Library or through your local library's interlibrary loan program.
- Hire a professional or talk a relative/friend into making a copy of the article from any library.
- Visit the Allen County Public Library yourself.

Search Tip Recap

- PERSI is *not* an every-word search engine for OCR'ed images. It is a subject index, so use their subject categories (like an old-fashioned card catalog). PERSI's indexers examine the table of contents and pick out key words from article titles and text.
- If you get too many results at first, use a variety of the provided filters. Since human beings tag the articles with pre-determined categories, there is some variability in what type of article receives which tag.
- In general, start broad and then narrow your search.
- If you know exactly what you want, start narrow and broaden if you don't find it.

Findmypast.com -OR- search.findmypast.com/search/periodical-source-index

find my past | Family tree | Search | Free Records | My records | Blog | Help | My Account

Clear search Save search

Who
Last name
☐ name variants

Where optional
Enter a location
e.g. Wells, Indiana, USA

What else? optional
Keyword

Search

Choose from our collections

☐ British newspapers
☐ Irish newspapers
☒ **PERiodical Source Index**
☐ US & World newspapers

Narrow your search results

Last Names [Show filters](#)

Country [Show filters](#)

State [Show filters](#)

County [Show filters](#)

Town/City [Show filters](#)

Subject [Show filters](#)

Article Keyword [Show filters](#)

Periodical [Show filters](#)

Publisher [Show filters](#)

Publication Year
Publication Year +/- 2yrs

PERiodical Source Index

A rich, exclusive collection of the world's best family history periodicals

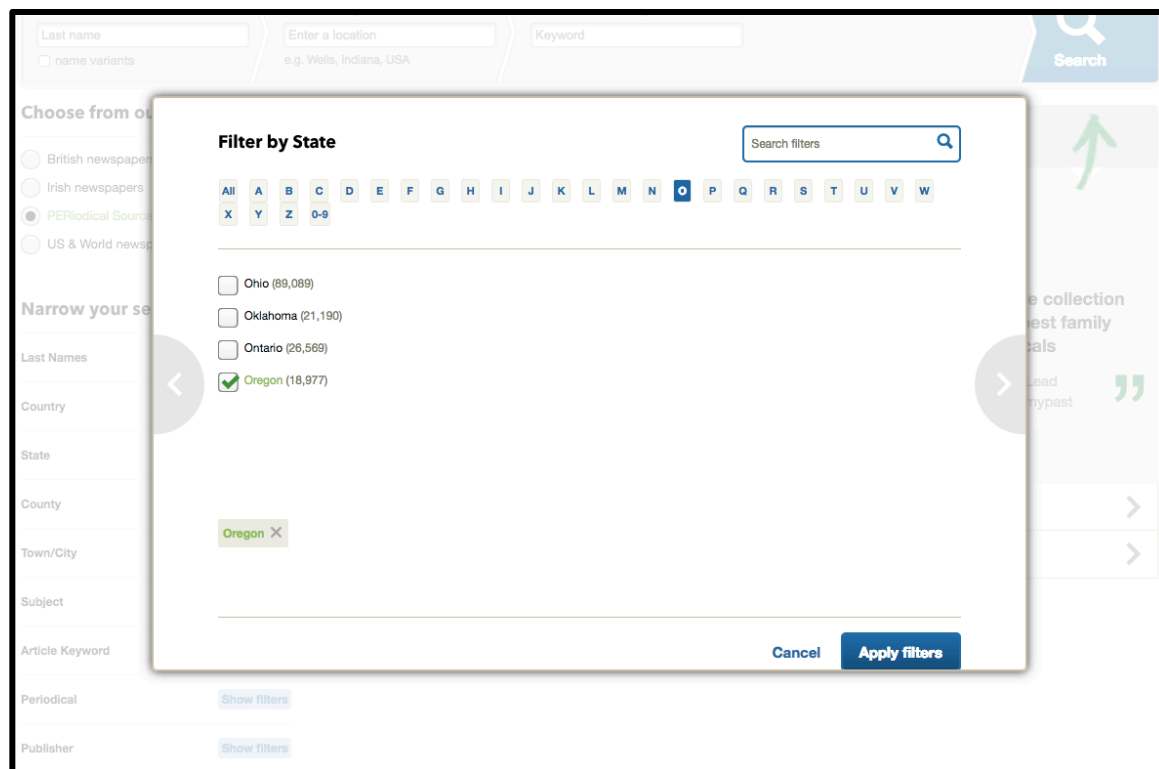
D. Joshua Taylor, Lead Genealogist at findmypast

What is the PERiodical Source Index (PERSI)?

How do I get copies of the full articles?

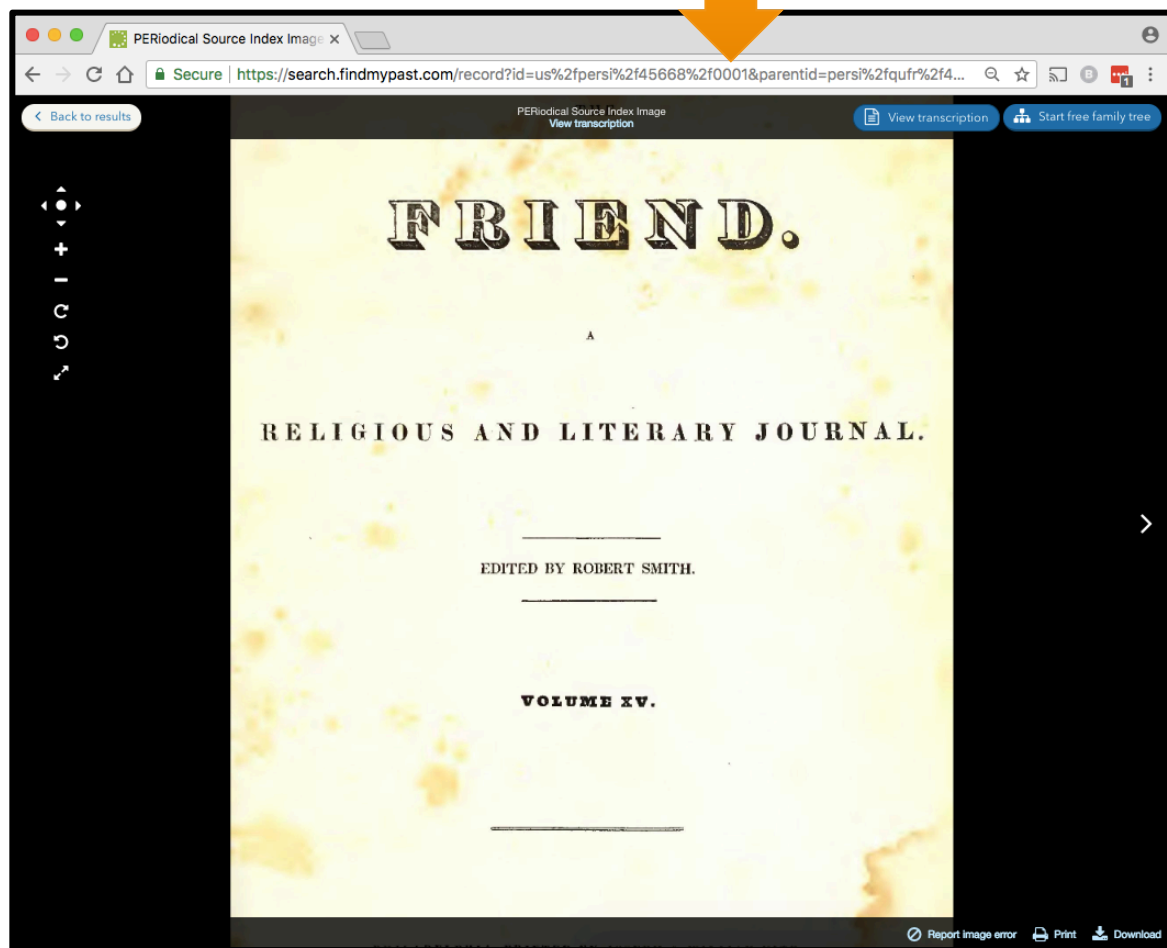
Click on the blue button “Show Filters” for the category you are interested in, then choose from among the options that pop up.

The “Who” and “Where” boxes at the top appear to duplicate the “Last Name” and location filters. However, the “What Else?” (keyword) search box will turn up results that the “Keyword” filter will not.



In this example, the search is filtered by State. You can choose as many of the State options as you want to narrow your search. Then click on “Apply filters.”

To choose an option, click on the box. You may choose any number of options and are not limited to just one in each category.



Look carefully at the URL, and find this portion: *persi%2f45668%2f0001&*

The highlighted portion is the page number. Change this number to move ahead or backwards in the journal rather than clicking on the Next arrow a bunch of times. This is a good time saver for long articles.