

Extra! Extra! Read All About it! Digitizing Minnesota's Newspapers

Minnesota Historical Society

Lake Superior Libraries Symposium – May 20, 2016

SCENARIOS FOR SEARCHES

www.mnhs.org/newspapers

EXAMPLE 1: Early Settler in Duluth

A library patron has a relative who was an early settler in Duluth, Minnesota. She wants to research the name, William Schnuckle. Can you find out more about him?

☆ Minnesota Digital Newspaper Hub:

Browse by County – Saint Louis County OR **Browse by Title** – *Duluth Evening Herald* or *The Duluth Herald*

This would take a long time, similar to looking through microfilm reels of the newspapers. You could look through the issues of the *Duluth Evening Herald* or other titles, as individuals are often mentioned in community reports about people's comings and goings. But a better approach would be something like this...

Advanced search:

- **City:** Duluth
- **Words:** Schnuckle

Many results:

1. *Duluth Evening Herald*, May 1, 1890 (Real estate transaction)
2. *Duluth Evening Herald*, January 27, 1898 (Commercial Club Committee)
3. *Duluth Evening Herald*, October 10, 1899 (Details the death of Mr. Schnuckle's brother-in-law, Lambert Aker)
4. *Duluth Evening Herald*, September 16, 1902 (Chosen for jury duty; lists him as the proprietor of the Zenith Broom Company and has his address.)
5. *Labor World*, May 5, 1898 (Won a watch at a bazaar)
6. *Labor World*, September 3, 1910 (Ad for the Zenith Broom Factory)
7. etc.

You can also try another **Advanced search** to broaden it to a larger geographic area:

- **County:** *St. Louis County, Cook County, AND Lake County*
- **Exact Phrase** –William Schnuckle
- OR **Exact Phrase**—with variations or different spellings, like Wm Schnuckle or Schnckle (This was a happy accident!)

Many results, including this fact-filled report using a different spelling of the name:

1. *The Cook County News-Herald*, August 15, 1917: You discover that by 1917 Mr. Schnuckle had lived in Duluth for over 40 years and had been the proprietor of the Zenith Broom Factory. This information was found among the news from outside St. Louis County when Mr. Schnuckle visited friends in Grand Marais. It can be helpful to expand your search.

“Mr. and Mrs. Wm. F. Schnckle and family, together with Mr.. Frank Fristedt and daughter Ruth motored from Duluth last Sunday to visit Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Monker. Mr. Schnckle is the proprietor of the Zenith Broom Factory, the only one of its kind in Duluth. He is one of the old

settlers there, having resided at that place for nearly forty years, and during all that time being engaged in the broom business. Mr. Fristedt is employed by the Educational Department of Duluth looking after sanitation of the schools. He also has been a long time resident of the Zenith, city. Mr. Fristedt and Mr. Monker spooned sisters in their younger days with marked success. The party returned Monday noon, much pleased with the trip.”



EXAMPLE 2: Major Great Lakes Storm—November, 1913

A student comes into your library who is researching a major storm that hit the Great Lakes in November of 1913, and wants to find out what was reported in newspaper accounts of the time.

☆ Minnesota Digital Newspaper Hub:

Browse by Date: November, 1913

Use this search to narrow down the dates of the storm and see each of the newspapers' reports. You would need to look through the pages of each issue.

Results:

- 1. November 12, 1913:**
The Duluth Herald, "Appalling List of Deaths, Strandings, and Wrecks in Big Storm...", pg. 1
- 2. November 13, 1913:**
The Duluth Herald, "The List of Vessels Wrecked in the Great Storm is Not Yet Complete", pg. 1
- 3. November 14, 1913:**
The Tower Weekly News, "Three Score May Have Been Killed", pg. 2
- 4. November 15, 1913:**
Aitkin Independent Age, "Many Lives May Have Been Lost", pg. 3
- 5. etc.**

Advanced search:

- ***Any Counties***
- ***Any words*** – storm, gale
- ***Publication years***—1913
- ***Publication month***—November
- OR to be more specific, you can use ***Date From*** and ***Date To***.

Many results: With this search you can zero in more quickly on the specific event and also get more targeted coverage that continues beyond the beginning date of the storm.

☆ **Minneapolis Tribune:**

- Search terms: great AND lakes OR gale OR storm
- Narrow by year: 1913
- Narrow by month: 11 (November)
- Narrow by day (one day at a time): 12, 13, 14, 15

Results:

1. *The Minneapolis Morning Tribune*, November 12, 1913, pg. 1, "Death Toll of Gale on Lakes Grows Steadily."
2. *The Minneapolis Morning Tribune*, November 13, 1913, pg. 1, "Wealthy Hunters May Have Died In Storm."
3. *The Minneapolis Morning Tribune*, November 14, 1913, pg. 1, "600-Foot Freighter and 40 Men Missing."
4. *The Minneapolis Morning Tribune*, November 15, 1913, pg. 1, "Steward's Wife Heroine of Wreck on Lake Huron."

Death Toll of Gale on Lakes Grows Steadily

Property Loss Will Reach
Into Millions, With De-
tails Yet Lacking.

Unknown Craft Lies Bottom
Up in Lake Huron—
Crew Missing.

Lightship Lost on Erie Near
Buffalo and Six Persons
Perish There.

One of Greatest Disasters in
Years Is Storm of Last
Three Days.

Chicago, Nov. 12.—The shores of Lakes Superior, Huron and Erie were strewn last night with the wreckage of a three-days gale and snow storm which cost the lives of probably three score persons, turned bottom up in mid-lake a 300 foot steel vessel with its crew, wrecked or grounded numerous other craft and caused a property loss which will run into the millions.

☆ **Chronicling America:**

Advanced search:

- **States:** Minnesota, Michigan (and could add others)
- **Earliest Date:** 11-12-1913
- **Latest Date:** 11-30-1913
- **Any Words:** storm, gale

Many Results:

1. *Calumet News* (Calumet, Mich.), November 12, 1913, pg. 1, "Losses in Big Storm on the Lakes Pile Up".
2. *Warren sheaf* (Warren, Minn.), November 12, 1913, pg. 2, "Cold Wave Over Large Area"
3. *The Bemidji Daily Pioneer* (Bemidji, Minn.), November 13, 1913, pg. 4, "Cleveland Faces a Shortage of Food." (Related to the storm.)
4. *The Bemidji Daily Pioneer* (Bemidji, Minn.), November 17, 1913, pg. 4, "Light Stations Hit Hard: Sustain Heavy Damage During Recent Gale on Lakes."
5. etc.

EXAMPLE 3: Iron Range Resident

You are working on your own family history. You remember that your grandmother mentioned a relative by the name of Louis Austman who lived up on the Iron Range and worked on the railroad.

☆ **Minnesota Digital Newspaper Hub:**

Map Search to determine counties to search around the Iron Range in Minnesota to get broader coverage for the search.

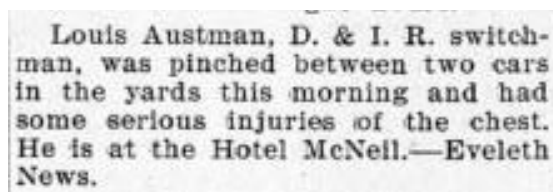
Then **Advanced search** to target the results:

- **Counties:** St. Louis, Lake, Cook, Lake of the Woods, AND Koochiching Counties
- **Exact Phrase:** Louis Austman

Results:

Four reports about a man named Louis Austman are found:

1. *Border Budget* (Koochiching, Itasca County, Minn.), July 28, 1906, pg. 4 (News report about three men, including Louis Austman, who traveled to Duluth and then by boat to Isle Royale and International Falls.)
2. *The Duluth Evening Herald*, April 6, 1907, pg. 15 (Under "Eveleth", a report about Louis coming back from Kansas where he spent the winter.)
3. *Two Harbors Iron News*, November 22, 1907, pg. 4 (A report of Louis Austman, D. & I. R. switchman was pinched between two cars in the yard this morning and he had serious injuries to his chest.)
4. *The Duluth Evening Herald*, November 23, 1907, pg. 5 ("Eveleth in Brief", Louis Austman who was recently injured was able to go out. He cannot resume work. Mrs. Austman is leaving soon for Chicago, Ill. He might spend the winter in Lake Forest, Ill.)



Louis Austman, D. & I. R. switchman, was pinched between two cars in the yards this morning and had some serious injuries of the chest. He is at the Hotel McNeil.—Eveleth News.

☆ **Minneapolis Tribune:**

- Search term: Austman

Results: 2 hits, but no luck for **Louis** Austman.

☆ **Chronicling America:**

- States: Kansas, Illinois
- Phrase: Louis Austman

Results: Unfortunately, no hits.

☆ **You could also follow up with other resources in the MNHS Collections:**

- **Duluth, Missabe, and Iron Range Railway. Company Records, 1874-1984.** (Personnel records)
- **MN State Census Index.** A record was found for Austman, LE from 1905 for Eveleth, Missabe Mountain, St. Louis County, Minnesota, United States. (Born in Ill., 55 years old, Occupation: Yard Master)
- etc.

☆ **Or possibly follow up with your local collections...**