

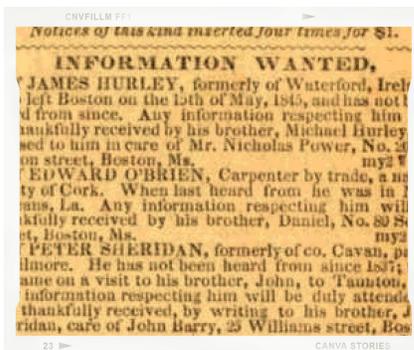
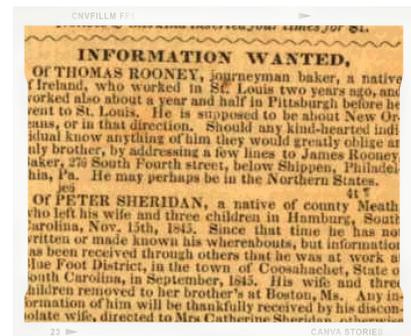


# NEWSPAPERARCHIVE

## Information Wanted The Search for Missing Irish Family

BY HEATHER HAUNERT

The search for lost and missing ancestors is commonplace for family historians and genealogists. Today, we are able to utilize technology to our advantage to cast a wider net in hopes of catching these elusive members of our tree, and even then, we aren't always successful. But what about one hundred or two hundred years ago? How did friends and family members find missing loved ones?



It is estimated that more than six million Irish people have emigrated to the United States since 1820. The Great Famine, or Potato Blight, from 1845-1852, was the peak of this massive wave of emigration when more than 80% of all United States immigrants were Irish. Family members fled the country, never to be heard from again.

While researching Irish content in our massive collection at NewspaperArchive, I stumbled upon an incredible publication from Boston, Massachusetts - the Boston Pilot. Since 1829 it has seen its fair share of changes, from its name to editors and even ownership. However, from October 1831 to October 1921, one thing remained constant in the historical newspaper...Information Wanted.

Information Wanted was a list of advertisements that were part of each issue. People could pay to have information listed in the hopes of finding lost or missing family members and friends. These heart-wrenching bits of copy show the love, turmoil, and frustration felt by the ones left behind. However, they are also a treasure trove of information. These advertisements include physical descriptions, parent's name, mother's maiden name, occupations, spouses, addresses...these are phenomenal clues for family history seekers.

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