

making navigation seamless and easy. Perhaps the website's best feature, from a pedagogical standpoint, is the inclusion of multiple lesson plans aimed at elementary and high school students. As with the chapters, each lesson plan links to various images and primary documents and contains numerous suggested classroom activities.

Yet, for all its many strengths, *The Surest Foundation of Happiness* lacks an interpretive voice and is therefore less than the sum of its chapters. While each of the chapters does an excellent job of mentioning important individuals, groups, and institutions, the chapters' thematic approach tends to obscure the "story" of education in Pennsylvania. In short, the editors chose breadth over depth, which militates against a satisfying narrative structure. A related critique is that the introductory essay fails to place Pennsylvania's educational developments in any sort of regional or national context—educational innovations and institutions are described well but lack much-needed explanation. This is perhaps due to the fact that *The Surest Foundation of Happiness* relies very heavily on the introductory essay to provide a macro level view of Pennsylvania's educational history. Unfortunately, the introductory essay is too short to construct a satisfying narrative or connect all of the chapters' various thematic foci.

These minor weaknesses notwithstanding, *The Surest Foundation of Happiness* is an excellent classroom supplement and an outstanding addition to Explorepahistory.com. Elementary and high school teachers will undoubtedly find the site incredibly valuable, and college instructors may find it a useful supplement to their classes in Pennsylvania history or the history of education.

PAUL KAHAN

*Slippery Rock University*

*America's Historical Newspapers. Archive of Americana.* Published by Readex, a division of Newsbank, Inc.  
<http://www.readex.com>

Long a publisher of history primary sources in traditional print mediums, Readex has kept pace with the ongoing transition to digital publishing through its continually evolving and expanding online offerings. Primary among the source collections available in Readex's *Archive of Americana*,

which includes the invaluable *Early American Imprints* series, historical broadsides, and government collections, is *America's Historical Newspapers*, a truly expansive archive of nearly 2,000 newspaper titles culled from all fifty states. At the time of this review, the fully searchable collection consists of three primary divisions, which together canvass the course of American history from 1690 to 1998. The first and largest of the three divisions, *Early American Newspapers*, is organized into seven series ranging from 1690–1922. Each series covers a range of years and geographic regions, which roughly expand in scope in conjunction with the geographic growth of the United States. A second division, *African American Newspapers, 1827–1998*, offers coverage of more than 170 years of African American history as recorded in 270 newspapers representing thirty-five states. The collection includes numerous historically significant titles, such as *Freedom's Journal*, the first African American newspaper in American history, which was published in New York City from 1827–29. The third and final division, *Hispanic American Newspapers, 1808–1980*, is a by-product of the “Recovering the U.S. Hispanic Literary Heritage Project,” a national program to locate, collect, and make available the written contributions of Hispanic Americans from the colonial period to the present. The collection includes hundreds of Hispanic American newspapers, including Spanish language and English titles printed in the United States.

Of particular interest to readers of this journal are the collection's Pennsylvania newspapers. There are 104 Pennsylvania newspapers available in the *Early American Newspapers* collection, with another seven titles scheduled for the *African American Newspapers* collection (these were listed as “forthcoming” at the time of this review). Not surprisingly, coverage is heavily tilted in favor of the eastern half of the state, where researchers will be pleased that the collections offer more than sixty Philadelphia-based newspapers, including nearly four decades of such nineteenth century standards as the *North American* and the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. Leading colonial-era news bearers are also well-represented, including the *Pennsylvania Gazette* and the *Pennsylvania Packet*. Strong representation is also available for Harrisburg, Carlisle, and Lancaster. Disappointingly, however, the collection provides few options for those researching western Pennsylvania. Pittsburgh, in particular, is poorly covered: the collection offers only short runs of two minor Pittsburgh newspapers, the *Commonwealth* and the *Tree of Liberty*. An exception to this pattern is Washington, Pennsylvania, which has four newspapers in the collection that cover the period from 1798 to 1876. Nonetheless,

Readex makes a point of informing users that *America's Historical Newspapers* is a growing collection, and making available a larger number of historical newspapers from the western half of the state may increase the site's attractiveness for researchers.

*America's Historical Newspapers* is available as part of Readex's *Archive of Americana* collection, a subscription service. Currently, the service is available only to institutions and organizations, although subscriptions for individual users may be made available in the near future. Members of subscribing institutions gain access to a fully digitized, searchable collection. Researchers can restrict their searches by pre-defined historical eras and/or by state, or they can execute keyword searches through the entire chronological and geographical range of the collection. In addition, searches can be specified by article type (news/opinion, letters, advertisements, etc. . . .) and/or language. The search engine will search the full-text of the newspapers, headlines only, or the standard titles, as defined by the user. Search results are organized by publication date and can be viewed as distinct articles or full-page images, with the search terms highlighted in the newspaper text. While the entries are not transcribed, researchers can download their search results as PDF files, which allows for increased ease of navigation and magnification as opposed to the provided web viewer. Both the web viewer and downloaded PDF versions are fully printable. An easy to use help menu is available, as well as live support via telephone or email.

DANIEL P. BARR  
*Robert Morris University*