

ALBUM WEEKLY DISCOVERY: QUEEN VICTORIA'S DEATH IN THE NEWS

Album Description

Since the announcement of the death of Queen Elizabeth II, I have been glued to my devices. With each new video, interview, and article I come across, I am captivated by the drama and extravagance of the monarchy and its impact on the United Kingdom.

It also made me think of England's last Queen, Victoria I. Queen Victoria died in 1901 as, at the time, England's longest reigning monarch. I wondered how historical newspaper coverage of her death from that time might compare to media coverage of Queen Elizabeth's death today. Was there the same fanfare? Controversy? Did Americans even care?

After an initial search on Chronicling America, *The San Francisco Call*'s January 23rd issue had a front page which caught my eye. The headline, Victoria's Reign Ends, And Edward VII is King, is rather simple, but the images accompanying it are anything but. Along the left and bottom borders of the front page, there are sketches outlining some of the Queen's most important moments. These moments include her coronation and wedding, her first railway journey, the marriages of her children, and her relationship with fellow monarchs. The article is mournful, if not a bit dramatic, comparing her death to that of Abraham Lincoln. The article ends with the all too familiar phrase these days, "The Queen is dead. Long live the King."

The San Francisco Call published many issues featuring Queen Victoria or the royal family on the cover on the days before and after her death. January 24's issue features a headline affirming Edward VII as king and includes an article entitled "President McKinley is first to salute Britain's New King." The days preceding Queen Victoria's death include front page headlines updating its readership on her health, the arrival of her children to her bedside, and reverence of her legacy. This paper, however, was not the only one following this story. Newspapers across the country reported on the monarch's health on their front page. For those with evening editions, the news of her passing was announced on January 22, for others the next day. Some papers, like *The Delawarean*, include a single article on her death on the top right column of the first page, while other papers dedicated entire sections to her legacy.

Comparing these historical newspapers to current news coverage of Queen Elizabeth might be an interesting opportunity for students to examine how the news cycle has changed, but also how in many ways it remains the same. Some aspects to compare are the headlines used, the life events covered, the coverage of the new Kings, and reports on how various countries have mourned (or not) the monarch's passing.

Attached is an album featuring articles relating to Queen Victoria's death. I would love to hear how you might use old historic newspapers to reflect on modern current events with your learners!

THE SAN FRANCISCO CALL. [VOLUME], JANUARY 23, 1901, IMAGE 1



Reference Link: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85066387/1901-01-23/ed-1/seq-1>

Newspaper: The San Francisco call. [volume] (San Francisco [Calif.]) 1895-1913

Newspaper Link: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85066387/1901-01-23/ed-1/seq-1>

Image provided by: University of California, Riverside; Riverside, CA

PDF Link: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85066387/1901-01-23/ed-1/seq-1.pdf>

EL PASO DAILY HERALD., JANUARY 22, 1901, LAST EDITION 4:30 P.M., IMAGE 1



Reference Link: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn86064199/1901-01-22/ed-1/seq-1>

Newspaper: El Paso daily herald. (El Paso, Tex.) 1881-1901

Newspaper Link: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn86064199/1901-01-22/ed-1/seq-1>

Image provided by: University of North Texas; Denton, TX

PDF Link: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn86064199/1901-01-22/ed-1/seq-1.pdf>

THE SAN FRANCISCO CALL. [VOLUME], JANUARY 20, 1901, IMAGE 13



Reference Link: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85066387/1901-01-20/ed-1/seq-13>

Newspaper: The San Francisco call. [volume] (San Francisco [Calif.]) 1895-1913

Newspaper Link: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85066387/1901-01-20/ed-1/seq-13>

Image provided by: University of California, Riverside; Riverside, CA

PDF Link: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85066387/1901-01-20/ed-1/seq-13.pdf>

THE EVENING WORLD. [VOLUME], JANUARY 22, 1901, NIGHT EDITION, IMAGE 1



Reference Link: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83030193/1901-01-22/ed-1/seq-1>

Newspaper: The evening world. [volume] (New York, N.Y.) 1887-1931

Newspaper Link: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83030193/1901-01-22/ed-1/seq-1>

Image provided by: The New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundation

PDF Link: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83030193/1901-01-22/ed-1/seq-1.pdf>

DESERET EVENING NEWS. [VOLUME], JANUARY 22, 1901, IMAGE 1



Reference Link: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83045555/1901-01-22/ed-1/seq-1>

Newspaper: Deseret evening news. [volume] (Great Salt Lake City [Utah]) 1867-1920

Newspaper Link: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83045555/1901-01-22/ed-1/seq-1>

Image provided by: University of Utah, Marriott Library

PDF Link: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83045555/1901-01-22/ed-1/seq-1.pdf>

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https://sites.msudenver.edu/tpswesternregion/wp-content/uploads/sites/476/2021/11/tps_logo-1.png

THE DELAWAREAN. [VOLUME], JANUARY 23, 1901, IMAGE 1



Reference Link: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84020427/1901-01-23/ed-1/seq-1>

Newspaper: The Delawarean. [volume] (Dover, Del.) 1859-1927

Newspaper Link: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84020427/1901-01-23/ed-1/seq-1>

Image provided by: University of Delaware Library, Newark, DE

PDF Link: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84020427/1901-01-23/ed-1/seq-1.pdf>

THE SAN FRANCISCO CALL. [VOLUME], JANUARY 24, 1901, IMAGE 1



Reference Link: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85066387/1901-01-24/ed-1/seq-1>

Newspaper: The San Francisco call. [volume] (San Francisco [Calif.]) 1895-1913

Newspaper Link: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85066387/1901-01-24/ed-1/seq-1>

Image provided by: University of California, Riverside; Riverside, CA

PDF Link: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85066387/1901-01-24/ed-1/seq-1.pdf>

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Teaching Notes:



Talia Smith thanks so much for this wonderful historical parallels! This is a very timely album.

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Teaching Notes:


Thank you. As I life-long royal watcher I find this all so fascinating. I even had a castle and royal family paper dolls as a child. Watching the news now it is apparent that things are already changing with a King and Queen Consort who were divorced. How different from the abdication of Edward VIII. The other day I visited with a university student who was quite interested in all of this and told me about how everyone in her classes has been watching the news on their phones. Compare that to how long it took Queen Elizabeth to learn she was Queen. Thanks,  Talia Smith

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Teaching Notes:

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Excellent research and album Talia Smith. Thank you. This is a good inroad for students learning to search in *Chronicling America*. One hook into primary sources of the past is current events. And the news domination on the death of the Queen is certainly of interest, drawing students into looking at how that compared to another English Queen in the past.

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Teaching Notes:

So, do you know WHY Queen Elizabeth's casket was transported on a gun carriage pulled by British Sailors?

<https://inews.co.uk/news/the-queen-funeral-reason-royal-navy-sailors-pull-gun-carriage-explained-1860073>

There is so much symbolism behind every single thing done for a royal funeral. It could be a great exercise for students to research them.

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https://sites.msudenver.edu/tpswesternregion/wp-content/uploads/sites/476/2021/11/tps_logo-1.png

Teaching Notes:

This is such a great connection! Thank you for sharing it!