



*Puerto Rican
Genealogy Group
Quick Reference
Card*

Quick Reference: Puerto Rican Historical Newspapers for Genealogy

Free Platforms at a Glance

Platform	URL	PR Coverage	Best For
Chronicling America (LOC)	chroniclingamerica.loc.gov	1756–1963; 6 titles; 33,000+ issues	Starting point; keyword + browse
ADNPR	adnpr.net	Various	PR archives, newspapers, gazettes
dLOC	dloc.com	1718–1876; 130+ Caribbean papers	Caribbean migration; pre-1876 PR
Biblioteca Digital UPR	upr.contentdm.oclc.org	Various	

Platform	URL	PR Coverage	Best For
			UPR newspaper collections
El Mundo Archive	UC Berkeley link	1919–1990	20th-century obituaries and notices
Hemeroteca Digital BNE	bdh.bne.es	Historical	Colonial-era Spanish-language press

Puerto Rican Titles on Chronicling America

Title	Dates Available	Value
<i>Gaceta de Puerto Rico</i>	1836–1902 (10,643 issues)	Official gazette; manumissions; property; legal notices
<i>Boletín Mercantil de PR</i>	1839–1918 (34 of 37 yrs)	Commerce; property sales; business partnerships
<i>La Correspondencia de PR</i>	1890–early 1900s	Daily vital notices; family detail
<i>La Democracia</i>	1891–1907 (4,244+ issues)	Political activity; land disputes

Slavery Research Search Terms

Use in Chronicling America, *Gaceta de Puerto Rico* or *Boletín Mercantil*, date range 1840–1876:

Search Term	What It Finds
esclavo / esclava	Enslaved men / women
manumision (no accent – OCR strips it)	Manumission notices
liberto / liberta	Freed persons post-1873
patrocinado / patrocinada	Patronato labor contracts 1873–1876
carta de libertad	Freedom documents
se ha fugado	Runaway slave notices
Owner surname + esclavo	Manumission and sale notices

Key Terms (Condensed)

Term	Meaning
<i>Esquela</i>	Formal death notice; may contain parents, spouse, children, church, occupation
<i>Id. / Idem</i>	“The same” – refers to the previous entry (same barrio, same value)
<i>Cuerda</i>	Unit of land (~0.97 acres); used in property notices
<i>Liberto/a</i>	Freed person (post-1873)
<i>Padrino/Madrina</i>	Godfather/godmother
<i>Viuda de</i>	“Widow of” – primary identifier for women in colonial records
<i>Sucesión</i>	Estate (heirs collectively, before settlement)
<i>Sepelio</i>	Funeral; useful search term for obituaries
<i>Falleció</i>	“Died”; useful search term for 20th-century notices
<i>Alcaldía</i>	Municipal mayor’s office; source of official legal notices
<i>Barrio</i>	Neighborhood or district within a municipality
<i>Censo electoral</i>	Official voter eligibility list for Spanish parliamentary elections; names voter by municipality, barrio, and property/professional qualification; search term: censo electoral or diputados a cortes

Name Search Tips

- Search surname **without accent marks** (OCR strips them): Mendez not Méndez
- Try first **3–4 letters** of surname to catch spelling variants
- Women: search husband’s name or *viuda de* [husband surname]
- Try patronymic and both surnames: Bonet, Mendez, Bonet Mendez
- Estates: search *sucesión de* [surname]

Date Range Rules of Thumb

Event	Suggested Search Window
Birth	1–2 years around estimated birth
Marriage	3–6 months before and after
Death / Obituary	1–4 weeks around death date 6–12 months after death

Event	Suggested Search Window
Property / Probate	
Pre-civil registration research	1840–1885 (Gaceta most productive)

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