



Recipes & Cooking Tips

Topic Guide for Chronicling America (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>)

Introduction

In addition to carrying news of local, state, national and international events, newspapers also contained information relevant to the domestic sphere, such as recipes and cooking advice. These items were more popular in 20th century newspapers and provide a look into the popular foods and dishes of the past.

Important Dates

- 1845: *Modern Cooking for Private Families*, the first cookbook intended for the home instead of the professional chef, is published.
- 1848: Pasta is produced commercially for the first time in the United States.
- 1894: Milton S. Hershey founds the Hershey Chocolate Company.
- 1897: Powdered gelatin, though developed in 1845, becomes known as Jell-O and flavoring is added.
- 1917-1918: During World War I, recipes encouraged rationing and using alternate ingredients (such as peanut butter instead of meat) to support United States troops. Food items with German names were sometimes renamed (e.g. sauerkraut was called liberty cabbage).

Suggested Search Strategies

- Use a 5, 10 or 50 word proximity search to combine general terms (cooking, recipe, dish, dinner, bake, meal, hint, tip) with specific ingredients (chicken, cake or potato) or food preparations (cake, custard, soup). For example, try: potato recipe.
- Try searching by national/ethnic cuisine type (German, Italian, Mexican). For better results, limit your search to papers or states with immigrant populations from the country of interest.
- Limit your search by state or date to find foods popular in a specific region or during a specific time period.

Sample Articles from Chronicling America

- "[Potato Dumplings](#)" *Perrysburg Journal* (Perrysburg, OH), July 20, 1877, Image 4, col. 6.
- "[Spaghetti Block](#)" *Morning Times* (Washington, DC), April 24, 1896, Image 5, col. 4.
- "[Planked Chicken](#)" *Wenatchee Daily World* (Wenatchee, WA), February 3, 1910, Image 6, col. 3.
- "[Uncle Sam's Experts Tell How to Cut Down Meat Bills](#)" *Rock Island Argus* (Rock Island, IL), March 31, 1910, Image 10, col. 3-4.
- "[Boiled Fondue](#)" *Day Book* (Chicago, IL), April 12, 1912, Image 32, col. 2.
- "[State Chocolate Recipes](#)" *San Francisco Call* (San Francisco, CA), May 12, 1912, Image 12, col. 5-6.
- "[Cooking Hint](#)" *Hopkinsville Kentuckian* (Hopkinsville, KY), March 25, 1916, Image 6, col. 3.
- "[Home Bread Making](#)" *Mahoning Dispatch* (Canfield, OH), August 3, 1917, Image 8, col. 1-2.
- "[Helpful Recipes for the Housewife](#)" *Williston Graphic* (Williston, ND), February 27, 1919, Image 2, col. 4.