Let's Talk: Where Are the Women?

The Genealogy Center
Genealogy@ACPL.Info

Research Guides and Articles:

- A Timeline of Naturalization Laws Impacting Women
- National Women's History Museum - Research Resources
  - [https://www.womenshistory.org/research-resources](https://www.womenshistory.org/research-resources)
- Library of Congress – Female Ancestors: Finding Women in Local History and Genealogy
  - [https://guides.loc.gov/female-ancestors/introduction](https://guides.loc.gov/female-ancestors/introduction)
- Library of Congress - Digital Collections
  - The Library of Congress has several digital collections dedicated to women’s history.
  - [https://www.loc.gov/collections/?fa=subject_topic:women%27s+history&q=Women](https://www.loc.gov/collections/?fa=subject_topic:women%27s+history&q=Women)
  - [https://guides.loc.gov/american-women](https://guides.loc.gov/american-women)
- Amy Johnson Crow, “3 Practical Strategies for Finding Female Ancestors”
- Amy Johnson Crow, “Unusual Sources for Finding Female Ancestors”
- Cyndi’s List - Female Ancestors
  - [https://www.cyndislist.com/female](https://www.cyndislist.com/female)
- Marian L. Smith, “‘Any woman who is now or may hereafter be married...’ Women and Naturalization, ca. 1802–1940”
• FamilySearch Blog, “3 Ways to Unravel the Mysteries of Women in Your Family Tree”

• FamilySearch Research Wiki: Introduction to Tracing Women

• FamilySearch Research Wiki: Tracing Women Using Home and Family Sources

• FindMyPast: How to find the maiden names of women in your family tree
  ○ https://www.findmypast.com/blog/help/how-to-find-the-maiden-names-of-women-in-your-family-tree


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**Databases & Other Resources:**

• Newspapers!
  ○ Newspapers, particularly sections such as the society pages, are an important resource to researching your female ancestors.
  ○ Pro tip: Search for both your ancestor's name and her husbands. Often women appear in the paper under their husband's name instead of their own.
  ○ For an intro to newspaper research, watch “A Nation Talking to Itself: Intro to Newspaper Research” (handout in the description)
    ■ https://youtu.be/TTZTYOqkBII

• Military Pensions
  ○ Military pensions can be a gold mine of information on veterans, their dependents, and their widows. Depending on the war you are researching, you might be able to find the military pension you need on Fold3 or at NARA.
  ○ “How to Maximize Your Search Using Fold3” - https://youtu.be/oBv7-Zt5YGs
• Resources for researching rabble rousing ladies (in addition to newspapers):
  ○ FBI Case Files on Fold3
    ■ [https://www.fold3.com/publication/74/fbi-case-files](https://www.fold3.com/publication/74/fbi-case-files)
  ○ Ancestry: England, Suffragettes Arrested, 1906-1914
    ■ [https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/61005/](https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/61005/)
  ○ FindMyPast: Suffragette Collection

• Records of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, 1895-1992

• Discovering American Women's History Online
  ○ This database from the Middle Tennessee State University’s Walker Library provides access to digital collections of primary sources (photos, letters, diaries, artifacts, etc.) that document the history of women in the United States.

• ArchiveGrid
  ○ If you think your ancestor might have had an interest in joining labor or suffrage organizations, the records for those local branches often will live within the manuscript collection of an archive or library (assuming they survived). ArchiveGrid is a helpful resource for finding those institutions where you might find records.
  ○ [https://researchworks.oclc.org/archivegrid/](https://researchworks.oclc.org/archivegrid/)

• Independent Order of Odd Fellows - The Sovereign Grand Lodge
  ○ If your ancestor was in an organization like the Daughters of Rebekah, researching the organization is a great way to add color to your female ancestor's story
  ○ [https://odd-fellows.org/history/genealogy-research/](https://odd-fellows.org/history/genealogy-research/)

• Mission of Our Lady of the Rosary for the Protection of Irish Immigrant Girls
  ○ During their first twenty-five years, the Mission served over 100,000 of the some 307,823 Irish girls who arrived in the Port of New York. They found jobs for 12,000.
  ○ Records of 60,000 Irish women who traveled to New York: [https://archives.irishmissionatwatsonhouse.org/](https://archives.irishmissionatwatsonhouse.org/)
Additional Book Suggestions:


Kyle, Noeline. *Finding Florence, Maude, Matilda, Rose: Researching and Writing Women into Family History*. St Agnes SA: Published by Unlock the Past, 2013. ACPL Call #: 929 K97FA


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