

Hints, Techniques and Strategies

Three Practical Strategies for Finding Female Ancestors: <http://www.amyjohnsoncrow.com/2016/11/17/3-practical-strategies-finding-female-ancestors/>

Best Records for Finding Female Ancestors (from *Family Tree* magazine)

<http://www.familytreemagazine.com/article/bestrecords-for-finding-female-ancestors>

Three Ways to Unravel the Mysteries of Women in Your Family Tree:

<https://familysearch.org/blog/en/3-ways-unravel-mysteries-women-family-tree/>

Five Tips for Finding Female Ancestors: <http://www.barbsnow.net/Female.htm>

Searching for Female Ancestors, a selected bibliography from Library of Congress:

https://www.loc.gov/rr/genealogy/bib_guid/female.pdf

Overcoming difficulties of finding female ancestors: <https://ancestralfindings.com/how-to-overcome-the-difficulties-of-finding-female-ancestors/>

Search youtube for related instructional videos

Websites to explore

Local libraries and historical societies may have marriage records databases. To find US libraries websites: <http://www.lib-web.org/>

Digital libraries: <https://openlibrary.org/>; Digital Public Library of America: <https://dp.la/>

Resources for female ancestors from Cyndi's List: <http://www.cyndislist.com/female/general/>

Find-a-grave (can also search by maiden name) <https://www.findagrave.com/>

Researching your family tree, vital records and beyond (explore entire site):

<http://www.learnwebskills.com/family/vitalrecords1.htm>

LDS (Mormon) site, US and international records: <https://familysearch.org/> For catalog search

<https://www.familysearch.org/catalog/search> -Records are browsable, not searchable; start with place name (county and state only)

Family and county histories: <http://www.learnwebskills.com/family/countyhistories1.htm> Out-of-

copyright, county, biography, and/or family history books, also city directories <http://archive.org>

Free branch of ancestry.com (linear family trees) <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/>

Genealogy information for U.S. states and counties; resources vary: <http://usgenweb.org/>

Genealogy around the world: <https://www.worldgenweb.org/108-aboutwgv/1-welcome-to-the-worldgenweb-project>

18th & 19th century nicknames: <https://ctstatelibrary.org/access-services/nicknames/> See also

<https://www.familytreemagazine.com/female-ancestors/your-female-ancestors-nicknames/>

Check state, regional, and county/city genealogical and/or historical society webpages which may offer online resources or have resources available for purchase. Such organizations may also offer assistance in your searches.

Use google to search for online cemetery transcriptions

City Directories

City directories: <https://www.loc.gov/search/?in=&q=city+directory&new=true>

Digital Public Library of America: <https://dp.la/search?q=city+directories>

Extensive collection of city directories: <http://www.donslist.net/PGHLookups/Dir1Win.shtml>

City directories by state: <https://sites.google.com/site/onlinedirectorysite/Home/usa>; also

<https://www.theancestorhunt.com/directories.html>

Newspapers

Newspapers, BMD, and yearbooks: <http://www.theancestorhunt.com/>

Free US historical newspapers: <http://www.freewebnewspaperarchives.us/>

Library of Congress--newspapers (includes listing of where to find microfilm/hard copies of newspapers): <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>

US small town newspapers) <https://www.accessgenealogy.com/america/small-town-newspapers.htm>

More US small town newspapers, fully searchable: <http://www.stparchive.com/landing.ph>

Google archives: old newspapers https://news.google.com/news/advanced_news_search

Historic newspapers around the world: <https://www.thoughtco.com/historic-newspapers-online-1422221>

European newspaper archives: www.xooxleanswers.com/free-newspaper-archives/newspaper-archives-europe/

Historical newspapers by state: <https://www.thoughtco.com/us-historical-newspapers-online-by-state-1422215>

Online newspapers by state <http://genealogysstar.blogspot.com/2014/07/online-digital-newspaper-collections-by.html>

Some states have a statewide historical newspapers site, e.g. (sampling only)

California: <https://cdnc.ucr.edu/>

New York: <http://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/>

Wyoming: <http://newspapers.wyo.gov/>

Marriage Records

Types of marriage records to explore: <https://www.thoughtco.com/marriage-records-types-4077752>

BMD records by state: <https://www.theancestorhunt.com/bmd-links.html>

Free online marriage indices: <https://www.thoughtco.com/top-free-online-marriage-indexes-databases-1422164>

FreeBMD: Civil Registration index of births, marriages and deaths for England and Wales
<https://www.freebmd.org.uk/>

Records from 450 Polish towns, including marriage records. Many linked to digitized images. Marriage records less than 80 years old are not included. <https://www.jri-poland.org/>

Reclaim the records, link to marriages: <https://www.reclaimtherecords.org/record-type/marriage-records/>

Some cities/states have their own online database, do a google search to find. (Sampling below)

West Virginia: http://www.wvculture.org/vrr/va_mcsearch.aspx

Las Vegas, Nevada: <https://recorder.co.clark.nv.us/RecorderEcommerce/>

Illinois: <https://www.ilsos.gov/isavital/marriagesrch.jsp>

New York (select counties): <https://italiengen.org/marriages>

Minnesota: <https://www.moms.mn.gov/>

Divorce Records

Generally kept at the county level (varies from state to state); divorce records are public records, but not readily available online

Can you really get them for free? <https://www.divorcestatistics.info/can-you-really-get-free-divorce-records.html#more-279>

Divorce Records by state: <https://www.theancestorhunt.com/divorce-records.html>

Special Terms in Researching Women

- *Administratrix*: woman assigned by court to administer intestate case (no valid will)
- *Bondmaid*: female slave or indentured servant
- *Concubine*: woman who lives with a man to whom she is not married.
- *Consort*: companion; term for when woman predeceased husband
- *Dowager*: a widow with a title or rank (the queen dowager) or property from her husband
- *Dower*: legal provision for woman's support and that of children after husband's death; typically one-third of husband's property; also known as "widow's thirds"
- *Dowry*: property bride brings to marriage
- *Executrix*: woman named in a will to distribute estate
- *Goodwife*: the wife or household mistress
- *Goody*: a woman or housewife, especially an older woman
- *Grass widow*: woman whose husband deserted her; also used to refer to woman who has illegitimate children or a discarded common-law wife
- *Now wife*: in a will, refers to the current wife (implying there was a previous wife)
- *Relict*: a widow
- *Spinster*: an unmarried woman regarded as beyond the age of marriage
- *Testatrix*: a woman who leaves a valid will