

## **SEARCHING FOR FEMALE ANCESTORS:**

### **A SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

The focus of this bibliography is genealogy, not women's history. Therefore, general guides and women's history resources are included only when they make possible the identification of individuals and families, or when they help elucidate repositories or search strategies that can help the family historian seeking female ancestors. An assumption has been made that most researchers would like broader information about the lives and life circumstances. In other words, moving beyond birth, marriage, and death dates *if* this data is sufficiently concrete and focused on the ancestor's specific case. For sources with a geographical focus (county, state, and regional sources), a title is included when consulting it may lead the family historian to discover categories of useful primary source materials, or when the title appears to be a unique source worthy of notice. At the county level, increasing amounts of material useful in tracing women, such as marriage license indexes and court records, are becoming available online. For the most part it is impractical to list these web sites because changes in them occur so frequently.

Where sources focus on men, or include men and women together, one assumes that they will be discovered in routine genealogical research and, in general, are not included below. Indexes to vital records, especially marriage records, normally include a list of both males and females; and therefore such indexes are listed here only when, for whatever reason, a separate index for women was published. Exceptions to this rule are bibliographies of diaries, both published and unpublished. Many of these intermix male and female names but may still provide background information and clues about primary sources.

As the product of a search guided by these parameters, this bibliography turns out to be rather quirky. Some titles that might appear to be relevant, but actually contain little information that will assist genealogists, may be omitted while others of a superficially similar nature are included. It is hoped that the focused nature of the bibliography will make it useful.

### **CATEGORIES OF MATERIALS**

**Published Guides to Women's History**  
**Guides to Genealogical Research on Female Ancestors**  
**County, State, and Regional Resources**  
**Diaries and Biographies**  
**Special Topics**  
**Web Sites for Women's History and Genealogy**

## Published Guides to Women's History

*American Women: A Library of Congress Guide for the Study of Women's History and Culture in the United States.* Edited by Sheridan Harvey, et al. Introduction by Susan Ware.

Washington: Library of Congress. xxxvi, 420 p. Ill. (some col.), maps (some col.).

Z7164.U5 A47 2001 MRR Ref Desk

Also available online at < <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/awhhtml/> >

Aptly describes the vast collections of the Library of Congress, significant portions of which may contain biographical and genealogical data about the lives of women.

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Herman, Kali.

*Women in Particular: An Index to American Women.* Phoenix, AZ: Oryx Press, 1984. xviii, 740 p. Ill.

HQ1412 .H47 1984 MRR Biog

Extensive index to published biographical information about American women of moderate prominence. Subdivides women into categories based on career fields, religion, ethnic or racial group, and geography. Where an ancestor's name is not listed, this source might still provide useful information about women of similar backgrounds.

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*Women's History Sources: A Guide to Archives and Manuscript Collections in the United States.* 2 vols. Edited by Andrea Hinding, with the assistance of Ames Sheldon Bower and Clark A. Chambers. Published in association with the University of Minnesota. New York: Bowker, 1979.

Z7964.U49 W64 LH&G, MRR Alc

Inventories the archival collections of a vast array of institutions, listing women's papers, records of women's organizations or organizations in which women played prominent roles, family papers, and collections not easily identifiable as valuable to women's history and biography. Contains more than 18,000 entries arranged by state and town. Index in second volume provides access by personal names, corporate names, modified Library of Congress subject headings, and geographic terms. An excellent publication that includes the names of many women not otherwise documented in existing sources.

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## Published Guides to Genealogical Research on Female Ancestors

Carmack, Sharon DeBartolo.

*A Genealogist's Guide to Discovering Your Female Ancestors: Special Strategies for Uncovering Hard-to-Find Information about Your Female Lineage.* Cincinnati, Ohio: Betterway Books, 1998. 152 p.

CS14.C38 1998 LH&G





















