

## **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 Exceptions to this rule are bibliographies of diaries, both published and unpublished.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.

2001029547

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.

78015634

*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.

78015634

## 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

Lists types of records the author has found particularly useful in piecing together life stories of females. The author's enthusiasm for using general social history of women to fill in areas not elucidated by actual primary sources should be viewed with caution, however.  
97048297

Schaefer, Christina K.

*The Hidden Half of the Family: A Sourcebook for Women's Genealogy.* Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1999. xii, 298 p. Ill.

CS49.S322 1999

Elucidates those points in an individual woman's life at which she was likely to come into contact with various levels of government jurisdiction and thus leave a written record that identifies her with considerable specificity. Thus attention is devoted to the subjects of "marriage and divorce law, immigration, citizenship, passports, military records, suffrage, welfare, slave manumission, miscellaneous federal records, and census records." (p. ix). Lists by state the important laws and regulations that determined what records would be kept and suggests locations for these records. Brief bibliographies for each state address unique issues.  
98073684

### **County, State and Regional**

Adams, Donna Burge.

*Women in the Florida Parishes* [of Louisiana]. 2 vols. [Baton Rouge, LA: D.B. Adams], 1985-1986.

F377.F6 A33 1985

Rather mixed assortment of transcribed information from newspapers, courthouse records, letters, Bible records, oral traditions, and data provided to the compiler by descendants. Each volume has a name index that includes both women and men mentioned. Most items date from the nineteenth century. The "Florida Parishes" incorporated land east of the Mississippi and north of Lake Pontchartrain.  
89220221

Beedy, Helen Coffin.

*Mothers of Maine.* Portland: The Thurston Print, 1895. 4 p. l., [11]-451 p.

F18.B41 LH&G

Lively narratives of the lives and customs of many Maine women, beginning in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Representative women in a variety of occupations, such as ministers' wives and preachers, doctors and nurses, authors and philanthropists, are highlighted. Interwoven in these descriptions is relatively extensive genealogical information.  
04020166

Blatti, Jo.

*Women's History in Minnesota: A Survey of Published Sources and Dissertations.* St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1993. xv, 123 p.

Z7964.U5 M563 1993

Several sections of this bibliography contain listings potentially useful to the family historian, such as reference books describing document repositories, specific ethnic groups, life histories (biographies and autobiographies); social life, organizations and clubs, and state, local, and regional histories. Some titles include contiguous states.

93015751

Egle, William Henry.

*Pennsylvania Women in the American Revolution.* Cottonport: Polyanthos, 1972. Reprint of 1898 edition. 208 p.

F148.E325 1972 LH&G

Contains entries describing about 70 "matrons of the Revolution," arranged alphabetically by each woman's married name (all are married women). Women with loyalist leanings are not included. Entries range from a few paragraphs to several pages. Much space in most entries is devoted to activities of husbands and fathers.

75175213

Evans, Helen F.

*Index of References to American Women in Colonial Newspapers Through 1800.* 3 vols. Bedford, NH: H.F. Evans, 1979-1995.

Z5313.U5 E9 LH&G

The three volumes treat New Hampshire only, 1756 (initial year of publication of the first New Hampshire newspaper) through 1800. Particularly valuable because compiler has linked the various maiden and married names of a given individual whenever possible. Useful terse summaries of the newspaper reports.

79120001

*A. Nevada Women's History: A Guide to Archives and Manuscripts in Nevada Repositories.* Reno, Nev.: Special Collections Dept., University Library, University of Nevada, Reno, 1998.

HQ1122—

Quite helpful for genealogy and local history research because it organizes resources by county. Describes archival and manuscript materials in Nevada libraries, archives, and museums. Includes collections from bordering communities in California, Utah, and Arizona. Does not list county or federal records. Many entries list a sample of the women concerning whom the repository has information; these names appear also in the comprehensive index. 195 entities were surveyed.

2005416565

Ford, Jean, Betty J., and Martha B. Gould.

*Women in Nevada History: an Annotated Bibliography of Published Sources.* Reno, Nev.: Nevada Women's History Project, 2000. (unpaged).

Z7964.U5 N38 2000

Lists over 400 books that have special relevance for women's life experiences in Nevada. Includes name index (listing women in some way prominent in the region's development or featured as authors), topic index, index of Nevada women's organizations, an index by race and ethnic identity, and index by genre (autobiography/biography, community or regional history, cookbook, fiction, general history, poetry, reference).

00702362

Frost, Lenore.

*Searching for Mary Ann: Researching Women Ancestors in Australia.* Essenden, Victoria: L. Frost, 1994. 88 p.

CS2003 .F76 1994

Excellent overview of published and unpublished materials that document the lives of individual women in Australia and make genealogical research feasible. Also includes helpful suggestions for background reading. Sources listed include help for identifying aboriginal ancestors. Does not provide instructions for basic genealogical research, which the author assumes can be found in other publications.

94217488

Howe, Julia Ward.

*Sketches of Representative Women of New England.* Boston: New England Historical Publishing Company, 1904. 3 p. l., [5]-499, [1] p. 78 ports.

F3.H85 LH&G

Also available online at < <http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:RAD.SCHL:496409> >

Biographies of several hundred women from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Most entries contain extensive genealogical information. Some photographs of individuals. Contains alphabetical index of all entries.

05011060

Kocher, L. Richard.

*Index of Women from Early Years in Southeast Ohio.* [Columbus, OH] (459 Ross Rd., Columbus 43213-1953): Woolkoch Publishing, 1998. v, 26, 24 p. Ill., map.

F490 .K635 1998 Index

Lists names of female "entrymen" (first individuals to purchase land from Land Offices in Ohio), acreages as noted in Land Office books, date of purchase at Land Office, and county and/or state indicated as residence of entryman when purchasing land. Surnames are arranged alphabetically. Individuals are included if their forenames could be interpreted as either masculine or feminine. Indexed also by range/township. Information was assembled from the original plat maps now in the custody of the Ohio Historical Society Archives in Columbus, Ohio.

98206487

Kolb, Alexis Ann.

*The Ancestor Charts of Fifteen Pacific Northwest Women.* Auburn, Wash. (19109 Auburn-Black Diamond Rd., Auburn 98002): Kolb's Genealogical Research and Publications, 1987.

106 p. Genealogical tables.

F850.5 .K65 1987

This source is specific to female ancestors only for the original fifteen women; the charts and the index document both males and females. Illustrates migration of families. Some made the transition directly from east coast to west coast, while others spent intervening years in midwestern states. Original family names are Coombs, Davis, Dickinson, Doerr, Fazel, Grothaus, Helmich, Hillis, Kolb, Miller, Sacre Schaitel, Schumann, Stevens, and White.

88149238

*Memorial to the Pioneer Women of the Western Reserve.* 2 vols. Edited by Gertrude Van Rensselaer Wickham. Cleveland, 1896-1924. Reprint. Jefferson, Ohio: Ashtabula County Genealogical Society, 1981. vii, 1139 p.

CT254.M46 1981 LH&G

Narratives detail the lives of individual women who resided in 216 townships of the Western Reserve during the first half of the nineteenth century. Informally organized. Five parts are published in two volumes. Second volume contains index to historical sketches of townships and index to personal names mentioned (male and female). Additional indexes list soldiers of the American Revolution and the War of 1812 from the Western Reserve. A final index lists additional towns and counties of the United States mentioned in the volumes, grouped by state.

82123146

Metcalf, Henry Harrison.

*New Hampshire Women. A Collection of Portraits and Biographical Sketches of Daughters and Residents of the Granite State.* Concord, N.H.: The New Hampshire Publishing Co., 1895.

249 p. Ills. (ports.)

F33.M57 LH&G

Biographies of about 120 women of nineteenth-century New Hampshire, "all. . . worthy representatives of New Hampshire womanhood in its best estate, whether in literature, music, art, education, in professional, business, public, social and domestic life, or as laborers in the broad fields of charity and benevolence." Each entry includes genealogical data and a photo of the subject.

45048595

Meier, Judith Ann Highley

*Runaway Women: Elopements and other Miscreant Deeds as Advertised in the Pennsylvania Gazette, 1728-1789 (together with a few abused wives and unfortunate children).* Apollo, PA: Closson Press, 1993. 113 p. Map.

F148 .M45 1993

The compiler has isolated those notices that may be particularly helpful in tracing individual females of the period. The full text of the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, 1728-1800, is available online

through the commercial database "Accessible Archives."  
95143321

*Perry County, Ohio Female Index to Marriage Records, 1818-1914.* 2 vols. Junction City, OH: Perry County Chapter, Ohio Genealogical Society, 1994. 458 p. Vol. 1, A-K; vol. 2, L-Z.

F497.P4 P467 1994

Photocopy of the marriage record index held by the Perry County Probate Court. Arrangement is alphabetical by maiden name. Year of marriage is indicated as well as groom's name. Actual marriage records can be located via indicated "book" and "page." A separate index for men has been published.

00423375

*Pioneer Women of Faith and Fortitude.* 4 vols. International Society Daughters of Utah Pioneers. [Salt Lake City? Utah]: Daughters of Utah Pioneers, 1998. 3575 p. Photographs.

F825 .P56 1998

Four large volumes containing brief biographies of Utah pioneer women (arriving in Utah between 1847 and 1869, the year the transcontinental railroad was completed). Lists birth dates, parents, spouses and dates of marriages, death date and place, and birth dates of individual children. No specifics about sources of information are given, but the publication was a project of the International Society Daughters of Utah Pioneers. Women are listed under their married names (the last husband in the case of multiple marriages). Photos of many of the women are included.

2001524787

Stanley, Lois and Wilson, George F., compilers.

*Death Records of Pioneer Missouri Women 1808-1849.* Decorah, Iowa: Anudsen Publishing Company, 1980. 80 p.

F465.S749 1981 LH&G

Valuable for the time period it covers, when women were not mentioned by name in censuses. 40 newspapers are covered, with deaths of about 1500 Missouri women and girls reported. The whole state is not included because not every area had a newspaper. If the deceased was married or a widow, the husband's name was usually mentioned. The existence of children might also be acknowledged, though not necessarily their number. Sometimes a previous residence can be deduced. The name of the woman's father and her religion are often included.

83175679

*West Virginia Women.* Edited by Jim Comstock. The West Virginia Heritage Encyclopedia, vol. 25. Richwood, W.Va.: Comstock, 1974. 303 p.

F241.W64 vol. 25 LH&G

Biographical sketches with varying amounts of detail concerning the lives of many women from all periods of West Virginia history. Some contain information about births, deaths, and families of origins; others contain only one or two anecdotes about the individual.

78111743

Western Reserve Historical Society, Genealogical Committee.

*Index to the Microfilm Edition of Genealogical Data relating to Women in the Western Reserve before 1840 (1850)*. Cleveland, Ohio: Genealogical Committee of the Western Reserve Historical Society, 1976. v, 226 p.

Z1324.W45 W45 1976 LH&G

Index to microfilmed data about pioneer women who came to the Western Reserve, an area in northeastern Ohio, between 1796 and 1840 (in some cases 1850). Index is alphabetical by name and refers reader to anecdotal biographical or genealogical data.

77354950

Wilson, George Francis; Wilson, Maryhelen L; and Stanley, Lois.

*Death Records of Missouri Women from Newspapers, January 1850-December 1853*. Missouri[?]: G.F. Wilson, 198- . ii, 18 leaves.

F465.W552 1980z LH&G

Similar in scope to entry above under Lois Stanley. Includes newspaper reports of “deaths of any female old enough to have been shown in the 1850 census.” Usually includes name of husband if married and often parents as well. Entries can include interesting details such as place of birth or former residence and cause of death.

83179217

*Women in the West: A Guide to Manuscript Sources*. Edited by Susan Armitage, et al. Vol. 5 of Women's History and Culture. Garland Reference Library of the Humanities. v, 1086. New York: Garland Pub., 1991. xxiv, 422 p.

Z7964.U49 W6 1992 MRR Alc

Lists small repositories of historical societies, archives, and libraries of 20 western states. Special attention to women of color and to non-traditional sources (oral history, photographs) that might not be found listed elsewhere. Covers 1610 to 1910. Entries are arranged by state, city, and archive name. Appendix of state listings with the names of archives makes it easy to identify county resources as well.

91024898

### **Diaries and Bibliographies**

Only a few researchers are lucky enough to find a published or unpublished diary written by an ancestor. But even for those who do not, the diaries of individual women who shared some aspect of an ancestor's existence (locality, profession, religion) can be helpful. First, in elucidating aspects of that experience and, possibly more important, suggesting additional, unanticipated sources of information. Because each editor of a bibliography defines “diary” in a different way, sources are included here even when some of their contents overlap.

Addis, Patricia K.

*Through a Woman's I: An Annotated Bibliography of American Women's Autobiographical Writings, 1946-1976*. Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow Press, 1983. xiv, 607 p.

Z7963.B6 A32 1983 MRR Biog

Lists autobiographies, published letters, diaries, journals, memoirs, reminiscences, and travel accounts produced by native-born American women, foreign-born women with American husbands, or other women permanently settled in the United States. Contains author index as well as indexes by title and by profession or salient characteristic. Entries contain helpful descriptive annotations.

82010813

Arksey, Laura, Nancy Pries, and Marcia Reed.

*American Diaries: An Annotated Bibliography of Published American Diaries and Journals.* 2 vols. Detroit, Mich.: Gale Research, 1983-1987.

Z5305.U5 A74 1983 LH&G

Covering roughly 5000 published diaries and journals, the two volumes are intended to be both an expansion of and replacement for the earlier publication *American Diaries: An Annotated Bibliography of American Diaries Written Prior to the Year 1861* (1945) by Matthews. Volume I lists diaries written from 1492 to 1844; volume II lists diaries written from 1845 to 1980.

Includes name, subject, and geographic indexes. Though most diarists are male, women are also well represented. Citations appear in roughly the chronological order of the diaries' composition. Span of years covered and brief content notes included in each citation.

83008860

Goodfriend, Joyce D.

*The Published Diaries and Letters of American Women: An Annotated Bibliography.* Boston, Mass.: G.K. Hall, 1987. xiv, 230 p.

Z5305.U5 G66 1987 LH&G

Editor has collected citations to personal, non-retrospective diaries and letters written by women in the United States from the seventeenth century to the 1980s. Predominantly, though not exclusively, writings of privileged women of English background and Protestant religion. Arranged chronologically. Entries describe diarist and summarize contents of diary. Includes subject and author indexes.

87017908

Havlice, Patricia Pate.

*And So to Bed: a Bibliography of Diaries Published in English.* Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow Press, 1987. viii, 698 p.

Z5301.H38 1987 LH&G

Intended as an extension to William Matthews' *American Diaries: an Annotated Bibliography of American Diaries Written Prior to the Year 1861*. Includes diaries published in or translated into English, even if they are not American. Arranged chronologically. No limitation on time period covered. Some reviews of diaries are cited. General index includes authors, editors, book titles, and subjects. Also includes index to diarists described in Matthews' work. Substantial number of female diarists. Brief description of diarist and diary contents.

86013738

Matthews, William.

*American Diaries: An Annotated Bibliography of American Diaries Written prior to the Year 1861.* Boston: J.S. Canner, 1959. xiv, 383 p.

Z5305.U5 M3 1959 LH&G

Williams attempted to locate as many diaries as possible, whether identified as such or not, in books, periodicals, family histories, biographies, local, and state histories, published as private, commercial, or organizational ventures. He did not claim completeness even within his limited time frame. Diaries of foreign visitors to America are included provided they are available in English. Some Canadian materials are included.

59013345

Matthews, William.

*American Diaries in Manuscript, 1580-1954: A Descriptive Bibliography.* Athens, Ga.: University of Georgia Press, 1974. xvi, 176.

Z5305.U5 M32 LH&G

Supplements Matthews' *American Diaries: An Annotated Bibliography*. Contains over 5000 entries describing unpublished diaries. Lists time span and summary of contents but omits biographical data. Arranged chronologically (undated diaries have a separate section). Includes indexes.

73076782

Matthews, William.

*Canadian Diaries and Autobiographies.* Berkeley: University of California, 1950. 130 p.

Z5305.C3 M3 MRR Alc

Designed as a "companion piece" to Matthews' *American Diaries* and *British Diaries*. Notes diaries and autobiographies from both British and French Canada, published and unpublished. Entries are arranged alphabetically by author's name and contain brief biographical data, time span, content notes, and location in the case of unpublished materials. Broad subject index appended.

50062732

*Notable American Women, 1607-1950; A Biographical Dictionary.* 3 vols. Edward T. James, editor, with the assistance of Janet Wilson James and Paul S. Boyer. Cambridge, Mass., Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1971.

CT3260 .N57 MRR Biog

Biographical essays about more than 1,300 women (with death dates prior to 1951). Articles list both primary and secondary sources of information as available. Arranged alphabetically. Concluding index categorizes names by field of activity.

76152274

*Notable American Women: The Modern Period: A Biographical Dictionary.* Edited by Barbara Sicherman, and Carol Hurd, with the assistance of Ilene Kantrov and Harriette Walker. Cambridge, Mass.: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1980. xxii, 773 p.

CT3260 .N573 MRR Biog

Supplemental volume for three-volume *Notable American Women, 1607-1950*.  
80018402

### Special Topics

*African American Women: A Biographical Dictionary*. 2 vols. Dorothy C. Salem, editor.  
Biographical Dictionaries of Minority Women. New York: Garland, 1993. xvi, 622 p.

E185.96 .A45 1993 MRR Biog

Describes the lives and significant contributions of nearly 300 women, primarily from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Each entry, in alphabetical order by name, includes a valuable bibliography, listing both primary and secondary materials. An appendix subdivides the women by career category; there is a general index. A biographical dictionary may not identify one's own ancestor, but the entries can be used to elucidate conditions of life for persons of similar background and, by extension, to locate additional sources of information that might not otherwise attract the researcher's attention. .

92045727

Claghorn, Charles E.

*Women Patriots of the American Revolution: a Biographical Dictionary*. Metuchen, N.J.:  
Scarecrow Press, 1991. xviii, 499 p.

E276.C5 1991 LH&G

About 5,000 biographical entries noting activities of women. Not a genealogical study, but useful because it describes many of the more "ordinary" women of the time, not just famous ones.

91015495

McDevitt, Theresa

*Women and the American Civil War: An Annotated Bibliography*. Bibliographies and Indexes in Women's Studies, no. 32. Westport, Conn.: Praeger, 2003. viii, 245 p.

Z1242 .M355 2003 MRR Alc

Excellent resource that identifies references sources with biographical information on a large number of women. Chapters focus on areas in which women contributed to the war: soldier's aid; medical and relief service; aid to freedmen; economic challenges and opportunities (—); ?? women in the war zone; spies, scouts, smugglers, and raiders; and women in camp. Includes author and subject indexes. Resources could be useful as background information for a female ancestor's living conditions, even where the individual herself is not named.

2003047239

*Native American Women: A Biographical Dictionary*. Gretchen M. Bataille, and Laurie Lisa, editors. New York: Routledge, 2001. xv, 396 p. Ill.

E98.W8 B38 2001 MRR Biog

Though a specific ancestor may not appear in a dictionary naming only a few hundred women, this biographical dictionary has additional uses. The editors have attempted to provide "a broad

cross section of Native women's experiences in both historical and contemporary contexts" (p. xiii). Each brief biographical entry includes a list of published "references" for further information. Because the book's indexes subdivide the women according to area of specialization, decade of birth, state/province of birth, and tribal affiliation, the entries can help a researcher locate hard-to-identify additional background materials. Some Native societies are particularly interesting because they were matrilineal and matrilineal. The introductory essay provides useful observations concerning the state of research about Native American women.  
2001019749

Pfeiffer, Laura Szucs.

*Hidden Sources: Family History in Unlikely Places*. Orem, Utah: Ancestry, 2000. xviii, 292 p.  
CS14.P48 2000 LH&G

This handbook does not focus on female ancestors. But because the identity of female ancestors can be so elusive, some of the unusual sources described might lead to a missing link in a given case.

99055060

Reid, Richard, and Cheryl Mongan.

*"a decent set of girls--": The Irish Famine Orphans of the Thomas Arbuthnot, 1849-1850*.  
Yass, Australia: Yass Heritage Project, 1996. xv, 197, [130] p. Ill., map.

CS2007 .R45 1996

Documents the migration of 194 Irish orphan girls from famine-stricken southwest Ireland in 1849 to new homes in New South Wales in 1859. Contains journal entries of ship surgeon Charles Edward Strutt on board the *Thomas Arbuthnot*, and additional genealogical information concerning the subsequent fate of the girls and the families they founded. Provides unique, detailed records that shed light on the experience of Irish fugitives from famine (of whom there may have been as many as a million, most of them leaving behind few records specific to themselves). Relevant contemporary correspondence, information concerning additional passengers, and genealogical information about families and descendants of the orphans are listed in the extensive Part II.

97161254

### **Web Sites for Women's History and Genealogy**

Ancestry.com or AncestryLibrary.com

Massive subscription database with constantly growing contents. Census search is especially helpful for female ancestors, permitting combinations of a variety of search criteria (first name or last name only, location, age, birthplace, parents' birthplaces). Beginning in 1850, all females were listed, not just heads of households.

"Invisible Women Ancestors: Tips for Tracing the Women in Your Family Tree" by Kimberly Powell. < <http://genealogy.about.com/library/weekly/aa031201a.htm> >

Useful database providing suggestions on how to make the best use of documentary sources commonly available, to find the most information possible about female ancestors.

“Finding the Elusive Woman” by Diane Snyder Ptak.

< <http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Hills/6354/Women.html> >

Somewhat randomly presented and not entirely free from errors, this site does provide useful hints.

“Additional Women’s Collections” (University of Texas at San Antonio)

< <http://www.lib.utsa.edu/Archives/WomenGender/links.html> >

From the “Women and Gender Project” of the University of Texas at San Antonio. Provides valuable links to archival collections by state. The value of the links for genealogical research varies greatly, but the site is worth checking.

“Women’s Studies: A Guide to the Collection of the New York Public Library”

< <http://www.nypl.org/research/chss/grd/resguides/women/> >

Includes particularly valuable list of biographical sources for women.

“American Women’s History: A Research Guide.”

< <http://www.mtsu.edu/~kmiddlet/history/women.html> >

Sponsored by staff of Middle Tennessee State University. Excellent all-purpose women’s history guide, with annotated references and links to a vast array of useful topics.

”Female Ancestors: after the Marriage”

< <http://www.ancestry.com/learn/library/article.aspx?article=9126> >

Basic but useful recapitulation of strategies for finding an ancestors whose birth family name is unknown.

#### ArchivesUSA

Extensive subscription database published by ProQuest/UMI. Online edition of *National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections* (“NUCMC”). “Collection search” permits searching by keyword, particularly useful for locating material on families and individuals. Contains information on nearly 6000 repositories and roughly 154,600 collections of primary source materials throughout the United States.

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