

Uncovering Hidden Histories: 8 Sources & Strategies for Researching Your Female Ancestors

Kari Kjøntvedt Weis
KariWeis.DAR@gmail.com

“Remember the ladies, and be more generous to them than your ancestors.” – Abigail Adams

AGENDA:

1. Historical & Social Context
2. FAN Club
3. Timeline
4. Research Plan
5. What’s in a Name?
6. Repositories
7. Common Records
 - a. Vital – Birth, Marriage, & Death
 - b. Census
 - c. Probate
 - d. Deeds
8. Expanding Your Research – 8 Sources
 - a. Newspapers
 - b. Partition Records
 - c. Directories
 - d. Manuscripts (Unpublished Records)
 - i. Bibles
 - ii. Diaries
 - iii. Correspondence
 - e. Town Minutes
 - f. Homestead Records
 - g. Civil Cases
 - h. Widow’s Pension Records

Uncovering Hidden Histories: 8 Sources & Strategies for Researching Your Female Ancestors

Kari Kjøntvedt Weis
KariWeis.DAR@gmail.com

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES:

Books:

- 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.
- Mills, Elizabeth Shown. *QuickSheet: The Historical Biographer's Guide to Cluster Research (the FAN Principle)*. Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2012.
- Salmon, Marylynn. *Women and the Law of Property in Early America*. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1986.
- Schaefer, Christina Kassabian. *The Hidden Half of the Family: A Sourcebook for Women's Genealogy*. Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2006.

Websites:

Cyndi's List of Genealogy Sites on the Internet. "Female Ancestors, General Resources"
<http://www.cyndislist.com/female/general/>

Harvard Library – *Women Working, 1800-1930*

<https://library.harvard.edu/collections/women-working-1800-1930>

Library of Congress – *American Women: A Guide to Women's History Resources at the Library of Congress*

<https://guides.loc.gov/american-women>

Newspapers:

- *The Ancestor Hunt*
<http://www.theancestorhunt.com/newspapers.html>
- *Chronicling America*
<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>
- *Elephind – Search the World's Historical Newspaper Archives*
<https://elephind.com/>
- *Fulton History – Old Fulton New York Post Cards (old newspapers from the US & Canada)*
<https://fultonhistory.com/Fulton.html>
- *New York State Historic Newspapers*
<https://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/>
- *Online Historical Newspapers*
<https://sites.google.com/site/onlinenewspapersite/>

NSDAR Videos

- Female Ancestors - Darryn Lickliter, March 18, 2017
- Identifying Mothers and Spouses - Clarissa Mulliken, October 20, 2018
- Real Widows of the Pension Office: Civil War Widows Pensions - Pamela Loos-Noji, December 16, 2017
- Revolutionary Elizabeths - Clare Marshall, March 17, 2018