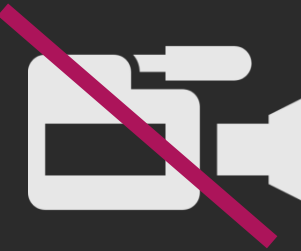


Finding Your Elusive Female Ancestors

By Julie Stoddard, MSc, AG®
Julie@BestStepsGen.com



- Please silence all electronic devices
- No audio or video recording
- Photos allowed
- Download a PDF of these slides at ConnectTheBranch.com



Introduction

To successfully research women:

1. Understand which records to search.
2. Find records for her FAN Club, especially closely related men.
3. Apply correct research strategies.



Why are women harder to find in the records?

- English common law was followed by many U.S. colonies.
- This meant married women were covered under the legal status of their husbands.
- For most of her life, the records were not listed under her maiden name.



Why are women harder to find in the records?

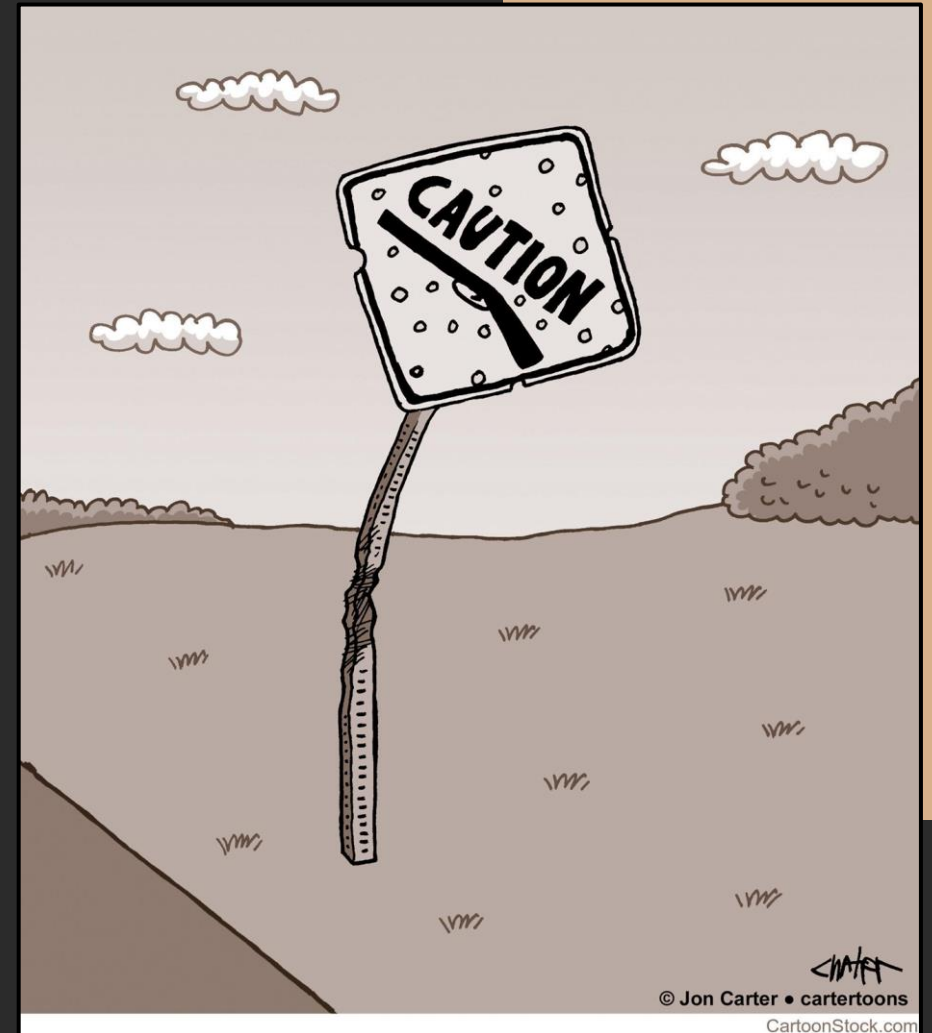
- Widows, divorced women, and single women had their own legal status and may be easier to find.
- Many legal rights varied for women, including:
 - custody of their children
 - inheritance
 - voting rights
 - entering into contracts
 - citizenship



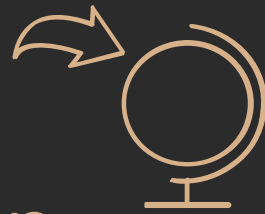
Choosing Which Records to Search First

Don't take the shotgun approach!

Search for a specific event in a specific location!



Where to
Find the
Information



“Find a Collection” on
FamilySearch Records

FamilySearch

Family Tree **Search** Memories Indexing

Records Family Tree Genealogies Catalog Books Wiki

Search Historical Records

Search for a deceased ancestor in historical records to uncover vital information from their life.

Deceased Ancestor's Name

First Names Last Names

Search with a life event:

Birth | Marriage | Residence | Death | Any

Birthplace Birth Year (Range) From To

Search with a relationship:

Spouse | Parents | Other Person

Restrict records by:

Location | Type | Batch Number | Film Number

Country State or Province

Match all terms exactly

Search Reset

Research By Location

Click an area of the world to start researching in

Find a Collection

Researching within a specific collection? Find it here

Collection Title

- New Jersey
- New Jersey Births and Christenings, 1660-1980
- New Jersey Deaths and Burials, 1720-1988
- New Jersey Marriages, 1678-1985**
- New Jersey Probate Records, 1678-1980
- New Jersey State Census, 1885

Tip: Keep a list of
name variants in
your research log.

People spelled
phonetically and
there are often
indexing errors, like
r and n.

FamilySearch Catalog

FamilySearch Family Tree Search

Records Family Tree Genealogies **Catalog** Books Wiki

FamilySearch Catalog

Search the catalog of genealogical materials (including books, online materials, microfiche, and publications) made available by FamilySearch. Many items can be accessed at local family history centers around the world.

[Learn more about the catalog and how to access materials.](#)

Search by:
[Place](#) | [Surnames](#) | [Titles](#) | [Author](#) | [Subjects](#) | [Keywords](#)

Place

Keywords

Search for:
[Call Number](#) | [Film/Fiche Number](#)

Search these family history centers:

Search **Reset**

FamilySearch Family Tree Search

Records Family Tree Genealogies **Catalog** Books Wiki

Search Results for FamilySearch Catalog

Refine your search

Search by:
[Place](#)
[Surnames](#)
[Titles](#)
[Author](#)
[Subjects](#)
[Keywords](#)

Search for:
[Call Number](#)
[Film/Fiche Number](#)

Search these family history centers:

Update **Reset**

Year
 ▶ 1600 (1)
 ▶ 1700 (3)
 ▶ 1800 (4)
 ▶ 1900 (4)

Category
 ▶ Birth, Marriage and Death (2)
 ▶ Census, Taxation, and Voter Lists (10)
 ▶ Court, Land, and Wills (24)
 ▶ Family Trees (2)
 ▶ Military (1)
 ▶ Other (49)

Availability
 ▶ **Online (31)**

Language
 ▶ English (49)

1-20 of 49 results

Abstracts of land entries, Iredell County, North Carolina, 1793-1795; Anson County, North Carolina, 1793-1795
 Author: Pruitt, A. B. (Albert Bruce), 1793-1870

North Carolina, Anson County, civil act of 1795
 Author: North Carolina. Superior Court Justice's Court (Anson County and History)

North Carolina land grants in South Carolina, 1793-1795
 Author: Holcomb, Brent H. (Brent Holcomb), 1934-

Anson County, North Carolina : abstracts of land grants, 1793-1795
 Author: McBee, May Wilson

Anson County, North Carolina : deeds and land grants, 1793-1795
 Author: Holcomb, Brent H. (Brent Holcomb), 1934-

Anson County, North Carolina abstracts of land grants, 1793-1795
 Author: McBee, May Wilson

Anson County, North Carolina abstracts of land grants, 1793-1795
 Author: McBee, May Wilson

Anson County, North Carolina abstracts of land grants, 1793-1795
 Author: McBee, May Wilson

Tennessee and Anson County, North Carolina, land grants, 1793-1795
 Author: North Carolina. Secretary of State

The Moore families of Anson and Union Counties, North Carolina, 1793-1795
 Author: Austin, Nancy Jane Moore, 1934-

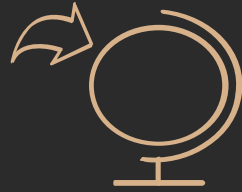
Anson County deeds, 1749-1926; index
 Author: North Carolina. County Court (Anson County); North Carolina. Superior Court

Corrections or alterations to land grants, Anson County, North Carolina, 1793-1795

Film Notes (This family history center has 80 of 80 films/fiche.)

Note	Location	Collection/Shelf	Film/DGS	Format
Index Grantors A-B 1748-1962	Family History Library	United States & Canada Film	18126	
Index Grantors C-D 1748-1962	Family History Library	United States & Canada Film	18127	

Where to Find the Information



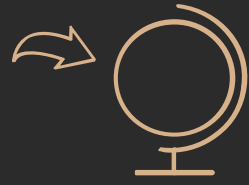
Ancestry's Card Catalog

The screenshot shows the Ancestry website's navigation bar with 'SEARCH' highlighted in a red box. A dropdown menu is open, listing various collection categories. 'Card Catalog' is circled in red at the bottom of the menu. Other categories include 'All Collections', 'Census & Voter Lists', 'Birth, Marriage & Death', 'Immigration & Travel', 'Public Member Trees', 'Military', and 'Member Directory'. The background shows a blurred view of a family tree page.

The screenshot shows the 'Card Catalog' search results page. The title 'Card Catalog' is underlined in red. The search term 'New Jersey Marriage' is entered in the 'Title' field and circled in red. The search results table shows 8 results, with the first result, 'New Jersey, Marriage Records, 1683-1802', highlighted in red. The table includes columns for 'Title', 'Collection', and 'Records'.

Title	Collection	Records
<u>New Jersey, Marriage Records, 1683-1802</u>	Birth, Marriage & Death	26,952
New Jersey, Compiled Marriage Records, 1684-1895	Birth, Marriage & Death	48,711
Marriage records of Hunterdon County, New Jersey, 1795-1875 : being an index to the marriages recorded in the Office of the Cou	Birth, Marriage & Death	336
Bergen County, New Jersey marriage records	Birth, Marriage & Death	118

Where to Find the Information



findmypast Record Sets

The screenshot shows the findmypast website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the findmypast logo, a 'Family tree' link, a search bar, and links for 'Free Records', 'My records', 'Blog', and 'Help'. The search bar is highlighted with a red box. Below the navigation bar, the user's profile is shown as 'Julie's Dashboard'. A 'What to do next' section contains a search form with fields for 'Who' (First name, Last name), 'When' (1939), and 'Where'. A search dropdown menu is open, listing various record categories: 'Search all records', 'Birth, marriage & death (parish registers)', 'Churches & religion', 'Education & work', 'Institutes & organizations', 'Newspapers & periodicals', 'Census, land & substitutes', 'Directories & social history', 'Immigration & travel', and 'Military service & conflict'. At the bottom of the dropdown, there is a '1939 Register' link and an 'A-Z of record sets' link, which is highlighted with a red box.

findmypast: Family tree Search Free Records My records Blog Help

Julie's Dashboard

What to do next

Search all records

Who

First name

Last name

When

1939

Where

Search all records
Any record at your fingertips

Birth, marriage & death (parish registers)

Churches & religion

Education & work

Institutes & organizations

Newspapers & periodicals

Census, land & substitutes

Directories & social history

Immigration & travel

Military service & conflict

1939 Register
Advanced search options

A-Z of record sets
Discover our records from around the world

When researching women, timelines are critical.

Which years and which two locations should be searched for Rebecca's marriage?

Timeline for Rebecca McCormick

Date	Place	Event	Source/Notes
<u>1783</u>	<u>PA</u> Centre County	<u>Rebecca McCormick born</u>	Family Letter from Rebecca's great-granddaughter This lists her siblings.
1799?		<u>James Pawley & Rebecca McCormick married</u>	
<u>1800?</u>		<u>Mary Ann Pawley born to James Pawley & Rebecca McCormick</u>	Watt Family Record Book This lists each of their married names.
1802	<u>OH</u>	Martha Pawley born to James Pawley & Rebecca McCormick	Watt Family Record Book 1850 U.S. Census
1804	OH	Nancy Pawley born to James Pawley & Rebecca McCormick	Watt Family Record Book 1850 U.S. Census
1806	OH	Rebecca Pawley born to James Pawley & Rebecca McCormick	Watt Family Record Book 1850 U.S. Census
??		James Pawley dies	
1819 Aug 26	OH Trumbull Co.	ERASTUS COWDERY m. REBECCA McCormick PAWLEY,	http://olivercowdery.com/family/Cdrygen4.htm
1850	OH Trumbull Co.	Rebecca Cowdery, head of household	1850 U.S. Census

Records which may contain women

Always ask yourself:

“Which records are most likely to be successful due to record content and ease of access?”

PHASE 1: SEARCH IN THESE RECORDS:

- ❑ Vital Records
- ❑ Census Records
- ❑ Family Trees
- ❑ Cemetery Records
- ❑ Probate Records
- ❑ Social Security
- ❑ DNA Testing



Using vital records to find a maiden name:

- Find birth/marriage/death records for her, her spouse, and each child.
- Check availability in the [FamilySearch Wiki](#) by searching for the [name of state] and birth or marriage or death.



Vital Records - GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Marriage records start when the county began (or the town in New England).

Birth and death certificates usually began in the early 1900s.

424

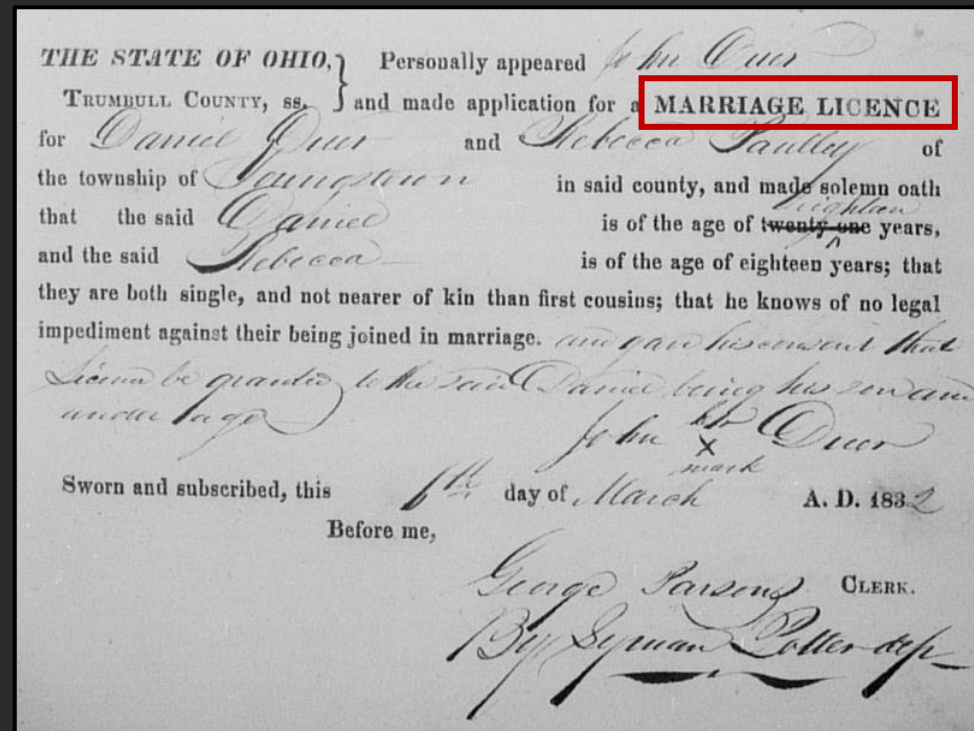
MARRIAGE RECORD.

GRANTED.	AFFIDAVIT.	RETURN.
<p><i>No 222</i> <i>Nov 30th</i> A. D. 1871</p> <p>MARRIAGE LICENSE</p> <p>Was this day granted to <i>Thomas Watt</i> and <i>Elizabeth Gorby</i> <i>G. P. Baird</i> Probate Judge.</p>	<p>STATE OF OHIO, } HANCOCK COUNTY, ss. }</p> <p>Personally came _____ applying for LICENSE for _____ to be married to _____ who being sworn, says that the said _____ is over the age of twenty-one years, and is unmarried, that the said _____ is over the age of eighteen years, and is unmarried, resides in Hancock County, and that they are not nearer akin than first cousins, and he knows of no legal impediment to said marriage.</p> <p>Sworn to and subscribed before me, this day of _____ A. D. 18____</p> <p>Probate Judge.</p>	<p>STATE OF OHIO, } HANCOCK COUNTY, ss. }</p> <p>I Certify, that on the <i>30th</i> day of <i>Nov</i> A. D. 1871 <i>Thomas Watt</i> and <i>Elizabeth Gorby</i> were legally joined in marriage by me, a Justice of Peace <i>Chas. Nassau</i> J. P.</p>

"Ohio, county marriages, 1789-2013," entry for Thomas Watt and Elizabeth Gorby, 1871, Hancock County, Ohio, FamilySearch, (<https://www.familysearch.org/> : June 2016.)

Finding Marriage Records:

- Check the county where
 - 1) the couple was first listed in the census
 - 2) where their first child was born
 - 3) where the individuals lived before marriage.
- Check several census records after 1850 to determine her state of birth and check there.
- Look for marriage banns and bonds in earlier time periods.



“Ohio, county marriages, 1789-2013,” entry for Daniel Duer and Rebecca Paully, 1832, Trumbull County, Ohio, FamilySearch, (<https://www.familysearch.org/> : June 2016.)

Vital Records: Deaths

Most states started keeping death certificates in the 1900s

Question:

- Can you use a death certificate to identify the maiden name of someone born in **1804** and died in 1894?

WHEN THIS CARRIES THE RAISED SEAL OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IT CERTIFIES THE BELOW TO BE A TRUE COPY OF AN ORIGINAL RECORD ON FILE WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS, WHICH IS THE LEGAL DEPOSITORY FOR VITAL RECORDS.

Freda Heis
DIRECTOR OF VITAL STATISTICS AND ASSISTANT STATE REGISTRAR

Lincoln, Nebraska Sept. 17, 1969 4077

Department of Commerce and Labor
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF DEATH
State of Nebraska

1 PLACE OF DEATH
County Douglas
Township _____
Village _____
City Omaha (No. Swedish Mission Hosp. Ward) (If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its NAME instead of street and number)

2 FULL NAME Thomas Watt W-300 Registered No. 4077

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS			MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH	
3 SEX <u>Male</u>	4 COLOR OR RACE <u>White</u>	5 Single, Married, Widowed, or divorced (If see the word)	16 DATE OF DEATH <u>May 16</u> 19 <u>14</u>	
6 DATE OF BIRTH <u>Oct. 2</u> 18 <u>04</u>			17 I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from _____ 19__ to _____ 19__ that I last saw him alive on _____ 19__ and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at _____ m.	
7 AGE <u>62</u> yrs. <u>7</u> mos. <u>14</u> da.			The CAUSE OF DEATH was as follows: <u>Uremic Poisoning</u>	
8 OCCUPATION (a) Trade, profession or particular kind of work (b) General nature of industry, business or establishment in which employed (or employer).			Contributory (Secondary) _____ (duration) _____ yrs. _____ mos. _____ ds. (Signed) <u>W.K. Soughwicz</u> M. D.	
9 BIRTHPLACE (State or country) <u>Ohio</u>			* State the DISEASE CAUSING DEATH, or, in deaths from VIOLENT CAUSES, state (1) SEASE OF INJURY; and (2) whether ACCIDENTAL, SUICIDAL or HOMICIDAL.	
10 NAME OF FATHER <u>dead</u>			18 LENGTH OF RESIDENCE (For Hospitals, Institutions, Transients, or Recent Residents) At place of death _____ yrs. _____ mos. _____ ds. State _____ yrs. _____ mos. _____ ds.	
11 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (State or country) <u>Penn.</u>			Where was disease contracted, if not at place of death? Former or usual residence _____	
12 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER <u>dead</u>			19 PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL <u>Graton Neb.</u>	
13 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (State or country) <u>Penn.</u>			DATE OF BURIAL <u>5-18-14</u>	
14 THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE (Informant) (Address) _____			20 UNDERTAKER <u>H.P. Swanson</u> ADDRESS <u>Omaha</u>	
15 <u>Christ</u> Filed <u>12-31-31</u> R. W. Connell, M. D. REGISTRAR				

Death Certificate of Thomas Watt, 1914, from personal papers of Julie Stoddard.

Vital Records: Deaths

Search Death Certificates for:

- Her
- Her Spouse
- Her children
 - Especially for those deaths after the early 1900s.

N. B.—Every item of information should be carefully supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, so that it may be properly classified. Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important.

PLACE OF DEATH		MISSOURI STATE BOARD OF HEALTH BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS CERTIFICATE OF DEATH	
County	<i>Wagon Wheel</i>	Registration District No.	<i>262</i>
Township	<i>Wagon Wheel</i>	File No.	<i>31892</i>
Village		Primary Registration District No.	<i>5364</i>
City		Registered No.	
FULL NAME		<i>Elizabeth Milham</i>	
PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS		MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH	
SEX	<i>Female</i>	DATE OF DEATH	<i>October 21st, 1914</i>
COLOR OR RACE	<i>White</i>	HEREBY CERTIFY, that I attended deceased from	
SINGLE MARRIED WIDOWED OR DIVORCED (If write the word)	<i>Widow</i>	that I last saw her alive on	<i>October 20, 1914</i>
DATE OF BIRTH	<i>Jan 6, 1832</i>	and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at	<i>11</i> m.
AGE	<i>82 yrs. 9 mos. 15 ds.</i>	The CAUSE OF DEATH* was as follows:	
OCCUPATION (a) Trade, profession, or particular kind of work	<i>Housewife</i>	<i>Atrophic softening of brain</i>	
(b) General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which employed (or employer)		<i>Accidently</i>	
BIRTHPLACE (City or town, State or foreign country)	<i>Kentucky</i>	Contributory	<i>fell from a porch</i>
NAME OF FATHER	<i>William Cumber</i>	(Signed)	<i>A. O. Barnes</i> M. D.
BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (City or town, State or foreign country)	<i>don't know</i>	(Date)	<i>Oct 22, 1914</i>
MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER	<i>Jasper</i>	*State the Disease Causing Death, or, in deaths from Violent Causes, state (1) Means of Injury; and (2) whether Accidental, Suicidal, or Homicidal.	
BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (City or town, State or foreign country)	<i>don't know</i>	LENGTH OF RESIDENCE (For HOSPITALS, INSTITUTIONS, TRANSIENTS, OR RECENT RESIDENTS)	
THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE		At place of death	<i>4</i> yrs. <i>4</i> mos. <i>4</i> ds.
(Informant)	<i>Wm Ketchum</i>	Where was disease contracted if not at place of death?	
(ADDRESS)	<i>Union Star</i>	Former or usual residence	
Filed	<i>Oct 23, 1914</i>	PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL	<i>New Hope</i>
REGISTRAR	<i>E. M. Reynolds</i>	DATE OF BURIAL	<i>Oct 25, 1914</i>
		UNDERTAKER	<i>E. Cole</i>
		ADDRESS	<i>King City</i>

"Missouri Death Certificates, 1910 – 1964," Certificate of Elizabeth Milham, 1914, Certificate #31892, Missouri Digital Heritage, (<http://www.sos.mo.gov> : July 2016).

Census Records

- Find a female in each census record she was alive.
- In 1850 and later, the U.S. census lists each person by name.
- From 1880 on they listed the person's relationship to the head of household.

Page No. 472
 Supervisor's Dist. No. _____
 Enumeration Dist. No. 325

Note A.—The Census Year begins June 1, 1880, and ends May 31, 1880.
 Note B.—All persons will be included in the Enumeration who were living on the 1st day of June, 1880. No others will. Children BORN SINCE June 1, 1880, will be OMITTED. Members of Families who have DIED SINCE June 1, 1880, will be INCLUDED.
 Note C.—Questions Nos. 13, 14, 22 and 23 are not to be asked in respect to persons under 10 years of age.

SCHEDULE 1.—Inhabitants in Grafton Precinct, in the County of Fillmore, State of Nebraska
 enumerated by me on the 3rd day of June, 1880.
Jas. A. Degrasier
 Enumerator.

In Cities	Name of Family	House Number	The Name of each Person whose place of abode, on 1st day of June, 1880, was in this family.	Personal Description	Civil Condition	Occupation	Health	Education	Nativity
	Cont		Edy Eli	M 3	Head				Nebraska Pa. Mich.
			Theresa	W 2	Wife				Nebraska Pa. Mich.
			Julia	W 7	Daughter				Nebraska Pa. Mich.
	SP 60		John P. ...	M 48	Farmer				Russia Baden Baden
			Christina	W 48	Wife				Russia Russia


Census Records (continued)

- If they were married after 1850, find the husband in a census just before he was married.
 - Search for women with the same first name and of the right age who lived in the same or nearby towns or counties.
 - See if she disappears from the census about the time of marriage.



Census Records

- After 1850, watch for other household members with a different surname.



[View](#)

[View blank form](#)

[View/Add alternate info](#)

[Report issue](#)

www.ancestry.com

Name: Eliza Jane McGile
[\[Eliza Jane McGill\]](#)

Age: 27

Birth Year: abt 1823

Birthplace: Ohio

Home in 1850: East Connoquenessing, Butler, Pennsylvania, USA

Gender: Female

Family Number: 94

Household Members:

Name	Age
James McGile	32
Eliza Jane McGile	27
Nancy E McGile	5
William J McGile	7
Samuel B McGile	2
Albinas Watt	19

← Searching for the maiden name of Eliza Jane

Census Records

- Prior to 1850, look for possible families who lived nearby who had a female who was age 15-29



Census Records



[View blank form](#)

[Add alternate information](#)

[Report issue](#)

www.ancestry.com

Name:	Andrew Jasper
Home in 1820 (City, County, State):	Somerset, Pulaski, Kentucky
Enumeration Date:	August 7, 1820
Free White Persons - Males - Under 10:	3
Free White Persons - Males - 10 thru 15:	2
Free White Persons - Males - 16 thru 25:	2
Free White Persons - Males - 45 and over:	1
Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 15:	1
Free White Persons - Females - 45 and over:	1



Census Records

- Remember to look for state censuses as well. Check the [FamilySearch Wiki](#) for availability.
- Always view the original record for additional details that might provide evidence.

Published Family Trees*

- Use these trees only as a suggestion to confirm with further research.
- Watch for those with documentation attached.
- Try these:
 - FamilySearch Family Tree
 - FamilySearch Genealogies
 - Ancestry's Public Member Trees
 - MyHeritage Family Trees, etc.



Probate/Estate Records (wills, inventories, guardianships, etc.)

- Many probate files are getting every-name indexes.
- Search for a daughter's married name in online probate indexes.
- If you have a possible surname, check for probate records in the area.



Probate Records

Search for a daughter's married name in online probate indexes

Probate record:

2. I want my three daughters Nancy Roberts, Fally Cebow and Margarette Beasmer to have one dollar each.

3. I want my sons William Cambest, James Cambest, Millie Cambest, to have ten dollars each.

4th. I want my son Samuel Cambest to have forty dollars



[View blank form](#)

[Add alternate information](#)

[Report issue](#)

www.ancestry.com

Name: Nancy Roberts

Age: 43

Birth Year: abt 1807

Birthplace: Kentucky

Home in 1850: Laurel, Kentucky, USA

Gender: Female

Family Number: 497

Household Members:

Name	Age
Hezekiah Roberts	46
Nancy Roberts	43
E I Roberts	18
John Roberts	12

Social Security Records

Form SS-5
TREASURY DEPARTMENT
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
(Revised September 1942)

APPLICATION FOR SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NUMBER
REQUIRED UNDER THE FEDERAL INSURANCE CONTRIBUTIONS ACT
READ INSTRUCTIONS ON BACK BEFORE FILLING IN FORM

447-22-2435

1. FIRST NAME: Lee MIDDLE NAME: Phudy LAST NAME: 300

2. PRESENT MAILING ADDRESS (NUMBER AND STREET) (CITY) (STATE): Boise City Idaho Robert Lee Phudy 300

3. AGE AT LAST BIRTHDAY: 45 DATE OF BIRTH (MONTH) (DAY) (YEAR): May 11 1898

4. FATHER'S FULL NAME AND WHETHER LIVING OR DEAD: James Winton Phudy (Dec) MARY ANN SHEPHERD

5. MOTHER'S FULL NAME AND WHETHER LIVING OR DEAD: Mary Ann Shepherd

6. BUSINESS NAME AND ADDRESS OF EMPLOYER: Boise City Machinery Co

7. DATE: Jan 10 1944

8. RETURN COMPLETED APPLICATION TO OR SECURE INFORMATION ON HOW TO FILL IN APPLICATION FROM NEAREST SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD FIELD OFFICE. THE ADDRESS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM LOCAL POST OFFICE.

The Application for a Social Security Card (SS-5 Form) can include the full names of the parents. (Social Security Act passed in 1935)

Lee Rhudy, SS no. 447-22-2435, 10 January 1944, Application for Account Number (Form SS-5), Social Security Administration, Baltimore, Maryland.

Social Security Records

- Find Social Security Records:
 - Ancestry (\$): [U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007](#)
 - This indexes the SS-5 applications, as well as claims, so it includes the names of the applicant's parents.

Cemetery Records

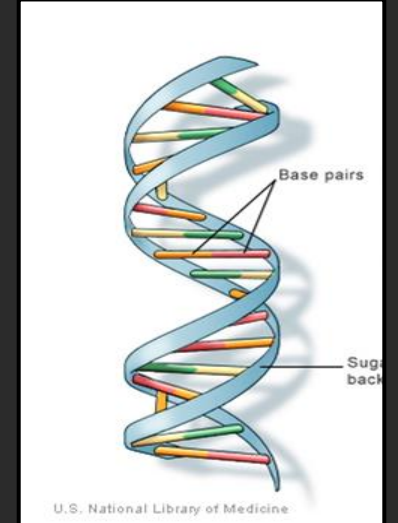
- Family members were often buried nearby!!
- Find cemetery records:
 - Find A Grave Index
(secondary information except pictures of headstones)
 - [BillionGraves Index](#)**
 - FS Wiki: Other cemetery records

**The BillionGraves Plus version (\$) shows locations of plots



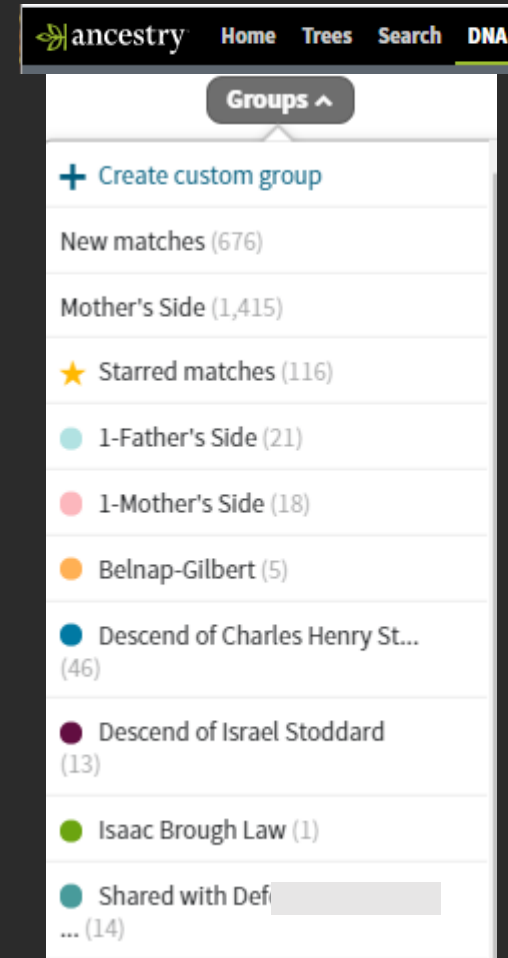
DNA Evidence

- There are four types of DNA:
 - Autosomal
 - X-DNA
 - Y-DNA (paternal inheritance)
 - Mitochondrial DNA (maternal inheritance)
- “*Shared Matches*” is one of the most powerful DNA tools available.
- Label and start grouping your DNA matches based on your *Shared Matches* and their trees.



Label and group your DNA matches

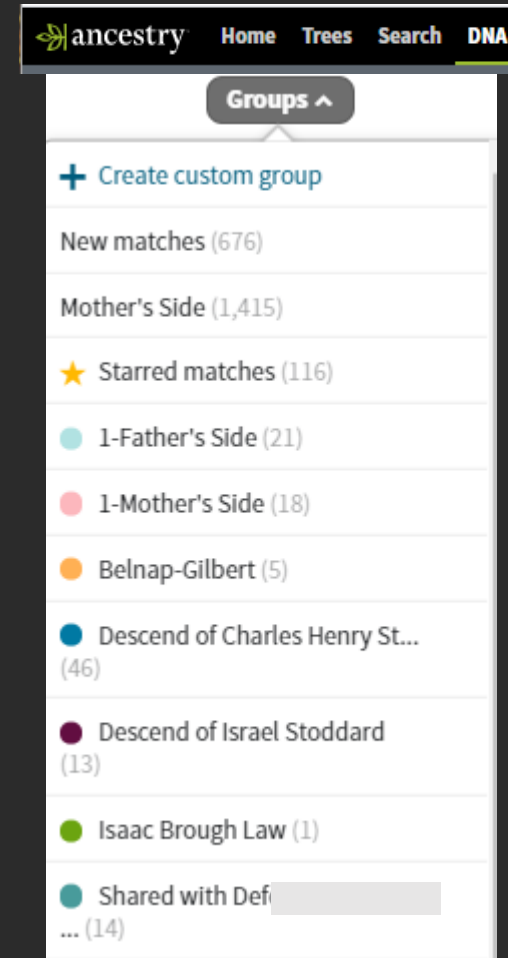
1. Create a DNA group for each of your known G-grandparents.
2. Group those who show a “Common Ancestor” or who have large public trees.
3. At the top of your DNA match list, start with your second cousins and add everyone else to a group.
4. Study your *Shared Matches* to know which group they belong to.
5. If they have no known *Shared Matches*, create a new group titled “Unknown 1.”



Use your DNA to identify a maiden name.

- Study the Unknown groups to find the most recent common ancestor.
- One of those common ancestors may be the maiden name of your ancestor.
- Always combine traditional documentary research with DNA evidence.

Other option: If you have a possible maiden name, search for the surname among your DNA matches to confirm the relationship.



PHASE 2: SEARCH IN THESE RECORDS:

- Obituaries
- Land Records
- Military Records
- Newspapers
- Church Records
- Perform a Google Search
- City Directories
- Local & Country Histories
- Immigration or Naturalization
- Watch for Naming Patterns
- Research her FAN Club: Family, Associates, & Neighbors
- Bible Records
- Court Records
- Manuscript collections
- Others

Obituaries- could list a maiden name

- Check for obituaries of the person, spouse, children, or siblings.
- Find obituary records:
 - FamilySearch's "Find a Collection"
 - Ancestry's Card Catalog
 - Newspaper sites
 - Cyndi's List: Obituaries

Ms Jean Elizabeth Mahoney Watt		
United States, GenealogyBank Obituaries, 1980-2014		
Deceased		
Name:	Ms Jean Elizabeth Mahoney Watt	
Event Type:	Obituary	
Event Date:	13 Feb 2011	
Event Place:	Lowell, Massachusetts, United States	
Residence Place:	Westford	
Gender:	Female	
Age:	80	
Birth Date:	09 Sep 1930	
Birthplace:	Andover	
Death Date:	07 Feb 2011	
Newspaper:	Sun, The	
Spouse and Children		
Charles E Watt III	Son	Male
William Watt	Son	Male
Charles E Watt Jr	Husband	Male
Parents and Siblings		
James Mahoney	Father	Male
Elizabeth Dempsie Mahoney	Mother	Female
Extended Family		
Sara Watt Higgins	DaughterInLaw	Female
Kim Watt	DaughterInLaw	Female
Deirdre Watt	DaughterInLaw	Female

"United States, GenealogyBank Obituaries, 1980-2014," FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org> : February 2020), entry for Ms Jean Elizabeth Mahoney Watt, Lowell, Massachusetts, United States, 13 Feb 2011.

Jean E. Watt

Sun, The (Lowell, MA) | 13 February 2011

Jean E. Watt

taught in Westford & Chelmsford schools; 80

PEPPERELL -- Jean Elizabeth (Mahoney) Watt, 80, of Pepperell, died unexpectedly February 7, 2011, at her home.

Ms. Watt was born in Andover, September 9, 1930, daughter of the late James and Elizabeth (Dempsie) Mahoney.

She is survived by her children, Charles E. Watt III and his wife, Deirdre, Sara (Watt) Higgins, and William Watt and his wife, Kim; and her former husband, Charles E. Watt Jr. She also leaves eight grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

She was a graduate of Bridgewater State College with a Masters Degree in education.

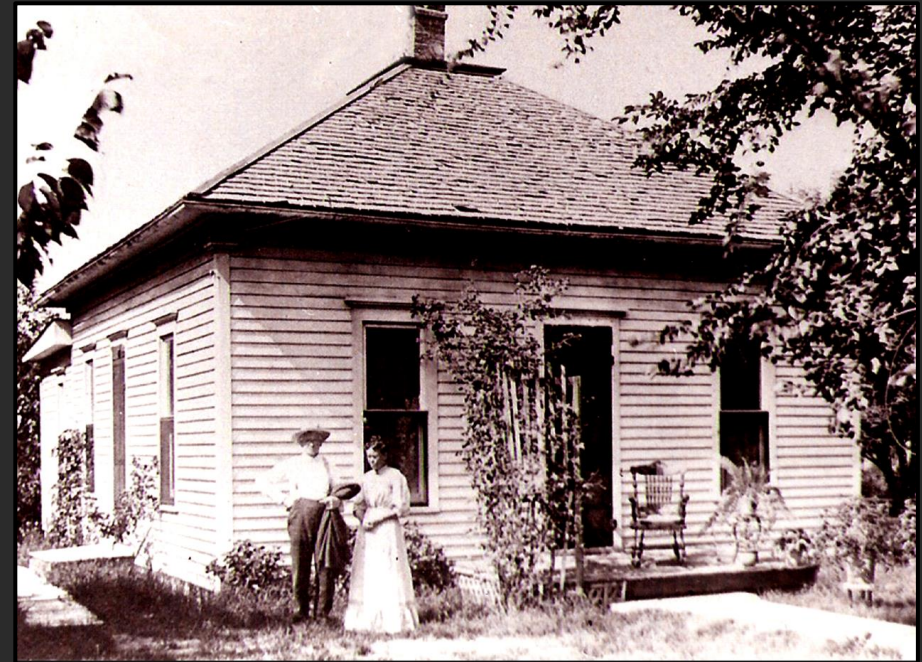
She taught in Westford and Chelmsford public schools. Her interests included horses, 4-H, most animals, and was an active volunteer with Kitty Angels feline rescue.

WATT -- Memorial donations may be made to www.kittyangels.org, P.O. Box 638, Tyngsboro, MA. 01879. A memorial service is planned for July and will be announced. Arrangements by Hamilton-McGAFFIGAN Funeral Home, Pepperell, MA. Please see www.mcgaaffiganfuneral.com

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Land Records

- Usually they just lists her first name and married name.
- Especially check Grantor records - when the husband sold their property.
 - The wife often had to give consent to release her dower right (inheritance).
 - Especially in early America.



Land Records- release of dower rights

State of Kentucky Pulaski County Act
We J. M. Duck and John Summers Jr of the County Justices
of the Peace for the County aforesaid do hereby certify that this day
personally appeared William Combest and Gilla Combest his
wife parties to the within Deed and acknowledged the within
Deed of conveyance to be their Act and Deed and she the said
Gilla Combest being by us privily Examined Seperate and
a part her said Husband did voluntarily relinquish
her ~~right~~ ^{share} in and to the Land hereby conveyed and desired us to
certify the same to the Clerk of the Pulaski County Court in order

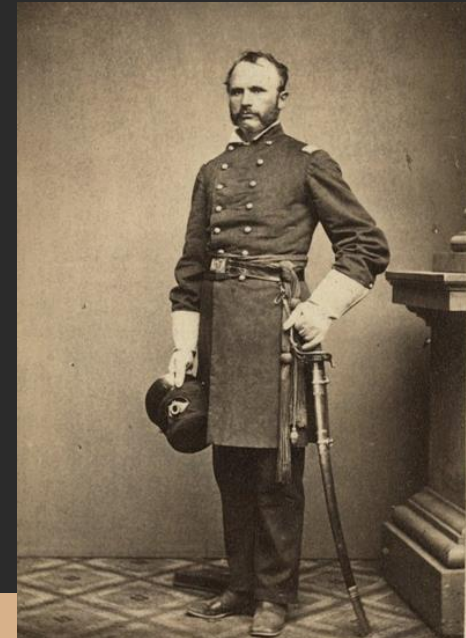
Pulaski County (Kentucky), Clerk of the County Court, "Deeds, v. 9 - 10
1835-1840," page 481, entry for William and Gilla Combest, Family
History Library film #804640. DOCUMENT 21.

Land Records-- clues to a maiden name:

- Watch for deeds for a small amount of money.
- She might inherit land from her father and will be listed by her married name with other siblings.
- Neighbors might be her relatives.
- Tracing land deeds through descriptions might lead to a maiden name.

Military Records

- Pension records typically provide the most genealogical information and can include the name of the wife or daughter.
- If the female ancestor you are looking for was born around the time of a war and up to 20 years after, then check for a pension record for the father.
- Bounty land warrants can also list the name of the spouse or children.



Military Records- Pension Application

her husband the aforesaid John Dick died on the Nineteenth day of November Eighteen hundred and thirty two and that she has remained a widow ever since that period as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed

She further declares she knows of no record evidence of her marriage but has a record of the age of her children in her old family Bible which she will cause to be filed as evidence in support of her claim

Margaret ^{her} Dick
mark

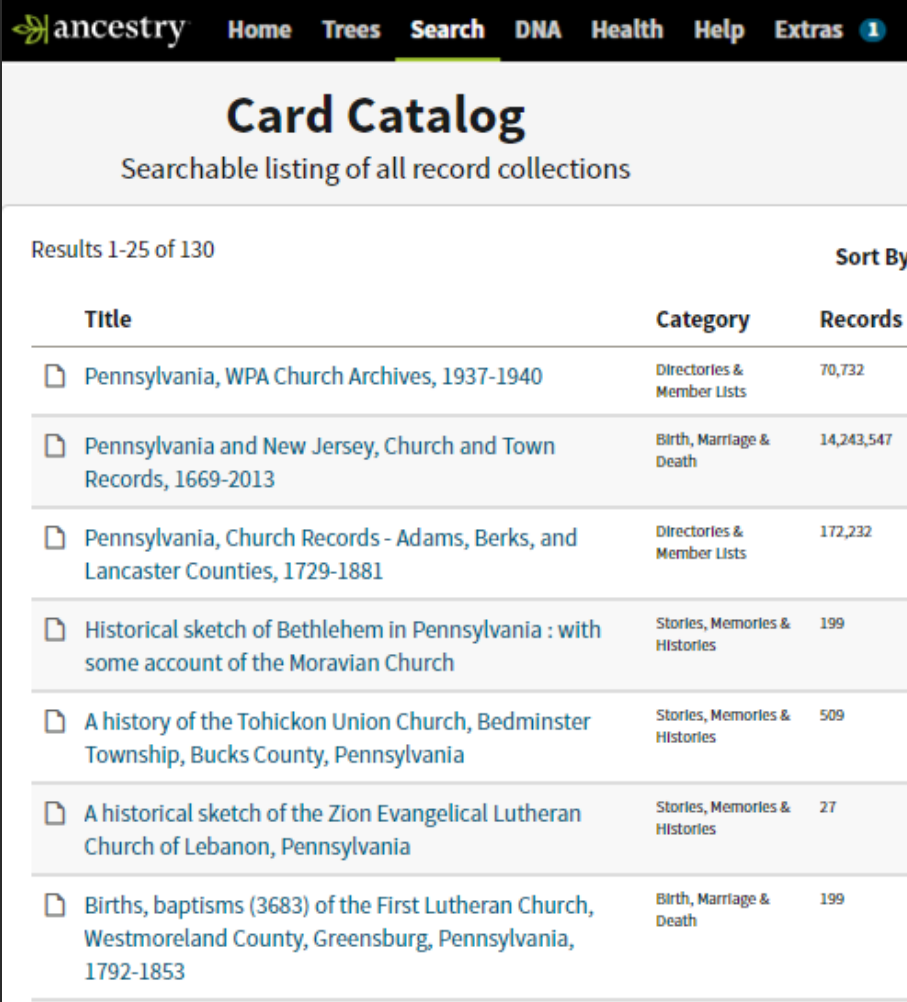
Military Records- Pension Application Family Bible page

Sarah Dick was born Novem^r the 20th 1778
Samuel Dick was born October the 11 1782
James Dick was born August the 15th 1784
John Dick was born October 20th 1786
Archibald Dick was born December 24th 1788
~~Elizabeth Dick was born September 24th 1791~~
Freddy Dick was born September 21st 1795
William Dick was born April 5th 1798
Nancy Dick was born June the 9 1800
Alexander Dick was born September 24th 1793
William Speary Dick was born January 22nd 1823

"Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files," John Dick, pension number W.8668, 31 images; Fold3, (<https://www.fold3.com> : September 2016).

Church Records

- Church records can be a great source of information, but can be hard to locate.
 - As more get indexed, they should be moved up on the priority list.
- Check [FamilySearch Wiki: United States Church Records](#).
- Search FamilySearch's "Find a Collection" and Ancestry's Card Catalog.



The screenshot shows the Ancestry website's Card Catalog page. The navigation bar includes 'ancestry', 'Home', 'Trees', 'Search', 'DNA', 'Health', 'Help', and 'Extras'. The main heading is 'Card Catalog' with the subtitle 'Searchable listing of all record collections'. Below this, it indicates 'Results 1-25 of 130' and a 'Sort By' dropdown menu. The table lists several record collections with columns for 'Title', 'Category', and 'Records'.

Title	Category	Records
<input type="checkbox"/> Pennsylvania, WPA Church Archives, 1937-1940	Directories & Member Lists	70,732
<input type="checkbox"/> Pennsylvania and New Jersey, Church and Town Records, 1669-2013	Birth, Marriage & Death	14,243,547
<input type="checkbox"/> Pennsylvania, Church Records - Adams, Berks, and Lancaster Counties, 1729-1881	Directories & Member Lists	172,232
<input type="checkbox"/> Historical sketch of Bethlehem in Pennsylvania : with some account of the Moravian Church	Stories, Memories & Histories	199
<input type="checkbox"/> A history of the Tohickon Union Church, Bedminster Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania	Stories, Memories & Histories	509
<input type="checkbox"/> A historical sketch of the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church of Lebanon, Pennsylvania	Stories, Memories & Histories	27
<input type="checkbox"/> Births, baptisms (3683) of the First Lutheran Church, Westmoreland County, Greensburg, Pennsylvania, 1792-1853	Birth, Marriage & Death	199

Naming Patterns


Finding clues to Eliza's maiden name by researching all the children.

James Mc Gill in the 1870 United States Federal Census

Household Members:	Name	Age
	James Mc Gill	53
	Eliza J Mc Gill	47
	Thos Mc Gill	20
	Lois R Mc Gill	13
	W J Mc Gill	10
	Gertrude Mc Gill	7
	C G Mc Gill	3

www.ancestry.com

Find A Grave™ REGISTER SIGN IN



Thomas Watt McGill

BIRTH 1850
Pennsylvania, USA

DEATH 1912 (aged 61–62)
Salamanca, Cattaraugus County, New York, USA

BURIAL Prairie Cemetery
Harrisville, Butler County, Pennsylvania, USA

MEMORIAL ID 120894232 · View Source

www.findagrave.com

Strategies For Finding Women:

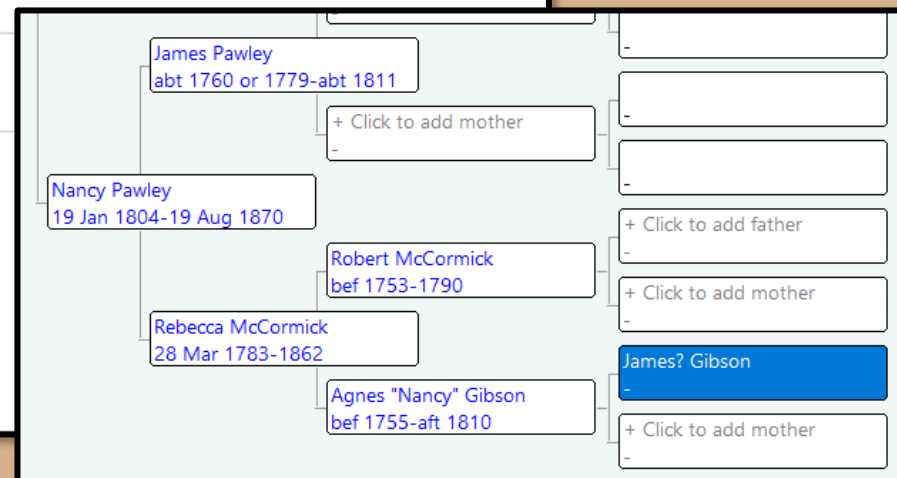
1) Research her FAN Club

Research your ancestor's FAN Club

(Family, Associates, and Neighbors) Follow these steps:

1. Review all your ancestor's documents - view the original record when possible.
2. Create a timeline for your ancestor and include all details.
3. Create a list of all known family members (include extended family.)

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
	<u>Year</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Township</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>McCormick, Robert/Agnes</u>	<u>George or his Children</u>	<u>Other FAN Research</u>	<u>Source</u>
1									
2	1772	PA	Northumb.		Northumberland Co. Formed				
3	1773	PA	Northumb.	Penn's Creek	Land		George buys land		Pennsylvania. Northumberland County. Deeds, 1770-1866; in 1914, FHL microfilm 961190. Family History Library, Salt La
4	1774	PA	Northumb.	Potter Twp.	Potter Twp. Created				
5	1774	PA	Northumb.	Potter	1774 Tax Assess		George moves to Spring Mills		Linn, John Blair. History of Centre and Clinton Counties, Penn 1883.) p 15.
6	1776	PA	Northumb.	Potter	1776 Petition for arms & ammunition	Robert	George & John-possible son?	Samuel McCormick	Linn, John Blair. History of Centre and Clinton Counties, Penn 1883.) p 17.
7	1778	PA	Northumb.	Potter	1778 Tax-Additional Residents of Potter Twp	Robert 100 Acres, 20 improved	John McCormick (singlemen)- a son?	Samuel McCormick (Singlemen)	Linn, John Blair. History of Centre and Clinton Counties, Penn 1883.) p. 19. https://archive.org/stream/historyofcentrec00linn
8	1778	PA	Northumb.		PA Rangers	Robert	George	John & James Watt, Alex. Gibson	"List of Soldiers who served as Rangers on the Frontiers, 1778 Vol. 23, p. 340. http://www.fold3.com/image/1/3082198/
9	1783	PA	Northumb.	Penn's Valley	Birth of Rebecca McCormick				
10	1786	PA	Northumb.	Potter	1786 Tax Assessment	No Robert Listed here	George McCormick & John in Potter; also a John McCormick non-resident of Bald Eagle Twp. - Whose son?	James Gibson	Linn, John Blair. History of Centre and Clinton Counties, Penn 1883.) p. 23.
11	1789	PA	Northumb.	Potter	1789 Tax for Potter Twp. that remained in Northumberland Co.	Robert	George & John-possible son?	James Gibson and John Watt	Linn, John Blair. History of Centre and Clinton Counties, Penn 1883.) p. 25.
12	1789 or 1790	PA	Northumb.		Death of Robert Carson				
13	1790	PA	Northumb.	Haines Twp.	Haines Twp. Created				
14	1790	PA	Northumb.		Birth of John McCormick				
15	1790	PA	Northumb.	Potter Twp.	1790 Tax List	A robert is listed with no land	George owned 150 acre		
16	1790	PA	Northumb.	None listed	1790 US Census	Agness McCormick	George & John-possible son?	James Gibson, and James & John Watt Hugh Watt on other pg & Mifflin Co.	



Strategies to Use: FAN Club

Establish criteria for sorting your list for an order to research.

1. Strength of the connection – potential family members can provide more evidence.
2. Frequency of connections – start with the people your ancestor spent the most time with (usually immediate or extended family.)
3. The quality of the source – how reliable is the information?

(See Elizabeth Shown Mills, QuickSheet: The Historical Biographer's Guide to Cluster Research (the FAN Principle)

Strategies for Searching Women

2. Analyze any records thoroughly

- Review documents you already have for every detail.
- Build a timeline as you go – include locations and the men in their lives



Strategies for Searching Women

3. Always look at original documents

Indexed and abstracted records have limitations:

1. They may not contain all the information, examples: witnesses, informants, signatures.
2. They lose the context of people around them, examples: tax lists, grave plots, census records.

List every detail in each record

-Each person and their role, locations, occupations, signatures, economic facts

Strategies for Searching Women

4. Ask yourself about possible indirect evidence

- Age they could marry without parental consent
- Age they started paying taxes
- Consider the neighbors, witnesses, informants, etc
- Negative evidence (not in a census)
- naming patterns



Strategies for Searching Women

5. Understand the laws for that time and place

- If her husband sold land, did she need to release her dower rights?
- What were the inheritance laws at that time?
- What laws regulated if a woman could get a pension from her husband's military service?

Tip: Google: Ohio compiled statutes 1830..1850

See "The laws of time and place" by Judy G. Russell | Aug 7, 2017, www.legalgenealogist.com

Summary

To successfully research women:

1. Understand which records to search.
2. Find records for her FAN Club, especially closely related men.
3. Use correct research strategies.



Presenter Contact Information

Julie Stoddard, MSc, AG[®]

Slides : ConnectTheBranch.com/presentations



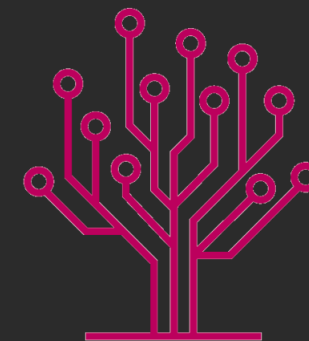
: ConnectTheBranch.com



: ConnectTheBranch.com/blog



: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/julie-a-stoddard-accredited-genealogist%C2%AE-53935341/>



rootstech

Questions?

