



Finding Forgotten Females: Where Is Great-Grandma Hiding?

Sandra MacLean Clunies, CGsm
www.clunies.net/SMC sandy@clunies.net

Harford County Public Library
5th Annual Genealogy Conference
24 March 2018

Tweaking Familiar Sources to learn more about a “Mystery Mama”

- Birth, baptismal, marriage, and death records of her known children
- Her obituary and those of proposed or possible sisters or brothers
- Death records, wills, probate records of potential parents
- Naming patterns of her children and grandchildren
- Old newspapers - using her husband's or known children's names
- Cemetery records: who is buried nearby?
- Census records Land records Church records
- Family Bibles, Military & Pension records

Is She Hiding in Plain Sight? Or Slightly in the Shadows?

- Study the men in her life
- Case Studies: Hannah Wade/Weed and Elvira Louise Cass

Some Black Holes of US Research

- Pre-1850 census
- “Burned Courthouses”
- Legal Status of Women

Check out these quality genealogy websites:

“Invisible Women Ancestors: Tips for Tracing the Women in Your Family Tree” by Kimberly Powell. <https://www.thoughtco.com/invisible-women-ancestors-1422869>

“Evidence Explained: Historical Analysis, Citation & Source Usage” - Elizabeth Shown Mills - Quick Lessons, Quick Tips <https://www.evidenceexplained.com/>

Selected Bibliography

Books:

Carmack, Sharon DeBartolo. *A Genealogist's Guide to Discovering Your Female Ancestors* Cincinnati: Betterway Books, 1998.

Collins, Gail. *America's Women: 400 Years of Dolls, Drudges, Helpmates, and Heroines* New York: Harper Collins, 2004.

Miller Jr., Robert K.; McNamee, Stephen J. (Eds.) *Inheritance and Wealth in America*. New York: Springer, 1998.

Myers, Patty Barthell compiler. *Female Index to "Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England" by James Savage*. Baltimore: Gen. Pub. Co. Inc., 2008

Schaefer, Christina Kassabian. *The Hidden Half of the Family: A Sourcebook for Women's Genealogy*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1998.

Shammas, Carole, M. Salmon, and M. Dahlin. *Inheritance in America From Colonial Times to the Present*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1987.

Speth, Linda and Alison D. Hirsch. *Women, Family, and Community in Colonial America: Two Perspectives*. New York: Haworth Press, 1983.

Law and Genealogy- Special Issue of *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, Vol. 95, No. 3 (Sep 2007)

Ulrich, Laurel Thatcher. *Good Wives: Image and Reality in the Lives of Women in Northern New England 1650-1750*. New York: Vintage Books USA, 1991.

Quality Websites:

Women & Naturalization Laws: See series of articles by Marian Smith in NARA's Summer 1998 *Prologue* online:

www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/1998/summer/women-and-naturalization-1.html

Library of Congress, Searching for Female Ancestors: A Selected Bibliography
www.loc.gov/rr/genealogy/bib_guid/female.pdf

NARA - Carolyn Faulkner, compiler. Pathfinder for Women's History at:
www.archives.gov/research/alic/reference/women.html

Read Martha Ballard's Diary online at: <http://dohistory.org/diary/index.html>

Many more resources at: www.cyndislist.com/female.htm