

Discovering Your Female Ancestors

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How to Begin Your Research

- Place women into their legal, familial, and historical contexts
 - Legal: Learn about the laws that governed the countries, colonies, and states in which your female ancestors lived
 - Familial: Explore female ancestors' roles within their family and society
 - Historical: Research the broader historical events that occurred in your female ancestors' lives.

Types of Records

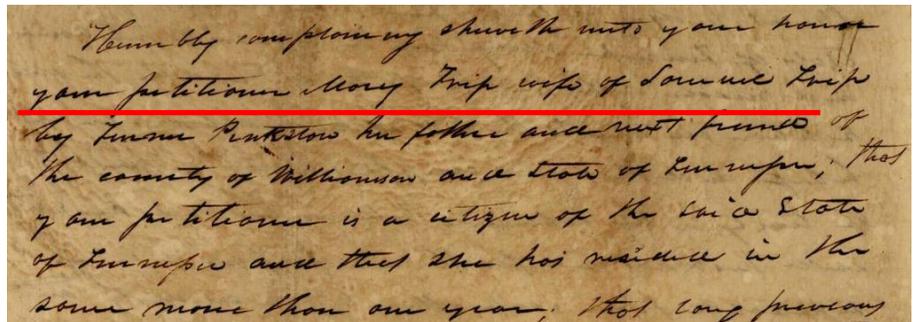
1. Records Created **By** Women – Records that women created themselves
 - Letters
 - Account Books
 - Oral Histories
 - Diaries and Journals
 - Memoirs
 - Family Bible entries
2. Records Created **About** Women – Records created both with and without their direct input
 - Church records
 - Military pensions
 - City Directories
 - Naturalization records
 - Court Records
 - Newspapers
 - Divorce records
 - Passenger lists
 - Guardianship records
 - School records
 - Land records
 - Tombstone inscriptions
 - Marriage records
 - Wills and probate records

Divorce Records

Can include:

1. Date of marriage
2. Names of children
3. Residence

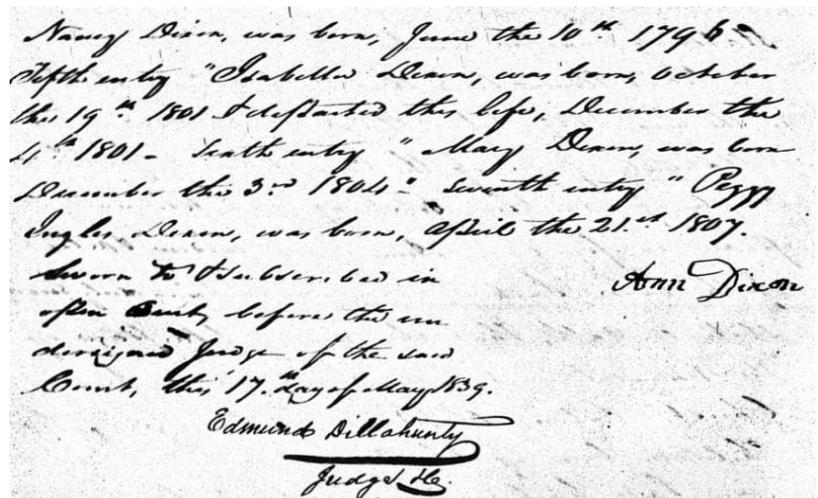
- Relatives often named as “next friend(s)”
- Women’s thoughts and feelings often expressed



Widows' Pension Applications

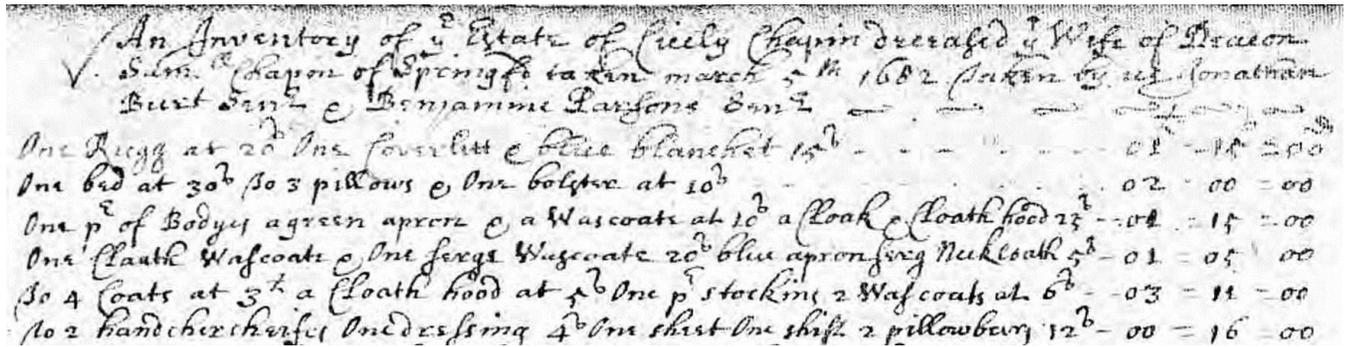
Can include:

1. Name of husband(s)
2. Names and ages of children
3. Maiden name
4. Migration patterns



Wills and Inventories

1. Show their relationships with family and friends
2. Inventories show their socio-economic status and personalities
 - Clothing and jewelry
 - Household possessions
 - Bibles and books
 - Professional items

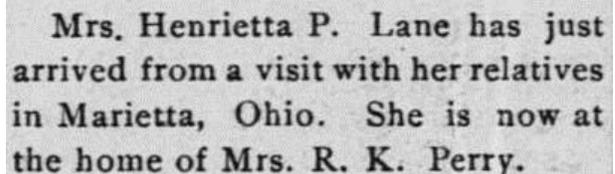


An Inventory of the Estate of Cicely Chapin deceased & Wife of Isaac
S. M. Chapin of Springfield taken March 5th 1682 taken by J. Jonathan
Burt Senr & Benjamin Parsons Senr

One Dugge at 20^o One fowlett & blue blanchet 10^o - - - - - 01 - 10 - 00
One bed at 30^o 30 3 pillows & One bolster at 10^o - - - - - 02 - 00 - 00
One p^o of Bodys a green apron & a Wascote at 10^o a Cloak & Cloath hood 2^o - - 04 - 15 - 00
One Cloath Wascote & One serge Wascote 20^o blue apron fowlett 5^o - 01 - 05 - 00
30 4 Coats at 3^o a Cloath hood at 2^o One p^o stockins 2 Wascote at 6^o - 03 - 11 - 00
30 2 handkercheres One dressing 4^o One shirt One shift 2 pillowbeere 12^o - 00 - 16 - 00

Newspapers

1. Social columns
2. Marriage announcements
3. Business advertisements



Mrs. Henrietta P. Lane has just arrived from a visit with her relatives in Marietta, Ohio. She is now at the home of Mrs. R. K. Perry.

Woman's Who's Who of America, 1914-1915

1. 9,644 biographies
2. Represented:
 - Arts/Sciences
 - Professions/Business
 - Education
 - Religion
 - Literature
3. For and against woman's suffrage

PRESCOTT, Harriet Beardslee, 36 Gramercy Park, N.Y. City.
Librarian; b. Boston, Mass., Aug. 21, 1866; dau. Nathan and Maria H. (Beardslee) Bean; ed. Mt. Holyoke Coll., 1886; N.Y. State Library School, 1889. Mem. Big Sister movement. Favors woman suffrage. Episcopalian. Mem. Am. Library Ass'n, New York Library Ass'n, New York Library Club.

Almshouse and Old Age Home

Records

1. Poor women sought refuge in almshouses run by the county or state
 - Trustees reports recorded names and occupations of female residents
 - Almshouse residents were enumerated on census records
2. Women paid to be residents in old age homes in Tennessee
 - Old Ladies Home in Chattanooga
 - Old Woman's Home in Nashville: records in Metro Nashville Archives

Methods for Solving Identity Issues

1. Identify, Eliminate, and Strengthen
 - Identify possibilities, eliminate options through research, and strengthen the last option with all available resources
2. Point of Origin
 - Identify the time/place of the problem, and work forwards and backwards from that point using a known fact as a guide
3. Kinship Analysis
 - Study records left by male and female relatives and analyze the information

