LIBRARY OF MICHIGAN

FINDING YOUR FEMALE ANCESTORS

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FINDING FEMALE ANCESTORS…

Keep in Mind: Search by maiden name and husband's name, Look for FAN Club (friends, neighbors, and associates), and learn about her historical and legal context to gain clues for where to search.

IN NEWSPAPERS

- What to find: Vital records, social columns, news stories, legal articles and notices, political stories, advertisements and classifieds, and sometimes images
- How to find: Start with most local paper, take note of the layout, and look at multiple papers
- Where to find:
  - LM Library Catalog: www.AnswerCat.org
  - LM Databases: www.Michigan.gov/LMDatabases
  - Digital Michigan Newspaper Portal: https://digmichnews.cmich.edu/
  - Library of Congress Chronicling America: https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/
  - Wikipedia: List of online Newspaper Archives: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:List_of_online_newspaper_archives

IN ORGANIZATION PUBLICATIONS

- What to find: Organizations, societies, clubs for women published lots of materials such as annual reports, cookbooks, yearbooks, etc.
- How to find: Use city directories, local and national women's periodicals. Remember often male organizations had a female counterpart.
- Where to find:
  - Libraries, archives, historical/genealogical societies
  - Genealogy databases such as Ancestry, FamilySearch, and MyHeritage

IN GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

- What to find: Names of those interacting with government, historical information, photographs, etc.
- How to find: You will need to look at Federal, State, and Local government documents. May also need to look at the laws surrounding your ancestor to see where she might interact with government.
- Where to find:
  - Libraries, archives, historical/genealogical societies, government offices, museums (may have digital collections, ex. Library of Michigan Digital)
  - Government websites
  - HathiTrust Digital Library: https://www.hathitrust.org/
  - Internet Archive: https://archive.org/