

## Researching *Literary Ladies*: Discovering Women's Stories Using Local Sources

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### Starting points:

Local clubs and organizations

Local public libraries

City directories; files or photos on local families, homes, events...

Local public schools, colleges/universities

Libraries; history department projects/databases, research; scholarships in local women's/alums' names

Local historical and genealogical societies—Collections, FB site(s), website(s)

Local history publications

Local authors writing about the region—books, articles, even fiction (authors' local research!)

Local historical homes—Owners, Library of Congress WPA survey of historic homes, local researchers,

local property assessment website; pamphlets/info from local home tours

Local newspapers

Society pages, local news columns (for smaller, surrounding towns), special editions

Local cemeteries

On-site offices, the city/town department in charge of public cemeteries

Local churches—Membership lists and records, photo directories, named memorials

The FAN Club (Friends, Associates, Neighbors)

Email/contact individuals in the FAN group & identified via Ancestry.com, Find a Grave,  
local newspapers, ...

Oral history collections—Online sites; productions of/held by local colleges/universities, town projects, churches;

oral histories related to town, region, event projects

Yearbooks—Held by families, schools, libraries, eYearbook.com (\$)

Wills, probate records—Online or local courthouses

Google, eBay--Search the name AND town, event, location,...

### Resources for Researching Women

*Crista Cowan*—"Finding Women's Maiden Names" (18 Mar 2020, 24 min.),

posted to GSCC FB page 6 Jun 2020: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q0-8FY9mkIQ>

*Elizabeth Shown Mills*, "Finding Females: Wives, Mothers, Daughters, Sisters, and Paramours" and "Elusive Ancestors" presented at the 2021 Virtual Family History Conference.

See her article "Finding Wives, Mothers and Old Women with Suitcases," *Ancestry*, March/April 2007, vol. 25, no. 2, pp 22-27, at chrome

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*Maureen Taylor*, The Photo Detective, webinar at maurentaylor.com: "Reading Clues in Photos of Women: Wives, Daughters, Sisters, and Mothers."

*Brian Mulcahy*, "Researching Your Ancestors" (PDF), hand-out from his 2017 GSCC program, at chrome-

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