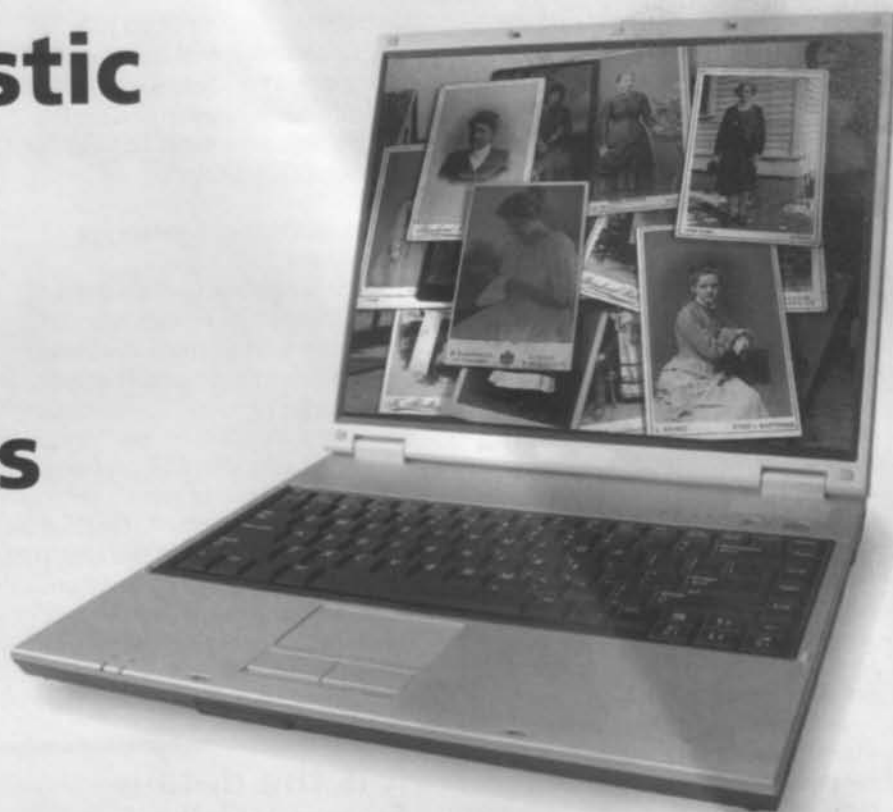


15 Fantastic Sites For Tracing Female Ancestors

Lisa A. Alzo looks at the top websites for researching the women in your family tree



TRACING THE FEMALES in your family tree can be a daunting task. But there are plenty of online resources to help you track them down. Here's a list of 15 fabulous websites for finding female ancestors (listed in alphabetical order). We've omitted listing the major players (subscription databases) already known to most genealogists to focus on those with more female-friendly information.

1. American Women's History: A Research Guide

<http://frank.mtsu.edu/~kmiddlet/history/women.html>

American Women's History provides citations to print and Internet reference sources, as well as to selected large primary source collections of more 2,100+ citations to print and Internet sources, 1,200+ links to Internet sources, and 500+ links to Digital Collections of Primary Sources.

2. BehindtheName

www.behindthename.com

Want to learn the meaning of your female ancestor's first name, or its origin and variations? Try this free site dedicated to the etymology

and history of first names. Use the search box, or search by ethnic group. You can also learn about Name Days and use fun tools like the Name Translator or the Random Renamer.

3. BellaOnline: The Voice of Women Genealogy Site

www.bellaonline.com/site/Genealogy
Genealogy Editor, Tina Sansone writes informative articles on a variety of genealogy topics from Book and Product Reviews to Beginners Genealogy, Ethnic Links to Online Databases.

4. Cyndi's List: Female Ancestors

www.cyndislist.com/female.htm
Cyndi's List has been around since 1996, and currently contains more than 282,000 links for family history, with more than 170 links for female ancestors. The site has a main index, as well as a topical, alphabetical, and "no frills" and "text-only" indexes, or type a topic in the search box.

5. Discovering Women's History Online

<http://library.mtsu.edu/digital/projects/womenshistory.php>

This database provides access to digital collections of primary sources (photos, letters, diaries, artifacts, etc.) that document the history of women in the United States. Browse by: Subjects, States, Time Periods, or Primary Source Types, or use the Search box to type in a topic. One of the more interesting collections is Katrina Thomas Ethnic Wedding Photograph Collection (Bryn Mawr College) that includes more than 800 photographs of ethnic weddings in the US (1960s-90s). More than 70 ethnic and religious groups are represented. The "Photographer's notes" section of each record provides contextual information about individual photographs.

6. Distinguished Women of the Past and Present

www.distinguishedwomen.com

This site created by Danuta Bois, and featuring 5,282 links to 1875 women keeps growing. You'll find biographies on writers, educators, scientists, heads of state, politicians, civil rights crusaders, artists, entertainers and others, and plenty of women not in the history books.

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Browse by subject or search by name. Be sure to check out the other useful resources and Danuta's Blog at <http://danutaboais.tumblr.com>.

7. Fearless Females: 31 Blogging Prompts to Celebrate Women's History Month

www.theaccidentalgenealogist.com/2010/02/fearless-females-31-blogging-prompts-to.html

Okay, this is a bit of self-promotion, but many readers of my Blog enjoyed participating in this daily blogging event to celebrate Women's History Month in March. Each day was a different prompt to honor a female ancestor.

8. MaidenName.net

www.maidenname.net

If you're looking for a woman from your past, you might hit it lucky searching this database. The database is free, but you must register to search it and/or its MS.ing Persons Bulletin Board. The site is strictly voluntary. Each member's information has been entered by that member. The site does not obtain any data from any outside source. The site has been featured in *Parade Magazine* and *USA Today*.

9. National Women's History Museum

www.nwhm.org

The official website of the National Women's History Museum located in Alexandria, Virginia. Watch a video clip of actress Meryl Streep introducing the museum, or take a virtual tour via the museum's CyberExhibits covering a wide range of topics from Women in Industry to Rights for Women of Jamestown. You'll also find educational resources, such as self-guided tours, biographies, and lesson plans and quizzes (for teachers).

10. Notable Women Ancestors

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nwa

A free website by genealogist Susanne "Sam" Behling, hosted on RootsWeb offers an interesting

www.internet-genealogy.com

database of female ancestors organized alphabetically or by categories. There are links to other websites and recommended books to aid with your research.

11. Oral History in the Perry Library (Women's History and Issues)

www.lib.odu.edu/special/oralhistory/womenhistory

This site offers an alphabetical listing of oral histories in the Perry Library collection that pertain in whole or part to women's history and issues. Brief descriptions for each interview are listed. To listen to the audio, you must have RealPlayer and the appropriate



plug-in installed. A free download can be found at www.real.com/realplayer.

12. Prologue: Women & Naturalization Records

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

"Any woman who is now or may hereafter be married..." Women and Naturalization, c. 1802-1940, by Marian L. Smith for *Prologue: Quarterly of the National Archives and Records Administration Summer 1998, vol. 30, no. 2*. This article examines why women are not represented in early US naturalization records.

13. The Library of Congress American Memory Project

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/browse/ListSome.php?category=Women's History>

The American Memory collection provides free and open access to

historic documents, maps, photos, audio and video. The site has seven collections dedicated to Women's History.

14. Top 10 Places to Find Maiden Names

http://genealogy.about.com/od/surnames/tp/maiden_names.htm

Genealogist Kimberly Powell's detailed article on ten record/resources to consult to track down a female ancestor's maiden name.

15. Women's Rights National Historic Park and Museum

www.nps.gov/wori/index.htm

In 1848, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and four other women invited the public to the First Women's Rights Convention to discuss expanding the role of women in America. At the end of the two days, 100 people made a public commitment to work together to improve women's quality of life. This official website of the Women's Rights National Historic Park and Museum located in Seneca Falls, New York, has stories, photographs and history detailing the participants of the First Women's Rights Convention, plus information on planning a trip/visit to the museum, special events and much more.

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Author, instructor and lecturer, Lisa A. Alzo, is a regular contributor to Internet Genealogy.