



Finding Female Ancestors

2017 JCGS Brick Walls



What We'll Cover

- ▶ When you have a last (full) name
- ▶ When you have a first name only
- ▶ When you have no name
- ▶ Building a circumstantial case



When You Have a Last Name



Questions to Ask



- ▶ Is last name a maiden name or married name?
 - ▶ How old is woman?
 - ▶ Is it likely she was previously married?
 - ▶ Any clue in record
 - ▶ named Mrs. Mary Smith or identified as widow or spinster
- ▶ Is it likely last name is correct?
 - ▶ Primary or Secondary source
 - ▶ Original or Derivative source



Appears to be Maiden Name

- ▶ Birth or Baptismal record
- ▶ Census records
- ▶ Marriage record
- ▶ Probate for men with that last name
- ▶ Deeds for those men

If no direct connections, might find husband associated as witness or neighbor in some of these documents



Hannah Johnson, wife of Timothy Kidder

- ▶ Burial (FindAGrave)
 - ▶ Hannah J. Kidder "wife of T. L. Kidder"
 - ▶ Died 18 Oct 1872, age 74Y 10M 26D
- ▶ Marriage Record: 18 May 1820, Timothy L. Kidder and Hannah Johnson
 - ▶ Both of Weathersfield (Windsor Co., VT)
 - ▶ James Converse, Pastor Church in Weathersfield
 - ▶ Age 22 at marriage
 - ▶ Children born 1821 (age 23) – 1843 (age 46)
- ▶ Birth (no record)
 - ▶ 22 Nov 1797 (calculated from tombstone); age at marriage fits
 - ▶ VT (census; one record shows NH)

Johnsons in Weathersfield in 1820

- ▶ Uriah Johnson
 - ▶ 1800 census in Weathersfield (daughter right age)
 - ▶ Uriah Johnson of Chester married Dorcas Heald 9 Oct 1788
 - ▶ 1810 census in Weathersfield (no daughter of right age)
 - ▶ 1820 & 1830 in Springfield (maybe not same man)
 - ▶ Deed index 1810-1818
- ▶ Nathan Johnson
 - ▶ Deed index 1810-1818
- ▶ Jeremiah Johnson
 - ▶ Deed index 1810-1818
 - ▶ 1800 census in Weathersfield (daughter right age)
 - ▶ VT Vital Records – children born 1797 (Tomazine), 1799, 1803, 1805, 1807
- ▶ John Johnson
 - ▶ Deed index 1810-1818
 - ▶ 1800 census Weathersfield (daughter of right age)

Timeline for Hannah Johnson Kidder

Date	Location	Event
1797	VT	Birth
1800 - 1820	?	Census
1820	Windsor Co., VT	Marriage to Timothy Kidder
1821 – 1828	Windsor Co., VT	Birth of children
1830	Somerset Co., ME	Census
1840	Somerset Co., ME	Census
1850	Jefferson Co., NY	Census
1860	Sauk Co., WI	Census
1870	Eau Clair Co., WI	Census
1872	Eau Clair Co., WI	Death



Ann (O')Connor wife of John McInerney

- ▶ Death Certificate
 - ▶ Died 13 Mar 1903 in St. Clair Co., MI
 - ▶ Born 17 Mar 1843 in Ireland
 - ▶ Parents Patrick Conner & Anna Ryan
- ▶ Marriage Record (St. Clair Co., MI)
 - ▶ 8 Feb 1863
 - ▶ John McInerney of Riley age 30 & Anne Connor of Emmet age 20
 - ▶ Witnesses: Thomas Ryan, Johanna Casey
- ▶ Death Certificates of children
 - ▶ Ann/Anne O'Connor and Anna Connors



Conner/Conners/O'Conner Connections

- ▶ Man/men of name Patrick Conner/O'Conner in St. Clair Co., MI
 - ▶ Too young to be father
 - ▶ Possible brother or nephew?
- ▶ Children's names: no Patrick or Ann
 - ▶ Gaps in birth order suggest there could have been more children
 - ▶ Six children known; 1900 census suggests 11 children
- ▶ Immigration of Ann Conner/O'Conner
 - ▶ 1900 Census: arrival 1857
 - ▶ 1910 Census: arrival 1861
- ▶ Obituaries
- ▶ FAN Club – start with witnesses to wedding; other Conner/O'Conner



When You Have Only a First Name



Clues to Maiden Name

- ▶ In-laws in census records
- ▶ Records of children
 - ▶ Marriage or death records might name mother
- ▶ Obituary of a father or brother
- ▶ Widow's military pensions
- ▶ Names of Children
 - ▶ Maiden name used as first or middle name
- ▶ Deeds
- ▶ FAN Club
 - ▶ Neighbors and associates often intermarried

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Phebe, wife of John Craft

- ▶ No marriage record found
- ▶ Deeds for John Craft as grantor
 - ▶ Aaron and Caty Hibbs of OH, John and Tamer Purdam of KY, **John and Phebe Craft** of Greene Co., PA, and Peter and Mary Myers of Greene Co., (Aaron, Tamer, Phebe and Mary being **children of Jacob Hibbs**) quit-claimed a tract in Fayette Co. to Lacy Hibbs



Rebecca, wife of David Harrington

- ▶ Using FAN Club
 - ▶ David Harrington named “next of kin” in inventory of George Gault in 1728; left legacy in will
 - ▶ Another George Gault left will in 1721 naming children William, Thomas, George, Rebecca, Mary, Elizabeth and Martha
 - ▶ Last 5 under age
 - ▶ William & Thomas both died prior to George Jr.
- ▶ Was Rebecca Harrington the daughter of George Gault Sr.?



Ann/Nancy, wife of Jonathan Garard

- Sometimes it's just luck!

- Many land deeds – wife was named either Ann or Nancy

- Quaker Meeting Record:

- Women's Meeting informed that Ann Garrett, formerly Gregg, has accomplished her marriage contrary to discipline. A Testimony to be drawn against her

- She signed Ann Jarrard

- Research into John Gregg suggests Ann was his daughter*



When You Have No Name



When You Have No Name

- ▶ Look for marriage record
 - ▶ May not be found
 - ▶ If husband has common name, how can you be sure you have right one?
- ▶ Look for deed records to get a first name (women's dower)
 - ▶ Pensions, will, etc.
- ▶ Clues from children's names
 - ▶ Ethnic naming patterns
 - ▶ Maiden name used as first or middle name
- ▶ Husband's life events
- ▶ FAN Club/Collateral research
 - ▶ Abstracts of deed & probate records
 - ▶ Follow children for clues



Husband's Life Events

- ▶ John Kepner (born 1775) married Elizabeth Loy per county history
- ▶ Wife's name was Elizabeth in all records
- ▶ John Kepner had been named Executor of Andrew Fryberger's 1817 estate
 - ▶ Final accounting lists a legacy paid to "Jno. Kepner married to Elizabeth Fryberger daughter of A. Fryberger"
- ▶ John's eldest son Benjamin died in 1825 and John appointed Administrator
 - ▶ Estate File: paper which stated that John had not credited the estate with 1/12th part of the estate of Andrew Freyberger who bequeathed his estate to his six children, "the mother of Benjamin Kepner deceased" being one of them, and that she died in the lifetime of her father leaving two children – Benjamin Kepner the deceased and Elizabeth – who are entitled to 1/12th of the residue of the their grandfather's estate



First Wife of George Jacob Bloss

- ▶ George Jacob Bloss
 - ▶ Born 1759, Augusta Co., VA; son of Conrad Bloss
- ▶ First Wife
 - ▶ Children born 1782-1790 in Rockingham, VA
 - ▶ Some children reportedly baptized in Shenandoah Co., VA
- ▶ Second Wife (marriage record)
 - ▶ Marie Catherine Gray; 11 Nov 1799
 - ▶ Children?



“Burned County”

➤ **ALL IS LOST!**

➤ *Not so fast!*

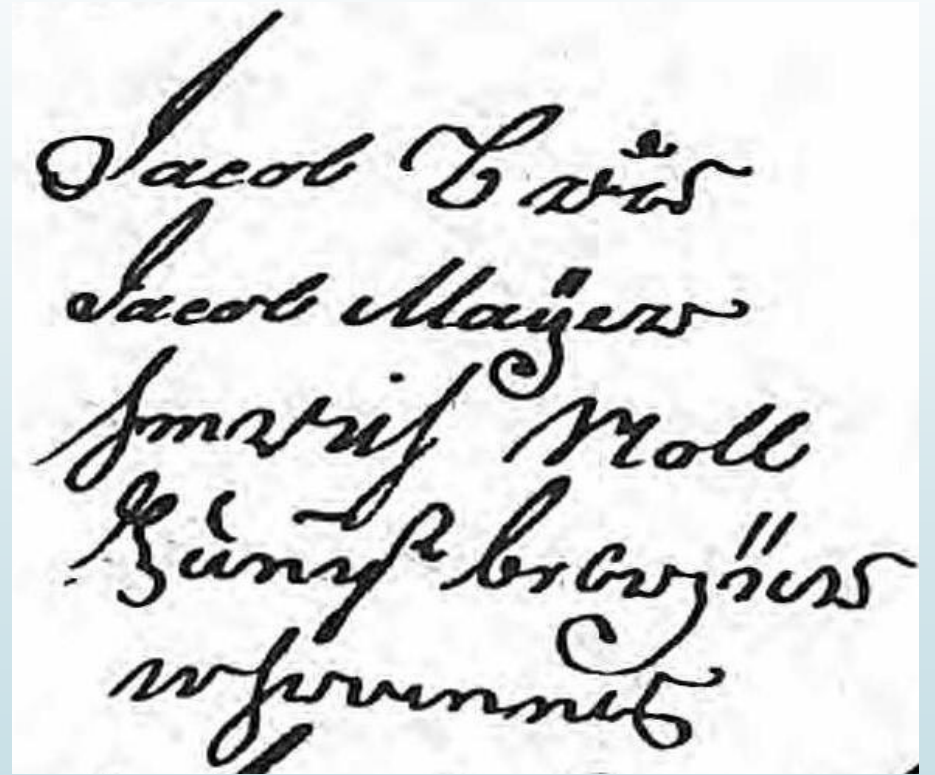
Probably Married Within FAN Club

- ▶ Build FAN Club and follow those families
 - ▶ Example:
 - ▶ George Blowes bought item at estate sale of Arnest **Amone** in Augusta Co., 1776
 - ▶ Ernest **Amon** died 1784 in Shenandoah Co.
 - ▶ Adam Blöse died 1829 in Rockingham Co.; Jacob **Ammon** surety in Administrator's Bond
 - ▶ Example:
 - ▶ Alvanus **Bowyer** surety in Conrad Bloss' 1774 estate in Augusta Co.
 - ▶ Alvenious **Bowyer** bought item at estate sale of Nicholas Hull in 1770 [Null, Priss/Price other buyers also bought at Amone's sale]
 - ▶ Example:
 - ▶ Conrad Bloze named Jacob **Moyer** Executor in 1773 will (Augusta Co.); **Moyer**, Null, **Bowyer** appraised estate of Amone in 1775
 - ▶ Adam Bloss surety for guardian bond for Daniel Baugher [**Bowyer?**] for child of Jacob **Moyer** 1796 in Rockingham Co.
 - ▶ Daniel **Baugher** surety for Adam Bloss as Administrator of George Jacob Bloss's estate (Rockingham Co.)

Cautionary Note About Relying on Abstracts

Abstract for Conrad Bloss' inventory said

“Gunrod Bloss' estate appraised by (5 Germans).”



Handwritten list of names in German cursive script:

- Jacob Bloss
- Jacob Mayers
- Johann Moll
- Kunigundis
- Wolfgang



Circumstantial Evidence

The Real World of Genealogical Research



What is Circumstantial Evidence?

- ▶ A collection of facts that, when considered together, can be used to **infer** a conclusion about something unknown.
- ▶ A theory, supported by a **significant quantity of corroborating evidence**. ...

Satisfied yourself can't do more at this time



When is Circumstantial Case Okay?

- ▶ Genealogical Proof Standard

Board of Certified Genealogists

- ▶ A **reasonably exhaustive** search for all pertinent information
- ▶ A complete and accurate citation to the source of each item used
- ▶ Analysis of the collected information's quality as evidence
- ▶ Resolution of any conflicting or contradictory evidence
- ▶ Arrive at a soundly reasoned, coherently written conclusion

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Ask the Right Questions

- ▶ What do I know?
- ▶ What do I want to know?
- ▶ Where do I Look?
- ▶ How do I use the Information?



Who Was Cornelia Vanderveer's Father?

Starting with a full name

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What is Known of the Husband?

- ▶ “Kernelia” Vanderveer married John Stryker
- ▶ John Stryker was born 1707
- ▶ John Stryker lived in Brooklyn
 - ▶ His Father John in militia 1715
 - ▶ His family attended Dutch Reformed Church



Vanderveer Families?

- ▶ Cornelia (born 1711)
 - ▶ Parents born before 1692
 - ▶ Parents married before 1710
 - ▶ Parents lived in Brooklyn

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Researching Cornelia

- ▶ *Early Settlers of Kings County*
- ▶ Daughter of Dominicus Vanderveer and Maria Van Nortwick



Dominicus Vanderveer

Maria Van Nortwick

- ▶ Married 1702/03, Brooklyn
- ▶ Maria died September 1712, Brooklyn
- ▶ No children recorded:
 - ▶ Son Cornelius born about 1704 proved from deeds
- ▶ Could be other children before she died
- ▶ Dominicus remarried and had more children after 1719, but not mother of Cornelia



Negative Results

- ▶ No Deeds from Dominicus Vanderveer
 - ▶ Proof of son, New Jersey Mortgage reference
- ▶ No Church Records
 - ▶ Children with Maria or marriage of Cornelia
- ▶ No will for Dominicus
- ▶ No FAN Club identified from husband John Stryker's records

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The Families Knew Each Other

- ▶ Dominicus and Maria lived in Brooklyn
- ▶ Dominicus was Captain of Militia that included John Stryker
- ▶ Both Families attended same church



Dutch Naming Pattern

- ▶ John and Cornelia Vanderveer Stryker's kids
 - ▶ From Vanderveer names:
 - ▶ Dominicus= Her Father
 - ▶ Maria= Her Mother
 - ▶ Cornelia= Her maternal Grandmother
 - ▶ Cornelius= Her paternal Grandfather
 - ▶ Children Peter and Margaret from Stryker names



Other Vanderveer Families?

- ▶ Dominicus had brother John
- ▶ He did not have a daughter Cornelia
- ▶ Only other possible father in Brooklyn

- ▶ *Early Settlers of Kings County* names children of Dominicus and Maria
 - ▶ Cornelia, Cornelius, Hendrick



Conflicting Evidence

- ▶ One author gives Cornelia, wife of John Stryker, with maiden name Duryea
- ▶ Disproved by John and Cornelia Stryker family bible
 - ▶ Her name Vanderveer

- ▶ No other Conflicting Evidence



Summary Statement



- ▶ Cornelia, wife of John Stryker, was child of Dominicus Vanderveer and Maria Van Nortwick
 - ▶ Lived in Brooklyn
 - ▶ Families interacted
 - ▶ Ages of all people consistent
 - ▶ Naming pattern of children
 - ▶ No alternate candidate found

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It's Possible to Find that Elusive Female!

- ▶ Be creative
- ▶ Look beyond vital records
- ▶ Think about your own life – interactions with in-laws
 - ▶ Clues from FAN Club
- ▶ Research collaterally as well as vertically
- ▶ Use all the clues at your disposal!