

RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

Finding Women Through Community Cookbooks



Lay the Foundation

- ☐ Birth, Marriage, Death
- ☐ Census

Dollop on Details

- ☐ City Directories
- ☐ Newspapers and Trade Publications
- ☐ Deeds
- ☐ Diaries and Letters
- ☐ Cemetery Records
- ☐ Naturalization/Immigration Records
- ☐ School Records

Add Cups of Context

- ☐ House Histories
- ☐ Local Histories
- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photograph and Postcard Collections
- ☐ FAN and FAM
- ☐ Town Reports

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The clues within a community cookbook typically supply a name, time and place and sometimes more. Use those clues as starting points to lay a foundation for your research. Search for Birth, Marriage, and Death records. Search census records, decade by decade to establish a timeline.

Dollop on Details

Once a timeline has been established and a family group has been identified, begin to search for more personal details using, newspapers, trade publications, deeds, diaries and letters, cemetery records, city directories, naturalization/immigration records, and school records. Some of these may be found on databases like Ancestry, Newspapers.com, Genealogybank and FamilySearch. Others will be tucked away in local repositories.

Add Cups of Context

No one exists in a void. Remember your research subject walked the streets, worked, had relationships and existed in a physical space. The context of the world around them can help embellish their story. Look for context in local house histories and Urban Renewal Project archives. Look to maps and atlases, photograph collections, local histories (ideally authored by local experts) and town reports. Remember to also look at the lives around your research subject (FAN and Fam).

Many of your context searches should hone in on the area, which is an opportunity to reach out and partner with local libraries, historical societies and archives.