# Finding Women Ancestors in **New Jersey**

Regina Fitzpatrick, Genealogy Librarian



#### Todaywe will...

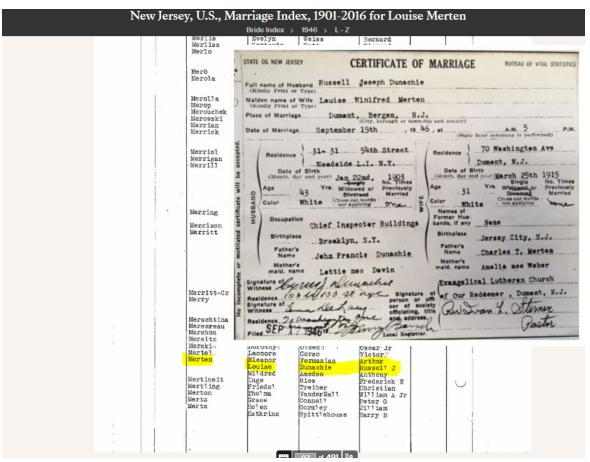
- Review strategies for:
  - Researching after May 1848 (when the state began to collect civil vital recordsmore personal information about individuals)
  - Researching before May 1848 (less) common for women to appear in records outside of marriage collections, often fewer details, more book research)
  - Find a woman you are researching based on information in someone else's record

| 1 PLACE OF DEATH  County / Assare State of Ne  | ew Jersey—Bureau of Vital Statistics.  |
|--|--|
| CERTI  | FICATE AND RECORD OF DEATH.  |
| Township   | Registered No  |
| city Jalensa (No. Barne)  2 FULL NAME OF DECEASED Rose   | (If death occurred in a hospital or institution give its NAME instead of street and number.  |
| PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS   | MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH   |
| 3.0EX 4 COLOR OR BACE 5 SINGLE, MARRIED, MARRIED, MOOVED, OR DIVORCED OR DIVORCED (Write the word) | 16 DATE OF DEATH  (Month)  (Day)  (Year)   |
| 6 DATE OF BIRTH Not known , 1800   | 17 I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I aftended deceased from   |
| (Month) (Day) (Year)  7 AGE   If LESS than 1 day,hrs.  | that I last saw her alive on Sec. 14, 1918, and that death occurred, on the date above stated, at 34 m.  |
| yrs. mos. ds. or min.?   | The CAUSE OF DEATH* was as follows:  |
| (a) Trade, Protession, or Hausework (b) General nature of Industry, business, or establishment in  | Meimonia.  |
| 9 BIRTHPLACE (State or country)  Question 19 Country)  | (duration) yrs mos. 8 ds.  |
| 10 NAME OF Paer Paikin.  | (SECONDARY) (Question) yrs. mos. S. ds. (Signed) Walter Summy, M. D.   |
| OF FATHER (State or country) Tussia.   | Dec 14, 1918 (Address) Salender II.  |
| a minum  | %State the Disease Causing Death, or, in deaths from Violeyst<br>Causes, state (1) Means of Injury; and (2) whether Accidental,<br>Suicidal, or Homicidal. |
| OF MOTHER (State or country)   | 18 LENGTH OF RESIDENCE (FOR HOSPITALS, INSTITUTIONS, TRANSIENTS, OR RECENT RESIDENTS) At place In the of deathyrsmosds.                                    |
| 14 THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE  (Informant)                                      | Where was disease contracted, if not at place of death? Former or usual residence 22 Euc S   |
| (Address) 2 Eine Shapen  | Duck Jam Cum Date of BURIAL DATE OF BURIAL DATE OF BURIAL  |
| File Lee 19 , 191 REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS REGISTRAR.   | Decend Lice 2/Hanvellet  |
|  | PATERSON, N. J.  |



#### **Always Start With Vital Records**

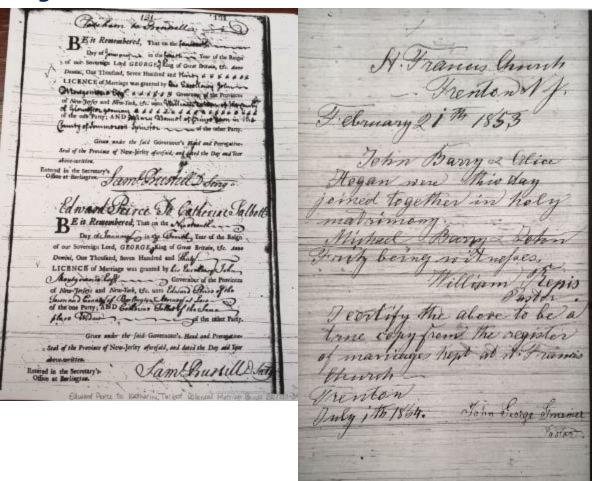
- NJ Vital Records May 1848-May 1878 are digitized on Ancestry
- Order state Birth Records 100 years old and older (back to May 1848) and State Marriage and Death Records May 1848-December 1940 from NJ State Archives.
- Searchable indexes on the Archives' website (order records remotely):
  - Marriages May 1848-December 1900
  - Deaths June 1878-December 1900
- Additional indexes available on FamilySearch.org, Archive.org, and Ancestry. Still order records from NJSA.
- **Several years of Archive.org marriage indexes** have a Bride's Index, so you can search by her name.





#### **Marriage Collections pre May 1848**

- Colonial Marriage Bonds-parties were enjoined in a bond swearing no impediments to the pending marriage existed. Good for researching wealthy families
  - Ca. 1670's-1800
  - Not actual marriage records, but if a couple had one they almost certainly married.
  - If either party under 21, at least father (sometimes mother) listed. Helpful when no comprehensive collection of births
  - Limited marriage records (pre 1700) included
  - **Records at State Archives**
- **County Marriages** 
  - County founding date-early 1900's
  - Only list party names, date, and officiant (if you flip back to first page of officiant's entries, may give a place of marriage)
  - Digitized on FamilySearch.org
- To build your research from these use: County Deeds, Early Land Records, court records (including NJ Supreme Court Case Files), family histories, published church records







### Naturalization Records (County founding to mid 20<sup>th</sup> **Century**)

- Women gained right to vote in U.S. in 1920
- Look woman up directly after 1922 when the Cable Act or Women's Citizenship Act passed.
- **Before 1922:**
- Look up husband or father-spouse or children are covered by his application.
- A woman citizen who married a man not a citizen might lose citizenship. See Expatriation Act of 1907.
- Women who lost citizenship because of marriage between 1907 and 1922 could take an oath of allegiance to reclaim their citizenship. (Repatriation oaths from U.S. District Court at Newark are available on FamilySearch.org under Essex County images.
- Check the Federal Population Census starting in 1900 for citizen status and immigration dates
  - AL=alien (i.e., not a citizen)
  - PA=filed papers (aka Declaration of Intention, still not a citizen)
  - NA=Naturalized (citizen)

- There are two parts to a Naturalization:
  - (Part 1)Declaration of Intention formally establishes an individual's desire to become a U.S. Citizen
  - (Part 2) Petition for Naturalization is filed when a person meets the residency requirements to become a U.S. Citizen. Full application (Declaration included) will be under the Petition.
- Order NJ Naturalizations either from:
  - New Jersey State Archives (see their website for holdings)
  - County Clerk
- Before 1907, applications have very little biographical detail

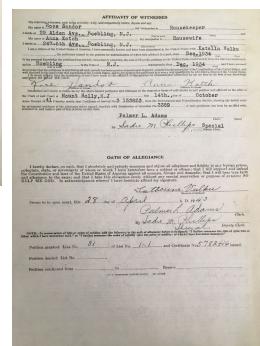




|               | U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE   |
|---------------|---|
|               | Immigration and Naturalization Service  |
|               | Market Street National Bank Building<br>Philadelphia, Penna.  |
|               | Thatmorphia, Tours.   |
| NOT           | ICE OF OBJECTION TO FINAL HEARING UNDER SECTION 326(b) OF THE MATIONALITY ACT OF 1940 (8 U.S.C. 726(b).           |
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| Common Ple    | eas Court,  |
| Mount Hol:    | ly, N. J.   |
|               |   |
|               |   |
|               | In re: Katalin Vulku,   |
|               | NATURALIZATION Petition No. 2872  |
|               |   |
| Dear Sir:     |   |
|               | The above petitioner for naturalization in your court is  |
| a native, c   | itizen, subject, or denizen of a country with which the   |
|               | es is at war. Section 326(b) of the Nationality Act of es as follows:   |
| U.S.m.        | alien embraced within this section shall not have such  |
| alie          | n's petition for naturalization called for a hearing,   |
| er h          | eard, except after ninety days notice given by the clerk  |
| of ti         | he court to the Commissioner to be represented at the<br>ing and the Commissioner's objection to such final hear- |
| hear          | shall cause the petition to be continued from time to   |
| time          | for so long as the Commissioner may require."   |
|               | Pursuant to the provisions of said act, objection is here-  |
| by internose  | ed to a final hearing in the above entitled cause. It is  |
| respectfully  | y moved that the said petition be continued until such time   |
| as objection  | n is withdrawn.   |
|               | Respectfully submitted,   |
|               | Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization  |
|               | By: 15.0001   |
| vf            | (17) moranan  |
|               | Albert Del Guercia,   |
|               | District Director.  |
| D. L. J. 43/- | day of  |
| Dated this    | 19/2.   |
| NOV 16        | 1,27  |
|               |   |
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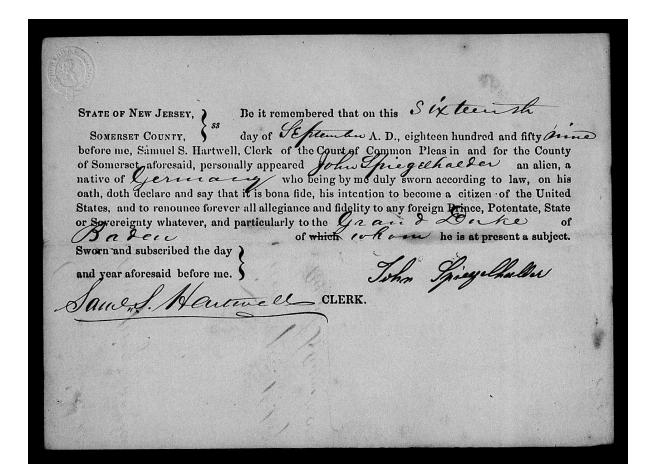
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| 1.  | CERTIFICATE   | OF ARRIVAL                                       |  |
| on the date, and in the permanent residence.                            | that the immigration records<br>as manner shown, and was Is   | show that the alien na<br>wfully admitted to the | med below arrived at the port,<br>United States of America for |
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| Form 161-Im. (N. Y.)  | очилист лично отпт. 14—2011 a   | V  | Lumigration and Naturalization.                                |



#### Catherine Vulku, Burlington County Naturalization #2872

Catherine's paperwork included with her naturalization: Petition for Naturalization (R, top and bottom), Declaration of Intention (large document, L), Certificate of Arrival (bottom C), and a Notice of Objection dated 1942 (top C). On the back of her petition (bottom right page) is an oath of allegiance, dated April 28, 1943.



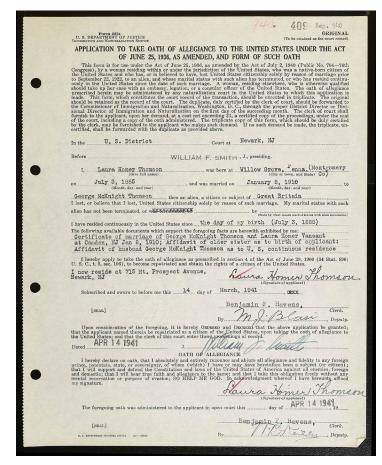


#### 1859 Declaration of Intention for John Spiegelhalder, Somerset County NJ Declarations of Intention 1840-

1860

Research from this document: Census/City Directory research, Vital Records, Estate Papers, Deeds, Military Records. 1860 and 1870 Census gives us wife and children's name, and tells us that eldest daughter was born in Baden, while the other children were born in the U.S. If we were interested in researching Francisca (Frances) Spiegelhalter, wife of John, we could check any of the above collection types in Philadelphia.





#### April 14, 1941 Repatriation Oath of Allegiance for Laura Homer Thomson at U.S. District Court of Newark, N.J.

#### #409

Repatriation Oaths of Allegiance, Newark, New Jersey | NY-724 | RG 21 | NAID 2505534: Newark Township. Citizenship Records 1941, Oaths 401-500, Mar 10, 1941-Apr 14, 1941



#### **Census and City Directories: Confirm Residence**

- **Census Population Schedules**
- 1850 and later, full household will be listed. Can find NJ households (with head listed) back until 1830. Women might be represented on census with a mark under an age group, if she is not head of house.
- Did your female relative live after 1850? Focus on these censuses first. They will have more information (depending on year):
  - Age and month and year of birth
  - Country of origin and immigration status
  - How many children living and number birthed
  - Occupation and home address
  - Number of years married
- NJ also has State Censuses 1855-1915 with demographic information (see above)
- If you have followed a family for decades on the census and a woman suddenly disappears, check her adult children's entries.
- Find these records (federal and state) on Ancestry or FamilySearch.org
- Ancestors in NJ 1772-1822 check Tax Ratables (lists head of house only, no specific street address).

- City Directories-annual publications with alphabetical listing of head of households and their occupations and home & work addresses
- Head of house may have living spouse listed in parentheses
- Recentlywidowed people may have dead spouse listed in parentheses.
- Employed boys/men in household with female head of house may have their own listings in the directories. (This may be a second way to confirm that a woman has been widowed.)
- If a household recently moved away, City Directory might include this information and say where the person moved to.
- Criss Cross directories allow researchers to see business and residential addresses by block. Will give researchers a sense of household's surrounding area
- If a recently widowed woman disappears from the censuses, check City Directories to see if she has a listing. (She may not, if she is not head of house or employed.)
- Some City Directories are digitized online (Ancestry or local repositories). State Library has a collection of over 1000 for NJ in book or microfilm format.

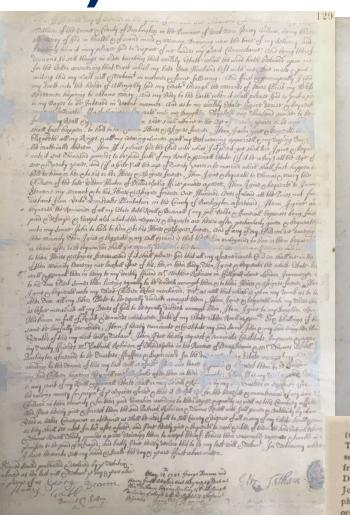


### **Census and City Directories**

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#### **Estate Papers (including Wills)**

- Kinship information (especially in a will)
- Index to Wills up to 1900 digitized
- Calendar of NJ Wills provides abstracts up to 1817
- Later 20<sup>th</sup> Century estate papers may be indexed on County Surrogate's website
- In addition to searching for woman's name in the index or abstracts check for her parents. A bequest might confirm her marital status and give husband's name.
- Check for a husband as well, as his wife may serve as his executor. Even if there is no will, the executor or administrator will be listed on other documents.
- Check for siblings or grandparents, as again, if there is a will, a woman might be granted a bequest as well.
- State Archives has <u>Estate Papers colonial era-1952</u>



whose hames are hereunto Subfiribed were present in the Iwelling House of Elizabe West New Jerse Hidon now decembed Sole lara of Hulland John Tatham of the Same Place Esq Det the twenty first day of this Install Octobe When & where we heard the Said Elizabeth bequeath to her Joughter Jorothy Hickman the Sum of two hundred Pounds and defired us the Subferibers to be Witnesses thereunto In Witne & whereof We have hereundo Set our hands the Iwenty third days of October in the twelfth to of the Reign of our Sovereign ford William I England Be King annoge Don Joseph Salva south sorty of them allost of they were from the them? 1700 Oct. 15. Tatham, Elizabeth, of Burlington, widow; will will be a laborated by the labo (much broken). Daughter Elizabeth, son John, and expected chis-Thomas and Mary, children of the late widow Hooton of Philadelphia

1700 Oct. 15. Tatham, Elizabeth, of Burlington, widow; will of (much broken). Daughter Elizabeth, son John, and expected child, Thomas and Mary, children of the late widow Hooton of Philadelphia, servant James Stevens. If children die under age, the estate is to go is friend Matthew Robinson of Fillpott Lane, London, iron mongar, Daughter Dor. Hickman receives only 6s., if lawfully demanded so John and daughter Elizabeth executors, Patrick Robinson of Philadelphia and Thomas Revell of Burlington Trustees, Feofices and Saperinors. Witnesses—George Deacon, Henry Grubb, Daniel Sutton. Proved May 21, 1701.

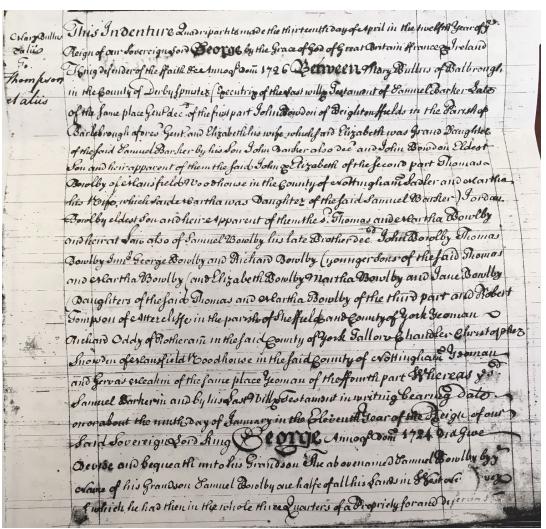
1700 Oct. 23. Nuncupative codicill, giving to daughter Deroh, Hickman £200, attested by Deb: Westland, Mary Hunloke, Mary Wheste Mary Revell, Mary Willis and Ann White.

Lib. 1, p. 33

### How Colonial Deeds can show Kinship (apply same

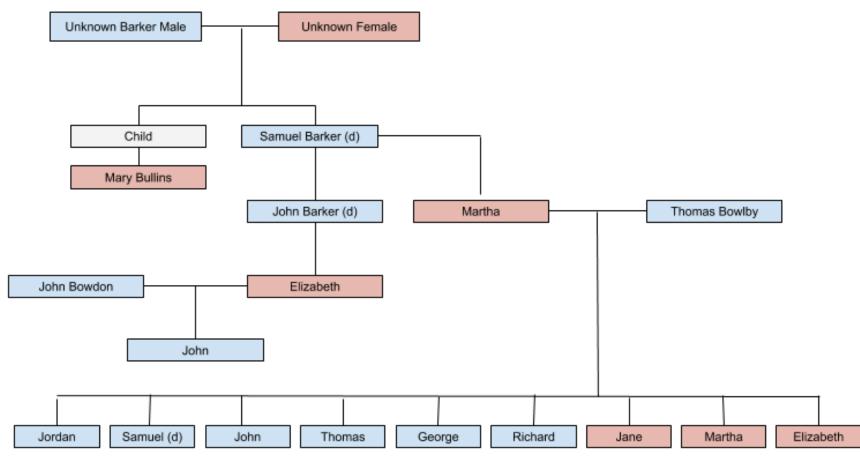
#### logic to court cases)

- Top paragraph of a 1726 deed from Mary Bullins et al. to Robert Thompson, Richard Oddy, Christoper Snowden, and Gervais Meakin, Book D (WJ) p.428
- Just from this brief paragraph we learn:
  - That the family of Samuel Barker (deceased) is selling land inherited from his estate
  - How family members are related to Samuel Barker and each other
  - Where everyone lives and what they do for a living
  - Eldest children in some of the family groups
- If we read further in the document, we get an abstract of Samuel Barker's will, which left a great deal of land to his grandson Samuel Bowlby (now deceased) and made his niece Mary Bullins the executor and beneficiary of his estate.
- A woman might appear outright in a deed index. If she does not, and you know kin information, check indexes for male relatives
- Order <u>Early Land Records</u> (deeds) from State Archives
- Later deeds may be digitized on FamilySearch.org





#### Barker Family Tree





### **Takeaways**

- Start with the vital records (birth, marriage, death)
- Use other collections to gather information when the trail goes cold
- If you don't see a woman in an index, check to see if her husband or male relatives are listed.
- Women are most likely to appear in marriage records, and after 1850 in the Census.
- If you can't find an entry for a woman in a City Directory, Naturalization, or Vital Record, check her:
  - After 1850 in the Census (Federal or State, residence)
  - Before 1850, Wills, Deeds, Court Cases (kin information, residence)
- If she disappears from the Census, don't necessarily assume she's dead. Check city directories (might have her own entry as a widow) and her adult kids' census entries
- Deeds and Court Cases can be surprising gold mines of information. She might not be named in the index, but the contents could pertain to her or her family!



## Thank You! Any Questions?

rfitzpatrick@njstatelib.org

609-278-2640x162

