

Where to Look for Maiden Names

- Marriage Records: certificates, applications, licenses, newspaper announcements, family bibles, banns, state or county indexes, church records.
- Divorce records: Announcements, court records, state or county indexes.
- Death Records: death certificates, newspaper announcements, obituaries, funeral records, VA database online.
- Cemetery Records: Tombstones, burial permits, cemetery office, maps and indexes.
- Census Records: Check all available census records. Check the husband's census records for a date prior to the marriage and look at other names on the record to see if the wife might have been a neighbor. If you know the parents or other relatives, check their census records. Look for an in-law on the record.
- Land Records: Deeds and deed indexes. Look for deeds that show property sold for a small amount—the parents or other relatives of the woman may be selling to the married couple.
- Court Records: Wills and probate records.
- Newspapers: As listed above, but also look for engagement announcements.
- Military Records: Draft Registrations, pension records.
- Names: Look for unusual middle names for children. Children may be named for a grandparent.
- Immigration Records: Passenger Lists, border crossings and passports. Naturalization and alien registration records.
- Miscellaneous: Fraternal Organization Records, Voter Registrations, Biographies, Insurance papers and other documents.

September 19, 2013

Diane and Bill George

Castro Valley Library Genealogy Class

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