

# North American women's letters and diaries

Alexander Street Press

## about

Dates of coverage

1705-1950

Type of coverage

Full text

Includes published letters and diaries dating from Colonial times to 1950, plus 4,000 pages of previously unpublished materials. Drawn from more than 1,000 sources, including journal articles, pamphlets, newsletters, monographs, and conference proceedings. All age groups and life stages, ethnicities, many geographical regions, the famous and not so famous are represented in the database.

## find

The FIND tools do not return documents, but rather lists of sources and authors.

The FIND tools let you search for specific authors or specific works in the database.

### tip

Note the difference between a source (a collection of documents) and the documents themselves (items within a source).

Find Authors returns a list of all authors that match your specific criteria. You can search with a wide variety of criteria.

Author	All Author Forms	Year of Birth
Year of Death	Place of Birth	Place of Death
Nationality	Race	Ethnicity
Religion	Occupation	Age at Marriage
Number of Marriages	Age at First Childbirth	Number of Children

## browse

"This is the best way to check whether an author, a source, a date is included. It's also the best way to examine what personal or historical events are in the database."

When you have a specific document or specific author, year, place, historical event, or personal event in mind, a browse in any of these categories will quickly tell you how many items the database holds on your subject or whether the specific document you seek can be found here.

## search

### truncation & wildcards

● (period)

● (period) matches a single character  
Example: gentlem.n finds gentleman and gentlemen

\*

Use \* at beginning or end for multiple characters  
Example: slave\* finds slave, slaves, slavery

.?

Use .? (period question mark) to match up to one more character after the period; can use internally  
Example: hon.?r finds honor and honour

[a-z]

Use [a-z] to match a single character or any letters within the brackets  
Example: [C-f] finds cat, eat, fat, but not sat

#

Use # to match capitalized words only  
Example: #bacon finds Bacon but not bacon

### boolean operators

Boolean operators only work in Advanced Search, Letters Only, Diaries Only when you choose Proximity Searching in the same sentence or paragraph.

space = both terms present  
(space is AND)

| = either term present  
(vertical line is OR)

## punctuation

**Hyphens** Hyphens act as word separators. Thus, you should treat hyphenated expressions as separate words excluding the hyphen.  
Example: all powerful finds all-powerful

**Apostrophes** Include apostrophes when searching words with apostrophes in them.  
Example: God's finds God's

## simple search

### simple search limiting options

Author      Year Written      Subject Headings      Document Type

## advanced search

### advanced search, letters only, diaries only limiting options

## diaries only

Author      Age When Writing  
Marital Status      Race  
Religion      Occupation  
Document Project      Document - Where Written  
Record Number      Document – Chronology  
People Discussed      Organizations Discussed  
Locations Discussed      Publications Discussed

### proximity

Only Advanced, Diaries, and Letters searches allow proximity searching. You can search for words in the same sentence or the same paragraph.

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Carrie Donovan

