

At the November 20th meeting Jim Stuber gave a talk titled "Finding Your Female Ancestors".
Notes from that meeting:

For this talk the woman with the unknown last name is Mrs. Unknown and her husband is Mr. Unknown. They are the parents of the person I call Ancestor.

Search death certificates for Mrs. Unknown, Ancestor and all of her children.

Pennsylvania 1906 – 1970 are on Ancestry

<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/5164/>.

You can access it for free with your PA zip code

www.phmc.pa.gov/Archives/Research-Online/Pages/Ancestry-PA.aspx

Pittsburgh city deaths 1870 -1905 familysearch.org/search/collection/1810412

Allegheny City deaths 1876 – 1907 <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/136693>

Ohio deaths: familysearch.org/search/collection/1307272

familysearch.org/search/collection/1681000

West Virginia deaths: www.wvculture.org/vrr/va_dcsearch.aspx

familysearch.org/search/collection/1708700

Find A Grave sometimes has obituaries or links that will lead to Mrs. Unknown's maiden name.

www.findagrave.com

If Mr. Unknown died in the Civil War his marriage will be recorded in his widow's pension application.

Access Fold3 with your Allegheny County library card for free.

<https://www.carnegielibrary.org/?s=fold3>

Birth records will have Mrs. Unknown's maiden name but are available for relatively short periods of time for privacy reasons..

Pennsylvania births 1906 – 1914 <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/60484/> or same link above

Pittsburgh births, 1870-1905 <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/137583>

Allegheny City births, 1878-1907 <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/956331>

West Virginia births, about 1870 to 1922 (in many cases) https://archive.wvculture.org/vrr/va_bcsearch.aspx

Ohio births 1841-2003 Very incomplete (1.5 million

births) <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1932106>

Marriage records are good if you can find one but most marriages are not available online.

Pennsylvania marriages:

<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/61324/>

familysearch.org/search/collection/1589502

familysearch.org/search/collection/2466357

West Virginia marriages : www.wvculture.org/vrr/va_mcsearch.aspx

Ohio marriages familysearch.org/search/collection/1681001

Obituaries – Search for both Mr. Unknown and Mrs. Unknown separately.

newspapers.com

If you only have ancestors in the Pittsburgh area you can save \$12.00 month with this link:
archives.post-gazette.com

More newspaper sites here www.mtlebanonlibrary.org/DocumentCenter/View/2255/March-2019-Notes

and here

<http://www.theancestorhunt.com/newspaper-research-links.html>

County History Books - use google to find them, then Archive.org and and (sometimes)
books.google.com

Familysearch has lots of books and don't show up in Google search.

www.familysearch.org/library/books

Google: <https://www.google.com/>

In separate searches put Mr. Unknown and Mrs. Unknown in quotes, and city/county, state.

If your ancestors were Catholic and received sacraments in Allegheny County or one of the five surrounding counties (Beaver, Butler, Greene, Lawrence and Washington) the Pittsburgh Diocese Archives will do a search for \$15.00 for one hour. Marriage records will have maiden names and birth records probably will . <https://diopitt.org/genealogy>

If Mrs. Unknown or her husband were immigrants, the records may include the town they came from in Europe. With that you can start to research your family there.