

# Joy, Loss, and Perseverance: The Story of an American Woman

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## Begin with what you know

- Record all relevant information; this may include oral history, heirlooms, records and prior research.

### JULIA'S CASE

- Born in Washington Co., New York about 1872
- Parents were Russell Hunt and Julia Vaughan, who resided in Ft. Ann, Washington, New York in 1875
- Married Michael Lawless in Nebraska in 1891
- Children were born in Colorado (1890s-1900s)
- Oral history (she was a builder, she flipped houses)

## Define *specific* research question(s)

- The question must be specific enough to build a research plan and to identify when it has been answered!
- Identify the **who**, **when**, **where**, and **what** of the research question or goal.
- For story-telling, there may be *multiple* questions.

### JULIA'S CASE

- **Who were Julia's parents?** *becomes* What were the origins, occupations, social status and/or major events in the lives of Russell Hunt and Julia Vaughan, who resided in Washington Co., New York in 1875.
- **What was the timeline of Julia's life?** *becomes* Where did Julia Lawless (née Hunt), who was married to Michael Lawless, live each year between 1875 and 1920?
- **Did she flip houses?** *becomes* Did Julia Lawless (née Hunt), who was born in Washington Co., New York about 1872, buy and sell homes in California or Oregon between 1925 and 1945?

## Create a research plan

- Determine which available sources might have direct answers to the research questions.
- Original records and records with information that was recorded close to the event (e.g., baptism for birth) are best, if available.
- If none are available that answer the question directly, identify sources that might answer it indirectly.
- For storytelling, determine which resources might provide social or historical context.

### JULIA'S CASE

- **What sources might reveal the origins, occupations, and/or major events in the lives of Russell Hunt and Julia Vaughan?**
  - Census records (state and federal)
  - Newspapers
  - Property records
  - Vital records (or substitutes)
- **What sources may reveal Julia's residence each year between 1875 and 1920?**
  - Census records (state and federal)
  - Marriage records
  - Homestead applications
  - Directories
  - Probate records
- **What sources might provide evidence of Julia's house-flipping endeavors?**
  - Property records (deeds)
  - Tax records
  - Newspapers

## Analyze Findings

- Analysis unlocks the pieces to the puzzle; correlating the information and testing the evidence puts the pieces together
- Review the records closely, document each piece of information and determine if they offer any evidence to answer the research question
- Identify explanations for conflicting information

## JULIA'S CASE (SAMPLES)

### 1860 U.S. Federal Census

Information	Analysis/Interpretation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resided in Fort Ann, Washington Co.</li> <li>• Occupation 'boatman'</li> <li>• \$1,400 in personal estate</li> <li>• Age 30</li> <li>• Birthplace NY</li> <li>• Wife Juliett, age 29</li> <li>• Son George, age 12</li> <li>• Daughter, Janeann, age 5</li> <li>• Children attended school</li> <li>• Most neighbors had personal estate values above 500</li> </ul>	<p>Middle class family                      Russell originally from New York                      Likely married young (i.e., 12 years prior, he would have been 18)                      Russell born about 1830                      Juliett born about 1831</p>

### 1865 New York State Census

Information	Analysis/Interpretation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resided in Fort Ann, Washington Co.</li> <li>• Occupation 'boatman'</li> <li>• Age 35</li> <li>• Home valued at \$500</li> <li>• Married twice</li> <li>• Born in Warren (Co.)</li> <li>• Owns land</li> <li>• Wife Julia, age 21</li> <li>• Son George, age 15</li> <li>• Daughter Jane A, age 11                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ "of last wife"</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Daughter, Carrie, age 8 months</li> </ul>	<p>Second marriage, two eldest children were from prior marriage                      Russell born about 1830                      Julia born about 1844                      Russell originally from Warren Co. (borders Washington Co.)                      Likely worked at Old Champlain Canal                      May have had a child between George and Jane</p>

### Correlate and Test (and Resolve Conflicts)

- Have I found records for the individual identified in my research question?
- What information is the same and what is different across the sources?
- Is there a possible explanation for any conflicting information?
- Does the information answer my research question(s)?

## JULIA'S CASE

### 1860 U.S. Federal Census

- Russell Hunt, born about 1830
- **Juliatt Hunt, born about 1831**
- Russell occupation, boatman
- Son George, born about 1848
- Daughter, Janeann, born about 1855

### 1865 New York State Census

- Russell Hunt born about 1830
- **Julia Hunt born about 1844**
- Russell occupation, boatman
- Son George, born about 1850
- Daughter Jane A., born about 1854
- Daughter Carrie, born in 1864

*Possible explanation for conflicting information:* census-taker made a mistake in the name of Russell's spouse.

Does the evidence fit this explanation? No. She is nearly 15 years younger, and the census also states that this is Russell's second marriage.

## Additional Resources

### Research Planning

Alzo, Lisa A. "How to Create a Genealogy Research Plan: A 5-Step Example." *Family Tree Magazine*. January 2011 ([www.familytreemagazine.com/research/sample-research-plan/](http://www.familytreemagazine.com/research/sample-research-plan/) : accessed 22 July 2022).

Stoddard, Julie. "Research Planning." Video. Uploaded 10 January 2019. YouTube: *ICAPGen Channel* ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZlXUtw1Lzww](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZlXUtw1Lzww) : accessed 22 July 2022).

### Analysis & Correlation

*FamilySearch Wiki*. [www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Main\\_Page](http://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Main_Page). "Evaluate the Evidence." 10 Aug 2021.

Jones, Thomas W. "Using 'Correlation' to Reveal Facts that No Record States." Video. *FamilySearch* ([www.familysearch.org/en/help/helpcenter/lessons/using-correlation-to-reveal-facts-that-no-record-states](http://www.familysearch.org/en/help/helpcenter/lessons/using-correlation-to-reveal-facts-that-no-record-states) : accessed 22 July 2022).

Robert (Legacy Tree Genealogists Researcher). "Evidence Analysis Explained: Digging into Genealogical Sources." LegacyTree Genealogists. *The Legacy Tree Genealogists Blog*, ([www.legacytree.com/blog/evidence-analysis-sources](http://www.legacytree.com/blog/evidence-analysis-sources) : accessed 22 July 2022).

Shown Mills, Elizabeth. "Fundamentals of Evidence Analysis." *Evidence Explained Citing Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace*. Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2017. Pages 15-38.

Shown Mills, Elizabeth. "QuickLesson 17: The Evidence Analysis Process Model." *Evidence Explained: Historical Analysis, Citation & Source Usage* ([www.evidenceexplained.com/content/quicklesson-17-evidence-analysis-process-map](http://www.evidenceexplained.com/content/quicklesson-17-evidence-analysis-process-map) : 22 July 2022).