

The Kinswoman

Matrilineal genealogy · Grave & Ledger Reports

Client Questionnaire

Thank you for trusting me with your mothers. This questionnaire gathers everything you already know, so the research begins where your knowledge ends. There are no wrong answers. A single name, a half-remembered story, or a guess is useful, and "I don't know" is a perfectly good answer.

For each fact, I'll also ask how you know it. That one question tells me what is already proven and what still needs a record, and it saves us both time.

How to fill it in

- Type directly into this PDF and save it, or print it and write by hand.
- Skip anything you don't know or would rather not share.
- Attach photos or scans of any documents you have: certificates, obituaries, Bible pages, letters, photographs.
- Return it by email to erica@thekinswoman.com.

Everything you share is kept private and used only for your research. Details about living family members never appear on your family page.

I. About you

Your full name

Today's date

Email

Phone

Mailing address (only if you'd like printed copies mailed)

Best way to reach you

How did you hear about The Kinswoman?

2. Your goal

What are you hoping to find or learn?

Why now? Is there a story, a question, or a person behind it?

Is there a date it's needed by? (a birthday, a gift, a reunion, a lineage society application)

Which package are you interested in? Research is sold as time aimed at a goal, never a guaranteed number of generations.

- ☐ **The Assessment** \$200
About four hours. I confirm what you already know, find where the records thin out, and tell you how far your line can likely go. Credited toward any package.
- ☐ **The First Mothers** \$1,000
The first four mothers in your line who have passed, starting with the most recent one no longer living. A research block aimed at about four generations, with the full Grave & Ledger report and your private family page.
- ☐ **The Matriline** \$2,250
A deeper search aimed at about six generations of mothers who have passed, with your mtDNA read beside the records, the full report, and your family page.
- ☐ **The Deep Line** By quote
For lines that reach into colonial New England or further back. Researched in phases, so you see finished work at every step.
- ☐ **Not sure yet**
We'll decide together after our first conversation.

My research begins with the first woman in your line who has passed. Living mothers, grandmothers, and daughters are recorded from what you tell me, but not researched, to protect their privacy.

3. The women of your line

Start with yourself and go back, mother to mother, as far as you can. Include the living women too, and check “Living” beside them. I’ll begin researching with the first woman who has passed.

You

Full name, including maiden name

Nicknames or other names

Born (date and place)

Died and buried (date and place)

Husband(s) or partner(s)

Places she lived

Church or religion

Work or occupation

Family stories about her

How do you know this? (check all that apply)

☐

A document I have

☐

A family story

☐

An online tree

☐

My best guess

Your mother

☐ Living

Full name, including maiden name

Nicknames or other names

Born (date and place)

Died and buried (date and place)

Husband(s) or partner(s)

Places she lived

Church or religion

Work or occupation

Family stories about her

How do you know this? (check all that apply)

☐ A document I have

☐ A family story

☐ An online tree

☐ My best guess

Your grandmother (your mother's mother)

☐ Living

Full name, including maiden name

Nicknames or other names

Born (date and place)

Died and buried (date and place)

Husband(s) or partner(s)

Places she lived

Church or religion

Work or occupation

Family stories about her

How do you know this? (check all that apply)

☐ A document I have

☐ A family story

☐ An online tree

☐ My best guess

Your great-grandmother

☐ Living

Full name, including maiden name

Nicknames or other names

Born (date and place)

Died and buried (date and place)

Husband(s) or partner(s)

Places she lived

Church or religion

Work or occupation

Family stories about her

How do you know this? (check all that apply)

☐ A document I have

☐ A family story

☐ An online tree

☐ My best guess

Your great-great-grandmother

☐ Living

Full name, including maiden name

Nicknames or other names

Born (date and place)

Died and buried (date and place)

Husband(s) or partner(s)

Places she lived

Church or religion

Work or occupation

Family stories about her

How do you know this? (check all that apply)

☐ A document I have

☐ A family story

☐ An online tree

☐ My best guess

Any earlier mothers you know of

☐ Living

Full name, including maiden name

Nicknames or other names

Born (date and place)

Died and buried (date and place)

Husband(s) or partner(s)

Places she lived

Church or religion

Work or occupation

Family stories about her

How do you know this? (check all that apply)

☐ A document I have

☐ A family story

☐ An online tree

☐ My best guess

4. What your family has

Links to any online family trees (Ancestry, FamilySearch, MyHeritage)

Any research done before, by you or a relative

Does your family have any of these? (check all that apply)

☐ Family Bible

☐ Photographs

☐ Obituaries or clippings

☐ Military or immigration papers

☐ Other

☐ Letters or diaries

☐ Birth, marriage, or death certificates

☐ Scrapbooks or memory books

☐ Deeds or wills

Anything else about these materials, or who has them

5. DNA

Your mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) passes from mother to child, unchanged, through every woman in your line. A test is helpful, but never required.

Which tests have you, or a relative on this line, taken?

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| ☐ AncestryDNA | ☐ 23andMe | ☐ MyHeritage DNA |
| ☐ FamilyTreeDNA Family Finder | ☐ FamilyTreeDNA mtDNA | ☐ No DNA test yet |

Your mtDNA haplogroup, if you know it (for example, H1a or U5b2)

Would you share your DNA results for this research?

- | | | |
|--|--|-----------------------------|
| ☐ Yes, I'm willing to share results | ☐ I'd like to talk about it first | ☐ No |
|--|--|-----------------------------|

6. Sensitive matters

Research sometimes uncovers things no one expected: an adoption, a hidden marriage, a child born outside one, a name changed. I will always tell you what I find, gently and honestly.

Are you aware of any adoptions, name changes, estrangements, or family secrets that may matter?

Are there living relatives I should not contact?

If I find something unexpected, how would you like to hear it?

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Tell me everything, plainly | ☐ Talk with me before it's written down |
| ☐ Let's discuss it at the start | |

Anything else I should know before I begin?

7. The Hearth

Optional companion offerings made from your research: a remembrance companion for each woman, a naming ceremony, a matriline oil, and a keepsake box. Always separate from the research itself.

Would you like to hear about these?

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| ☐ Yes, tell me more | ☐ Maybe later | ☐ No, the research only |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|

8. Permissions

May I share your private family page with relatives you name?

☐ Yes

☐ No

May I use short, anonymized excerpts of your report as a sample of my work?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Your name (typed or signed)

Date

Mother to daughter, back to the first name we can find.