

Jumping the Pond: Beginning to Research Your European Immigrant Ancestors

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Found the Immigrant, Now What?

- Exhaust **ALL** American Resources first.

Who should I research?

- Do NOT just research your immigrant ancestor
 - Research their children
 - Research their grandchildren
 - Anyone else in the community who speaks the same language
 - Use the Census records to assist you.

Timelines

- usabledesignmatters.com/fh/timeline_grid_templates/index.html
- www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Timeline_Grids

Gather EVERYTHING

- Every Census
- Every Birth/Death Certificate for them AND anyone else who might give you a clue
 - Check the FamilySearch Research Wiki for approximate dates these records are available
 - www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Main_Page
- Every Newspaper article
 - Newspapers.com
 - Newspaper Archive
 - chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/
 - news.google.com/newspapers
- Every scrap of paper with their names(!)
 - Photographs, Letters, Journals, Recipes, etc.
- **Church Records**
 - Many immigrants brought the means to transfer into a church from their homeland
 - Some records note where new members originated
 - www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_Church_Records
- School Records
 - Some records note where new students originated
 - Teacher notes might mention country or town of origin
 - Ancestry (3 filters)
 - Schools, Directories & Church Histories
 - School Lists & Yearbooks
 - USA
 - You can then narrow to your area
 - www.familysearch.org
 - Catalog
 - United States
 - Places within the United States
 - Local repositories for area where ancestor lived

- Marriage Records
 - Ancestry (3 filters)
 - Birth, Marriage & Death
 - Marriage & Divorce
 - USA
 - www.familysearch.org
 - Catalog search
 - Research Wiki
 - Local Courthouse
- Gravestone Inscriptions
 - www.findagrave.com
 - billiongraves.com
- Probate Records
 - Ancestry (2 filters)
 - Wills, Probates, Land, Tax & Criminal
 - Wills & Probates, Estates & Guardian Records
 - www.familysearch.org
 - Catalog search
 - Research Wiki
 - Local Courthouse
- Military Records
 - [www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United States Military Records](http://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_Military_Records)
 - Fold3
 - Ancestry (1 filter)
 - Military
 - Our Military Heritage: www.genealogycenter.info/military/
- Funeral Home Records
 - Use newspapers and death certificates to find the funeral homes
 - Learn the history of the funeral home
- Fraternal Organizations or Societies
 - Many immigrants joined societies consisting of other immigrants from their home country
 - [www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United States Societies](http://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_Societies)
 - Google “fraternal organizations for” and fill in the country of origin
 - Look for their archives
 - Ancestry (3 filters)
 - Schools, Directories & Church Histories
 - Professional & Organizational Directories
 - USA
- *Genealogy* - 929 M821GE
- *The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy* - 929 SO8, 2006
- *Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources* - 929 AN17A

Occupations

- Many people had the same occupations in the old country and the new country
- Some occupations are specialties
 - Find their origins
- Ancestry (3 filters)

- Schools, Directories & Church Histories
- Professional & Organizational Directories
- USA
- www.familysearch.org
 - Catalog search
 - [www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United States Occupations](http://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_Occupations)

Family Lore

- Do NOT believe everything you hear
 - Country boundaries change
 - Places morph through 'Telephone'
 - www.youtube.com/watch?v=gzXoc8y2G0k

Immigration Laws

- What were the immigration laws for the period when your ancestors immigrated?
 - www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2015/09/30/how-u-s-immigration-laws-and-rules-have-changed-through-history/
- Laws change and can give you clues
- www.youtube.com/watch?v=fiPq7C06zjQ&t=1s
- *Immigrants in American History: Arrival, Adaptation, and Integration* - 973.004 IM63B
- *Immigration: From the Founding of Virginia to the Closing of Ellis Island* - 973 W49IM

Name Changes

- Ellis Island did NOT change people's names
 - www.smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian-institution/ask-smithsonian-did-ellis-island-officials-really-change-names-immigrants-180961544/
 - www.nypl.org/blog/2013/07/02/name-changes-ellis-island
- New start
- Americanize
- Mispronunciation
- Misspelling
- Economic Reasoning

American Resources

- Depends on when they immigrated.
 - 20th Century
 - 19th Century
 - 18th Century
 - 17th Century
 - [www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Beginning Research in United States Immigration and Emigration Records#What time periods and locations do they cover.3F](http://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Beginning_Research_in_United_States_Immigration_and_Emigration_Records#What_time_periods_and_locations_do_they_cover.3F)

Naturalization

- Terms on the Census for clues
- First Papers vs. Naturalization
- Location, location, location
- After 1906 – will be more helpful
- [www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Naturalization Terms and Acronyms](http://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Naturalization_Terms_and_Acronyms)
- [www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United States Naturalization and Citizenship](http://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_Naturalization_and_Citizenship)
- Ancestry: U.S. Naturalization Record Indexes, 1791-1992 (Indexed in World Archives Project)
- www.archives.gov/research/naturalization
- [www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United States Naturalization Online Genealogy Records](http://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_Naturalization_Online_Genealogy_Records)

- Check local resources
- *They Became Americans: Finding Naturalization Records and Ethnic Origins* - 929 SZ71T
- *Mastering Immigration & Naturalization Records* - 929 Q414MI
- *Guide to Naturalization Records of the United States* – 973 SCH13G

Passports

- 1795 – Begun
- War Times – Required
- 1952 – Required for most
- 2009 – Required for all
- www.familysearch.org/search/collection/2185145
- State Department
 - <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports/after/passport-records.html>
- www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_Passports

Passenger Arrival Records

- Online Records
 - www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_Immigration_Online_Genealogy_Records
- Books
 - acpl.lib.in.us/pathfinders/snapshots/subjects
- Microtext
 - genealogycenter.info/search_microtext.php
- **Figure out possible Port of Arrival**
- *Passenger and Immigration Lists Index. A Guide to Published Arrival Records of About 500,000 Passengers Who Came to the United States and Canada in the Seventeenth, Eighteenth, and Nineteenth Centuries* - 929.11 F47PA
- *They Came in Ships: Finding Your Immigrant Ancestor's Arrival Record* - 929 C684T

Port of New York

- Castle Garden
 - www.castlegarden.org/
 - *Castle Garden and Battery Park* - 974.702 N422MORB
- Ellis Island
 - www.libertyellisfoundation.org/passenger
 - *Ellis Island: Tracing Your Family History Through America's Gateway* – 929 SZ71EL

Border Crossings

- My ancestor didn't arrive in the United States...
- Canada
 - 1895
 - www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/US_Immigration_Canadian_Border_Crossings
- Mexico
 - 1906
 - www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/US_Immigration_Mexican_Border_Crossings
- Ancestry (2 filters)
 - Immigration & Travel
 - Border Crossings and Passports

Tie Information Together

- Locations
- Dates
- If town is not discovered, move to FAN Club

- Family, Associates, and Neighbors
- Can also be called Cluster Genealogy
- www.familytreemagazine.com/research/ways-to-solve-genealogy-problems-with-cluster-research/
- *Quicksheet: The Historical Biographer's Guide to Cluster Research – The FAN Principle* by Elizabeth Shown Mills (not in our collection)
- lisalouisecooke.com/2016/10/29/genealogy-fan-club/

Spelling Doesn't Count

Brick Wall

- Ask for another opinion
- Try out of the box ideas
- Search for the surname instead of the person
- Google
 - Search for others researching the same family
 - Search for the names – you might find overseas records.

Hopping the Pond

- Begin with resources you know
 - Ancestry
 - FamilySearch
- Learn the common phrases in that language
 - www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Genealogical_Word_Lists
- Use Google Chrome for translations
- *Harvard Encyclopedia of American Ethnic Groups* - 973.004 H26
- *Tracing Your European Roots* – 929 Q414TR