

LESSON 7

Finding Your Way With The Immigrant

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WHAT'S THE CHALLENGE ?

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Remember...the confusion is not at the gate!

1- Who?

2- What?

3- When?

4- Where?

5- Why?

6- How?

BE FLEXIBLE; OPEN TO WHATEVER; EXPLORE EVERY AVENUE!

LET'S FIND THEM HERE FIRST

Laying a solid foundation.....

“Do your homework first.”

Let's look at the obvious.....

1-Don't leave home

2- Passports / 1819

FAMILY

1. What did they tell us?
2. Language.
3. Where did they come from?

TRADITIONS

1. Songs
2. Food
3. Holidays
4. Church

CONVENTIONAL

1. Obits
2. Cemeteries
3. Vital Records
4. Census
5. LDS Records (familysearch.org) Scroll down to “browes”, click on No. America/State
6. General Survey (including Ethnic Studies...pg 8)

TO THE COURTS

1. Naturalization
2. Citizenship
3. All others...

IS THERE AN INDEX TO THE INDEX OF THE IMMIGRATION INDEX?

WWI DRAFT CARDS: a register of 98% of US males between 18 and 45 years of age, plus where they lived. (Born between 11 Sep 1872 – 12 Sep 1900)

Dates of registration: 15 Jun 1917; 5 Jul 1918; 7 Sep 1918;

Cautions:

- 1) Italians ...
- 2) Hispanics...
- 3) Who may be missing?
- 4) It may be assumed...
- 5) No name is set in concrete!

1900 US CENSUS: and what is most important to you?

Considered the BEST hiding place for immigrant information.

Where are those elusive **IMMIGRATION RECORDS?**

BYU's own **Immigrant Ancestors Project** (IAP) <http://familyhistory.byu.edu/>

IMMIGRATION WEBSITES:

- I. Archives.gov/genealogy/
- II. Ellisisland.org
- III. Castlegarden.org
- IV. Immigrant Ships Transcribers Guild
- V. New York Passenger Arrival Records 1820-1957

Ancestry.com (fee based = 1 month/\$29.95)

CASTLE GARDEN...the forgotten gateway
A quiet place for repose and safety.

- 1- Original “golden door” referred to in Emma Lazarus’ poem..’Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door.’
- 2- State
- 3- Most impacted by immigration
- 4- First built as a fort 1808-1811
5. Before: OLD AND NEW IMMIGRATION
Two distinct periods: pre Ellis Island and post Ellis Island

- 1- **Old Immigration:**
- 2- Primarily Protestants
- 3- **New Immigration:**
- 4- Primarily Roman Catholics

Two different approaches and two different outcomes.

State, first, protected against criminal acts

Federal =concerned about naturalization,

Fear of foreigners.

WHAT THEY HAD IN COMMON...

- 1- Both transported steerage passengers to their respective facilities.
- 2- Both provided medical inspections/hospitalization
- 3- Both registered aliens...WOP
- 4- Both had procedures for uniting relatives and friends.
- 5- Both had ample facilities for detaining aliens.
- 6- Both allowed missionaries and ethnic societies to aid immigrants
- 7- Both set up booths to assist people in their own language.
- 8- Both interviewed and recorded their names, nationality, old residences and destinations.

Castle Garden had a well provisioned **restaurant** as well as bread stands and washrooms.

Letter writing desks where people could send a letter back home. And in 1867 they set up a **Western Union** telegraph office!

Exchange Brokers...money

In the 1880's 1.4 million immigrants came through Castle Garden. Closed 18 Apr 1890

Joseph Colletta's
THEY CAME IN SHIPS...WHICH SHIP?

NARA IMMIGRATION INFORMATION PAGE

www.archives.gov/research_room/genealogy/research_topics/immigration.html

1. Good for information /
2. It does not-

ELLIS ISLAND SITE

www.ellisland.org

1. Manifests...1894-1924
2. Original manifests
3. Pictures?
4. Print copies...
5. Problems:

JEWISH GEN DATABASES:

www.jewishgen.org/databases/eidb/

1. Ellis Island ..
2. It does not-

IMMIGRANT SHIP TRANSCRIBERS GUILD:

www.immigrantships.net

1. Volunteers
2. 6,500 manifests-
3. All? Nope!
4. Links...

THE SHIPS LIST:

www.theshipslist.com

1. More?
2. Where?
3. PRO...

GOOGLE IT...of course!

Best of all!

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/award99/mymhihtml/mymhihome.html>

to locate: logbooks; diaries; letters; business papers; published narratives of voyages and travel; some photos; maps; and nautical charts.

PASSES TO CROSS THE OCEAN

EMIGRATION/ IMMIGRATION RECORDS

Letters of manumission
Sale of property
Letters of recommendation
Permit to emigrate
Emigration agent
Indentures
Travel documents
Customs records
Ahnepass
Emigrant lists

THE IMMIGRATION PROCESS

Bill for provisions and passenger agreements
“Pest” hospital records
Undertakers and merchants
Newspaper and hospital records
Health certificates
Passenger lists
Customs passenger lists
Immigration passenger list
Custom list of aliens
Oaths of allegiance
Newspaper announcements

THE PROCESS OF SETTLEMENT

Declaration of intention
Petition
Certificate of naturalization
Other records (church, community, census (state, federal))
Foreign language newspapers

Finding Your Immigrant's Ship

Most Americans can discover the ship which brought their ancestor's to this continent. Each search for an ancestor's ship is unique. Your search may be easy and result in quick success. Or, it may be a challenge requiring time and persistence. Here are the steps you follow:

— **You must know your ancestor's:** (a) Full name... (b) Approximate age of arrival...
(c) Approximate date of arrival.

Where can you find this information?

(a) Oral family tradition. (b) Family documents i.e. passports, letters, Bible inscriptions. (c) Public records-military service, naturalization, U.S. census, etc. (d) Published genealogies, local histories.

What will the passenger list tell you?

When you find your ancestor's name or the ship's name in the indexes, use the reference cited in the index to locate the published or microfilmed list. Then read the list line by line to find the name. Double check what you find against your ancestor's real name, approximate age at arrival and approximate date of arrival, to be certain it is your ancestor!

In all cases, the list will give the name of the ship, the date and port of its arrival in America and usually your ancestor's age and country of origin. Lists to 1893 contain little more than this. You may learn if your ancestor was traveling alone or with family and how many bags he or she was carrying. From 1893 onward, lists became increasingly informative, including the above data plus marital status, occupation, last residence, birthplace, final destination in the U.S., whether joining a relative (if so, who and where), whether previously in the U.S. (if so, when and how long), and more.

^ **If your ancestor arrived between 1565 and 1819, search the indexes of published lists.** The passenger list, if it still exists, might be in *any* archive, museum, courthouse, basement or attic. But, many have been published.

If you know the name of your ancestor's ship: Search for that ship in the indexes compiled by ship name. Or...

If you do not know the ship: Search for your ancestor in the indexes compiled by passenger name. Or...

If you know your ancestor's nationality: Search in the indexes by nationality. Or...

If you don't know your ancestor's nationality: Search in indexes by particular group such as: indentured servants or Irish (Potato Famine Immigrants) or by geographic settlements or ports of entry. Or...

If your ancestor was a slave: He or she was not listed by name in the cargo manifest. Circumstantial evidence of your ancestor's ship can be obtained, however, if you know where, when and by whom the slave was first sold, then search: (a) the National Archives. Manifest of ships importing slaves in the ports of Savannah, Mobile and New Orleans for 1789-1808. (b) In museums, special collections containing manifests of slave ships. (c) In libraries, published compilations of documents to the slave trade in America.

✓ **If your ancestor arrived between 1820 and 1954, search the National Archives and Indexes.** A copy of the passenger lists is probably at the National Archives in Washington D.C. or at the other centers. Learn to use the various indexes there to the ports of entry.

National Archives Indexes: These are compiled by port for most U.S. ports on the Atlantic, Pacific, Great Lakes, and the Gulf Coast, but they do not cover every port for every year.

If you know your ancestor's port of entry: search the index to passenger arrivals for that port. Or...

If your ancestor arrived in New York 1847-1896: search the *Registry of Vessel Arrivals*, note which ships arrived when your ancestor did, then search those lines.

If you do not know the port of entry: search all available indexes to passenger arrivals.

The National Archives staff will search the indexes for you, if you supply the passenger's name, port of entry and month and year of arrival. Use NATF form 81. More detailed is needed for staff to search individual lists.

⇔ **Published Indexes**

Morton-Allan Directory

This book lists the arrival date of every steamship entering New York, 1890-1930, and Baltimore, Boston, and Philadelphia, 1904-1926.

If you know the name of your ancestor's ship: Note every date when that ship arrived, then search those lists.

If you know the date when your ancestor arrived: Note which ships arrived on that date, then search those lists.

The Hamburg Emigration Index

If your ancestor emigrated from Eastern, Northern, Central Europe, he or she may have embarked from Hamburg, Germany. Emigration lists at Hamburg are indexed, 1850-1934. Search a microform copy of the index at any branch of the Mormon Genealogical Library.

The Bremen Emigration Index

The Bremen, Germany records were lost during the war. However in recent years there have been printed copies of the reverse indexes...those that were made by debarking passengers in the U.S. from the Bremen harbor.

Google It:

Passenger and Immigration Lists Indexes 1538-1940

JOINING AN ETHNIC SOCIETY

10 Reasons

**Our ethnic heritage defines our language and religion.
It is three generations to total assimilation**

- 1. Gain specialized knowledge i.e. Naming conventions and patterns**
- 2. Access to unique research libraries and materials**
- 3. Participate in workshops that are geared to specific research**
- 4. Opportunity to network with people who are focused on the same area as you.**
- 5. Access publications: may publish specific research material or reissue old books**
- 6. Good value for the money: cost of membership versus value of benefits/no contest**
- 7. Insight about homeland: learn what makes you, you...**
- 8. Opportunity to travel: standing in the church where your family was for 300 yrs**
- 9. An ethnic repository. Preserves our heritage in very unique ways.**
- 10. Political force. Works to preserve properties and events.**

HOW?

- (1) Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) at www.fgs.org**
- (2) The Federation of East European Family History Societies (FEEFHS)
www.feefhs.org**
- (3) Cyndi's list; @ www.cyndislist.com with links to many groups.**

(1) The Balch Institute in Philadelphia (2) Immigration History Research Center at the U of Minn. (3) Center for Migration Studies in New York.