



MIDWEST GENEALOGY CENTER

Tracing Immigrant Origins

Steps to Researching Immigrant Ancestors

Search:

1. Family sources
 - a. Talk to family members
 - b. Track down family keepsakes/records that may provide clues
2. Previous research
 - a. Research done by others on your family line
 - b. Published resources v Family histories v Biographies v County histories
 - c. Periodicals
 - d. Local library, genealogical or historical society collections
3. U.S. records
 - a. Immigration Information in Census Records
 - b. Related U.S. Federal Census Data
 - c. Country of Origin in US Federal Census Records
 - d. Naturalization Status in U.S. Federal Census Records
 - e. Military Records
 - f. Newspapers
 - g. Other Records – Vital Records, Church records, Cemetery and Probate Records
4. Emigration & immigration records
 - a. Emigration Records include Permission to emigrate, passports, lists of transported prisoners
 - b. Immigration Records include Passenger lists
5. Naturalization records
 - a. Check laws and key dates
6. Trace Relatives and neighbors
 - a. Check Heritage Societies and Fraternal Orders
 - b. Newsletters, periodicals, and membership info

Selected Websites

Internet Archive <https://archive.org>

Digital Public Library of American <https://dp.la>

FamilySearch Digital Library <https://www.familysearch.org/library/books>

Digital State Archives <https://sites.google.com/site/statearchives/home>

Chronicling America <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>

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