

Tracing Immigrants: How to Research Your Family's American Arrivals

Syllabus

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Lesson 1: Tapping Family Papers and Memories

- A. Home and family sources
 - I. What sources to seek for immigration information
 - II. How to gather materials and information
- B. Oral history interviews
 - I. Preparation
 - II. Questions for gleaning immigration details
 - III. Tips for conducting an interview
 - IV. What to do after the interview
 - V. Whom to interview
 - VI. Recording what you've found
- C. Exercise

Lesson 2: Finding Clues in US Records

- A. Where to find records you need
 - I. Records containing immigration clues
 - II. Censuses
 - III. Immigration data by year
 - IV. Sample records
 - V. How to access censuses
- B. Vital records
 - VI. Clues in birth, marriage and death records
 - VII. How to access vital records
- C. Social Security records
 - VIII. Social Security Death Index
 - IX. SS-5 application files
- D. Military records
 - X. WWI draft registrations
 - XI. WWII draft registrations
 - XII. Civil War and Revolutionary War service and pension records
 - XIII. Where to find military records

- E. Other key records for researching an immigrant
 - XIV. Land
 - XV. Probate
- F. Exercise

Lesson 3: Tracking Down Immigration Records

- A. Naturalization records
 - I. First papers
 - II. Second papers
 - III. Sample records
 - IV. How to get your ancestor's naturalization files
- B. Alien Registrations
- C. Passenger lists
 - I. Arrival records
 - a. Ellis Island
 - b. Castle Garden
 - c. Ancestry.com Immigration Collection
 - d. Steve Morse's "one-step" tools
 - e. Microfilmed records
 - f. Sample documents
 - II. Departure records
 - a. Hamburg
 - b. Bremen
 - c. Liverpool
 - d. Other ports
- D. Exercise

Lesson 4: Searching for Elusive Immigrants

- A. The importance of social history
 - I. Push and pull factors
 - II. Chain migration
- B. Finding an immigrant through his relatives and countrymen
- C. Exercise