Course IV
Searching
U.S. Records
for your
immigrant Ancestors

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Basic Genealogy

Record what you know about your family. Find Sources in your home (or a relative's home): family Bible, letters, documents. Talk to the oldest members of your family NOW. Document Family oral tradition.

Start with pedigree charts (http://www.ancestry.com/trees/charts/ancchart.aspx)
- Begin with yourself or a child, then work back through time
- For each person determine place & date for death, marriage, birth (in that order) and get copies of records for each event
- For each couple on the pedigree chart fill out a family group record (http://www.ancestry.com/trees/charts/familysheet.aspx)

There are computer programs that can help you capture this info, including:
> free: RootsMagic, Legacy
> non-free: Windows: RootsMagic, Legacy Deluxe, Family Tree Maker (FTM); MAC: Reunion, FTM, MACFamily
> online: https://familysearch.org/tree/, http://trees.ancestry.com/, https://www.myheritage.com/FP/family-tree.php

For excellent "how to get started" help, see
> https://familysearch.org/learningcenter/
> https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Main_Page
> http://www.cyndislist.com/beginner.htm

Top "Ten" List

14. Use maps to determine the proximity of referenced locations. Use circular research – research surrounding counties, etc. (boundary maps available at http://www.mapofus.org/   - see how boundaries change through the years)
13. The internet is a great tool, BUT experts estimate that a maximum of 5% of the records relevant to genealogy are online.
12. Resist the temptation to make assumptions. Be skeptical.
11. The more you know about the history/culture of the time & place of your ancestors, the "luckier" you'll be as a genealogist.
12. Before 1900, dates & spelling were not as rigorously followed as today.
9. Develop a plan, select one ancestor, what do you want to learn, what resources should be searched.
8. Don't wait for "the right time" to talk to the oldest family members.
7. Transcribe records EXACTLY as they exist, not as you think they should be.
6. Don't stop with the info in an index, use the index to find the original record.
5. (**Reverse Genealogy/Descendancy Research**) Search forward (to present day). Find & contact all living descendants of a "brickwall" couple.
4. (**Whole Family Research**) Always thoroughly RESEARCH SIBLINGS at each level.
3. (**Cluster Genealogy)** Record & research all individuals with the target surname (and its variations) living in the locality where your ancestors lived as well as friends and neighbors.
> **Note –** If you're faced with a brick wall, **Reverse/Whole Family/Cluster** techniques may very well solve your problem.
2. For every piece of information about your family history, RECORD THE SOURCE.
1. VERIFY ALL NEW INFORMATION, whether from the internet, a book or Aunt Susie

Basic Name & Search Tips

- For names with a prefix, search indexes with & without the prefix
- Don't assume 1 spelling of names when searching records (use non-exact or wild cards when available)
  - O'Reilly, O'Riley, Reily, Riley, etc
- Inconsistent punctuation in indexes: O'Flynn, OFlynn, O Flynn, O_Flynn, O.Flynn,
      McGrath, MacGrath, Mc Grath, M'Grath, Mgrath, Magrath
- Don't assume 1 given name is used in all records (nicknames/synonyms, middle names)
  - Nicknames/synonyms: BJ, Delia or Biddy for Bridget
- See Spelling Substitution Tables for the United States and Canada
- See Name Variations in US Indexes and Records
- Try substituting an eiouy for vowels in the name being searched.
- Try searching with first name but no last name.
- Can't find them in a census? Try looking for neighbors from prior or subsequent census.

US Census (at most indicates country or state of birth)

- Most of 1890 was destroyed, but minor remnants exist from NY as well as AL, GA, IL, MN, NJ, NC, OH, SD, TX, DC
- Other census schedules: 1790 & 1850-1860 Slave, 1810-1820 & 1850-1885 Manufacturing, 1840 Pensioners, 1850-1885 Agriculture, 1850-1890 Mortality, 1850-1870 Social Statistics, 1880 Defective, 1885 Special (Colorado, Florica, Nebraska, Dakota, New Mexico), 1890 Veterans (Kentucky through Wyoming plus DC exist), 1935 Business. FHC & Ancestry.com
- **Family Search Research Wiki New York Census, https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/New_York_Census**
- **Family Search Research Wiki Census for other states, https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/United_States_Census#Census_Records_of_Each_State**
- **Search multiple transcriptions of the same census (may yield different results)**
- For "local" transcriptions, see www.usgenweb.org, www.rootsweb.com/~census, www.us-census.org, ww.census-online.com.
- Questions asked for federal census 1790-2010, https://www.census.gov/history/www/through_the_decades/index_of_questions/

- **Major contents of US Census by year:**

	1790	1800	1810	1820	1830	1840	1850	1860	1870	1880	1890	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940
Head of Household only	▦	▦	▦	▦	▦	▦										
Every Name							▦	▦	▦	▦	▦	▦	▦	▦	▦	▦
Gender/Race/Age							▦	▦	▦	▦	▦	▦	▦	▦	▦	▦
Occupation				~		~	▦	▦	▦	▦	▦	▦	▦	▦	▦	▦
Birthplace (State or Country)							▦	▦	▦	▦	▦	▦	▦	▦	▦	▦
Is Father/Mother Foreign Born									▦							
Birthplace of Father/Mother										▦	▦	▦	▦	▦	▦	some
Birth Month & Year												▦				
Relation to Head of Household										▦	▦	▦	▦	▦	▦	▦
Married within the year							▦	▦	▦	▦	▦					
# of years of present Marriage												▦	▦			
Age at first Marriage															▦	some
Marital Status										▦	▦	▦	▦	▦	▦	▦
Mother's # of Children/#Living											▦	▦	▦			some
Year of Immigration												▦	▦	▦		
Naturalization Status				~	~				▦			▦	▦	▦	▦	▦
Year of Naturalization														▦		
Pensioner of Revolutionary						~										
Vet or Widow of Civil War											▦					
Union or Confederate Veteran													▦			
Veteran of which war															▦	some
Street & House Number										▦	▦	▦	▦	▦	▦	▦

<u>Free</u> access to computerized indexes and digital images:

	1790	1800	1810	1820	1830	1840	1850	1860	1870	1880	1890	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940
*Heritage Quest	HI	HI	HI	HI	HI	HI	EI	EI	EI	EI	EI+	EI	EI	EI	EI	EI
**Ancestry.com	HI	HI	HI	HI	HI	HI	EI	EI	EI	EI	EI#	EI	EI	EI	EI	EI
***FamilySearch.org	HI	HI	HI	HI	HI	HI	EI	EI	EI	EI	EI	EI	EI	EI	EI	EI
****archive.org	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	

H = Head of household index   I = Image of census   # - see ancestry.com below
E = Every name index   + - see Heritage Quest below

*Heritage Quest: Free at participating libraries, including at http://www.libraryweb.org/heritage.html with a Monroe County
         library card (Available from home or at any Monroe County Public Library)
+ 1890 Special Schedule of Union veterans and their widows also available
**Ancestry.com: Library Version: Free at the Rundel Bldg, Local History Room (also Brighton, Fairport, Greece, Henrietta,
         Ogden, Penfield, Pittsford Libraries) with Monroe County library card & OWWL Library System
                    FHC Version: Free at Family History Centers including Brockport, Rochester, Perinton, and Palmyra
Ancestry.com includes a link to the 1890 Census Substitute (20 million records) and 1890 Special
                                                                       Schedule of Union veterans and their widows.
***FamilySearch.org   Free at http://www.familysearch.org/
****archive.org   Images of all US Census, free at http://www.archive.org/details/us_census

Note for searching at www.familysearch.org
Select *Search* from top row [Family Tree/Memories/**Search**/Indexing/Sign In/Join For Free]
 Select *RECORDS* to search the digital index (includes US & state censuses)
 Select *GENEALOGIES* to search legacy user-submitted content
 Select *CATALOG* to list microfilm, microfiche, and book content at Family History Library in Salt Lake City
 Select *BOOKS* for access to digitized books at several repositories
 Select *WIKI* for access to a vast collection of how-to articles

- **Other Census** (similar to US census - varies by state, may include county of birth)

- Censuses exist for many states and territories. A good starting resource is http://www.censusfinder.com/.
- Family Search Research Wiki Census for states, https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/New_York_Census
                                                      (substitute desired state name for "New_York" in this URL)
- US Census Bureau List: https://www.census.gov/history/www/genealogy/other_resources/state_censuses.html

New York State census in 1825,1835,1845,1855,1865(***),1875,**1892**(**,***),1905(**,***),1915(**),1925
- 1855, 1865 and 1875 have "better" info than the US 1850, 1860, and 1870.
- NY City Police Census 1890 for Manhattan (New York County) https://familysearch.org/search/collection/2381996, Ancestry.com (only 26 out of 894 books). See excellent guide for using the Police Census.
- **Family Search Research Wiki for New York Census, https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/New_York_Census**
- Dollarhide, William, New York State Censuses & Substitutes, Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2005. MCLS

- **Major contents of New York State Census by year:**

	1825	1835	1845	1855	1865	1875	**1892**	1905	1915	1925
Head of Household only	▒	▒	▒							
Every Name				▒	▒	▒	▒	▒	▒	▒
Gender/Race/Age				▒	▒	▒	▒	▒	▒	▒
Occupation	~	~	~	▒	▒	▒	▒	▒	▒	▒
Birthplace (State or Country)			~	▒	▒	▒				
Birthplace (County of NYS)				▒	▒	▒				
Birthplace (Country)							▒	▒	▒	▒
Relation to Head of Household				▒	▒	▒		▒	▒	▒
Birth/Marr/Death within the Yr	~	~	~							
Birth within the year									▒	▒
# of times Married					▒					
Marital Status				▒	▒	▒				
Parent of How Many Children					▒					
# of years in the US								▒	▒	▒
Naturalization Status	~	~	~	▒	▒	▒	▒	▒		
Year/Place of Naturalization									▒	▒
Veteran or currently serving					▒					
# of yrs Resident this City/Town				▒						
Street & House Number								▒	▒	▒

- **Access to indexes and images:**

	1825	1835	1845	1855	1865	1875	**1892**	1905	1915	1925
**Ancestry.com							EI	EIP	EI	EI
***FamilySearch.org				EI	EI	EI	EI	EI	E	E
****NYArchives/Ancestry							EI		EI	EI

I = Image of census　　　　　　　　E = Every name index

**Ancestry.com:　　Library Version: Free at the Rundel Bldg, Local History Room (also Brighton, Fairport, Greece, Henrietta, Ogden, Penfield, and Pittsford Libraries) with Monroe County library card & OWWL Library System
　　　　　　　　FHC Version: Free at Family History Centers including Brockport, Rochester, Perinton, and Palmyra
***FamilySearch.org　Free at http://www.familysearch.org/
****NYArchives　Free access on ancestry.com for "residents" of New York State. Ancestry.com has collaborated with the New
　/Ancestry　York State Archives and the result is that some files (currently 20) will be available to NYS residents forever.
　　　　Go to http://www.archives.nysed.gov/a/research/res_ancestry.shtml and enter a NYS zipcode. Must register on ancestry.com (free & permanent – do not register for a trial).

Course I – Census Inventory Subset (complete file with key available at <u>my website</u>)

Murphy		1st	John	Mary	John	William	Patrick	Michael	Mary	Fannie
		middle			E.		M.		G.	
		(maiden)		(?)					(Murphy)	(Murphy)
		surname	Murphy	Murphy	Murphy	Murphy	Murphy	Murphy		
		birth	b1844 Ire	b1852 Eng	b1875 NY	b1877 NY	b 1879 NY	b1881 NY	b 1882 NY	b1884 NY
		marriage	m1874	m1874	m?	m1905	m?	m?	m	m?
	Official	death	d1905-10 US	d Aft 1919 US	d Aft 1904 US	d Aft 1919	d Aft 1904 US	d Aft 1919	d Aft 1929	d Aft 1919
Census:	**Date:**	**Source:**								
1930 US	1-Apr	A/FN	deceased	NOT found	NOT found	NOT found	NOT found	NOT found	found-Buff	NOT found
1925 NY		FSC	deceased							
1920 US	1-Jan	HQ/FS/FN/A	deceased	found-Buff	NOT found	found-Buff	NOT found	found-Buff	NOT found	found-Buff
1915 NY		FSC	deceased							
1910 US	15-Apr	HQ/FS/A	deceased	found-Buff	NOT found	found-Buff	NOT found	found-Buff	found-Buff	found-Buff
1905 NY		FS/A	found-Buff	found-Buff	found-Buff	NOT found	found-Buff	found-Buff	found-Buff	found-Buff
1900 US	1-Jun	HQ/FS/A	found-Buff	found-Buff	found-Buff	found-Buff	found-Buff	found-Buff	found-Buff	found-Buff
1892 NY		FS/FSC/A								
1890 SUB	2-Jun	A/HQ								
1890 VET	2-Jun	BYU								
1890 Police	NYC only	FSC								
1880 US	1-Jun	HQ/FS/A								
1880 Mort/Ag/Mfg	1-Jun	A								
1875 NY		FSC								
1870 US	1-Jun	HQ/FS/A								
1870 Mort/Ag/Mfg	1-Jun	A								
1870 NY Co #2	NYC only	FSC								
1865 NY		FS/FSC								
1860 US	1-Jun	HQ/FS/A/FN								
1860 Mort/Ag/Mfg	1-Jun	A								
1855 NY		FSC								
1850 US	1-Jun	FS/HQ/A								
1850 Mort/Ag/Mfg	1-Jun	FS								
1845 NY		FSC								
1840 US	1-Jun	HQ/A								
1840Pensioner	1-Jun	GB/A								
1835 NY		FSC								
1830 US	1-Jun	HQ/A								
1825 NY		FSC								

Vital Records (birth/marriage/death) (includes birthplace, parents' names)

- Not universally kept until about 1890, varies by state
- Links for online death indexes at http://www.deathindexes.com/index.html
- New York required bmd in 1880, but some areas started earlier.
- NYS Vital Records Index – does NOT include 5 boroughs of NYC nor Buffalo & Albany before 1915. BMD for 1880 through most recent year allowed by NYS guidelines (waiting periods: birth 75 years, marriage/death/divorce 50 years). Available at Rochester Public Library and other major libraries throughout the state.
  - The Death subset of this index is available for free at the Internet Archive (https://archive.org). There is a separate file for each year:
    - https://archive.org/details/New_York_State_Death_Index_1880
    - https://archive.org/details/New_York_State_Death_Index_1881
    - https://archive.org/details/New_York_State_Death_Index_1882 etc.
  - The Marriage subset of this index is available at ancestry.com ($) [Ancestry has created "an index for the index" so you can search rather than just view images]. At some time in the future it will be available for free at the Internet Archive.
- New York City birth/marriage/death index, free at http://www.italiangen.org/ & http://www.germangenealogygroup.com/
- NYS Genealogical Research Death Index 1957-~1967 available at https://health.data.ny.gov/Health/Genealogical-Research-Death-Index/vafa-pf2s. Records for years prior to 1957 back to 1880 will be added gradually.
- New York, County Marriages, 1908-1935, images & index at https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1618491
- City of Rochester Historic Marriage Records, 1876-1943, http://cityofrochester.gov/marriagerecords/
- The fastest way to procure a civil registration certificate is to visit the City Hall or Town/County Clerk at the location where the certificate was issued. Prices are typically $10 to $30.
- Note that marriage certificates are not necessarily issued where the marriage takes place. Death certificates are issued at the location of the death which may be different than the residence of the deceased.
- Note that Catholics in the 1800s usually did NOT purchase a marriage certificate.
- For New York State certificates: http://www.health.state.ny.us/vital_records/death.htm
- Where to Write for Vital Records in the US http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/w2w.htm or www.vitalrec.com.
- Note that death records are a primary source of death info, but only secondary source for birth info. You're dependent on how accurate is the informant's memory.
- FamilySearch and Ancestry have large collections.

Church Records (usually no birthplace info, but sometimes there are interesting notes included)

- Baptisms, marriages, funerals; also sometimes first communion, confirmation, cemetery
- Good BMD substitute prior to existence of vital records.
- Pay attention to witnesses & godparents - probably close relatives or friends from the old country.
- Catholic Diocese of Rochester: LDS microfilmed every parish from its origin to about 1905. Copy is on microfilm at the Local History Room/Central Library.
- Catholic records are in Latin but decipherable. See https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Latin_Genealogical_Word_List (see other Latin aids on Resources page).
- Rochester Churches Indexing Project (mostly Catholic churches) http://www.rcip.info/
- RGS Church Records Preservation (early church images, not indexed) http://nyrgs.org/churchRecordImages/chRecIndex.htm
- Church records for throughout the world are available through FHC (not just Catholic or Mormon)

Tombstones, Cemetery Records (sometimes indicate the origin in the old country)

- Immigrant tombstones often include origin, as well as dates & relationships
- Cemetery records may include birthplace as well as next of kin and lot purchaser
- Death Certificates identify the cemetery and possibly birthplace and/or parents of the deceased
- Funeral Homes are a good source of copies of death certificates and other information
- Rochester: Mt. Hope & Riverside, http://www.lib.rochester.edu/index.cfm?PAGE=3310
- Rochester: Holy Sepulchre, http://www.holysepulchre.org/locate/search
- See FHC, also www.findagrave.com, www.interment.net, http://billiongraves.com/, http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov (veterans),
- http://www.usgwtombstones.org/newyork/newyork.html and http://usgwtombstones.org/

US Social Security Death Index (SSDI) (leads to SS application form (SS-5) which has birthplace, mother's maiden name)
- SSDI includes SS#, given name, surname, birth & death dates, last known address for those who died 1962 or later
- Using info from the index, you can order a copy of the SS application form (SS-5) which includes address, birth place, father's full name, mother's full name with maiden name, employer's name & address, and applicant's signature.
- Free access available on FamilySearch at this link and on AmericanAncestors (NEHGS, must register which is free) at this link. The AmericanAncestors database is free but somewhat convoluted to use, however it displays the SS# which FamilySearch does not display.
- You may find it helpful to use the Steve Morse One-Step SSDI Utility at http://stevemorse.org/ssdi/ssdi.html
- SS-5 applications were submitted beginning in 1936. If you believe your subject completed a SS-5, you can request a copy even if you don't find your subject in the SSDI.
- Use Form SSA-711 to order a copy of the SS-5 but don't select "Computer Extract" (subset only).
- Include SS# on SSA-711 if possible. Sources include: death certificate, funeral home records, voter rolls, military records.
- NOTE – when the SS applicant's birthdate is less than 100 years ago, the names of their father and mother are blanked out!
   - See this article for a helpful description of new regulations and how to work around the problems: http://www.legalgenealogist.com/blog/2013/05/31/ordering-the-ss-5/
- Ancestry.com has an index of the SS-5 info called "U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007" (This file is especially helpful if you cannot find your subject in the SSDI, but believe they may have had a social security number.)

Newspapers (anniversary & death notices may include birthplace)
- Birth, Wedding & Death notices as well as Anniversary notices, like 25th and 50th
- "Fulton History" site, great collection of old New York State newspapers and photographs. http://www.fultonhistory.com/
- NYS Historic Newspapers at http://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/
- New York State Newspapers, http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/nysnp/
- Rochester Newspaper Index, 1818-1897 at http://www3.libraryweb.org/lh.aspx?id=963
- Digital Newspaper Gateway of Monroe County Library at http://www3.libraryweb.org/lh.aspx?id=1360
- Rochester Catholic Journal/Courier (1889-2004) plus other WNY papers at http://www.rrlcnewspapers.org
- Brooklyn Daily Eagle (1841-1902) http://eagle.brooklynpubliclibrary.org
- New York Times, http://www.nytimes.com/ 1851-1922 (free), 1923-1986 ($)
- Collections at ancestry.com, www.newspaperarchive.com ($), www.newspapers.com ($), www.genealogybank.com ($), https://sites.google.com/site/onlinenewspapersite/Home/usa, http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov, http://www.xooxleanswers.com/free-newspaper-archives/ , http://libguides.bgsu.edu/USNewspapersInternet
- Wikipedia has a large list of online newspapers at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:List_of_online_newspaper_archives
- Elephind for historical newspapers at www.elephind.com
- www.legacy.com can be used to find obituaries (free) from about 2000 on.
- To search the Google News Archive at http://news.google.com/newspapers
   - Enter a search string and click *Search Archive*
   - Click on the *Archives* menu, then click *Custom Range*
   - Enter a range of years and click *Search*
- For a wonderful resource on How To research in historic newspapers, see http://www.theancestorhunt.com/newspapers.html

City Directories (probably no birthplace, but excellent "census substitute")
- Includes info such as occupation and street address
- Farm Directories may exist for rural areas.
- Directories were published more often than census - many were annual.
- Rochester Directories are being digitalized, see http://www3.libraryweb.org/, click on 'Local History'
- Buffalo Directories, 1832-1868, so far at http://nyheritage.nnyln.net/cdm/search/collection/VHB011
- Ancestry.com has many, also http://www.uscitydirectories.com, http://sites.google.com/site/onlinedirectorysite/Home/usa

Military Records (pension application & WWI Draft may contain detailed info, including birthplace)
- **Your immigrant ancestor did not serve? Pension records for his siblings/cousins could yield valuable clues.**
- 1840, 1910, 1930 census include indication of service as does the 1865 NY census. Also check the 1890 Veterans (& Widows) schedule in ancestry.com.
- Registers of Enlistments in the US Army, 1798-1914 includes birthplace. National Archives (NA) at http://aad.archives.gov/aad/, microfilm M233 & Ancestry.com. Many Confederate & Union records are in Ancestry.com.
- Pension and Veteran's Hospital records can be very valuable resources.
- Pensions records for Rev War/1812/Civil War, National Archives has microfilms & indexes. familysearch.org has Civil War Pension index cards. Ancestry.com has many.
- How to order Older (pre-WWI) Military Service or Pension Records
- How to order Post-WWI Military Service or Pension Records
- WWI Draft Registration of 1917-18. 24 million men registered - almost all born between 11 Sep 1872 & 12 Sep 1900.
      Some include birthplace/half include address of next of kin. Included in familysearch.org.
- New York State Military Census of 1916. All males 16 to 45. Not all counties survive. Ontario Co copy at County Archives
- WWII Draft Registration of 1942. Born between 1877 & 1897 "Old Man's Draft". Only NYC for NYS. FSC & Ancestry.com
- Web sites include Online Military Index www.militaryindexes.com, http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov
- When researching 1700's, do a search on the DAR site, http://services.dar.org/public/dar_research
- or more info on Civil War research, see *Researching Civil War Veterans* at http://www.rochesteriaci.org/
- Veterans Administration, National Cemeteries, http://www.cem.va.gov/
- New Horizons, great collection of military sites, http://www.newhorizonsgenealogicalservices.com/military-records.htm

Naturalization Records (some include county, parish or townland of origin/some don't)
- US naturalization process began in 1790
    - Declaration of Intention (1st papers)
    - Petition for Naturalization (2nd or last papers)
    - Certificate of Naturalization
- The steps (papers) could be recorded in different localities.
- Info may be birthdate or age, date/place of departure/arrival, name of ship, name of US sponsor
- 1890, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930 US census indicates naturalization status. 1870 indicates if US citizen, which for an immigrant implies naturalization. 1920 includes year of naturalization. All New York State census indicate naturalization status. The 1915 & 1925 census include year & place of naturalization.
- Homestead files and US Passport applications contain naturalization info
- Many did not become citizens, some started process but did not finish
- No central repository prior to 1906. Naturalization records since September 27, 1906, are held by the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) at www.uscis.gov/genealogy.
- A good overview with resources: http://www.archives.gov/research/naturalization/naturalization.html and http://familytreemagazine.com/upload/images/pdf/naturalizationlaws.pdf and http://www.archives.nysed.gov/a/research/res_tools_nysa_path_nat.shtml
- Some indexes, see FHC, National Archives and the Szucs book. Also http://www.germanroots.com/naturalization.html
- Ancestry has created an excellent research guide for naturalization records at http://c.ancestry.com/cs/media/naturalization-index.pdf?o_xid=72318&o_lid=72318&o_sch=Email+-+Campaigns
- See also http://www.naturalizationrecords.com/

Immigration Records (prior to late 1800's, no "last residence/place of birth" info - only port of embarkation)

- 1890, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930 US census includes year of immigration. The 1905, 1915, and 1925 New York State census includes the number of years in the US.
- US government began keeping arrival lists about 1820 but usually only port of origination
- In late 1800's began including last residence, from 1906 includes Town of Birth.
- **New York City Entry**
  - o Famine Irish Data Files, 600,000+ immigrants between 1846 and 1851. Some records include "last residence." Available at Ancestry.com & US National Archives site at www.archives.gov/aad
    - ▪ Under *Browse by Category*, click on *Passenger Lists*
    - ▪ Find "Famine Irish Passenger Record Data File (FIPAS), 1/12/1846 - 12/31/1851" and click "search"
  - o "New York Passenger Lists, 1820-1957" & "New York, 1820-1850 Passenger and Immigration Lists" at ancestry.com
  - o www.castlegarden.org Database of 10 million immigrants (more being added) who passed through Castle Garden and prior New York City immigration centers between ~1820 and 1892. For immigrants prior to Ellis Island (1892), also see US National Archives
  - o www.ellisisland.org Database of 17 million immigrants and 5 million crew members who passed through Ellis Island between 1892 and 1924.
    - ▪ first names can be blank, can use a subset of the first few letters (ex. *Pat*) , no multiple names or middle initials, only finds form in database – for example try abbreviations or nicknames (ex. *Chas*)
    - ▪ for surnames with prefixes try with & without the prefix, try with a space (and without) between prefix and body of the surname
  - o http://stevemorse.org/ Powerful searching for Castle Garden & Ellis Island sites. Also provides access to other ports, census, and other genealogical sources.
  - o https://familysearch.org FamilySearch also provides an alternative way to search the Ellis Island index. Select *Search*, then *United States*, then *New York*, then *New York Passenger Arrival Lists (Ellis Island)*
- **Other US Entry Points**
  - o From 1820 to 1920, about 6 million entered the US at ports other than NYC including Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, New Orleans, and San Francisco. See http://www.genesearch.com/ports.html
- **Canadian Entry**
  - o Many initially immigrated to Canada before going to the US (fares were often cheaper)
  - o See Canadian portal, http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/immigration/Pages/introduction.aspx
  - o New Brunswick Irish Portal, http://archives.gnb.ca/Irish/databases_en.html
  - o Border Crossings: Canada to US, 1895-1956, called "St. Albans Border Crossings" On CD and Ancestry.com
  - o Border Crossings: US to Canada, 1908-1935, 1.6 million names for 200 entry points, Ancestry.com
- Passenger lists are available through the FHC and National Archives as well as www.immigrantships.net, www.theshipslist.com, ancestry.com, http://olivetreegenealogy.blogspot.com/2015/06/find-your-ancestor-in-ships-passenger.html
- Arrival records are described at the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) site at www.uscis.gov/research
- ancestry.com has the "U.S. Immigration Collection" with over 100 million records
  - o Includes NY Emigrant Bank, 1850-1883 (predominantly Irish, often with family info). See Bank User's Guide.
- ▪ ancestorsonboard.com ($) has 24 million records for passengers who left UK ports 1890-1960 (includes Ireland 1890-1921).

Probate Records (<u>may include birthplaces</u>)
- Probate involves proving in court the last will and testament of the deceased. When there is no will, inheritance laws direct how assets are passed on to the next generation.
- Surviving children of the deceased will be listed with addresses. (Possibly a child had returned to Ireland to live and their address is likely near or at the family homestead.)
- If the deceased had no children, siblings will be listed with addresses. (Possibly a sibling lives in Ireland.)
- Probate records document activities in Probate Court. Family disputes related to probate often also end up other courts.
- FamilySearch.org has many including those for New York State at https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1920234 .
- http://usgenweb.org/, then select the state and county. This often gives leads as to where to find records for the county.
- New York State probate pathfinder, http://www.archives.nysed.gov/research/res_tools_nysa_path_probate

Land Records (<u>may include birthplaces</u>)
- The content of land records is unpredictable in a good way. Among the kinds of things you may learn are:
  - Location at a specific date range
  - Age
  - Occupation
  - Previous and subsequent residences
  - Name of wife/wives
  - Death date
  - Family relationships
  - Neighbors
- Terms to search for include: deed, quitclaim, patent, will, mortgage
- Check the FamilySearch.org catalog at https://www.familysearch.org/#form=catalog
- FamilySearch.org has many including those for New York State at https://familysearch.org/search/collection/2078654 .
- http://usgenweb.org/, then select the state and county. This often gives leads as to where to find records for the county.
- General Land Office Records. Patents, military warrants, survey plats and field notes. http://www.glorecords.blm.gov/
- See how boundaries change through the years at http://www.mapofus.org/
- Disputes related to land often end up in courts.
- Hatcher, Patricia Law, *Locating Your Roots, Discover Your Ancestors Using Land Records*. Cincinnati: Betterway Books, 2003.
- Ancestry.com has many

Family Bible (<u>may include birthplaces</u>)
- Many transcriptions online, search for "Family Bible"
- Cyndi's List is a good place to start, http://www.cyndislist.com/bibles

Digitized Books
- Free genealogy-specific sites include:
  - MyHeritage, https://www.myheritage.com/research/category-8020/books-publications
  - FamilySearch, https://books.familysearch.org/
  - Genealogy Gophers, https://www.gengophers.com/#/
- Free non-genealogy-specific sites include:
  - Google Books, https://books.google.com
  - HathiTrust Digital Library, https://www.hathitrust.org/
  - Internet Archive, https://archive.org/

Offline Resources!!!
In the area where your ancestors lived, there may be a goldmine of information about your family which has not yet been digitized and made available online. Check out historical societies, public historians (in NYS), genealogical societies, local history sections of libraries, and county and city archives in the locality that you are researching.

Resources   [MCLS= Monroe County Library System (Monroe County, NY, US)]

- FamilySearch Research Wiki, https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Main_Page
- FamilySearch Wiki United States Research, https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/United_States
- FamilySearch Wiki New York State Research, https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/New_York
- FamilySearch Wiki Immigration Research, https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/United_States_Emigration_and_Immigration
- FamilySearch Wiki Latin Research, https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Latin_Genealogical_Word_List
- FamilySearch Research Courses, https://www.familysearch.org/learningcenter/

- Dollarhide, William, *New York State Censuses & Substitutes.* Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2005. MCLS
- Lainhart, Ann S., *State Census Records.* Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1992. MCLS
- Neagles, James C., *U.S. Military Records.* Salt Lake City, Utah: Ancestry, Inc., 1994. MCLS
- Rose, Christine, *Nicknames Past and Present,* 5th ed. CR Publications, 2007.
- Szucs, Loretto Dennis, *They Became Americans: Finding Naturalization Records and Ethnic Origins.* Salt Lake City, Utah: Ancestry, Inc., 1998. MCLS

- www.cyndislist.com Cyndi's List is a huge collection of links related to genealogy.
- www.familysearch.org Mega genealogy site from Latter-day Saints (LDS or Mormon) Church. Includes free 1880 US Census, 1881 Canadian Census, 1881 British Census, Social Security Death Index
- www.rootsweb.com RootsWeb, great free collection of resources assembled by volunteers
- http://helpdesk.rootsweb.com/codes/ Standard country and state abbreviations
- www.linkpendium.com contains a directory of over 9 million links focused on US state, county, and local resources and surnames
- www.usgenweb.com US Genweb contains sites for all 50 states which are then broken down into sites for all counties
- www.n2genealogy.com Extensive resources not just for beginners, includes boundary county maps for all states
- http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/w2w.htm Where to Write for Vital Records or see www.vitalrec.com
- http://blog.genealogybank.com/a-genealogists-guide-to-old-latin-terms-abbreviations.html genealogists guide to latin
- https://archive.org/details/recordinterprete00martuoft   Martin, Charles T. The Record Interpreter: Latin forms of English names
- http://www.from-ireland.net/irish-names/latin-names-in-english/   Latin to English name translations
- www.dennisAhogan.com/lecturesandhandouts.cfm Alternate Forms for Given Names - name list includes abbreviations, nicknames, and Latin and Irish forms
- http://stevemorse.org Powerful searching for Castle Garden & Ellis Island sites. Also provides access to other ports, census, and other genealogical resources.
- http://www.archives.nysed.gov/a/research/res_topics_genealogy.shtml New York State Archives – Genealogy
- The Source: A Guidebook to American Genealogy & Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources
- The Genetic Genealogist A great source to begin to learn about DNA. Author is a biochemist PhD & longtime genealogist.
- 50 Best Genealogy Brick Wall Solutions Lots of good suggestions
- http://www.archive.org/details/genealogy great collection of digital resources
- http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/palaeography/ tips and practice for reading old handwritting

Subscriptions made available by Monroe County Library System:
- Heritage Quest, Free at participating libraries, including www.libraryweb.org/heritage.html with a Monroe County library card
- Ancestry.Com, Free at the Rochester Public Library, Rundel Bldg, Local History Room (also Brighton, Fairport, Henrietta, Ogden, Greece, Irondequoit, Penfield, and Pittsford Libraries) & OWWL Library System
- Free at the Rundel Bldg, Local History Room with a library card: AmericanAncestors.org, FindMyPast, Historic Map Works, Digital Sanborn Maps, and New York History

Subscriptions available at Family History Centers (including Brockport, Rochester, Perinton, Palmyra – find locations)**:**
- US Research: Heritage Quest, Fold3.com, American Civil War, Historic Map Works, Paper Trail, ProQuest Obituary Listings
- UK Research: FindMyPast.co.uk, British Newspaper Archive
- World Research: Ancestry.com - FHC Version, World Vital Records, ArkivDigital (Swedish), MyHeritage
- Other Tools: Kinpoint, Puzilla - Premium