Module 2 - Mining Records

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Module 2: Mining Records

November 10–16

Readings:

BCG. *Genealogy Standards.* 2nd ed.

- Standards #23, 24, 29, 30, 41, 46-48

Powell. *The Everything Guide to Online Genealogy.* 3rd ed.

- Chapter 5
- Chapter 8, pp. 149-51 re: religious records
- Chapter 10
- Chapter 13

Greenwood, Val D. *The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy.* 3rd ed. Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing, 2000.

- Chapter 24, "American Aids to Finding the Home of the Immigrant Ancestor"

Smith, Marian L. "Manifest Markings: A Guide to Interpreting Passenger List Annotations," *JewishGen*.

Russell, Judy G. "Bonding the Bride and Groom." *The Legal Genealogist*, blog, 17 November 2014.

Russell, Judy G. "A Matter of Consent." *The Legal Genealogist,* blog, 6 July 2017.

For reference: United States Immigration and Naturalization Service, *Foreign Versions, Variations, And Diminutives of English Names: Foreign Equivalents of United States Military and Civilian Title*, revised. Washington, DC: US Govt. Printing Office, 1973.

Discussions: **Discussions 2 & 3** postings end Monday, November 16 at 11:59 PM ET

Assessment: **Module 2: Immigrant Connections** due Monday, November 16 at 11:59 PM ET

Note: Access to discussion forums and assessment ends on Monday, November 23.

Lesson 1: Exploring Records

Overview and Objectives

In our second week of the course we'll look at the most popular records used by genealogists—vital records, censuses, and passenger lists—and discuss their accessibility and some of their nuances. You'll learn how to glean more information from records than just the data that is explicitly stated.

We'll explore many of the resources of the online provider *FamilySearch*, including aids for working with other languages.

You might be surprised to hear that most records are not online! You'll learn what archives and repositories have to offer us, and how to make the most of a research visit.

We'll continue our examination of organizational tools and how we can use them to correlate information.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this module you should be able to:

- Identify sources of vital records
- Navigate *FamilySearch*: record sets, both indexed and unindexed; the Wiki; and the Learning Center
- Apply contextual information to the analysis of a source and its information
- Correlate information from multiple sources and make inferences based on the correlation
- Recognize and analyze conflicting information

Using Vital Records: Birth, Marriage, and Death

In the previous module we considered how genealogical research is much more than just collecting dates of birth, marriage, and death for each individual that we are adding to our family tree. That is not meant, however, to discount the importance of these dates, the records that document them, and the other clues that can be gleaned from those records. They are usually a critical part of the first component of the Genealogical Proof Standard, "reasonably exhaustive research."

Vital records—birth, marriage, and death records—can sometimes be challenging to find and access. In the US, they might have been created and filed at the local, county, or state level. Different states began requiring the registration of these events at different times, and the requirement to register marriage records with the state might be much later than for registering births and deaths. States might have required the registration of vitals only at the county level well before requiring them to also be submitted to a department within the state government.

For a handy reference chart showing the dates of state records of birth, marriage, and death registrations, you can request the Vital Records Chart from *Family Tree Magazine*, free in exchange for your email address. The chart will be emailed to you, rather than downloaded from the website. If you prefer not to provide your personal email address for a commercial mailing list, consider creating a separate free email account (such as gmail) specifically for marketing offers.

See also "Where to Write for Vital Records," a webpage provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (the information can also be downloaded in PDF format from this site). This webpage provides the dates at which each state began requiring vital record registration as well as information where earlier records might be found, such as a particular county court or a state archive; it also has links to forms for requesting copies of records *from the state*. In some instances, the entry for the state will also note that vital records can be obtained from the pertinent county clerk, but in other cases the information about local (versus state) availability is not included. There are also online commercial resources which provide information and links and records-ordering services.

There is no national repository of vital records in the United States.

An internet search will often provide the most current information about the public availability of or restrictions on vital records. Create a search string of the name of the state, the words "vital records," and look for a URL ending in .gov or some other designation that it's a state government website; this will likely give you the best information. Also check at the county level, with a search string composed of the county name, the state name, and the words "county clerk." Sometimes vital records were created and are held at the municipal (city or town) level rather than at a county office.

For Example

To find information about vital records in Ohio, see the state website Ohio Department of Health: Vital Statistics. Details about the extent of their records, including which are at that state's Office of Vital Statistics and which are archived elsewhere, is at Ohio History Connection: Archives & Library. This page also notes that some of the early births and deaths originally filed at the county level might be archived at the state or might still be in a county probate office.

Determining when and where vital records were created is the first step; determining whether and how they are legally accessible is also important. Laws vary from state to state as to which records are open, restricted, or partially restricted. Laws also change—vital records previously accessible several years ago might now be restricted; conversely, the state government might have eased access rules.

Publicly accessible vital records from some states have been digitally imaged and can be found online at subscription sites such as *Ancestry*, free sites such as *FamilySearch* or *Ancestry Library Edition*, and state archives' sites such as *West Virginia Division of Culture and History*.

Strategies are similar for vital records of countries other than the United States. When did the government require registration, and what sort of data collection might have preceded that? For example, if a traditionally Catholic country, did the parish sacramental registers legally function as vital records? Were records created and held at a state or district level of government, or at the national level? What are the current laws regarding access? Are records imaged on *FamilySearch*, *Ancestry*, *Findmypast*? or are they on a government archive website? Have border changes, either national or district, affected where you should search?

Determining the answers to these questions can sometimes be challenging. The *FamilySearch* wiki can be helpful; see for example the detailed entry for Mexico civil registration. Genealogy reference books, conference presentations, and webinars that are specific to a country or ethnic group provide opportunities to learn the details and nuances of record creation, archiving, and access.

Explore: Check It Yourself

Would you be able to get the vital records (birth, marriage, and death) for each of your grandparents, from the state(s) or country/countries in which those events occurred? *Were* those vitals being recorded at a state or regional level then?

What about the vital records of your eldest aunt? your great-grandmother's youngest sibling? an older cousin who lives in another state than you? —Are these accessible to you?

Is there local (town/city/county) as well as state accessibility for those records?

Exploring FamilySearch.org

Let's use vital records as an opportunity to explore *FamilySearch*, one of the largest online repositories of these records.

In Carmen Finley's article "Who Was Aunt Mary?" which we will be reading in the next module, we will see the following footnote:

> Mary Elizabeth Stewart, death certificate no. 36645 (1919), State of Ohio Bureau of Vital Statistics, Columbus, Ohio.

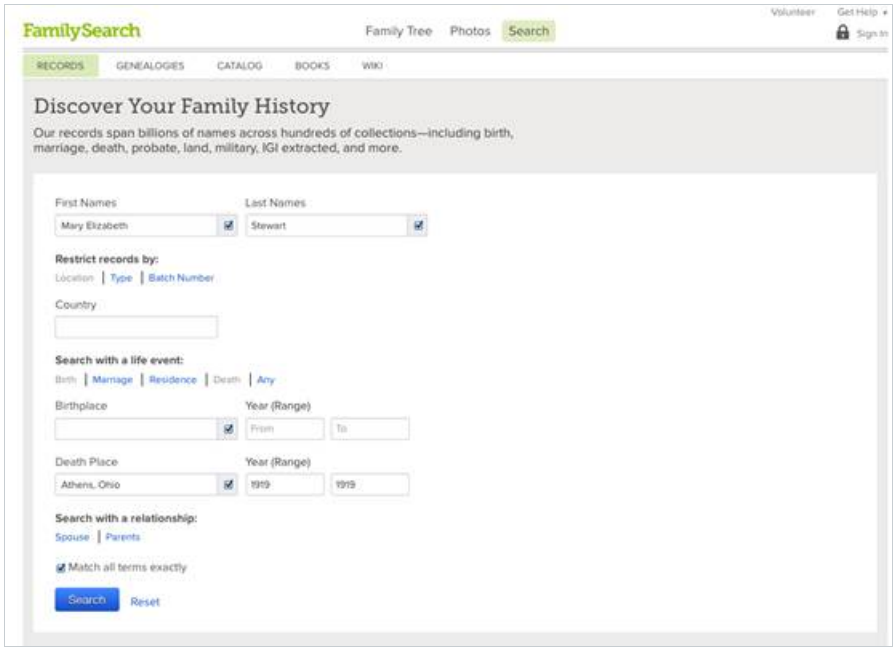
Let's use *FamilySearc*h to find an image of this death certificate and look at some of the information it offers that might direct us to further records for Mary.

If you are already familiar with *FamilySearch,* you may search for Mary Elizabeth Stewart from Athens, Ohio, who died in 1919. If you need step-by-step instructions, keep reading. Note that *FamilySearch* periodically and unexpectedly updates the format of the search page and it might look a little different from the image below.

Mary Elizabeth Stewart Death Certificate: Step by Step

1. Go to https://www.familysearch.org/. (You might want to do this in another browser window, or in another tab of your open browser, or you might find it easier to print out this page of the module text and have it in front of you while you have *FamilySearch* open on your screen.)
2. In the top right corner of the main page of *FamilySearch*, click the “Sign In" button. If you didn’t create an account last week, you’ll need to create one now before you can access the record we’re searching for.
3. Once you've signed in, click “Search” at the top of the screen to reach the Search page, and then click “Records” in the drop-down menu. Once at the search screen, type "Mary Elizabeth" for the first name (without the quotation marks), and "Stewart" for the last name; at “Search with a life event” click “Death.” In the box for place of death, enter "Athens, Ohio,” and "1919" for the year. (While "Athens" is not in the citation above, it is provided in the article about Mary, and it will make our search a little bit quicker.) If you tick the box next to “Match all terms exactly” it will reduce the number of hits considerably. If you have time, try the search both ways to see how the results differ.
4. Click the "Search" button located below the boxes we just filled in.

The *FamilySearch* search screen

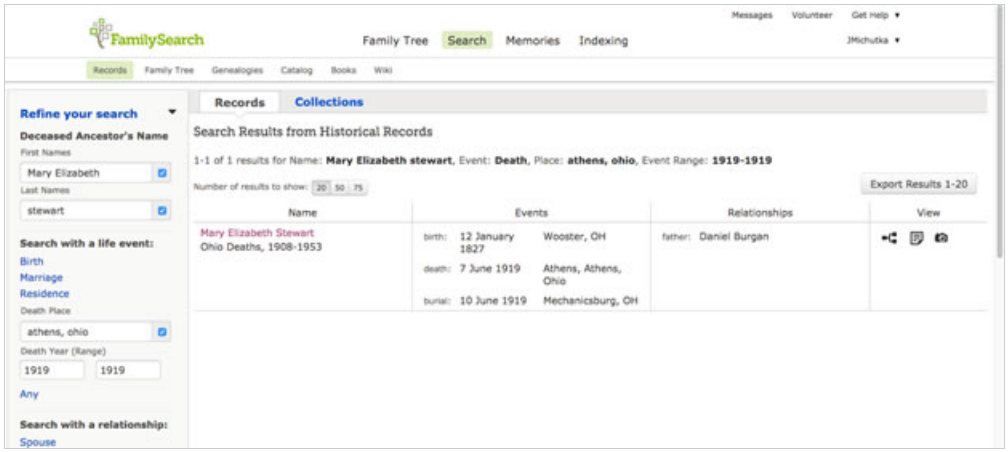


Click the image to download the PDF

Results

The first, or possibly only, record listed should be for a Mary Elizabeth Stewart whose death date was 7 June 1919 and birth date was 12 January 1827. Before we move on to the image of her death certificate, let's take a look at this page of search results. If you did **not** tick “match all terms exactly” you’ll see that there are thousands of hits. On the left are several categories by which we could narrow down the number of records if we wished. The line for Mary's entry gives us a little more information than we had from our record citation. The three icons in the “View” box indicate options: the left-most pedigree icon links to a family tree in which the person appears; the middle icon of a document will take you to an extract of the record we’re accessing; and the right-most icon (of a camera) links to an image of the record. Clicking on Mary’s name expands her line to a larger portion of the screen where the extract appears together with a link to the image, as well as buttons for printing, sharing, etc. This is an easy way to see if the additional information matches what we might already know about the person we're searching for, without leaving the results screen and losing our place in the list of hits.

Results displayed on *FamilySearch*



Click the image to download the PDF

Now we'll continue on to the image of the original death certificate by clicking on the camera icon (or, on Mary Elizabeth Stewart's name and then on the image thumbnail).

- You will be using this death certificate in the self-check exercise below. Please have it open to help you answer the questions or print it out for your convenience.
- Keep this document, you will use it next week when reading the "Who Was Aunt Mary?" article.

Information Self-Check Activity

Use the image of Mary Elizabeth Stewart's death certificate that you located to answer the following questions. Enter your answer in the text box beneath each question and then press the Show Answer button for the answer and explanation.

Self-Check

1. The image appears to be of the original death certificate. The entire certificate is in the image; it does not appear to have any portion cropped out; no area is obscured; nothing appears altered from the physical document. Should we evaluate this image as an original record or a derivative record?

We can evaluate this image as if we were looking at the original paper certificate.

2. Who is the informant for the "personal and statistical particulars" about Mary Stewart? What is that person's relationship to the deceased?

Mrs. F. S. Ro[???]; the reading of the last name is uncertain, it might be Rouch, Roach, or Rondi or something similar. The relationship to the deceased is not stated.

3. The *extracted* information on the search results page had named one of her parents as "Daniel Burgan." Does this certificate show her father's name to be "Daniel" or "David"?

Some will read it one way, some another. One could argue that the last letter(s) look like the two instances of d in "widowed" near the top of the form. Further research would be needed to determine whether his name was actually Daniel or David.

4. Will you be able to find a birth certificate for Mary Burgan issued by Ohio's office of vital records?

▸ Show Hint

No; according to her death certificate, she was born in 1827. Ohio birth certificates begin around 1909.

5. According to "Where to Write for Vital Records," where *might* you find a birth record for Mary Burgan?

At the probate court in the county where she was born. The death certificate indicates Wooster, Ohio, as her place of birth; from a quick search on the internet, it looks like that would be Wayne County.

Discussion 2: Explore *FamilySearch*

Go to the discussion board and comment on these questions.

Discussion 2: Explore *FamilySearch*

Take some time to explore the resources in FamilySearch and tell your classmates about something that you found particularly interesting or helpful. Examples might be a collection of charts, a wiki article on military research, or a video presentation on a particular topic.

A Closer Look: Marriage Records

State laws contemporary to the time of a wedding determined what needed to be documented. The process could create a surprising number of records in addition to a marriage certificate or register entry. Looking up those laws allows us today to infer details that might not have been explicitly stated in the records.

Reading

If you haven't yet read these items from this lesson's assigned material, do so now:

- Russell, Judy G. "Bonding the Bride and Groom." *The Legal Genealogist*, blog, 17 November 2014.
- Russell, Judy G. "A Matter of Consent." *The Legal Genealogist*, blog, 6 July 2017.

§ 2105. **License to marry—in what county to be obtained.** No marriage shall be solemnized without a license therefor, issued by the clerk of the county in which the female resides at the time. But when she is of full age or a widow, and it is issued on her application in person, or by writing signed by her, it may be by any county clerk.

Click to download as a PDF

§2105, Chapter 66, Article I, *in* John D. Carroll, ed., *The Kentucky Statutes*, 4th ed. (Louisville: Courier-Journal Job Printing Co., 1909), 934; digital images, *Google Books* (http://books.google.com : accessed 6 February 2018).

Records created might include

1. Affidavits: Arizona, 1916, Chavez and Chavez and the following image
2. Consent for marriage of a minor: Arizona, 1916, Chavez and Chavez (Arizona, same couple as above)
3. Another example of consent for marriage of a minor: wouldn't you like to find this much detail attached to your ancestor's marriage license? The letter of Maria Baca

   ▸ Show Letter
4. Bond supporting an assertion that there was no legal impediment to the marriage: Kentucky, 1913, Brewer and Akridge (See the law regarding "license to marry" above)
5. Notice of intention of marriage
6. Application for a marriage license
7. Marriage license and return: Tennessee, 1941, Montgomery and Gibson and the following image. Note the warning at the bottom of the "return" about a fine for late return of the license by the officiant.
8. Marriage license and return: Arizona, 1891, Garcia and Leal and the following image
9. Single-page form in a county register incorporating some or all of the above: Alabama, 1948, Parker and Allen
10. Certificate of marriage
11. Entry in marriage register

Further Practice

Carmen Finley's article "Who Was Aunt Mary?" notes that Mary was first married to Dr. T. J. Pearce, was widowed, and then married Daniel B. Stewart.

We know that Mary E. (Burgan) Pearce Stewart was born in 1827 and died in 1919. Will Ohio's state office of vital records be likely to have a record of the Pearce-Stewart marriage? (What does the CDC website tell you about the availability of marriage records from the state?)

See if you can find the county record for Mary's second marriage in *FamilySearch* on your own—or for instructions, read below.

Daniel B. Stewart and Mary E. Pearce Marriage Record: Step by Step

1. Returning to the main *FamilySearch* page, choose the "Search" option at the top of the page and then choose "Records" from the menu that drops down.
2. Search for a marriage record for Daniel B. Stewart in Ohio.
3. In the "Search with a life event" section, choose "Marriage" (leave Birthplace blank).
4. Enter Ohio in the "Marriage Place" box.
5. Tick the box "match all terms exactly" before you click on "Search."
6. Look for his marriage to Mary E. Pearce.

If you still have trouble navigating to the record, let us know in the Ask the Instructor discussion board, or click this link: https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939K-BVZ2-5?i=262&cc=1614804 to go directly to the record.

Note

You will be using the Daniel B. Stewart and Mary E. Pearce marriage record in the self-check exercise below. Please have it open, or download it or print it, to help you answer the questions.

Keep this document—you will use it next week when reading the "Who Was Aunt Mary?" article.

Marriage Record Self-Check Exercise

Examine and use the marriage record to answer these questions.

1. When did Daniel B. Stewart marry Mary E. Pearce?

   7 October 1875

2. Where did Daniel and Mary apply for their marriage license?

   In Delaware County, Ohio

3. Does the marriage record tell us whether Mary's father's name was "Daniel" or "David"?

   No; her parents are not named.

Records

In addition to civil records, there may be church records if the marriage was performed by a member of the clergy, or private records kept by the person who performed the ceremony.

A Closer Look: Derivative Records

Although it is easy today to make high quality image copies such as photocopies, scans, and digital photos, in working with original or unique sources we sometimes find that we need to copy the information we find there into another format, or we find that we are working with information that others have copied from documents. It's important to understand the variety of terms used in genealogy to distinguish among the different types of copies.

1. A *transcript* or *transcription* is a written or typed word-for-word copy. Your father might have transcribed his grandmother's diary many years ago so that all her descendants could have a copy. You might find that the handwriting in a 17th century document is so difficult to read that you need to work your way through it very carefully, type it into a Word document, and thereafter refer to that transcript as you incorporate the information into your research. Volunteers transcribe headstones in a cemetery so that the information can be published and indexed. Listening to the audiotape of Aunt Myrtle's stories at Thanksgiving and typing them word-for-word is also a type of transcription.
2. A *translation* is rendering information spoken or written in one language into another. Church records written in Latin, family papers from "the old country," and research done in records from other countries might need to be translated into English for us to understand them, or in order for us to share the information with others.
3. An *extract* is some portion of a document or other writing, taken word-for-word from the larger context in which it occurs. One entry from a diary is an extract. If you send for a copy of your birth certificate, what you receive might be a photocopy of the original, or it might be a new certificate with information extracted from the original document and typed into the new form.
4. *Abstract* might be the most confusing of these terms, because its meaning is slightly different from how it is usually used outside of genealogy. An abstract, for example of a will or a property deed, condenses the information in the document by removing the boilerplate language that does not carry essential information, while keeping the remaining information in the original order and phrasing.

If the source you are consulting is a transcript, translation, extract, or abstract, it is a derivative record, not an original record. We always try to consult an original record in our work, since errors can occur anytime information is copied. However, it is not always possible to consult an original record due to distance or inaccessibility. Sometimes, an original record no longer exists but a transcription or an abstract does.

Working in Other Languages

International Records

FamilySearch is a resource for international records, not just for the United States or just for North America. The next record we will look for is a baptismal record, written in Latin, from a town in what today is Slovakia.

Before you search for the record, what about Latin? Is it possible to accurately get information from a record written in an unfamiliar language? Often vital and sacramental records have a pattern; some careful observation, comparison of records over a few (or several!) pages, and a good word list will enable us to find the information we need.

Latin Assistance

FamilySearch can help us here, as well, with its extensive collection of wiki articles.

At the top of the main page, click the tiny question mark in a circle at the top-right hand corner of your page and then from the drop-down options click "Research Wiki."

- The resulting page will have a search box where you can enter "Latin."
- One of the first items on the search results page should be for "Latin Genealogical Word List"; click on that, and it will take you to an extensive Latin word list and discussion of how the language is used in genealogical records.
- Take a couple minutes now to explore the layout of information here and be sure to scroll down to the alphabetical Latin word list.

Repeat the process, except this time under the “Help” question mark icon choose “Help Center” and then “Learning Center.” Under the search bar on the page that appears, choose “Lessons,” and then type “Latin” in the page’s search bar. Two more very good resources will appear at or near the top of the list:

- "Key Words and Phrases in Latin Records," an interactive presentation by Ruth Lapioli Merriman (requires Adobe Flash)
- "Latin for Genealogists," a webinar by Heidi Sugden

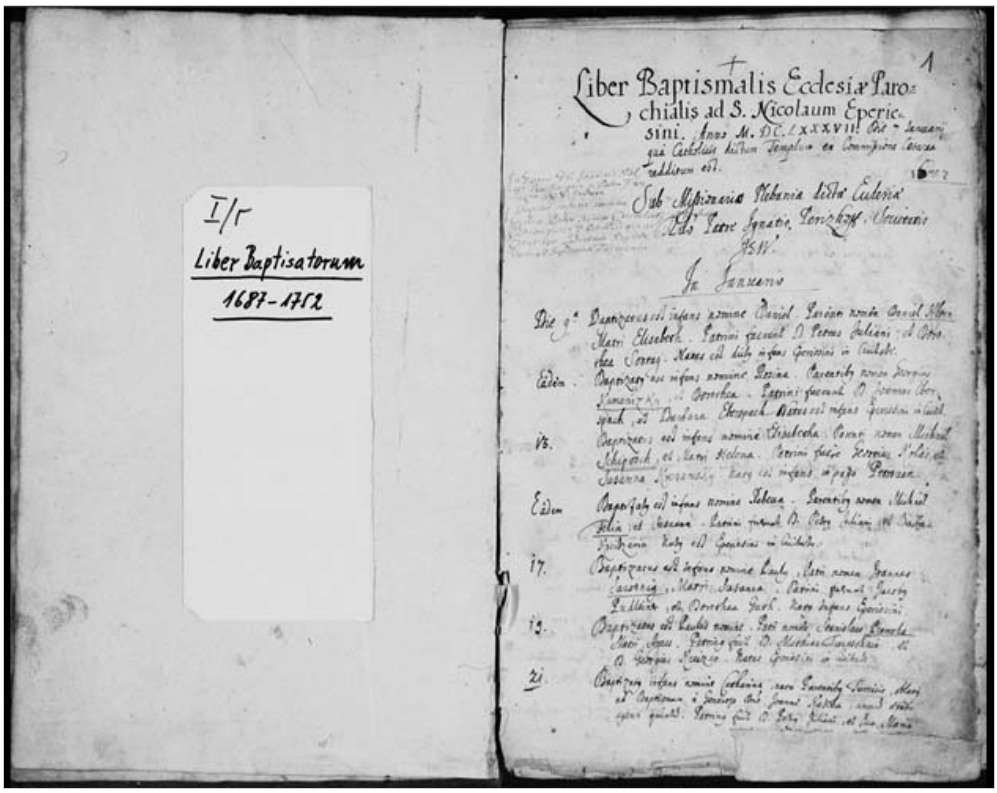
When you have a little more time in the future, revisit the options at "Get Help" (available at the top right corner of most pages), and roam the Research Wiki and the Learning Center to begin to get a feel for the many resources available. What languages do you need to be able to work with in your research? What does the Wiki and the Learning Center have to help you?

Baptismal Record

Let's use *FamilySearch* to find a 1687 baptismal record for Rosina Kamenizky in the town of Prešov, within the larger civil division (sort of like a county) also called Prešov, in present-day Slovakia.

Baptismal Record Search Step by Step

- To reach the Slovak baptismal record, return to the main page of *FamilySearch* and select "Search" at the top of the page and then choose "Records" from the menu that drops down.
- Under the world map, click on "Browse All Published Collections."
- On the results page, scroll down to "Slovakia, Church and Synagogue Books, 1592-1935" and click on it; or, in the bar on the left, navigate through geographic record sets to get to this collection.
- The next page includes a brief description of the collection. Also notice a link to "How to use this collection." This is worth exploring when you have time; it takes you to an entry in the Research Wiki, and includes sample images of birth, marriage, and death records in the collection, with an explanation of the record formats and the Latin terminology used. The sub-heading "Known Issues with This Collection" can have valuable information about very specific sections of records! *Reading about the record group in which you are searching is an important part of thorough research; knowledge of the records and of any gaps or problems in the record collection will maximize your results.*
- Some, but not all, of the Slovak records have been indexed and can now be searched by name. We'll be looking at the record collections rather than using the search by name function. Under "View Images in this Collection," click on the words "Browse through 1,624,867 images." (Note that the number of images might be different, as *FamilySearch* is continually adding more records to the collection.)
- The resulting page will list several religious denominations; click on "Roman Catholic."
- On the page of "county" names that comes up, click on "Prešov," and on the next page of town names within the county, click on "Prešov" again.
- A long list of volumes of church records will appear; click on the one which includes, "Baptisms (Krsty), 1687-1718."
- We're looking for the first page of that particular volume (register) of baptisms, but there are also other volumes of records in this set. Rather than making you hunt through a few hundred images, you can type the number "311" in the box at the end of the links path above the images and click. This will take you to the first page of the volume of baptisms; you will be able to make the image larger with the zoom tool. (If you wish to return to the image of this page in the future, the direct link is https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-62VW-KN7?i=310&cc=1554443.)



"Liber Baptismalis Ecclesiae Parochialis ad S. Nicolaum Eperiesini" [Book of baptisms, St. Nicholas Church in Prešov] (Prešov, Slovakia), Baptisms 1687-1752, p. 1, Rosina Kamenizky; Inventory no. 863/6, Regional State Archives, Prešov; digital image, "Slovakia Church and Synagogue Books, 1592-1910," *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/: accessed 15 January 2018), Prešov Roman Catholic baptisms 1687-1718, image 311.

Notes about the citation

Look at the groupings within this citation: [identification of the volume of records], [section within the book], [details to identify the specific record]; [identification of the repository and its inventory or call number for the volume]; [where the volume can be accessed online].

The title of the baptismal register and its page number come from the image of that first page. The information about where the register is physically located can be found in a couple of different places; one of these is the "target" made for this register when it was microfilmed. You'll see the target if you go back a couple images to number 309.

Did you notice that there are three different spans of years in that one citation? What's up with that??

- the section of baptismal records within the volume we're referring to covers 1687-1752;
- the general online collection of Slovak church and synagogue books at *FamilySearch* spans a large period of time, 1592-1910, and that's part of the title of the collection
- as we drilled down through the digital collection and its digital sub-collections, the final one probably included two or more volumes and covers a wider span of time than just the one volume we're consulting.

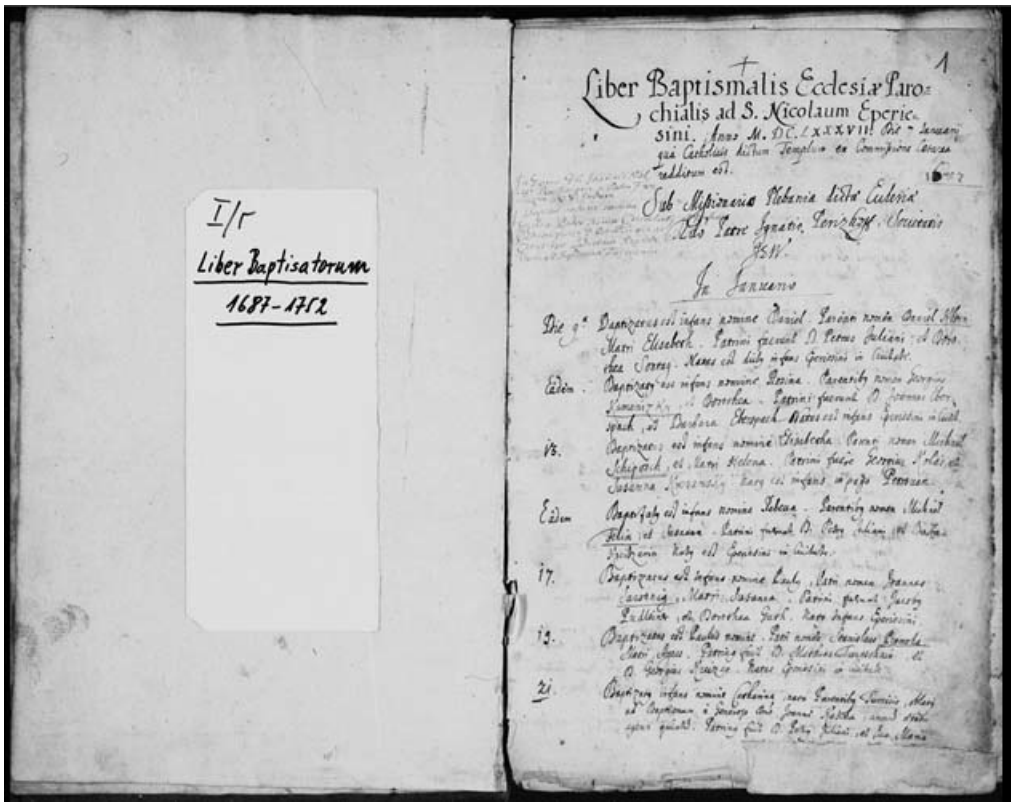
Some genealogists do not include the repository information when they cite a record that they accessed online. Others include it in their working citation in their research notes, but not in a final polished citation for a report or article.

Transcription Exercise

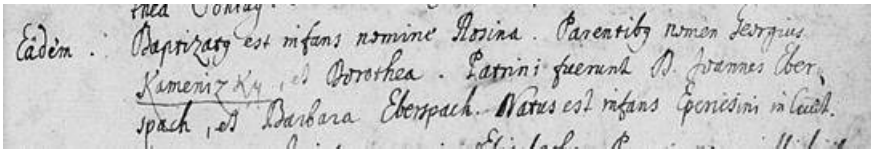
In the following exercise you'll see the baptism entry for Rosina Kamenizky. Use the link below to view the larger image at *FamilySearch* and zoom in to study the letters and words as you transcribe it.

https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-62VW-KN7?i=310&cc=1554443

Transcribe the Prešov baptismal record. It's always much more difficult to transcribe a language we don't know, but it's an important skill nonetheless. It is often helpful to compare one entry to other entries on the same and adjacent pages—much of the phrasing is repeated, and letters might be more clearly written in one entry than in another.



Eadem. Baptizatus est infans nomine Rosina. Parentibus nomen Georgius Kamenizky et Dorothea. Patrini fuerunt D.Joannes Eber-
spach, et Barbara Eberspach. Natus est infans Eperiesini in Civit.



You will often find unfamiliar abbreviations and shorthand-like symbols in documents like these. Take the time to look them up and learn about them. In this case, what appears to be a -g on the end of "Baptizatus" and "Parentibus" is actually an abbreviation for -us. See Roger P. Minert, *Deciphering Handwriting in German Documents: Analyzing German, Latin, and French in Historical Manuscripts. 2nd ed.* (Provo, UT: GRT Publications, 2013), page 82: "the ending syllable -us is often

represented by a single symbol resembling the g."

Analysis and Correlation: Census Records

After vital records, census records are probably the most well-known and commonly used genealogical resource. In many countries, they provide an every-ten-years snapshot of individuals and families, as well as a wealth of information about the neighborhood and larger community in which our research subjects lived and worked. Like many of the other records that genealogists use, the decennial censuses had purposes that had nothing to do with genealogy. So, to best understand what these records can tell us, we need to know why they were created and the conventions and terminology used.

Instructions for enumerators (census takers) for each US (federal) census can be found at two websites. IPUMS USA (The Integrated Public Use Microdata Series), for our immediate purposes, provides the text of the instructions for the population schedule (and only the population schedule) of the each of the federal censuses; you'll find it at https://usa.ipums.org/usa/voliii/tEnumInstr.shtml. The "History" page of the *United States Census Bureau* website provides images of the booklet *Instructions to Enumerators* for each of the federal censuses; these digitized booklets include instructions for the non-population schedules as well. The 1870 federal census, for example, included a Mortality Schedule, an Agriculture Schedule, an Industry Schedule, and a Social Statistics Schedule. See https://www.census.gov/history/www/through_the_decades/census_instructions/.

You'll recall that the third component of the Genealogical Proof Standard is:

"We test—through processes of analysis and correlation—all sources, information items, and evidence contributing to an answer to a genealogical question or problem."

Analysis refers to those determinations we learned about earlier: whether a given source is an original record or a derivative record or an authored work; identifying informants; assessing whether the information they offer is primary information or not, or whether we can even tell how they know the information; and asking ourselves whether two (or more) sources might in fact have an informant or underlying source in common and therefore not offer independent support of information.

One critical aspect of census records is that the informants for household information were not identified until the 1940 census. Therefore we almost always have to evaluate the information items as "undetermined," because we cannot be certain whether they were provided by someone with first-hand knowledge ("primary information") or by someone with second-hand knowledge ("secondary information"). Speculating for example that the wife of the head of household must have been the informant because the enumerator came on a weekday "when her husband would be at work" is risky—the enumerator might have come in the evening after business hours, the husband might have been home for lunch, or some other equally likely scenario might have occurred.

Correlation involves comparing and contrasting items of information against each other, looking for differences that must be resolved or explained, and building confidence in results when independent sources support each other.

Examining the information for an individual or a family across multiple census years is a common type of correlation. Targeting specific information presented slightly differently in various census years can add insight or help answer research questions.

For example: twentieth-century census forms asked multiple questions that are helpful in determining the origins of immigrants. Combining the pertinent column headings with instructions to the enumerators can add to our understanding of the information we find.

PDF version

1850-1880	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940
state, territory, or	place of birth; "if of foreign birth, give the	place of birth; similar to 1900, with notes	place of birth; similar to 1910, but with specific	place of birth; similar to previous censuses, but	place of birth; "country in which

1850-1880	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940
country of birth	*country* only"; "By country is meant usually a region whose people have direct relation to other countries." [exceptions are noted, e.g., Austria, and Poland "as Poland is not now a country"]	re: certain places such as Austria, Poland, Russia, Canada, Great Britain; e.g., "If the birthplace reported is Canada, ask whether the person is of English or French descent, and write *Canada (Engl.)* or *Canada (Fr.)*"	instruction re: names of certain countries "as they were before the war"; "If the person was born abroad, but of American parents, write both the birthplace and *Am. cit.*"	with even more specific instructions, e.g., "Special attention must be give to the six countries which lost a part of their territory in the readjustments following the World War. These six countries are…. If the person reports one of these, ask specifically whether the birthplace is located within the present area of the country."	birthplace was situated on January 1, 1937"; "enter the name of the country only, … except as noted in the following paragraphs"; other instructions similar to previous censuses
			mother tongue; "the language of customary speech before coming to the US," followed by list	mother tongue of foreign born; instructions similar to 1920	
	year of immigration to the US; "If he was born abroad, enter the year in which he arrived in the United States."	year of immigration to US; "If he has been in the US more than once, give the year of his first arrival."	year of immigration to US; "This question applies to all foreign-born persons, male and female, of whatever age"; "Foreign-born persons include all those born outside of the US or any of its outlying territories [list of those]"	year of immigration to US; "This question applies to all foreign-born persons, male and female, of whatever age"; "If he has come into the US more than once, give the year of his first arrival."	
	no. of years in US; "Endeavor to get the exact number of years in all cases."				
1870 only: whether a male citizen over age 21	naturalization; see instructions to enumerators: Al –no steps to becoming Am. citizen; Pa-taken out "first" papers (declared intention); Na-taken out second papers,	whether naturalized or alien; abbreviations same as 1900; "This question applies only to foreign-born males ages 21 and over"	whether naturalized or alien; abbreviations same as previous censuses; "This question applies to all foreign-born persons, male and female, of whatever age"; abbreviations same as	whether naturalized or alien; abbreviations same as previous censuses; instructions even more specific than 1920, in part due to 1922 changes in naturalization of foreign-born women—"Since that date, she	citizenship of the foreign-born; abbreviations same as previous censuses, with addition of "Am Cit" for American citizen born abroad; specific instructions

1850-1880	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940
	full citizen. "This question applies only to foreign-born males ages 21 and over"		1900 BUT specifics about application to women and minors, e.g., "A married woman is to be reported with the same citizenship as her husband	must take out papers in her own name, and if she does not do this she remains an alien even though her husband becomes naturalized"	similar to 1930
			year of naturalization; "enter the year in which final papers were issued"; if naturalized through parent, enter parent's date		
	whether able to speak English; yes or no; "for persons under 10 years, leave the column blank"	whether able to speak English, or, if not, give language spoken; "… and in such cases, write the name of the language which he does speak" followed by a list of principal foreign languages, and directions re: specific language distinctions (e.g., "write Magyar instead of Hungarian")	whether able to speak English; instructions like 1900	whether able to speak English; instructions like 1900	
				language spoken in home before immigration	"principal foreign language spoken in home in earliest childhood" [supplemental question for persons on lines 14 & 29 only]
1880 only: each parent's place of birth	each parent's place of birth	each parent's place of birth	each parent's place of birth	each parent's place of birth	each parent's place of birth [supplemental question for persons on lines 14 & 29 only]
			each parent's mother tongue		

Changes in political boundaries and the ways they were designated in census enumerations can cause confusion about immigrant origins; correlating the information from one census to another and combining with answers about native language can reduce the confusion. Family information about John Horvath's country of origin was somewhat conflicting. Census enumerations for Horvath from 1910 through 1940 reflect his now-confirmed origins in what today is Slovakia but was part of the kingdom of Hungary as well as part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire at the time of Horvath's birth, and later part of Czechoslovakia.

	1910	1920	1930	1940
name	John Howard	John Holwat	John Ho??ath [appears to be corrected to "Horvath"]	John Horwath
country of birth	Austria Slovak	Hungeria [sic]	Austria	Austria-Hungary
year of immigration	190[2?]; wife 1906	1901; wife 1903	1901; wife 1901	
naturalization status	alien; left blank for wife	alien; wife alien	alien; wife alien	"NA" for John and wife each
year of naturalization	[blank]	[blank]	[not asked]	[not asked]
English? principal for. lang./mother tongue	Slavok [sic]	speaks English, wife does not; mother tongue is Slovak [appears to be "Slovick" overwritten by "Slovak"]; note that parents' mother tongue is "Hungarian" overwritten by "Magyar"	speaks English, as does wife; Slovak spoken in home bef. immigration [each]	[not asked]

1910 US census, McDowell County, West Virginia, population schedule, Adkin District, ED 69, sheet 6A, dwelling 75, family 106, John Howard [*sic*]; digital image, *Ancestry* (http://www.ancestry.com : accessed 18 January 2018), citing National Archives microfilm publication T624, roll 1686.

1920 US census, McDowell County, West Virginia, population schedule, Adkin Magisterial District, ED 44, sheet 20A, dwelling 382, family 399, John Holwat; digital image, *Ancestry* (http://www.ancestry.com : accessed 18 January 2018), citing National Archives microfilm publication T625, roll 1959. Indexed at *Ancestry* as "Holvest" and "Holwet."

1930 US census, Raleigh County, West Virginia, population schedule, Town Magisterial District, ED 41-24, sheets 7A & 7B, dwelling 121, family 126, John Horwath; digital image, *Ancestry* (http://www.ancestry.com : accessed 18 January 2018), citing National Archives microfilm publication T626, roll 2553.

1940 US census, Raleigh County, West Virginia, population schedule, Town Magisterial District, ED 41-41, sheet 16B, household no. 291, John Horwath; digital image, *Ancestry* (http://www.ancestry.com : accessed 18 January 2018), citing National Archives microfilm publication T627, roll 4443.

Misspelled Names

You might have noticed that Horvath's name is misspelled on some of the census pages, and also that it is incorrectly indexed in one instance. How should we handle these situations in our citations?

We cite what we see in the record itself (what **we** see, not what the indexer thinks s/he sees). If necessary, we add a brief sentence after the citation explaining how the name is indexed by the provider we used, so that others can find it.

The Neighborhood

We can also learn a lot about our target family by examining them in the context of the neighborhood in which they lived. And how do we define "neighborhood"? This will vary depending on the needs of our research, but at a bare minimum, several families before and after the target family. Of course, a neighborhood of tenement apartments in New York City and a neighborhood in a rural Midwestern area will cover different-

sized geographic areas and contain very different numbers (and concentrations) of people, and we should accordingly adjust the number of households and families we examine. Take care when you compare one neighborhood across multiple censuses, that you are actually reviewing the same geography: enumerators didn't necessarily walk the same route in the same order from one census to the next.

What did the neighborhood look like? The following questions can be used as a starting point. These questions are more pertinent to twentieth-century censuses, but will also give you food for thought for earlier enumerations.

1. Was it an ethnic neighborhood? If so, were the adults American-born offspring of foreign-born parents, or were they themselves immigrants?
2. Was there a mix of ethnicities, or of parents' birthplaces, or was everyone in the neighborhood born right "here," an apparently long-settled population?
3. What was the racial composition of the neighborhood?
4. Were there others with the same surname in the neighborhood, and if so, did their (or their parents') places of birth match those of the family being researched?
5. What were the occupations: factory workers, professionals, farmers, tenant farmers, blue-collar workers, and shop owners, or a mix?
6. What do the answers to "able to read and write?" and occupations and home values (where given) imply about the economic situation of the neighborhood in general, and your target family specifically?
7. Were there veterans? and how did the census instructions define "veteran" for the purposes of the particular census?
8. What types of family structures were typical in the neighborhood—nuclear families of husband, wife, and children? extended families? other?
9. How many children per family seemed to be typical?
10. Were three-generation families common?
11. Was it typical to see households with children other than their own, or with servants, or boarders?
12. What was the age range in the neighborhood?
13. How did your family compare, and if they were different, are there indications of why?
14. Did people own or rent their homes? Do the homes appear to have been single-family owner-occupied dwellings, three-family dwellings with resident owners, or large multi-family apartment buildings? If the neighborhood was a mix of owners and renters, were there differences in occupation that might be telling? How did the home value or monthly rent of the target family compare with that of others?
15. If the family moved between the censuses, did they change their situation: from owner to renter, or the reverse?
16. Did the family's occupation(s) also change? What might this tell you about the family?
17. How was the new neighborhood different from the earlier neighborhood, and does it appear that the family had moved up or down the economic scale (and what tells you that)?
18. Do they appear to have moved from, or to, a neighborhood where relatives lived? Do they seem to fit in better with their earlier neighborhood (ethnic background, economic situation, etc.) or with their new neighborhood?
19. If the family did not move, did the neighborhood change around them?
20. Do the same names appear as neighbors?
21. Were there more renters, surnames of different ethnicities than before, or more professional occupations?
22. Did your target family still fit in?

Activity

Information was to be entered on the census form as of the official enumeration date rather than the date the census taker (enumerator) visited the household. So, for example, if a family had a child born on 5 June 1900 and the census taker visited on 13 June, the baby should not appear on the census —because the official enumeration date was 1 June 1900. Census takers were not always careful about observing the official date, but it is still important to understand how it influenced what information might or might not be present, or differences in expected ages from one census to the next.

Using the Site https://www.census.gov/history/www/through_the_decades/overview/, or another

reputable source about the US census, complete the following table and retain it for your convenience. The official enumeration date is called “Census Day” on the site given and is located right under the title bar noting the year.

Census year (federal population schedule)	Official census date
1790	
1800	
1810	
1820	
1830-1900	
1910	
1920	
1930--present	

Discussion 3: Census: Focus on a Family

Go to the discussion board and comment on these questions.

Discussion 3: Census: Focus on a Family

Review the family of Pincus and Jennie Lukashevsky and their neighborhood in the 1920 and 1930 US census records. Our research confirms that the two entries pertain to the same family in spite of inconsistencies that you will see.

Important: Use only *FamilySearch* to locate and access the two census records. Do *not* create an online tree or any other online notes as part of your process. If you need to make a visual outline of the family structure, please sketch it out on paper.

In 1920 the family lived in Brooklyn, Kings County, New York, and were counted in Enumeration District 1507. You may challenge yourself by searching for them (their name was spelled oddly and then misindexed) or go straight to the page on which they appear in *FamilySearch*.

By 1930 the family surname had been changed to Lux and they lived in Brooklyn, Kings County, New York, and were counted in Enumeration District 24-1773. You may search for them or go straight to the page on which they appear in *FamilySearch*.

Review the course content on the page “Analysis and Correlation: Census Records.” Compare, contrast, and analyze the information about the family and its neighborhoods in the two census records. What changed in the ten years between the census enumerations? What did not? What was stated and what was implied? What questions are raised by the information? What might the neighborhood context suggest about the family?

Consult the instructions to enumerators for at least one of the information categories, such as how the words “family” or “dwelling house” were defined, or the order of entering names.

Do NOT research members of this family beyond these two census records. You may, however,

search for general background information helpful in understanding the family entries or the neighborhood, such as a map, a local history, occupation information in the enumerator's instructions, etc. We encourage you to review census pages before and after this family's for a better understanding of the neighborhood.

Post one or two of your observations in the discussion board; indicate in your subject line what your topic is, for example: "family size and occupation." Also comment on, expand upon, or raise a question about the analysis in one or more of your fellow students' posts. Do share any insights that you gained from consulting the instructions to enumerators.

Using Timelines for Correlation

Correlating Information

There are a variety of ways to organize information for correlation. A table works well in many instances, especially when there is a limited amount of information to compare and contrast, as in the previous census exercise. But what about items of information gathered in a larger or more complex research project? One popular solution is an expanded chronology (aka timeline) in a spreadsheet, coupled with a document list. Excerpts from one such project are illustrated below.

The goal of the research was to determine the origins of Slovak immigrant John Horvath: his date and place of birth and his parents' names. Horvath is the most common name in Slovakia, making it difficult to identify his passenger manifest with any certainty. Only one American record was found that named his town of birth, and it was just erroneous enough to be misleading. The solution came from identifying Horvath's wife's origins and reconstructing her family, which uncovered one particular record that became the first in a short chain leading to Horvath's origins: the third record in that chain named Horvath's place of birth, the fourth his date of birth and parents' names, and the last was his baptismal record confirming it all. Jan (John) Horvath was born in Spišská Belá (in present-day Slovakia) on 24 November 1878, the son of Tomáš Horváth and Zofia Pavelčák.

John Horvath; photo courtesy of descendant and used with permission.

This spreadsheet organized the ongoing research and its results as a chronology of Jan/John Horvath's life: events, dates, locations, and brief notations of records from which the info came. The chronology began with known information (whether or not it turned out to be correct) and was filled in with expected events or records, such as: estimated timeframes of parents' births; census enumerations in which Horvath and family might appear; possible military obligations. Document numbers refer to a separate spreadsheet in the same Excel workbook.

Some researchers add color-coding to their chronologies: one color for the subject, another for the spouse, a third for other family members, a fourth for associates such as godparents. Bolding was used in this spreadsheet to distinguish between speculation and confirmation of key information items.

cpeGenPrin_M2_HorvathTimeline.xlsx : Horvath Timeline

Event	Date	Location	Doc. No & Descr.	Other docs to find & not
birth of Jan Horvath's father	prob. 1856 or earlier			
birth of Jan Horvath's mother	1832-1861 (age 16-45 at Jan's birth)			
1869 census	1869			1869 census
marriage of Jan Horvath's parents	mid-1877 or earlier			Jan supposedly spoke German as family languag
birth/baptism of Jan Horvath	**1 Sept 1877; same; 19 January 1877**	Austria-Hungary; Bohemia; Austria	1 Alien Registration form; 4 WW II draft reg; 8 John Horvath death cert	pre-1895, so no civil registration of birth
birth of Jan Horvath	**24 Nov 1878**	Spisska Bela, Slovakia	24 marriage record (civil)	baptismal record
birth/baptism of Maria Klinko	1 Jan 1881; --; 1 Jan 1882; ca. 1883	Shenova, Austria-Hungary	2 Alien Registration form; 9 son Steve Horwath death cert; 10 Mary Horvath death cert; 18 Horvath-Klinko pass manifest	pre-1895, so no civil registration of birth
birth of Maria Klimko	**8 Jan 1883**	**Nizna Sunava, Slovakia**	FHL film (village parish records)	
maiden name of Maria Klinko			2 Alien Registration form; 9 son Steve Horwath death cert	
Mari's bro John Klinko born	9 June 1888; 1891; ca Feb 1892	Czechoslovakia	15 WW II draft reg John Klinko; 17 1930 census John Climko; 13 Horvath-Klinko pass manifest	
Jan Horvath military service	1898 (6 months)	Austria	1 Alien Registration form	Austrian military records; to know place of birth/residence first
Jan Horvath imm. to US	22 Jan 1901; 1901	from Bremen to NYC	1 Alien Registration form; 7 1930 census	passenger manifest
Maria Horvath possible first imm. to US (w/ bro? Istvan Klinko?)	1901; 16 Mar 1901	from Bremen to NYC	7 1930 census; 1901 pass manifest (download manifest)	work on this one some mo (careful reading of town names etc)
Jan Horvath m. Maria Klinko	ca.1898-1900	prob. Slovakia	7 1930 census	marriage record in [village Slovakia
Jan Horvath m. Maria Klinko	**3 Feb 1902**	**Spisska Bela, Slovakia**	24 marriage record (civil)	
dau. Maria born	**20 Mar 1903**	**Nizna Sunava, Slovakia**	22 baby's birth record (civil)	
		Nizna Sunava		

Horvath Timeline

The document list (below) includes a succinct summary of the most important info in each record. This spreadsheet also became the “citations bank” so that footnotes in the narrative report were a matter of copy-and-paste. The research uncovered a second John Horvath and a second John Klinko (the name of Horvath’s brother-in-law) in the same part of the West Virginia as they, and the document list was a good place to note those men’s records as well so that they wouldn’t take the research down the wrong path (see for example document numbers 11 and 16 for the wrong John Klinko).

Documents were entered in no particular order.

cpeGenPrin_M2_DocumentList.xlsx : Document list

No.	Document	Date of doc	Source of doc	Pertinent info (not all-inclusive)	notes, questions	citation
10	death cert, Mary Horvath	20 Aug 1942		name, address, date of birth, husband's name, birthplace "Bohemia," parents' names unknown, informant son, SS no. is blank		West Virg Vital Stati state file No. 304 (Departme
11	death cert, John Klinko (Mary's bro?)	8 July 1967		name, address (Weirton, Brooke Co), date of birth 15 May 1888, birthplace "Czechoslovakia," father Michael Klinko, mother Mary Popovic, b. Steubenville OH	**not Mary's bro: see #16**	
12	passenger list, SS Lahn, left Bremen 12 Feb 1901, arr NYC 21 Feb 1901	Feb 1901	client	name Janos Horvat, age 24, from Galicia, to Pittsburg, joining bro in Pitts.	not sure this is him; age is right, to/from is off	
13	passenger list, SS Barbarossa, arr NYC 16 Mar 1901	Mar 1901	ancestry.com	name Maria Klinko, age 17, s, from Abod Hungary, to Bridge[port?], to brother; traveling w/ Istvan Klinko age 43, who had traveled to US before	not sure this is her	
14	note of thanks from widow of John Horvath Sr		ancestry.com			*Beckley (February Thanks,"; (http://ww August 2*
					appears to	"U.S. Wo Cards, 19 *Ancestry*

Document list

Images courtesy of Julie Michutka and used with her and her client's permissions.

Timelines

The use of timelines as a research tool will be revisited in Module 5 of this course.

Manuscripts and Repositories

Genealogy enthusiasts today often begin their research almost exclusively online; others start by using collections of microfilmed materials. Many learn to broaden their research to courthouses and state archives. Savvy researchers also learn to find and mine the wide variety of manuscript collections that are available.

Most of us are familiar with specific facilities and specific record collections: land records at the county registry of deeds; vital records kept at local or state offices; wills and estate inventories at probate courts; military records at *Fold3*; and passenger manifests and census records available at Ancestry. These are the various official records created in the lifetimes of our research subjects, often as part of an interaction with a government entity (local, county, state, or federal) or congregation or business; often the records are still stored and accessed via that entity, or by way of digital imaging of records.

But people created myriad other records in the course of their lives: their transactions appear in a merchant's account books; their names appear in organization membership lists and newsletters; their legal needs in a lawyer's papers; and their activities in a relative's diary. Oftentimes people collected and saved their own records: receipts, correspondence, clippings and brochures, invitations, membership materials, awards, passports, and business records. Sometimes the collection was created and saved as a desire to document one's own life, other times it was the collected paperwork kept handy for future needs, or simply accumulated and never thrown away. Some of these collections were later lost or destroyed; some remained within the family; and some were acquired by a repository, for the purpose of retaining and preserving the materials.

Manuscripts

Many people think of a manuscript as the hand-written or typed draft of a book before publication; perhaps you've seen a manuscript of a classic title such as *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* on display in a major library's rare book room, open to some page in the middle of the work, with the author's own editorial annotations and comments in the margins.

But to genealogists, historians, librarians, and archivists, a manuscript is "any unpublished document." Those personal records and writings, receipts and correspondence, diaries and account books, business papers, and membership rolls are all considered manuscript materials. Official county, state, or federal records created by a public agency are not manuscripts in this sense.

Manuscript materials can be found in a variety of repositories and other facilities—archives, special collections in libraries, historical societies, colleges and universities, and municipal departments—and offer genealogists a wealth of unique sources for their research.

Repository collections include more than just papers. Photographs, needlework samplers and other textiles, uniforms and other apparel, audio and video recordings, and artwork are also available for researchers. For example, descendants of many late 19th and early 20th century southern Colorado residents might find family photos in the Aultman Studio collection at the Stephen H. Hart Library & Research Center of the History Colorado Center in Denver.

Repositories

A wide variety of facilities offer records, source materials, and reference materials for genealogical research. The types of records any given facility has depends on their mission, collection policy, and in some cases, the law. Public libraries have a mission and collection policy different from historical archives. Each facility sets out its own accessibility rules; for example, parts of a collection may be restricted due to constraints by the original donor or to preserve fragile items.

Many libraries and historical societies have placed their searchable catalogs on the internet. To conduct the most efficient research trip, utilize the catalog and record the call numbers of the items you wish to review. You can place the number and item description in your research log or directly into the report that you build throughout the research and analysis process.

Local Facilities

A local repository might call itself a historical society, genealogical society, town museum, or county archive, or name itself for an industry or ethnic group that is particular to the area. Collections might include records from local business and industry, vital records, cemetery lists and headstone transcriptions, school records, church records and ministers' sermons, local photos, local newspaper collections, obituary indexes, historical maps of the area, and donations of family papers. Personal and business items from times past might also be collected, providing a glimpse of daily life: farm tools, schoolroom furnishings, or a re-creation of a local office, a small business, or a typical home kitchen of a particular time.

Often run by volunteers, local facilities might have limited, changing, or seasonal hours; it's wise to call ahead to confirm hours. Onsite equipment might include photocopiers, microfilm readers, and computers, or none of these. Use of research materials might be open to anyone free of charge, or free to members of the society and access allowed to non-members with payment of a day or hourly fee.

Examples

- Andover [MA] Historical Society

- Archives of the Clinton County [MI] Historical Society

Public Libraries

Collections of local historical and genealogical interest are often housed in public libraries. Materials might be accessed only in a locked room after signing in with a librarian; hours of access might be more restricted than "whenever the library is open." Find out who knows the collection best, to guide your search: it might be the reference librarian, another librarian who has a special interest in the collection, or a local history buff who volunteers at the library on certain days.

Public libraries will have books on how to do genealogy as well as, perhaps, some specialized collections of local records such as newspapers, school yearbooks, or topical vertical files. Depending on their funding, they could also have computers with access to genealogical databases such as *Ancestry Library* Edition and *HeritageQuest* Online, and online academic research resources such as JSTOR. Public libraries don't tend to restrict access to general resources. The knowledgeable staff may not be familiar with genealogical research, so it is best to approach public librarians with specific requests aimed at material in their collection.

Depending on where you live and how the state's public library system is arranged, you might have access to the electronic resources of a much larger public library than the one in your own town. Your local reference librarian or the website of a larger library will be good sources of information about obtaining such access.

Example

- The Seattle Public Library: Special Collections

State Facilities

State libraries and state archives are usually found in the respective capital cities. State libraries may have newspapers and published works from all over the state, while the archives house the records collections of the state government. Our ancestors may have interacted with the government through petitions to the governor, state militia records, and land patents. Older naturalization records and probate files might be found at a state archives. Aside from official state records, other manuscripts such as governors' correspondence, military diaries, etc. may be found in their facility.

Archives

The website of The Society of American Archivists offers a brief discussion of what constitutes an archive, which can be summarized as "an agency that collects the records of its parent organization." Look for the archives of any organizations in which your ancestors worked, worshiped, interacted, or socialized. Access to materials will vary, so communication before a visit is essential.

National Archives and Records Administration

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and its thirteen regional locations archive the official documents of our nation. Census records, passenger manifests, military service and pension records, and naturalizations are just a few of the most popular records for genealogists found in this federal facility.

To find a NARA location near you or your area of research, see National Archives: Visit Us. In addition to collections of original records, microfilmed records, and computer access to online repositories and databases, NARA locations offer lectures, seminars, and exhibits.

Each NARA location will have many record collections specific to its area; the website for each describes its holdings and explains how to search the National Archives Catalog for materials that are of interest to you. For example, the Archives Division of the Rocky Mountain Region in Denver holds the Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, "document[ing] the federal government's relations with Indians during the approximate period 1875–1950, ranging from the Blackfeet in Montana to the Pueblos of New Mexico." The National Archives for the Southwest Region, in Fort Worth, Texas, holds the Records of the US Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit, 1891–1992.

Accessing original materials might require filling out a form and providing identification for a researcher's card.

State Archives

Some state archives have a strong online presence, offering images of various record collections. The West Virginia State Archives has images of birth, marriage, and death records online. The North Carolina State Archives has digital images of family Bible records on its website: "The online collection currently contains a selection of over 200 Bible Records (lists of birth, marriage, and death information written in North Carolina family bibles) from the 2000+ copies of various donated family Bibles held by the North Carolina State Archives."

The archivists at state archives are valuable resources for researchers. Assistance is often easily available by email or phone.

Other Examples

- The Henry Ford Archive of American Innovation
  "Though known most widely for its vast museum and open-air living history village, The Henry Ford also houses a nationally significant collection of business records ... The largest portion of the Library and Archives collections is the vast pre-1955 archive of the Ford Motor Company ..."
- The archives of the Supreme Council of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States is housed in Van Gorden-Williams Library and Archives in the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library in Lexington, Massachusetts
  “The Van Gorden-Williams Library & Archives is one of the premiere repositories in the United States for the study of Freemasonry and fraternalism. Its other major collecting area is American history.”
- The Archives Department of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston recognizes the genealogical value of their records, and addresses availability and limitations for researchers.

Digitized Collections

While only a fraction of manuscript materials has been digitally imaged and made accessible online, more and more are becoming publicly available this way.

Example

"Women Working, 1800–1930," *Harvard University Open Library Collections Program*, The collection includes images of diaries, institutional records, and photographs.

Private Libraries

Private libraries exist for a variety of reasons; most are part of a historical or genealogical society, ethnic or religious group, or college or university and they often contain manuscript items. These libraries' missions dictate their collection and accessibility policies. If these facilities allow non-members, they might require a written recommendation and appointment; others might accept walk-ins but restrict certain collections. Doing your homework ahead of time is the best way to enjoy an efficient research trip.

Examples

Library of the Western Reserve Historical Society, Cleveland, Ohio

American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Massachusetts

Planning for a Repository Visit

Repository Research Preparation

The most successful research experience will begin with preparation before you leave your own home.

Many, perhaps most, archives and repositories have an online presence. Use your favorite search engine and query the location or topic of interest plus terms such as histor* (to catch "history," "historical," etc.) or genealog*; add other terms such as "society," "library," or "archive" if you need to reduce the number of hits returned by your search.

The amount of information on repositories' websites will vary dramatically, from little more than location and hours to detailed catalogs and numerous digital images of items from their collections. Take time to explore the site before your visit; determining collections or call numbers beforehand will maximize your research time at the facility itself.

But what if you need to target manuscript material that might be anywhere? How do you search when you don't know which repository or geographic area to start at?

WorldCat

You can search for manuscript and archival materials on WorldCat, “the world's largest network of library content and services”. Using the "Everything" tab in the search box, type in something like the word "diary" (without the quotes) and the state your great-grandparents lived in. On the screen that comes up, over on the left there's a column called "format" where you can limit the search results; tick the box labeled "archival material" and the results list will refresh. Clicking on any title in the results list will bring up more information about the item, such as where it is located and often a brief description. Below the item description will be a list of related Library of Congress Subject Headings. Each of these is a hot link—clicking on it will take you to more archival materials cataloged on that particular subject.

Visiting a Repository and Using a Manuscript Collection

In addition to determining whether the repository might have collections of interest to you, and perhaps narrowing down which particular collection or files you will request, knowing what to expect will ensure that you are soon at work without delay or hassle, as the procedures and policies of each repository, archive, and library special collection will vary.

Logistics

- Double-check by phone or email that the repository will be open on the day and time of your visit. Hours might have changed due to budget cuts or staffing turnover; the number of open days per week might vary with the season; and posted hours aren't always updated on a website. A small local society might not worry about covering for a volunteer who stays home with a cold rather than opening up their little archival collection. Unfortunate, if that's the one day you are passing through and hope to access their materials.
- Double-check where the facility is located; online mapping sites are good for this. Find out beforehand where there is convenient parking and whether it is free or not.

- Find out where snacks or lunch are available. Larger repositories might have vending machines and a table and chairs in a designated "break room" where patrons can eat. A smaller facility might have a bench in the hallway where you can eat your bag lunch or snack and access your water bottle, but buying lunch might mean walking a few blocks or taking a short drive.
- Learn whether the repository is open to anyone, or whether membership is required and if visitors can access materials with a day fee or hourly fee. Check whether a non-member visitor fee allows access to all that the repository has to offer; some collections might be a benefit for members only or have other restrictions.
- Facilities might require you to sign in, show identification, register, or obtain a researcher's card; know before you go!
- Make note of what you can and cannot bring into the repository. Most facilities will allow laptop computers. Some allow you to bring in your own paper and pencils; others prohibit outside materials and supply researchers with paper and pencils. Ask whether there are lockers for personal belongings.
- Ask about the policies on making copies and what options are available onsite. Some archives will allow hand-held scanners on books in their collections (if they are not fragile), but not on manuscript materials. Digital cameras might be allowed, without flash; consider working at a table near a window for good lighting. Photocopy machines, scanners, and microfilm copiers (paper and digital) might be available as well; know whether you need to bring change, purchase a copy card, or pack a USB flash drive. Other facilities require that staff make copies for you, either while you wait or by request which will be filled and mailed within days. Images to be used for publication might require a formal request and a fee.

On Arrival

- The staff who will be assisting you will range from recent college graduates to senior citizens; from local volunteers to professional librarians and archivists with graduate degrees; from new hires still learning the collections to staff who seemingly have more information in their heads than the archives has in its database and printed finding aids. These are the people who will help you target the appropriate materials for your research, and in many repositories, retrieve it for you. We show our own professionalism as genealogists when we remember Standard #21: "Genealogists interact courteously with administrators, archivists, curators, librarians, and other caretakers or custodians of source materials and information. Genealogists respect these professionals' roles in preserving materials and information and making them available to researchers."
- Some repositories require that you meet with staff on your first visit, to be given an overview of the facility and its rules for researchers, and for the staff to learn what you are researching in order to get an idea of what materials you will be requesting and to suggest others that you might find useful.
- As mentioned above, you might need to sign in, present identification, register for a researcher's card, or pay a fee.

Working

- Some repositories might require that you work under the watchful eye of a staff member, and as noted above, restrict what you may bring into the room. You might be allowed only one folder at a time from a collection, be required to use special supports for bound materials such as books to protect the spines, or be asked to wear cotton gloves to keep oils from your fingers from coming into contact with the items. Be mindful that these one-size-fits-all cotton gloves reduce finger dexterity and sense of touch, making one a little fumble-fingered, and so be extra careful when handling papers or turning pages.
- It is possible that the material you need is in off-site storage. Time needed to retrieve it might be a few hours or a few days.
- Know where to return the archival materials when you are finished so that they remain secure and so that staff are able to account for every item that you have worked with.

Leaving

- If you signed in, check to see if you need to sign out.
- Policy might require that any bags or folders must be inspected before you can leave the building.

Research Repository Checklist

Family Tree Magazine offers a Research Repository Checklist (PDF) at their website.

You might find it useful to start a folder of these, or design something more appropriate to your needs in a document or spreadsheet.

Video: Timothy Salls Interview

- Introduction and Background
- Introduction to NEHGS
- NEHGS Collections
- Finding Information at NEHGS
- Accessing Manuscripts
- Samples from the Collection
- Conclusion

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I'm Tim Salls, manager of manuscript collections at the New England Historic Genealogical Society in Boston. I was drawn to the field through my mother's interest in genealogy. She did a lot of research when I was young.

And then I went to Simmons College Graduate School of Information Science in the archives concentration. And I would come to this society after school to help her research. And then I got a part-time position here.

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We discussed earlier the unique nature of manuscript material. And the unique nature results in certain rules and regulations according to their use. And it's very helpful for people using manuscript material for the first time to see why the archivist put these rules in place, and it helps make them more comfortable when they use the materials.

Because manuscript material tends to be unique, that means one of a kind often, that if that document is lost or damaged or destroyed then that information is gone. So many repositories will require you to use cotton gloves. If the collection is fragile, they might produce surrogates

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A manuscript is a handwritten or typed document that is unpublished. So a lot of patrons who come in to use our resources are familiar with library resources like books and microfilm, audiovisual materials that are all published, and they're less familiar with manuscript items. And the big distinction, as I said, is that they're unpublished. So it could be a handwritten letter, diary, documents such as that. A lot of collections also include photographs, because they require special handling as well.

There are fine distinctions between personal papers, an archive, and

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On the table are two examples of manuscripts from our collection that illustrate the power of manuscripts for people's research. The first item on my left is one of my favorite items. It was created by Joseph Tate, who was a schoolteacher in New Hampshire. And he went to every household in the town and recorded when the children were born. So that's an example that provides vital statistic data that would help you create genealogical record showing parentage and children.

But the other fascinating feature of this manuscript is in the second half, common places which were passages that the schoolteacher

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Over the 160 plus years that this society's been in existence, we've gathered hundreds of thousands of volumes, and thousands of linear feet of manuscript material. So one of the questions that people new to society often ask, you know, they're often overwhelmed. And they want to know where to begin and how to find resources related specifically to their research.

So one of the objectives of this society is to document all of the resources that we have in our library database. So that includes the published material, like the microfilm and the books, and also the

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The New England Historic Genealogical Society was founded in 1845 by five men in Boston. And they were very concerned about documents not being preserved, both family documents and government documents. So a lot of their early energy was devoted towards saving records and collecting records, both published records and unpublished records, so that people would be able to do genealogy and local history research.

The Society currently has 26,000 members throughout the world. The Society has about 50 full-time staff and we have educational tours. We

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I hope our discussion has taken some of the mystery away about using manuscripts, what they are, and how they're helpful for your research. And if you have any questions, please feel free to ask an archivist or a manuscript curator or a manuscripts manager.

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Lesson 2: Immigration

Immigration and Origins

Where Are We From?

Most of us in the United States are descended from people who came here, willingly or unwillingly, in the past four hundred years. Some families have handed down stories or saved documents that are very specific about where they came from. But other families are not so fortunate, and sooner or later we want to determine a place of origin, if not of our own ancestral lines, then for those of spouses or friends.

Finding an Ancestral Place of Origin

There are a number of reasons why finding an ancestral place of origin can be problematic:

1. The country of origin is known, but not the town.
2. The place name has been handed down orally and is garbled by changing pronunciation, making it difficult to identify.
3. The political identity of the area has changed, perhaps multiple times, so that, for example, what was recorded on a document as "Germany" was another time "Prussia" and today is "Poland."
4. A border has shifted by a few (or several) miles, causing us to search in the wrong country.
5. Our ancestors sometimes identified themselves by their ethnic or national group rather than the larger political "official" name of the place they came from.

6. Loss of family during childhood meant loss of one's own history.
7. Enslavement robbed ancestors of their identities and denied them most, if not all, forms of documentation.
8. Our ancestors sometimes chose to obscure their origins; or, their children chose to hide family history.
9. Poor handwriting sometimes means that the answer is right in front of us but inaccessible nonetheless.

All these reasons, and more, can create challenging research obstacles.

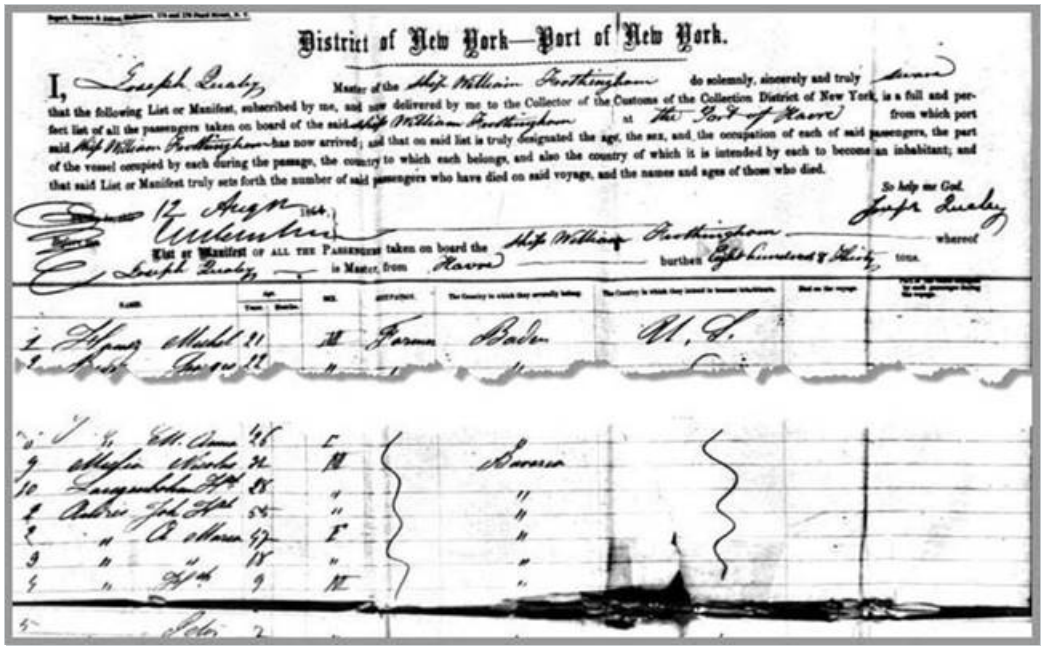
Passenger Records

Immigration Records

Probably the best-known and most commonly sought record for immigrants to the United States is an entry on a ship passenger manifest (also more colloquially called a passenger list). A passenger manifest entry not only documents a specific event in an ancestor's life, but also usually provides clues or explicit information about origins and relationships. Most of these records have also become easily accessible online, often indexed by passenger name, on both free sites and subscription sites.

Andres Family Immigration

Family stories said that Henry Andres came to the US before he was ten years old, that he had a brother Peter, and that his father's name was Henri; the family was either French or German. Henry's approximate date of birth and approximate age at immigration suggested that the family arrived in the 1860s. The following entries on an 1864 passenger list looked promising; the image below is cropped to show just the top of the page and the pertinent Andres group.


District of New York—Port of New York.

I, Joseph Dealey Master of the Ship William Frothingham do solemnly, sincerely and truly declare that the following List or Manifest, subscribed by me, and now delivered by me to the Collector of the Customs of the Collection District of New York, is a full and perfect list of all the passengers taken on board of the said Ship William Frothingham at the Port of Havre from which port said Ship William Frothingham has now arrived; and that on said list is truly designated the age, the sex, and the occupation of each of said passengers, the port of the vessel occupied by each during the passage, the country to which each belongs, and also the country of which it is intended by each to become an inhabitant; and that said List or Manifest truly sets forth the number of said passengers who have died on said voyage, and the names and ages of those who died.

So help me God. Joseph Dealey

12 Aug 1864

List or Manifest of all the Passengers taken on board the Ship William Frothingham whereof Joseph Dealey is Master, from Havre burthen Eight hundred & thirty tons.

View on *Ancestry Library*.

Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York, New York, 1820-1897, microfilm publication M237 (Washington, D.C.: NARA, n.d.), roll 244, 12 August 1864, ship *William Frothingham,* for "Joh Hch" Andres, p. 1, line 11; digital image, "New York Passenger Lists, 1820-1957," online database, *Ancestry* (http://www.ancestry.com : accessed 22 January 2018), image 1. Image has been cropped to show only the top of the document and the Andres group.

The information at the top of the page states that the ship *William Frothingham* sailed from the port of Le Havre and arrived at the Port of New York on 12 August 1864. The image isn't particularly easy to read, so here is an extract of the Andres group. Abbreviated names and dittoed information are filled out in brackets.

Line	Name	Age	Sex	Occupation	Country whence	To country
11	Andres Joh[annes] H[einri]ch	55	M	[Farmer]	[Bavaria]	[US]
12	[Andres] A[nna] Maria	4[?]	F	[Farmer]	[Bavaria]	[US]
13	[Andres Anna Maria]	18	F	[Farmer]	[Bavaria]	[US]
14	[Andres] H[einri]ch	9	M	[Farmer]	[Bavaria]	[US]
15	[Andres] Peter	7	M	[Farmer]	[Bavaria]	[US]

One of the most difficult things we learn as genealogists is to set aside assumptions. If the only previous knowledge is as stated above (Henry's approximate year of birth, his age at immigration, and names of father and brother), what possible relationships could these five individuals have to each other, based just on this passenger manifest? How many different scenarios can you think of?

Did you notice that the manifest does not state marital status or relationships? Their being grouped together under one surname with ditto marks seems to indicate a related group of people traveling together, but nothing more definite than that. These five people could be:

- husband, wife, and their three children
- widowed male, his unmarried sister, male's three children
- husband, wife, two sons, niece
- husband, second wife, daughter from first marriage, sons from second marriage
- unmarried male (perhaps widower), his widowed sister-in-law, female relative, sister-in-law's sons
- some other combination of relationships

Even with the knowledge that we are looking for two brothers and their father, any other idea about relationships and marital status is, at this point, only speculation for which we need further evidence. This applies to any type of record where we find people in what appear to be family groupings, such as census records.

Notice the citations for the passenger lists as we examine records in this section. The information in each citation can be divided into three groups:

[publication information, such as National Archives microfilm], [information to identify the specific record], and if appropriate, [where we viewed the information online, and whether it was a transcription or an image copy].

The information about the specific record includes: name of ship, date of arrival, person of interest, page number and line number. You might be surprised that the name of the port is not included in this grouping, but notice that that piece of information is already stated in the publication information.

Catching immigrants coming and going: the Herman family group

It's sometimes possible to find an immigrant moving across Europe and then to the United States on more than one passenger list. Rebecca Herman, a Russian Jewish woman, and her children appear on an outgoing passenger list from Liverpool, England, bound for Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and they appear again on the Philadelphia arrival manifest.

The ship left Liverpool on 10 May 1893, for a trip expected to take 32 days:

View on *Ancestry Library.*

Thirty-five-year-old Rebecca Herman and her children Golde, Bele [Baile], Itzig, Yoine, and Base [Bassie] on the SS *Ohio*:[1]

View on *Ancestry Library.*

"UK, Outward Passenger Lists, 1890-1960," database and images, *Ancestry Library Edition* (www.ancestrylibrary.com : 11 February 2018), entry for Rebecca Herrman family group aboard SS *Ohio* (Liverpool to Philadelphia), leaving 10 May 1893, images 155 and 160.

They arrived in Philadelphia on 5 June 1893. This arrival manifest provides far more information: their place of last residence, whom they were joining in the US, and that person's address. It's worth noting that Rebecca and her children entered at the port of Philadelphia, even though Rebecca's husband was already settled in New York City: when searching passenger lists, don't assume that an immigrant entered at what might seem to us to be the logical port!

View on *Ancestry Library.*

Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, microfilm publication T840 (Washington, D.C.: NARA, n.d.), roll 19, 5 June 1893, SS *Ohio*, for Rebecca Herrman family group, [List 1], lines 7-12; digital images, "Pennsylvania, Passenger and Crew Lists, 1800-1962," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 11 February 2018), image 162.

The family appears one more time in the ship's manifest (below), on a second, typed, list. There's new information here: although the family was from Russia, oral history says that they were delayed for quite some time in Germany due to the illness of a child, and this list supports some

connection with Germany. In addition, we learn that Rebecca could not read or write.

Item	Name	Age	Sex	Calling	Native Country	Read & Write	Dest'n.	Visitor or P. S.
272	Hicks, Mary	A	F	Servant	Ireland	Yes	Pa.	P. S.
273	Holte, Moren	25	F	"	Norway	"	Wis.	"
274	Hansen, Peter	22	M	Labor	"	"	N. Y.	"
275	Helgesen, Peder A.	29	M	"	"	"	" "	"
276	Hall, Thos.	34	M	Miner	England	"	Pa.	"
277	Hammil, Edmund	23	M	Waiter	Germany	"	Ill.	"
278	Herburg, O.A.	21	M	Watchmaker	Sweden	"	Mass.	"
279	Hultberg, L.A.	20	M	Farmer	"	"	Cal.	"
280	Hillgreen, Ona	20	M	"	"	"	N. Y.	"
281	Harrman, Rebecca	35	F	Wife	Germany	No	" "	"
282	" Golde	15	F	Servant	"	"	" "	"
283	" Bele	11	M	Child	"	"	" "	"
284	" Itzeq	6	M	"	"	"	" "	"
285	" Weni	2	F	"	"	"	" "	"
286	" Base	5mos.	F	Infant	"	"	" "	"
287	Hullberg, Louise	37	F	Servant	Sweden	Yes	Pa.	"

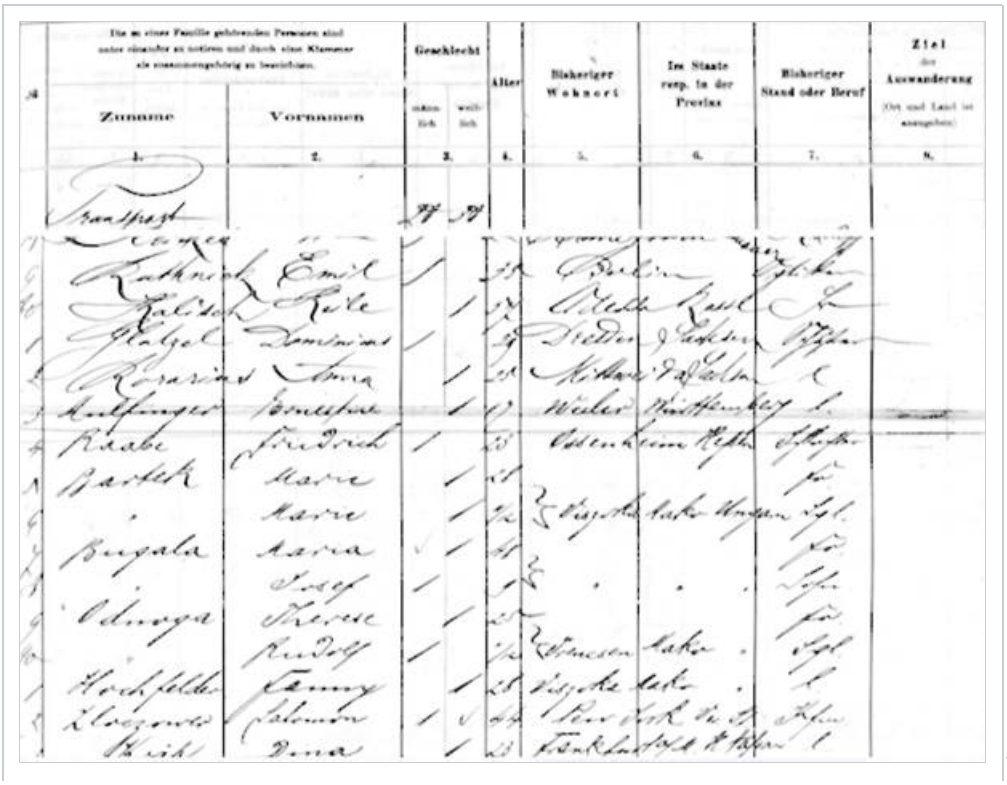
View on *Ancestry Library.*

Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, microfilm publication T840 (Washington, D.C.: NARA, n.d.), roll 19, 5 June 1893, SS *Ohio*, for Rebecca Harrman family group, typed List 8, lines 281-86; digital images, "Pennsylvania, Passenger and Crew Lists, 1800-1962," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 11 February 2018), image 230.

There is a lot of overlap in the information provided among these three lists from one voyage, but the few differences are illuminating.

Catching immigrants coming and going: Maria Bartek and a FAN club

Like Rebecca Herman, Maria Bartek with her baby was traveling to join her husband in the United States. Also, like Rebecca Herman, we find Maria Bartek on both outgoing and incoming lists, each providing information that the other does not have. Maria Bartek and her husband were reasonably well documented both as a couple with children and within their own birth families before their immigration records were sought.



View on *Ancestry Library*.

Auswandererlisten VIII A1 Band 95 [list of emigrants VIII A1 volume 95], (Staatsarchiv Hamburg), microfilm no. K 1755, 16 October 1896, Dampf-Schiffe *Normannia*, for Marie [sic] Bartek, page 1043, line 85; digital image, "Hamburg Passenger Lists, 1850-1934," online database, *Ancestry* (http://www.ancestry.com: accessed 6 September 2011), image 66. Image has been cropped.

Maria left Hamburg on 16 October 1896, sailing directly to New York City, and arrived on 24 October. *By itself*, the arrival manifest below would raise a question that requires other sources for an answer: was it coincidence that these women from "Hungary" were grouped together on the page and assigned to the "E Aft" compartment with many other women and children, or did they know each other and deliberately travel together? They had no surnames in common, and Fanny Hochfelder's name might indicate her belonging a different ethnic group than the others. In contrast, the town-specific place of origin on the Hamburg list (above) strongly suggests that these women knew each other and were keeping together as a unit. Maria Bartek did not board a ship alone with a baby and no helping hands: she was with at least three other women from her village (Trencsen Mako) and the immediately neighboring village (Vyszoka Mako). These women—Fanny Hochfelder, Maria Bugala, Therese Odnoga—were part of Maria Bartek's FAN club (**F**riends, **A**ssociates, and **N**eighbors). One possible question raised by the Hamburg passenger list is not so much whether they knew each other, but whether they might also have been related by birth or marriage.

View on *Ancestry Library*.

Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York, New York, 1820-1897, microfilm publication M237 (Washington, D.C.: NARA, n.d.), roll 667, 24 October 1896, SS *Normannia*, for Marie [sic] Bartek, page 3 [counted], line 87; digital image, "New York Passenger Lists, 1820-1957," online database, *Ancestry* (http://www.ancestry.com: accessed 6 September 2011), image 707. Image has been cropped. New standardized manifest forms requiring far more information had come into use in 1893, but there were still instances, like this one, of the old forms being used.

Tip

Unlike the other manifests we looked at, the column headings on the *Normannia*'s New York manifest include daggers, double daggers, and asterisks. Why? Navigating back a few images to the first page of the manifest, we see a small legend near the top of the page:

- † To be used for all passengers.

†† To be used for cabin passengers only.

* To be used for passengers other than cabin passengers.

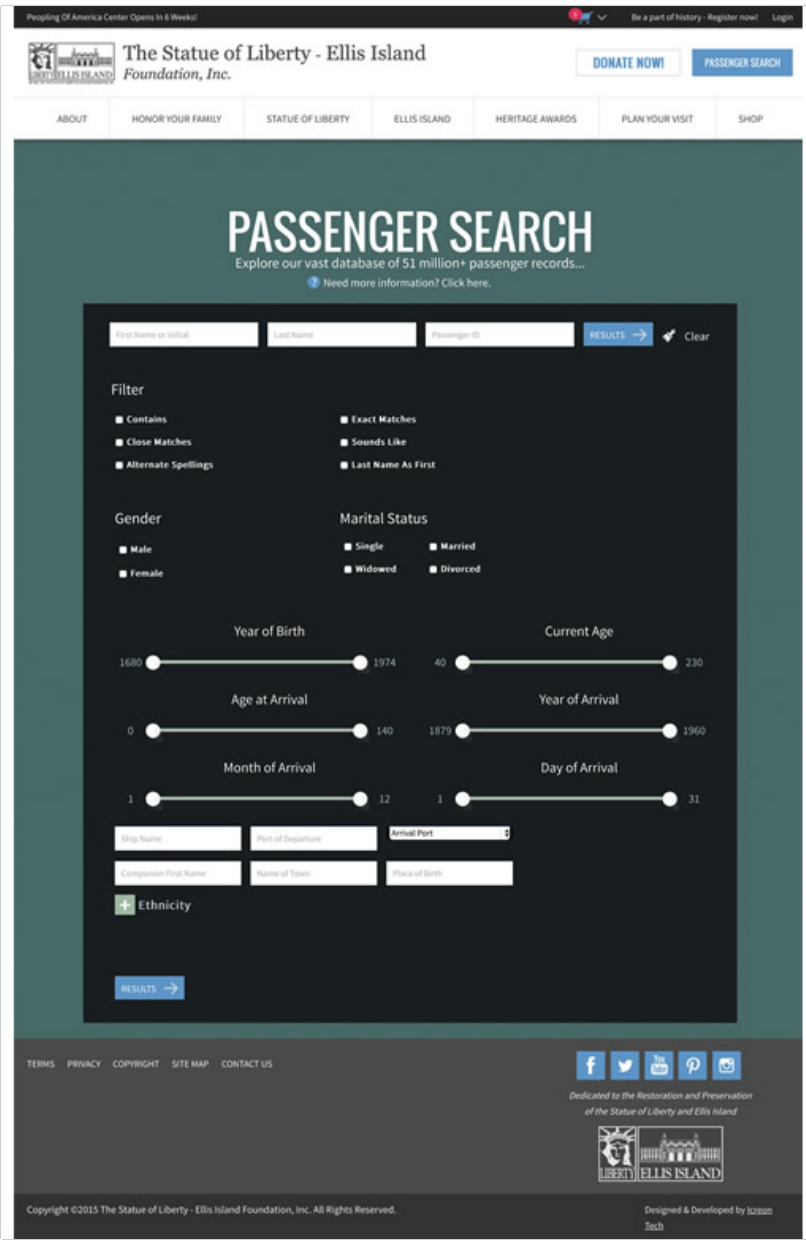
The page that Maria and her friends are on is clearly marked “Steerage”; what information was *not* collected about them because they were not cabin passengers?

[1]Names, spellings, and relationships of this family group are confirmed by Harry Herman (formerly Itzik Herman), Form N-600 Application for Certificate of Derivative Citizenship (edition of 7-1-42); research files, Julie Michutka, Burlington, MA. The form is signed but undated; it appears to be a working copy retained in Herman’s personal files rather than the form that was actually submitted. The form also confirms that the family group arrived in Philadelphia on the SS *Ohio*, but Herman did not remember the year.

Accessing and Searching Immigration Records

Where and how do we get to images of passenger manifests? The most popular sites for collections of these records are provided at *The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, Inc.*, *FamilySearch*, and *Ancestry*. Let's take a brief look at their respective search pages; you are encouraged to explore them further on your own and read the search tips for each.

Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation



"One Page Form" passenger search screen at https://heritage.statueofliberty.org/full-passenger-search

The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation is a free site but requires that you create an account in order to use its search functions. This site covers passenger lists only for the Port of New York, including Castle Island and Ellis Island, for the years 1820 through 1957. Reasons for **not** finding an immigrant on a manifest here might include badly misspelled (or mis-transcribed) names or arrival at a port other than New York.

The options on the search forms include beginning with a name and then filtering the results to narrow them down, or using the “One Page Form” to add constraints as part of building search criteria. Last names are required as part of a search, but can be limited by “exact matches” or broadened by choosing “contains,” “close matches,” “sounds like,” “alternate spellings,” and “last name as first.” Wild cards such as an asterisk or a question mark are not accepted. The search results can also be narrowed by ethnicity, and multiple ethnicity choices can be made for any given search—very handy for cases where a person's ethnicity and citizenship were different, when borders were fluctuating, or when political designations changed. A few sorting options allow for a couple of different views of the search results.

In spite of these options, the search functions offer less flexibility and creativity than other sites such as *Ancestry*; use Steve Morse’s site (discussed below) for more options in searching the indexed records at *The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation*. An additional caveat: the manifest image quality on this site is inferior to the image quality on *FamilySearch*, *Ancestry*, and *MyHeritage*, and its magnification tool is

frustrating to use.

Ancestry and *FamilySearch*

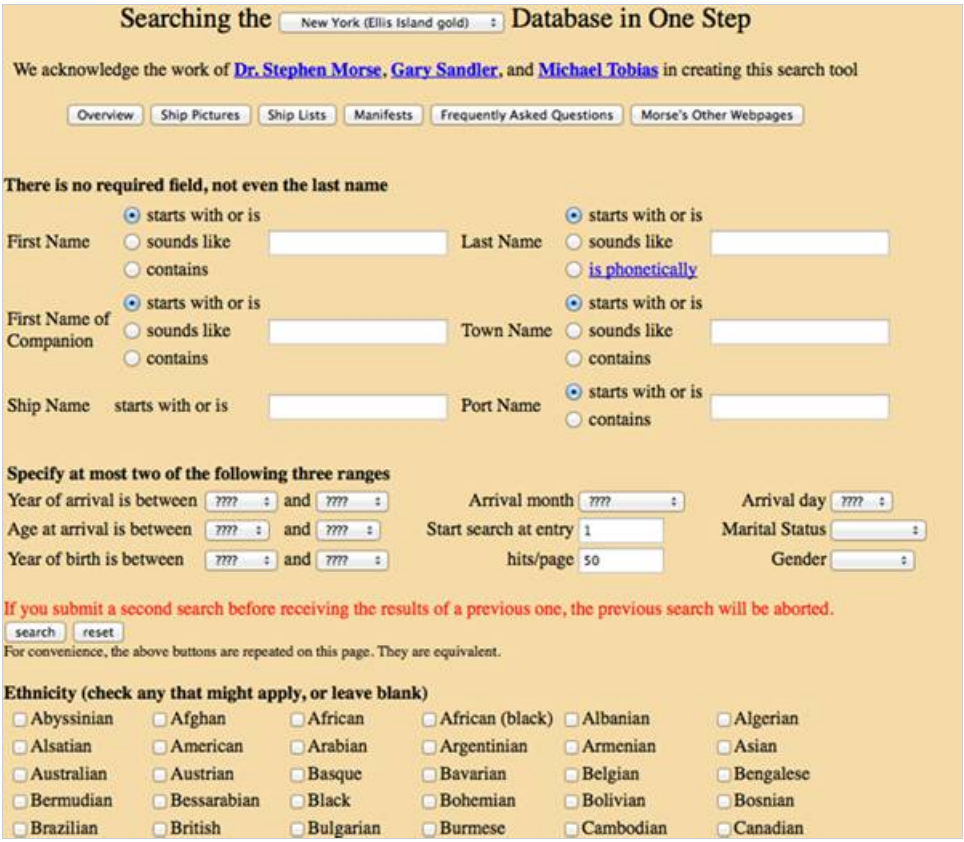
These other sites offer a variety of immigration collections, including passenger lists from a number of US ports besides New York's. The search functions of each allow for creative searches across multiple categories of passenger information and permit the use of wild cards in search terms. *Ancestry* is a subscription-based website but many of its collections of passenger records are also available via its institutional site *Ancestry Library Edition*. The use of *FamilySearch* is free.

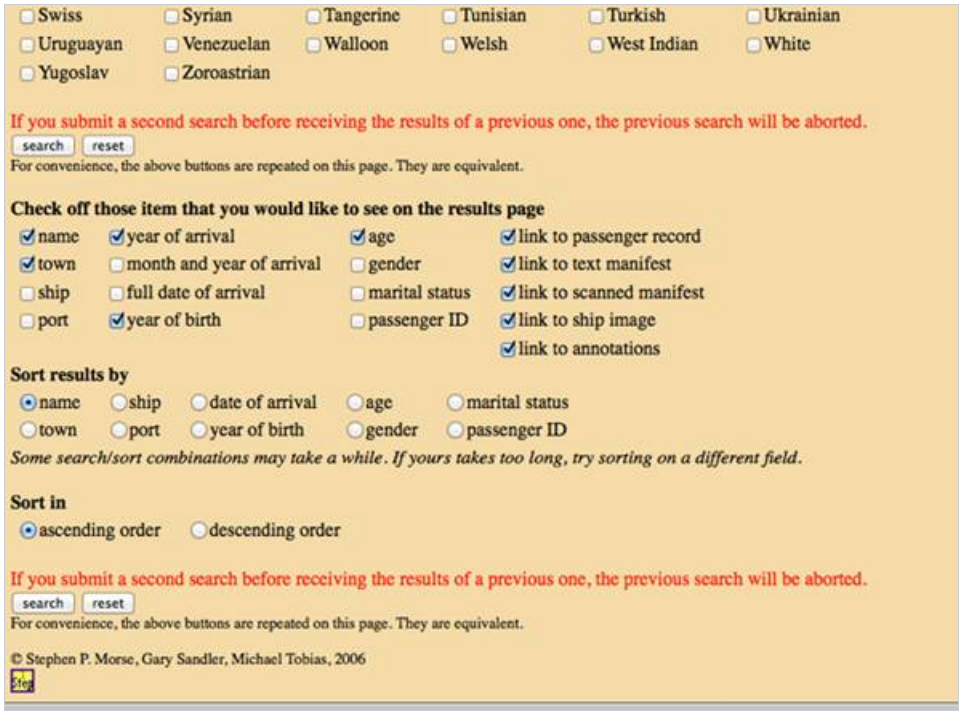
We'll use these sites, as well as the following site, in the upcoming Assessment.

Stephen Morse One-Step Website

Finally, Stephen Morse's site *One-Step Webpages* must be mentioned. There are no records at this site; rather, it is a group of search forms for collections at various other sites such as *Ancestry* (including *Ancestry Library Edition*), *FamilySearch*, and the Ellis Island website. As usual, time spent here reading the search tips and experimenting will pay off for future research.

Here is the top and the bottom of one of the passenger manifest search pages, in this case searching the Ellis Island site:

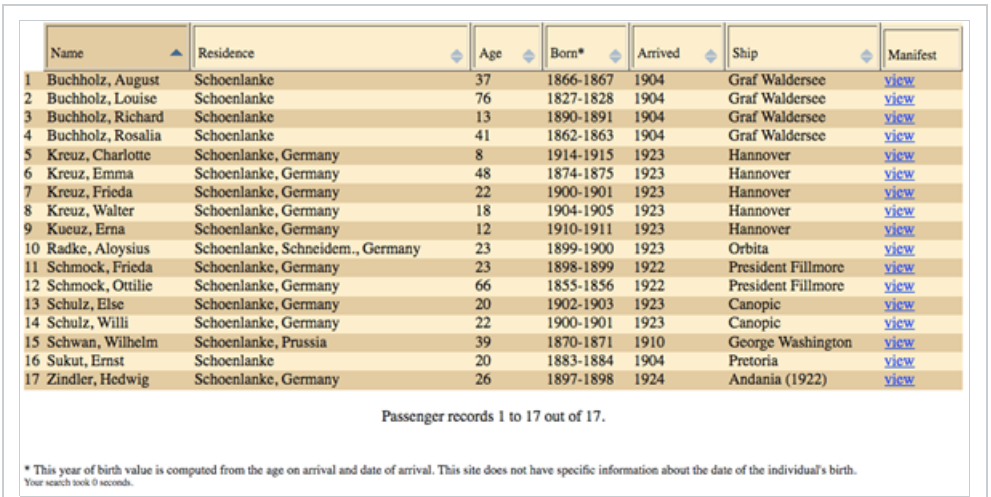




Passenger manifest search page, http://stevemorse.org/

Morse's site allows for even more creative searches and displays of results than the sites discussed above. Searching just by town name can be effective when surnames are seemingly undiscoverable, or when searching for possible relatives of an immigrant. The search form also gives us options for which columns of information we want to display on the results page, such as age of passenger, month and year of arrival, ship name, and link to the manifest image at *The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation*.

Let's look for immigrants from Schönlanke, Prussia, today known as Trzcianka, Poland. It turns out that the search box doesn't like diacritics, so we'll do separate searches on Schoenlanke and Schonlanke, exact spelling each time.



	Name	Residence	Age	Born*	Arrived	Ship	Manifest
1	Buchholz, August	Schoenlanke	37	1866-1867	1904	Graf Waldersee	view
2	Buchholz, Louise	Schoenlanke	76	1827-1828	1904	Graf Waldersee	view
3	Buchholz, Richard	Schoenlanke	13	1890-1891	1904	Graf Waldersee	view
4	Buchholz, Rosalia	Schoenlanke	41	1862-1863	1904	Graf Waldersee	view
5	Kreuz, Charlotte	Schoenlanke, Germany	8	1914-1915	1923	Hannover	view
6	Kreuz, Emma	Schoenlanke, Germany	48	1874-1875	1923	Hannover	view
7	Kreuz, Frieda	Schoenlanke, Germany	22	1900-1901	1923	Hannover	view
8	Kreuz, Walter	Schoenlanke, Germany	18	1904-1905	1923	Hannover	view
9	Kueuz, Erna	Schoenlanke, Germany	12	1910-1911	1923	Hannover	view
10	Radke, Aloysius	Schoenlanke, Schneidem., Germany	23	1899-1900	1923	Orbita	view
11	Schmock, Frieda	Schoenlanke, Germany	23	1898-1899	1922	President Fillmore	view
12	Schmock, Ottilie	Schoenlanke, Germany	66	1855-1856	1922	President Fillmore	view
13	Schulz, Else	Schoenlanke, Germany	20	1902-1903	1923	Canopic	view
14	Schulz, Willi	Schoenlanke, Germany	22	1900-1901	1923	Canopic	view
15	Schwan, Wilhelm	Schoenlanke, Prussia	39	1870-1871	1910	George Washington	view
16	Sukut, Ernst	Schoenlanke	20	1883-1884	1904	Pretoria	view
17	Zindler, Hedwig	Schoenlanke, Germany	26	1897-1898	1924	Andania (1922)	view

Passenger records 1 to 17 out of 17.

* This year of birth value is computed from the age on arrival and date of arrival. This site does not have specific information about the date of the individual's birth.
Your search took 0 seconds.

	Name	Residence	Age	Born*	Arrived	Ship	Manifest
1	Fritz, Mathilde	Schonlanke, Germany	55	1868-1869	1924	George Washington	view
2	Gardon, Alfred	Schonlanke	14	1888-1889	1903	Belgravia	view
3	Henke, Elizabeth	Schonlanke, Germany	20	1887-1888	1908	Kronprinzessin Cecilie	view
4	Hirsch, Klara	Schonlanke	24	1867-1868	1892	Normannia	view
5	Hirsch, Lina	Schonlanke	23	1877-1878	1901	Graf Waldersee	view
6	Lesoni, Nanny	Schonlanke	19	1872-1873	1892	Columbia	view
7	Muller, Paul	Schonlanke	25	1875-1876	1901	Neckar	view
8	Nenne, Emil	Schonlanke, Prussia	4	1900-1901	1905	Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse	view
9	Nenne, Minna	Schonlanke, Prussia	49	1855-1856	1905	Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse	view
10	Nenne, Minna	Schonlanke, Prussia	8	1896-1897	1905	Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse	view
11	Nenne, Peter	Schonlanke, Prussia	53	1851-1852	1905	Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse	view
12	Nenne, Rudolf	Schonlanke, Prussia	11	1893-1894	1905	Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse	view
13	Pfeil, Louise	Schonlanke	14	1890-1891	1905	Patricia	view
14	Pfeil, Robert	Schonlanke	46	1858-1859	1905	Patricia	view
15	SANDOW, REINHOLD	SCHONLANKE, GERMANY	20	1889-1890	1910	President Grant	view
16	SANDOW, WILHELMINE	SCHONLANKE, GERMANY	66	1843-1844	1910	President Grant	view
17	Schmockel, Otto	Schonlanke, Germany	24	1898-1899	1923	Mongolia	view
18	Sela, Emma	Schonlanke	27	1877-1878	1905	Friedrich der Grosse	view
19	Wilde, Alwine	Schonlanke, Germany	27	1879-1880	1907	Grosser Kurfurst	view
20	Wilde, Else	Schonlanke, Germany	0	1906-1907	1907	Grosser Kurfurst	view
21	Wilde, Hermann	Schonlanke, Germany	26	1880-1881	1907	Grosser Kurfurst	view
22	Wilde, Olga	Schonlanke, Germany	21	1885-1886	1907	Grosser Kurfurst	view
23	Zindler, August	Schonlanke	27	1876-1877	1904	Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse	view

Passenger records 1 to 23 out of 23.

Copy-pasting the lines into a spreadsheet allows for combining the results of different spellings of the town name and then further sorting and manipulation of the information, such as sorting the combined results by passenger surnames or by calculated birth year. Repeating the search-by-town on Morse's site for the databases of other ports such as Baltimore and Philadelphia can develop a more extensive list and a more accurate picture of who left Schönlanke for America and when. This is important because an immigrant's FAN club (Friends, Associates, and Neighbors) generally overlaps with her/his community of origin.

Although Steve Morse's site also offers tools for searching passenger records on *Ancestry* and *FamilySearch*, if you are searching specifically for town of previous residence (as recorded on the manifest), choosing the "Gold Form" for searching the Ellis Island site seems to produce the most complete and easy-to-view list of results. **Suggestion:** include the options under "Check off those items that you would like to see on the results page" that will best allow you to then search those passenger entries on *Ancestry* or *FamilySearch* where manifest images are much clearer.

Other Migrations

Discussing migration, relocation, refugee, and removal records of other countries or of specific groups of people is beyond the scope of this course, but you should be aware that they exist and that some are available online as transcriptions, indexes, or images. Search the provider's collections very broadly (e.g., its "card catalog"), and use the filters as needed to narrow the results by geography, ethnicity, or timeframe.

And of course, record collections might be found on other websites such as a government archive, as well as physical records in repositories. Learning more about the group of interest is critical in discovering what types of records might have been created and where to look for them.

Examples of collections at *Ancestry*

"Maryborough, Queensland Australia Immigrants from the British Isles & Germany 1861-91"
"Baden, Germany Emigration Index, 1866-1911"
"Jewish Transmigration Bureau Deposit Cards, 1939-1954 (JDC)"
"US, Southeast Coastwise Inward and Outward Slave Manifests, 1790-1860"
"Lithuania, Internal Passports, 1919-1940"

Examples of collections at *FamilySearch*

"Brazil, São Paulo, Immigration Cards, 1902-1980"
"Japan Passenger Lists, 1893-1941" (index)
"Portugal Passport Registers and Application Files, 1800-1946"

Examples of collections at *MyHeritage*

"Mandatory Palestine Naturalization Applications, 1937-1947"

"Russians Immigrating to the United States"

"Emigrants from Hamburg to Australasia, 1850-1879"

Immigrant Connections

During the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, it was not uncommon for European immigrants to the United States to make two or more trips between the two continents rather than coming once and seemingly never looking back. In addition, a man might make the trip before his wife and send for her and any children once he was established; and a widow might do the same, settling into an American community (probably with immigrant relatives and fellow townspeople) before sending for or retrieving children left back in Europe. The result is that one family might have produced multiple passenger records, each adding to or supporting (or conflicting with!) information in the others.

In the following ungraded exercise and graded assessment, we'll dig into some of the early twentieth century passenger records of a brother and sister and their spouses. In addition to the manifests, use the following publications online for reference as you examine the records and compare names:

Smith, Marian L. "Manifest Markings: A Guide to Interpreting Passenger List Annotations." *JewishGen*.

United States Immigration and Naturalization Service, *Foreign Versions, Variations, And Diminutives of English Names: Foreign Equivalents of United States Military and Civilian Title,* revised (Washington, D.C.: US Govt. Print. Off., 1973). Available online at https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/003519899.

Background information

Napoleon Pavela (b. 1878) and Anna Pavela (b. 1883) were the children of František (English: Francis or Frank) and Veronika Pavela of Makov, Slovakia.

Napoleon married Agnes Obraczanik in Makov in November 1902. Their three known children were born in Makov June 1903, May 1906, and March 1910; there might have been more children born after 1910.

Anna married Jan (English: John) Valigura in Makov in May 1904. Their three known children were born in Makov February 1906, December 1907, and October 1913; there might have been more children born after 1913. [Baptism and marriage information for these two couples and their children are from the parish records of Makov, Slovakia, viewable on Family History Library microfilms 2003291 and 2003292. Microfilm 2003291 has been digitized and is viewable on *FamilySearch*.]

Locations and names: The territory today known as Slovakia was part of Hungary for several hundred years, and names of persons and towns might appear in either Slovak or Hungarian forms. Pre-World War I alternative names for the town of Makov were Trencsénmakó and Trencsén Makó; and it was in the župa (county) of Trencsen. Misspellings and abbreviations of the town name (such as Tr. Makó) are common in non-local records such as passenger manifests. We'll look at some, but not all, of the passenger records created by these two couples. Our goal is to explore the information manifests provide rather than answer any particular research question.

Find the following passenger manifests and examine the entries of the named subjects. It's good practice to skim the rest of the manifest sheet and a couple of sheets before and after for additional information or other passengers from the same town. **You'll be referring to these manifest pages in the following exercise and assessment, so make sure you locate each of them, and retain the links or bookmark the images in a way that allows you to easily access them again.**

Napoleon Pavela first arrived in New York on 20 April 1906, and his manifest entry can be found by searching the exact spelling of his name in the "Immigration & Travel" collection of *Ancestry Library Edition*.

- *Passenger and Crew Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York, New York, 1897-1957*, microfilm publication T715 (Washington, D.C.: NARA, n.d.), roll 695, 20 April 1906, SS *Kaiser Wilhelm II*, for Napoleon Pavela, list 19, stamped page 104, line 21; digital image, "New York, Passenger Lists, 1820-1957," *Ancestry Library Edition* (https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/ : accessed 12 February 2018), image 478.

Napoleon returned to New York on 23 August 1911, and his manifest entry can be found by searching the exact spelling of his name in the

"Immigration & Travel" collection of *Ancestry Library Edition*. The entry on the line above his is also of interest.

- *Passenger and Crew Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York, New York, 1897-1957*, microfilm publication T715 (Washington, D.C.: NARA, n.d.), roll 1725, 23 August 1911, SS *Finland*, for Anna Valigura and Napoleon Pavela, list 18, stamped page 72, lines 5 and 6; digital image, "New York, Passenger Lists, 1820-1957," *Ancestry Library Edition* (https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/ : accessed 12 February 2018), images 582-583.
- Napoleon's sister Anna Valigura did not sail with him in August as expected. She made the trip about a month later on the SS *George Washington*. Find her manifest entry in *Ancestry Library Edition*. It's one of the records we'll be using for the assessment, so if you cannot find it, click here for the link and remember that the manifest might extend over two pages/two images.

Napoleon's wife Agnes Pavela does not appear by that name in any index to the passenger manifests. Using the Steve Morse site, fill in the Ellis Island Passengers Gold Form exactly as below in order to identify a possible record for Napoleon's wife; the search parameters are chosen specifically to bring up her record in the context of others from her home village.

- Leave the passenger name blank.
- For "town name," choose "starts with or is" and fill in "trencsenmako" (without the quotation marks).
- For "year of arrival," fill in "between 1906 and 1912" in order to cover the times of her husband's arrivals
- At "Check off those items that you would like to see on the results page," tick name, town, ship, month and year of arrival (or full date of arrival), year of birth and/or age, and the link to the manifest.
- Continue with "Sorting results by" name, and then "Sort in" ascending order.
- And click "search"!

Click on the image to see a larger version

Do you see a good candidate for the wife of Napoleon Pavela in the list?

From the results page, you can use the link to get to the manifest page if you have a free account at the Ellis Island site. Or, use the information in that results page on Morse site (e.g., the exact spelling of Agnes's name as seen there plus the ship name and date of arrival) to now search for her manifest entry in *Ancestry Library Edition* or *FamilySearch*. If you still have trouble locating the record, click the arrow below for a hint, or click here for the link and remember that the manifest might extend over two pages/two images. **This manifest entry AND Agnes's appearance on the manifest's List of Detained Aliens (see the last line of the "Hint") will be used for the assessment.**

▸ Show Hint

Exercise: Extracting Information

Reading passenger manifests can be challenging! The legibility of the handwriting varies, and unfamiliar names—of people and places alike—complicate reading the entries accurately. In preparation for the following graded assessment, practice reading the manifest entries by extracting the requested information in the table below. You'll be given correct readings to check your own work. Also note fellow-villagers traveling with our immigrant in each case, as we begin to think about relationships and FAN clubs.

How should we indicate that a word or part of a word is unclear or unreadable? Options, using the word California as an example:

- Cali[???]nia, Ca[??]forn[??]—uncertain letters are bracketed and each letter replaced with a question mark
- Cali[_ _ _]nia—uncertain letters are bracketed and each letter replaced with an underscore
- [illegible]—if most or all of the word is unclear

Self-Check 1 of 9

Name of Passenger: Napoleon Pavela
Year of trip: 1906 manifest

Leaving whom & where:

Fr. Makó

Going to whom and address:

Friend Frank Pavlik, 425 E 12 Str New York

Fellow-villagers (Makov or Vysoka) on the same sheet:

Jan Vavrica (Vysoká) on line above; Pavel Gazdík (Fr. Makó) on line below

Self-Check 2 of 9

Name of Passenger: Agnes Apoleon
Year of trip: 1909 manifest

Leaving whom & where:

Father Franz Pavela, Trencsenmako, Trencsen

Going to whom and address:

Husb Pal [?]apoleon, 539 E. 13 str. N.Y.

Fellow-villagers (Makov or Vysoka) on the same sheet:

Ferencz Pavlik, Maria Pavlik, Janos Valigora, all from Trecsenmako (lines following Agnes's); Janos Baszger, Kata Baszger

from Trecsenmako (lines 9 & 10 of same sheet)

Self-Check 3 of 9

Name of Passenger: Agnes Apoleon
Year of trip: 1909 record of detained aliens

Going to whom and address:

Husb. Paw[?]l; 539 E. 13 NYC

How many meals did Agnes have while waiting?

Three. Agnes had one breakfast, one dinner (lunch), and one supper.

At what date and time was Agnes discharged?

4 January 1909 at 10:3[?]. The writing isn't clear enough to say with certainty whether it was 10:30, 10:36, or 10:38.

Is there any information which might suggest whether it was am or pm?

Probably am. Detainees who were released on the 3rd and only had one meal were served dinner (lunch), so Agnes probably received both dinner (lunch) and supper on the 3rd, and breakfast on the 4th. Others who left at 12:00 or 1:00 on the 4th had one breakfast, two dinners (lunches), and one supper.

What is the name and passenger on this same page who was detained the longest? At what time and date was s/he discharged?

Stefan Vahali on 8 January 1909 at 2:30 (probably pm).

Self-Check 4 of 9

Name of Passenger: Napoleon Pavela
Year of trip: August 1911 manifest

Leaving whom & where:

Wife Pavela Agnes, Trencsenmako

Going to whom and address:

brother i l Jan Valihura, [?]18-13 str NY [prob. 618]

Self-Check 5 of 9

Name of Passenger: Anna Valigura
Year of trip: August 1911 manifest

Leaving whom & where:

Father Franz Pavela, Trenc[???]nmako Trenc[??]

Going to whom and address:

husbd Johann Valigura, 618-13 Str N. York

Fellow-villagers (Makov or Vysoka) on the same sheet:

Maria Lucsan (Trencsenmako)

Self-Check 6 of 9

Name of Passenger: Anna Valigura
Year of trip: October 1911 manifest

Leaving whom & where:

Father Francz Pavela, Trenc[??]nmako, Trencsen m – Hung.

Going to whom and address:

Husband: Johann Valigura, 618 E. 13 Str. New York

Fellow-villagers (Makov or Vysoka) on the same sheet:

none

Self-Check 7 of 9

Review the 1911 SS Finland entries for Napoleon Pavela and Anna Valigura (the latter lined out). There is a very faint marginal marking for Anna, which might be “NOB.” According to “Manifest Markings,” what would that mean?

Not on Board. Anna did not board the ship before it departed.

Self-Check 8 of 9

On that same 1911 entry for Napoleon, locate the column that asks whether Napoleon had ever been in the US before. Which of the following is the answer?

Unknown—this information isn't included in his entry

Incorrect

No

Incorrect

Yes, he was in New York in 1905 and 1909

Incorrect

Yes, he was in New York from 1905 to 1909

Correct. "E" is also an acceptable answer.

Yes, but it's uncertain as to whether the entry signifies a span of time or two different trips to the US.

Correct. "D" is also an acceptable answer.

Either D or E are acceptable answers. Comparison with other entries in this column suggest that "1905/9" indicates a span of years. Other records for Napoleon, not included in the course material and mostly not online, support his being in New York City during that span of time. Furthermore, there has been no evidence found of a 1909 arrival.

Self-Check 9 of 9

Names can appear in a variety of languages and spellings, even for people coming from the same country. Consult *Foreign Versions Variations and Diminutives of English Names* to determine the English Equivalent for each first name below. These first names all appear on the manifest pages of the Pavela and Valigura couples.

Johann

German for John, Jack, Johnny

Franz

German for Francis, Frank, Fran[kie]

Jan

Czech/Slovak/Polish for John, Jack, Johnny

Ferencz

Hungarian for Francis, Frank, Fran[kie]

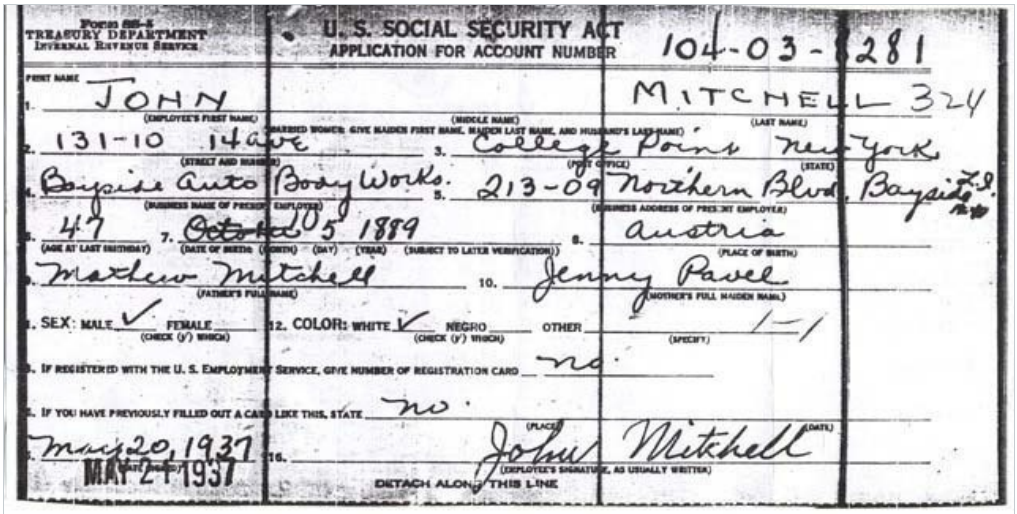
Janos

Hungarian for John, Jack, Johnny

There are a number of other sources, unrelated to the process of immigration or naturalization, that can be useful for finding information about an immigrant's place of origin. Some are obvious: those records that ask for date and place of birth, such as the SS-5 forms we will examine below; marriage and death records; obituaries; and biographical information compiled by a community, congregation, or other organization. Records created for children's births, baptisms, or marriages might also name a parent's origin; marriage witnesses and children's godparents might be relatives or friends from a town of origin and could themselves be researched for clues. Think creatively about the records, documents, and artifacts created in the immigrant's lifetime, and extend the search to records of siblings, cousins, and spouses.

Many beginning genealogists are familiar with the Social Security Death Index (discussed in Powell, pp. 86-88) and know that a copy of the original Application for a Social Security Number (Form SS-5) can be obtained from the government if the applicant is deceased. Although the SS-5 is not a record specific to immigrants, it can pinpoint a place of origin. Remember that Social Security numbers were not issued until 1936, so if your immigrant ancestor was born in 1859 and died in 1933, he won't have produced this particular document.

Let's look at and compare the Social Security applications of two immigrants, John Mitchell living in the New York City area and George Michutka in rural Michigan.


FORM SS-5
TREASURY DEPARTMENT
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

U. S. SOCIAL SECURITY ACT
APPLICATION FOR ACCOUNT NUMBER 104-03-8281

1. JOHN (EMPLOYEE'S FIRST NAME) (MIDDLE NAME) MITCHELL 324 (LAST NAME)
2. 131-10 14 Ave (STREET AND NUMBER) 3. College Point New York (POST OFFICE) (STATE)
4. Bayside Auto Body Works (BUSINESS NAME OF PRESENT EMPLOYER) 5. 213-09 Northern Blvd, Bayside L.I. (BUSINESS ADDRESS OF PRESENT EMPLOYER)
6. 47 (AGE AT LAST BIRTHDAY) 7. October 05 1889 (DATE OF BIRTH: MONTH DAY YEAR (SUBJECT TO LATER VERIFICATION)) 8. austria (PLACE OF BIRTH)
9. Mathew Mitchell (FATHER'S FULL NAME) 10. Jenny Pavel (MOTHER'S FULL MAIDEN NAME)
11. SEX: MALE ✓ FEMALE ___ (CHECK (✓) WHICH) 12. COLOR: WHITE ✓ NEGRO ___ (CHECK (✓) WHICH) OTHER ___ (SPECIFY) —/—
13. IF REGISTERED WITH THE U. S. EMPLOYMENT SERVICE, GIVE NUMBER OF REGISTRATION CARD no.
14. IF YOU HAVE PREVIOUSLY FILLED OUT A CARD LIKE THIS, STATE no.
15. May 20, 1937 (DATE) 16. John Mitchell (EMPLOYEE'S SIGNATURE, AS USUALLY WRITTEN)
MAY 24 1937
DETACH ALONG THIS LINE

John Mitchell, SS no. 104-03-8281, 20 May 1937, Application for Account Number (Form SS-5), Social Security Administration, Baltimore, Maryland.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
APPLICATION FOR SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT
READ INSTRUCTIONS ON BACK BEFORE FILLING IN FORM
368-28-0040
1. George (GIVEN NAME) Michutka (LAST NAME)
240 High St. Owosso Mich. (STREET AND NUMBER) (CITY) (STATE)
2. George Michutka
54 3. April 21 1891 (AGE AT LAST BIRTHDAY) (DATE OF BIRTH) (PLACE OF BIRTH)
4. Trencsen Makov Czechoslovakia
5. Mates Michutka (FATHER'S FULL NAME)
6. Johanna Pavlik
9. SEX: MALE ☒ FEMALE ☐ 10. COLOR: WHITE ☒ NEGRO ☐ OTHER ___ (SPECIFY)
13. HAVE YOU EVER BEFORE APPLIED FOR AN SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NUMBER? YES ☐ NO ☒
15. 5/19/45 (DATE) 14. George Michutka (EMPLOYEE'S SIGNATURE, AS USUALLY WRITTEN)
RETURN COMPLETED APPLICATION TO, OR SECURE INFORMATION OR HOW TO FILL IN APPLICATION FROM, NEAREST SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD FIELD OFFICE. THE ADDRESS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM LOCAL POST OFFICE.

George Michutka, SS no. 368-28-0040, 19 May 19[45?], Application for Account Number (Form SS-5), Social Security Administration, Baltimore, Maryland.

It's easy to see the usefulness of the SS-5: date of birth and parents' names are requested and (usually) supplied. Place of birth can be quite specific, as in the case of George Michutka who named the village where he was born (Trencsen Makov) and the name of the country as it was

at the time he filled out the SS-5. John Mitchell supplied only the country of his birth, Austria. Other than "place of birth," these two examples supply equal amounts of detail in their information.

Except: John Mitchell's SS-5 nowhere indicates that "Mitchell" was not his original surname. It does not indicate that his place of birth was in that part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire that was Hungary at the time of his birth and Czechoslovakia at the time he filled out his Social Security application. His father's surname was never Mitchell, Jenny was apparently a nickname of his mother's, and her maiden name was not Pavel. John Mitchell and George Michutka were, in fact, brothers. George's SS-5 is accurate but difficult to read in places; John's is easy to read but riddled with misleading information.

Points to note:

- The SS-5, Application for a Social Security Account Number, can be a valuable source for information about an immigrant's origins.
- Researching records of family members such as siblings and cousins can provide valuable information.

Cautionary points:

- A source can be an original record and contain primary information supplied by a knowledgeable informant, and nevertheless be wrong, inaccurate, or misleading.
- A document that is certified, official, sealed, notarized, witnessed, created or required by some level of government, or attested as to accuracy of transcription, can nevertheless contain inaccurate or falsified information.

Conflicting Evidence

In review: “evidence” is information that answers, completely or partially, correctly or incorrectly, a research question.

The fourth principle of the Genealogical Proof Standard states:

We resolve conflicts among evidence items pertaining to the proposed answer to our research question.

Our work is not done, we have no solid conclusion, and we cannot claim "proof" if we still have conflicting or contradictory evidence—that is, conflicting or contradictory information items pertinent to our research goal.

If our goal is to determine the parents of Nora Belle Hartman, and her 1924 death certificate names her father Jonas Harnden but the 1870 census places her in the household of George Harnden, we have more work to do. We must seek out more sources and evaluate them, identify informants and judge their reliability to the extent possible, and weigh our evidence.

If we still cannot determine which name (or which man?) is the correct one and explain why we believe it to be correct based on the evidence, we should nevertheless write up our research to date and our thinking on the problem. It will enable us to easily continue the research at some time in the future, resolve the conflicting evidence (we hope!), and reach a conclusion.

Charts, spreadsheets, bulleted lists, and timelines all offer effective ways of examining conflicting evidence.

Conflicting Evidence: Work in Progress

Research on the family of Rosa Grube, a 19th-century immigrant from Prussia, entailed dealing with a number of linked research questions. The "state of the project" report for the family file contains several tables and two extensive timelines to illustrate the research done to date and the current thinking on the various problems. One of the research questions is "when was Rosa Grube born?" and another is "what was her maiden name?" These two questions are tightly tied together—a document which answers one might well reveal the answer to the other—and one short table correlates the conflicting evidence for both those questions.

Note that each source is cited, so that there will be no reason later to wonder exactly where a particular piece of information came from.

Rosa's date of birth			
Recorded name	**Source and date of event**	**Info in the record**	**Date of birth stated or implied**
Rosalia Jza	Marriage record 11 January 1835[1]	Age 20; groom's age 25	ca. 12 Jan. 1814-11 Jan. 1815 [implied]
Rosalia Geise	Marriage record 13 November 1859[2]	Age 40; groom's age 42; groom's surname Grube	ca. 14 Nov. 1818-13 Nov. 1819 [implied]
Rosa Grubie	1900 US census[3]	Age 85, born Sept. 1814	September 1814
Rosa Grube née Yeze	Death certificate 1907[4]	Born 30 September 1813; informant Fred Krieger [grandson]	30 September 1813

1. Kosciol rzymsko-katolicki, Parafja Czarnkow [Czarnikau Roman Catholic parish] (Czarnikau, Posen, Germany, now Czarnkow, Posznan, Poland), Akta malzenstw [marriage records] 1739-1860, for Sznabe[l]-Jza, 11 January 1835; FHL microfilm 2121447, item 3.
2. Kosciol rzymsko-katolicki, Parafja Czarnkow (Czarnikau, Posen, Germany, now Czarnkow, Posznan, Poland), Akta malzenstw 1739-1860, for Grube-(Geise) Schnabel, 13 November 1859; FHL microfilm 2121447, item 3.
3. 1900 US census, Ionia Co., Mich., pop. sched., Orange Twp., ED 23, sheet 5B, dwelling 120, family 121, August Krieger; NARA microfilm publication T623, roll 717.
4. Michigan Division of Vital Statistics, death certificate 187 (stamped), registered no. 1 (penned) for Rosa Grube, Orange Twp., Ionia Co., 7 January 1907; digital image, Archives of Michigan, "Death Records, 1897-1920," searchable database, Michigan History Center, Seeking Michigan (http://seekingmichigan.org/ : accessed 22 January 2018).

Rosa's baptismal record still has not been located. Four records created over a span of seventy-two years give varying dates or date ranges for Rosa's birth. In weighing the evidence, we consider a number of factors:

- All are original records.
- The pertinent information items are classified as "undetermined" for the most part.
- Rosa might well have been the informant for her own marriage records, but we don't know for sure. If she were the informant for her details, could she have tweaked her age for her second marriage to appear younger than her husband? If the groom were the informant, might he have been supplying an approximate age for his bride?
- The information for the last two records came from the August Krieger household, and we don't know whether Rosa herself had supplied the information to a family member or if the family had a document to which they could refer, such as Rosa's baptismal certificate.
- The death certificate provides exact date of birth, but this is the one record for which Rosa herself could not have been the informant, and the year conflicts with at least one record for which Rosa might have been the informant.

All we can do so far is hypothesize that Rosa was born 1813–1814, possibly September, but the conflict remains unresolved and her date of birth unproven. The table above, used in conjunction with past research logs, will make it easy to resume the work on this question.

The second question, Rosa's maiden name, is solved but needs more examples from the Cznarnkow parish registers to support it in a written proof statement or proof summary: Jza, Geise, and Yeze are variant spellings of one surname.

Summary and Further Resources

Summary

We covered a lot of territory this week: vital records, censuses, and passenger lists! You began to explore the many online resources of *FamilySearch* and learned about the treasures behind the doors of archives and other brick-and-mortar repositories. In addition, identical

sources created by two brothers illustrated that even primary information in an original source cannot automatically be accepted as accurate.

Further Resources

Burnes, Elizabeth, and Marisa Louie. "The A-Files: Finding Your Immigrant Ancestors." *Prologue* 45 (Spring 2013): 54-61. Available as downloadable PDF at www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2013/spring/a-files.pdf.

Carmack, Sharon DeBartolo. "Chapter 6: Naturalization, Immigration, and Emigration Records." In *A Genealogist's Guide to Discovering Your Immigrant & Ethnic Ancestors.* Cincinnati, Ohio: Betterway Books, 2000.

Colletta, John P. *They Came in Ships: A Guide to Finding Your Immigrant Ancestor's Arrival Record.* 3rd ed. Orem, Utah: Ancestry, Inc., 2002.

Hinckley, Kathleen W. *Your Guide to the Federal Census for Genealogists, Researchers, and Family Historians.* Cincinnati, Ohio: Betterway Books, 2002.

Smith, Marian L. "'Any woman who is now or may hereafter be married…' Women and Naturalization, ca. 1802-1940." *Prologue Magazine* (Summer 1998). Online at http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/1998/summer/women-and-naturalization-1.html.

Szucs, Loretto Dennis, and Sandra Hargreaves Luebking, eds. *The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy*. 3rd ed. Provo, Utah: Ancestry Publishing, 2006. See especially Chaps. 5, "Census Records," 9, "Immigration Records," and 13, "Vital Records." The book's content is divided into wiki articles online at *Ancestry*: https://wiki.rootsweb.com/wiki/index.php/Main_Page

Regional and ethnic reference books, such as:

Chorzempa, Rosemary A. *Korzenie Polskie: Polish Roots.* Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 1993.

Leclerc, Michael J., ed. *Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research*, 5th ed. Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2012.

Leary, Helen F. M. *North Carolina Research: Genealogy and Local History*, 2nd ed. Raleigh: North Carolina Genealogical Society, 1996. This book has much to teach any genealogist about records, not just those of North Carolina.

Looking Ahead

In the first module we explored the more traditional sources that you've probably used ever since you became interested in genealogy. We also started looking at the standards and terminology of the field, which might have been quite unfamiliar to many of you. You practiced organizing and examining information from records of persons whose names are probably familiar to you—George Takei and Hattie McDaniel—and ordinary people who've moved more quietly through life—Mary Stewart and Napoleon Pavela.

We'll start the next module with an even more intensive look at a record set that is often under-utilized by beginner genealogists: probate files. We'll enlist the aid of a historian of material culture to tell us why it is that some people's deaths sparked the process of probate, and others didn't, and what it might imply in either case.