

Immigration Research

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I. Background

- An Act of Congress passed March 2, 1819 required the captain or master of a vessel arriving at a port in the United States or any of its territories from a foreign country to submit a list of passengers to the collector of customs, beginning January 1, 1820.
- If your ancestors immigrated to the U.S. after this date, there should be a record of arrival.

II. Searching pre-1820 immigration records

- P. William Filby's *Passenger and immigration lists index*
 - a. Initially published as a 3 volume set in 1981, supplements have been published in succeeding years since.
 - b. Currently 46 volumes
 - c. Over 4.5 million names from 2500 different sources
 - d. It can be found online at Ancestry.com. The database is titled "**U.S. and Canada, Passenger and Immigration Lists Index, 1500s-1900s.**"
- <http://immigrantships.net/index.html> (Immigrant Ships Transcribers Guild)

III. Searching post-1820 immigration records

- Ancestry Library Edition:
 - a. From the home screen, click on the search tab, then Immigration and Travel from the drop down menu.
 1. Passenger lists
 2. Border Crossings & Passports
 3. Ship Pictures & Descriptions
- Find My Past:
 - a. From the home screen, scroll to the bottom of the home page and click on "Search Family Records," then narrow your search to "Immigration & Travel."
 1. Passenger lists leaving the UK
 2. Germans to America
 3. Irish Famine Immigrants
- Other websites with immigration records:
 - a. <http://libertyellisfoundation.org/>
 - b. <http://www.castlegarden.org/>
 - c. <https://familysearch.org/>

Naturalization Research

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I. Background

- United States Naturalization Law of March 26, 1790 provided the first set of requirements to be met by an individual in order to obtain US citizenship. An immigrant could file a Petition for Naturalization with "any common law court of record" having jurisdiction over his residence.
- This law was repealed and replaced or amended numerous times over the next 115 years, altering either residency requirements or eligibility.
- The Act of June 29, 1906, creating a Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization, had as its purpose "to provide for a uniform rule for the naturalization of aliens throughout the U.S." This agency had authority for rule-making, and it managed the naturalization process through the design and control of specific forms that were required from that point on.

II. Searching pre-1906 naturalization records for St. Louis

- Missouri State Archives
 - a. <https://s1.sos.mo.gov/records/archives/archivesdb/naturalization/>
 - b. Enter a surname and click search.
 - c. Click on the "view details" button next to the person you're interested in.
 - d. The "record detail" includes all the information needed to find the naturalization record on microfilm in the History and Genealogy Department.

III. Searching post-1906 naturalization records for St. Louis

- St. Louis County Library
 - a. At the home page, hover over the "Research" tab.
 - b. In the blue dropdown menu, click "Indexes and Finding Aids."
 - c. Scroll to the bottom of the page and click the number 3.
 - d. Click "Naturalizations", then click "[Saint Louis, Missouri naturalization index.](#)"
 - e. Click "Index to naturalization records created after September 27th, 1906."
 - f. Click "Index to declarations of intention and petitions created after September 27th, 1906 | Alphabetical by surname."
 - g. Also, be sure to search "Index to certificate of naturalization stubs."
- Neither of these databases is comprehensive.
- The National Archives
 - a. <https://www.archives.gov/kansas-city>

Program sites are accessible. Upon two week's notice, accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities. Call 314 / 994-3300.
www.slcl.org



IV. Searching for naturalization records outside the city of St. Louis

- Pre-1906
 - a. Naturalization records are court records.
 - b. Court records are generally held at the county courthouse.
 - c. There are often indexes to those court records found in genealogical libraries.
 1. St. Louis County Library
 2. At the home page, hover over the “books, e-media, and more” tab.
 3. In the blue dropdown menu, click “catalog.”
 4. In the search box, type the county, state, and the word naturalization.
 - d. State Archives Websites
 1. Missouri State Archives -
<https://s1.sos.mo.gov/records/archives/archivesdb/naturalization/>
 - e. Websites for all other places of naturalization:
 2. Familysearch.org
 3. Ancestry Library Edition
 4. Heritage Quest

- Post-1906
 - a. <https://www.archives.gov/>
 - b. Familysearch.org