

SEARCHING US RECORDS FOR YOUR IMMIGRANT ANCESTORS

Ontario County Genealogical Society

<https://www.ocgsny.net/>

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Slides are Online

- At www.dennisAhogan.com, click on Lectures and Handouts tab
- Select a file (Course IV - Slides) and save on your computer
- Then you can click on links to try out websites
- There is a more detailed document on the website called "Course IV - Searching US Records for Your Immigrant Ancestors"

The Immigrant

The immigrant may be the toughest person in your family to research

- You have to identify the immigrant in the records of at least 2 countries
- You must find something in the records of 1 country that "connects" to contents of records in the other country to insure that you have identified "your John Smith"

The Immigrant

It is important to begin your research in the country they immigrated TO and eventually work your way back to the old country.

The Immigrant

Build up a body of knowledge about your immigrant and their

- Parents - did they immigrate?
- Spouse(s) - were they married in old country?
- Siblings - did they immigrate? were some children born in the old country?
- Children - Note sponsors for baptisms & marriages (sponsors of marriage and early children are often siblings)
- Also note other locals with the same surname and even other immigrants from the same country

US Research Goal

- To be in a position to identify the correct family in the old country, you need to find some of the following in US Resources:
 - 1 or more siblings of the immigrant
 - Possible Sources: Sponsors for Baptisms (search for all children of the immigrant) or census inventory
 - Immigrant's father's name and/or mother's maiden name or...
 - Location in old country

The Search

The Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS) was developed by the [Board for Certification of Genealogists](#). The GPS is a process to help us reach "correct" conclusions even when we cannot find original records.

1. **Reasonably exhaustive search**
2. Complete, accurate citations
3. Analysis and correlations of all source, information items, and evidence
4. Resolution of conflicts
5. A soundly reasoned, coherently written conclusion.

The Search

I suggest that when you are researching an immigrant that you should do an extremely exhaustive search.

Basic Name & Search Tips

- For names that can have prefixes, search indexes with & without. Examples: O', Mc, Mac, d', de, de la, di, van, von (& don't forget "phonetic" forms, ex: Magory for McGory)
- Don't assume 1 spelling of names when searching records
- Inconsistent punctuation in indexes:
 - VanWagner, Van Wagner
 - O'Flynn, OFlynn, O Flynn, O_Flynn, O.Flynn
 - McGrath, MacGrath, Mc Grath, M'Grath, Mgrath, Magrath

Basic Name & Search Tips

- Don't assume 1 given name is used in all records (nicknames/synonyms, middle names)
- Nicknames/synonyms: BJ, Delia or Bidy for Bridget
- For females, do a separate search with maiden name and with all married names.

Basic Google Search Tips

- If you're using google to search on names, must use 3 forms of the name:
 "john hogan" OR "john * hogan"
 OR "hogan john"
- When searching for foreign records, use country specific google extensions (see <https://rexttheme.com/google-country-codes-list/>). (For example, Irish content, use [google.ie](https://www.google.ie) instead of [google.com](https://www.google.com))

US Sources

- **US Census (state or country of birth)**
 - Population schedules: Every 10 years, 1790-1940 currently available, 1890 largely destroyed
 - Non-Population schedules: 1790 Slave, 1810-1820 & 1850-1880 Manufacturing, 1840 Pensioners, 1850-1880 Agriculture, 1850-1880 Mortality, 1880 Defective, 1890 Veterans (Kentucky through Wyoming plus DC exist).
- **NY State Census (county or country of birth)**
 - 1815, 1825, 1835, 1845, 1855, 1865, 1875, 1892, 1905, 1915, 1925
- **FamilySearch Wiki for Census Sources for NY**
https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/New_York_Census

US Sources

- **Census** (and much more)
 - FamilySearch, free www.familysearch.org
 - Heritage Quest, Free at www.libraryweb.org/heritage.html with a Monroe County library card (can be used from home)
 - Ancestry.com, Free at the Rochester Public Library, Rundel Bldg, Local History Room (also Brighton, Fairport, Henrietta, Irondequoit, Ogden, Greece, Penfield, and Pittsford Libraries) with a Monroe County library card
 - Ancestry.com, Free at Family History Centers like Westfall Rd & Kreag Rd

US Sources

- I do a census inventory of the immigrant's family in the US

<u>Dailor</u>		1st	Michael	Mary	William	James	Margaret/Ma
		middle			M.		Ann
		(maiden)					(Dailor)
		surname	<u>Dailor</u>	<u>Dailor</u>	<u>Dailor</u>	<u>Dailor</u>	<u>Yawman</u>
		spouse(s)					John
		birth	b1825 IRL	b1828 IRL	b1854Farm	b1856 NY	b1858 NY
birth cert>>>			NA	NA	[Sheet 1]	NA	NA
baptism church rec>>>							
		marriage	m1843-1854	m1843-1854	m1886		m1900-1915
marriage cert>>>			NA	NA			
marriage church rec>>>							
		death	dAft 1897	d1897Manch	d1927Gorh	<u>dBef 1897</u>	d1934 Finda
death cert>>>							
death church rec>>>					ck St. Theresa		
headstone>>>				Interment at	Palmyra		Holy <u>Sepulchr</u>
obituary>>>					<u>ShortsvilleNY</u>		
Census:	Date:	Source:					
1940 US	1-Apr	FS/A					deceased
1930 US	1-Apr	FS/A			NF		NF

US Sources

- **Vital Records (birth/marriage/death)** (includes birthplace, parents' names)
ex. NYS Vital Records Index
- **Church Records** (usually no birthplace info)
ex. Rochester Catholic Diocese at Rundel Library
- **Tombstones, Cemetery Records** (sometimes birthplace info for immigrants)

www.findagrave.com, www.interment.net, <http://billiongraves.com/>

- **US Social Security Death Index (SSDI)** (leads to SS application form (SS-5) which has birthplace, mother's maiden name)

US Sources

- **Newspapers** (anniversary & death notices may include birthplace)
<http://www.fultonhistory.com/>
<http://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/>
- **City Directories** (probably no birthplace, but excellent "census substitute")
- **Military Records** (pension & WWI Draft Registration may contain detailed info, including birthplace)
- **Naturalization Records** (may include birthplace)

US Sources

- **Immigration Records** (prior to late 1800's, no "last residence" or "place of birth")
- **Probate** (may include birthplaces)
 - Executors, witnesses, guardians of minors
- **Land Records** (probably no birthplaces)
 - Transactions for token amounts & neighbors
- **Family Bible** and other family papers (may include birthplaces)

US Sources

...And probably **THE** most helpful source of all - the immigrant's Home Town(s) in the US

- Visit if you can
 - Historical societies, museums, libraries, archives, genealogical societies, cemeteries, town historians
- If you can't visit, then absolutely contact them all **AFTER** you research their resources online

You *CAN* do it!

