Passenger Lists and Emigration

Our August 19 Kolping Genealogy session will focus on how our ancestors reached these shores. These sources can provide families with much rich information. 2:00 pm in the Clubhouse.

Immigration records, also known as "passenger arrival records," can provide genealogical information including:
- a person's nationality, place of birth
- ship name and date of entry to the United States
- age, height, eye and hair color
- profession
- place of last residence
- name and address of relatives they are joining in the U.S.
- amount of money they are carrying, etc.

It can be useful to research other genealogy sources to aid your search for passenger arrival records. Naturalization records, for example, particularly after 1906, can contain specific details of a person's legal entry into the U.S. -- the exact date and means (ship name, for example) of arrival. Census records often show year of immigration.

The Search box on Ancestry.com, our own National Archives, Genealogy.com, MyHeritage.com/Immigration, Archives.com/Immigration, TheShipsList.com, and other sites with immigration links make it so easy to type a name in the search boxes and go straight to the name in the directory. You may even be able to print a Ship Manifest and locate a picture of the ship your immigrant sailed on from port of departure to port of entry.

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