

Finding Jewish Roots: Immigration and Old World Records



Ancestry has more than 20 BILLION records in more than 32,000 databases. Join Crista Cowan for a look at her process of searching and researching, specifically as it relates to Jewish Immigration from the Old Country into the United States and Canada.

Research in the “New Country”

- ✿ Don't jump to “old country” records until you have exhausted all “new country” records.
- ✿ Review records you've already collected with fresh eyes.
- ✿ Create timelines to coordinate your analysis of information and improve the likelihood of identifying the correct individuals in the records.
- ✿ Create both given and surname lists to account for name changes and possible spelling variants.
- ✿ Naturalization documents are more identifiable than passenger lists and often contain details about immigration including date, ship and port of arrival.
- ✿ Almost all surviving U.S. and Canada passenger lists are available on Ancestry.
- ✿ Utilize FAN club research strategies.
- ✿ When identifying a home town, be careful to identify the correct one. Many times there are towns with the same or similar names even in a single country.

Research in the “Old Country”

- ✿ Once you've identified the home town, learn everything you can about the history of the location.
- ✿ Remember that name might not be as unique as you think it is.

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Jewish Specific Record Collections

 Ancestry.com/Jewish

- Explore by record type
- Use the Name Variations widget
- Use the Jewish Community Locator
- Review FREE vs Premium collections
- Explore message boards

 Ancestry has:

- All available U.S. Federal Censuses
- All WWI and many WWII draft cards
- Complete U.S. passenger lists collection
- Outbound passenger lists from Germany and UK
- All federally available naturalization records
- Copies of most JewishGen databases

For more genealogy education join Crista Cowan every Tuesday at 1pm (Eastern)/10 am (Pacific) for The Barefoot Genealogist on <http://ancstry.me/TBGVids>. Follow the Ancestry Facebook page to see the topics for future episodes. Subscribe to our YouTube channel to receive updates each time a new video is uploaded.