

Genealogical Research Strategies:

Using Historical Context to Break through Genealogical Walls

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RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

- Historical understanding of time era with emigration and immigration behaviors
- Primary subject's birth and death date and place
- Primary subject's spouse, and their marriage date and place
- Primary subject's children with birth, marriage, and death information
- Primary subject's native name
- Primary subject's town and country of origin, emigration and/or immigration date, and the ship's name if applicable
- Primary subject's parents' names
- Native land records that extend Primary subject's ancestry in country of origin

Reverse Chronology Research Strategy

- Historical Context: research events of the time era
- Questions to ask:
 - What were the conditions?
 - Were they moving by choice?
 - Where did most people go?
- Census: not considered direct information, but provides valuable insights for starting points.
- Obituary sources: provides direct and indirect evidence of life events with their dates and locations, spouse and children, and extended family members. Search newspapers, church records, state, county, and city records.
- Find A Grave: not considered evidence, but provides insights and supportive information to verify family members, birth and location details, and parental information.
- Birth record sources: provides direct and indirect evidence after identifying name and birth location. Search church and government records, military records, and newspapers.

Genealogical Research Strategies:

- Death record sources: provides indirect evidence after identifying name, death location. Search death certificates, hospital records, obituaries, church records, military records, and cemetery records.
- Marriage record sources: provides direct evidence including couple's names, parents' names, marriage date and place, possibly includes birth place, previous marriage (divorced or widowed), and clues to birth year (when ages are recorded). Search church and civil records, Gretna Greens, military records, and newspapers.
- Immigration: direct evidence (if actual document and not a transcription) indirect if it is a transcription of arrival date and age, port of departure and arrival, destination, ship name, and possible family members with final destination details. Search Castle Garden prior to 1890 and Ellis Island 1890 to present.