

Family History Sprint Sept 2014 – 1st Immigrant to U.S.



Summary:

The purpose of this month's Sprint is to find your earliest ancestor who immigrated to America and document it in FamilySearch.org.

Background for this Sprint:

Since basically all of us are descendants from someone who initially immigrated to America from another **part of the world, it is very interesting and incumbent on all of us to be aware of their circumstances and** reasons for leaving family, home and possessions and coming here, church members or not.

Where to Look?

Many of the places you can look to for information on your ancestors, including details of their place of birth and of their immigration are available on line. Some of the most useful are shown in the box to the left.

FamilySearch.org

This is a good place to start, but assumes that you have entered an extensive family tree, with roots that go back to ancestors who have immigrated to the U.S.

- After logging in to FamilySearch.org, bring up your Family Tree.
- Follow each line back and do the following:
 - Click on each name and take note of the birth and death locations.
 - Note if the birth is in a foreign country and the death in America.
 - If this is the case, then this is the earliest ancestor to immigrate – on this line.
 - Repeat these steps for each line of your tree.
 - The ancestor with the earliest immigration date is your earliest U.S. ancestor.
 - Do research for a more exact immigration date using these resources.
- Enter a notice about this ancestor in FamilySearch.org.

Other Sources

There are many web sources that deal with ancestors, their immigration, their genealogy and histories. Exciting news is that the powerful tools in Ancestry.com are now available to LDS users free through FamilySearch.

Extra Mile:

Find as much as you can about the boat, time period and conditions of your ancestor's voyage and why they made the sacrifice to come to the U.S.

Here are 5 helpful internet links:

- <https://familytreemagazine.com/101-best-websites-2013> - *Family Tree genealogy*
- <http://www.ellisland.org/> - *Index to immigrants who came through Ellis Island*
- www.bit.ly/ldsmemberaccess - *Access to 'Find My Past' and 'My Heritage' sites.*
- <http://familysearch.org/campaign/pioneers#/> - *Access to lists of pioneers who crossed the plains.*
- <https://familysearch.org/partner/ancestry> - *How to gain access to ancestry.com through FamilySearch.org.*

- See the on-line tutorial for further instructions and links -

