

Finding Your Immigrant Ancestors

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Agenda

Welcome, introduction, and overview of session

Immigration in the U.S. 1820-1940

- Largest number of immigrants came into the U.S. during this time period.
- Researching an immigrant ancestor before 1820 is a different genealogical challenge.

Finding the immigrant ancestor

- Who is the ancestor?
- Finding the facts from records about the ancestor.
- Ideas to keep in mind throughout this process.

Sources to search for our immigrant ancestor and what is available in Special Collections

- Family records.
- Federal records.
- Local, County, and State records.

Federal Records: Census, Naturalization, and Passenger Lists

- Census: Learning about your ancestor from the census (practice exercise).
- Naturalization: Learning about the process and where to possibly locate these records.
- Passenger Lists: Learning more about this source and what we can find from these records (practice exercise).

Local, County, and State Records

- What we can learn from resources that are available locally.

Town of Origin

- Sources in SC to help you find out more about the country and town of origin of your ancestor.

International Sources

- What sources may be helpful once you decide to start researching in your ancestor's native country.

Brief tour of the Special Collections Division (*optional*).