Bridging the Atlantic: Finding the Ancestral Home

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1. Identify the colonist or immigrant
2. Search all original source materials for the locality and era in North America where the ancestor resided.
3. Ascertain the national origin
4. Consult onomastical tools
5. Remember the cluster approach
6. Passenger arrival lists
7. Denization and naturalization
8. Probate Records
   g. Anthony Camp, *Index to Wills Proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, 1750-1800.*
   h. *Index to Probate Accounts of England and Wales, The Index Library,* v. 112-113.
   k. ------, *Scottish American Wills.*
11. Court Records.
12. Vital Statistics
13. Diaries, journals, correspondence
14. Nostalgia
15. Newspapers
16. Genealogical literature
   a. Persi
   b. *World wide web*
   c. *Local Histories*
17. Family Search
18. Alumni Registers
19. Occupations
   a. clergy
   b. guilds

20. Biographical directories of colonists

21. Church records
   a. Society of Friends
   b. Huguenots
      Leiden Index. Microfilm, 196 rolls.
   c. Hermann F. Macco, *Swiss Emigrants to the Palatinate in Germany and to America 1650-1800, and Huguenots to the Palatinate and Germany.*
1. Identify the colonist or the immigrant and the era of time.
2. Search all source material for clues pertinent to him or her.
3. Seek to establish the country of origin.
   a. Family traditions.
   b. Interviews with collateral relatives.
   c. Awareness of national customs among descendants.
   d. Heirlooms which might be identified with a particular period of
time and/or a geographical locality.
5. Use the cluster approach.
6. Passenger arrival records.
   a. Colonial.
   b. Federal.
      i. New Orleans: lists 1820-1902; 1903-1945; indexes 1853-1899,
         1900-1952; quarterly abstracts 1820-1875.
      ii. Baltimore: lists 1820-1891, 1851-1948; indexes 1820-1897,
          1833-1866, 1897-1952; quarterly abstracts 1820-1869.
      iii. Boston: lists 1820-1891, 1891-1943, 1902-1942; indexes
      iv. New York City: lists 1820-1897, 1897-1942; indexes 1820-1846,
      v. Philadelphia: lists 1800-1882, 1883-1945; indexes 1800-1906,
         1883-1948.
      vi. Miscellaneous Atlantic, Gulf Coast, & Great Lakes Ports: lists
          1820-1873; indexes 1820-1873.
      vii. San Francisco: (from insular possessions) 1907-1911; (from
           Honolulu) 1902-1907; indexes (non-Chinese) 1893-1934;
      viii. San Pedro/Wilmington/Los Angeles 1907-1936.
    ix. Overland border crossings
        (a) Canadian border
            (1) VT St. Albans 1895-1954, 1929-1949
        (b) Mexican border

7. Naturalization records.
   a. Courts of records.
   b. Colonial indexes.
      i. Maryland.
      ii. New Jersey 1702-1776.
      iii. New York.
      iv. Pennsylvania 1740-1773.
      v. Virginia.
   c. Statewide indexes.
      i. Arkansas 1809-1906.
      v. Louisiana 1831-1906.
      vi. Maine 1791-1906.
      v. Massachusetts 1791-1906.
      ix. Mississippi 1788-1906.
      x. New Hampshire 1791-1906.
      xii. Rhode Island 1791-1906.
      xiii. South Carolina 1783-1850.
      xiv. Texas, 1846-1939.
8. Probate records.
   d. -------, American Wills Proved in London, 1611-1775.
   g. Anthony Camp, Index to Wills Proved Prerogative Court of Canterbury 1750-1800.
   h. Index to the Probate Accounts of England and Wales, The Index Library, v. 112 & 113.
   i. Yorkshire Archaeological Society Record Series, Wills in the York Registry, v. 11, 14, 19, 22, 24, 26, 28, 32, & 35, 1514-1636.

9. Land records.
10. Military and pension records.
11. Court minutes.
12. Census records, both federal and state.
14. Passport applications.
15. Family documents.
    a. Death certificates of immigrants.
    b. Birth certificates of children of immigrants.
    c. Church records.
    d. Cemetery records.
18. Photographs.
20. Diaries, journals, correspondence.
22. The genealogical literature.
    a. Periodicals.
    b. County and town histories.
23. The International Genealogical Index.
24. Departure records from Europe.
    a. Hamburg.
    b. LeHarve.
    c. Antwerp

Guides:
   b. John P. Colletta, They Came in Ships: A Guide to Finding Your
Immigrant Ancestor's Arrival Record.
d. -------, Passenger and Immigrant Lists Index.
e. Immigrant and Passenger Arrivals, A Select Catalog of National Archives Microfilm Publications.
g. Morton Allan Directory of European Passenger Steamship Arrivals for the Years 1890 to 1930 at the port of New York and for the Years 1904 to 1926 at the Ports of New York, Philadelphia, Boston, and Baltimore.
i. Arnold Kludas, Great Passenger Ships of the World. 6 vols. [1858-1975]

By National Origin:
a. Ira A. Glazier, Germans to America, Lists of Passengers Arriving at U.S. Ports, 1850+.
b. -------, Italians to America, Lists of Passengers Arriving at U.S. Ports, 1880-1899.
c. -------, Famine Immigrants, List of Irish American Arriving at the Port of New York, 1846-1851.
d. -------, Migrations from the Russian Empire, Lists of Passengers Arriving at the Port of New York, January 1875+.
g. Mary Voultsos, Greek Immigrant Passengers 1885-1910.
i. Gerhard B. Naeseth, Norwegian Immigrants to the United States, A Biographical Dictionary 1825-1850.
j. Leo Baca, Czech Immigration Passenger Lists. 8 vols.
l. David A. Haury, Index to Mennonite Immigrants on U.S. Passenger Lists, 1872-1904. [15,000]
m. Carl A. Brassseau, The "Foreign French": Nineteenth Century French Immigration into Louisiana, 1820-1848. 2 vols.
n. Jeanne Davis-White, Polish Arrivals at ... Baltimore, 1880-1884.

By Port:
1. Elizabeth P. Bentley, Passenger Arrivals at the Port of New York 1820-1832.
2. -------, Passenger Arrivals at the Port of Philadelphia 1800-1819.
3. -------, Passenger Arrivals at the Port of Baltimore, 1820-1834.
4. -------, Passenger Arrivals at the Port of Charleston, 1820-1829.
7. W. M. von Mazewski, German Emigration Ships to New Orleans 1865-1869.