

An Introduction to Castle Garden – Your Ancestors' Gateway to America

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The History of Castle Garden

Castle Garden (also known as Castle Clinton) - 1830 – 1913(years covered in database) – Closed in 1890 - 8 million immigrants came through

What Website Have To Offer the Amateur Genealogist

www.castlegarden.org

What You Can Find In These Databases

- Castle Garden
 - Just an index – no ships' manifests online yet (check with Family History Library, Family History Center, Ancestry or the National Archive)

Tips for Using Castle Garden

- Wildcard * For example: Deb*
- Debbe, Debbie, Debby, etc.

What Each Database Index Contains

- Name
- Sex
- Date of arrival
- Age at arrival
- Last Residence

Unable To Locate Your Ancestors?

Use Stephen Morse's web site <http://stevemorse.org/>

- Not all immigrants came to New York (Check other ports)
- Look for departure lists
- They may not have come together as a family – usually the father goes first and then rest of the family comes later
- It is possible they might have come through Canada which was cheaper

Ancestors' Name Might Have Been Spelled

- Don't limit yourself to a single spelling
- Did your ancestor "Americanize" his name? Koch – Cook or Giovanni - John
- Search by last name & first initial only
- Check for women under their maiden names
- Check all other family members
- Search for other passengers
- Reverse the first and last names

Ships Used By Your Ancestors

- Ancestry and Ellis Island web site
- Trick is – you can right click on picture and save it to your genealogy software or hard drive

Websites

- www.theshipslist.com/pictures/index.htm
- stevemorse.org/ellis/pictures.html
- www.cyndislist.com/ships.htm
- www.fortunecity.com/littleitaly/amalfi/13/ships.htm
- www.collectionscanada.ca/02/020118_e.html

Books

- Colletta, John P. *They Came in Ships - A Guide to Finding Your Immigrant Ancestor's Arrival Record*, 3rd ed. Orem, UT: Ancestry, 2002.
- Anuta, Michael J. *Ships of Our Ancestors*, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1983.