

Tsarist Russian Research

The first step in tracing ancestors is determining his or her date and town of birth. Begin by searching the following records for the area where the ancestor lived.



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Census Records • Emigration /Immigration • Church Certificates • Cemetery Records • Church Records • Court Records • Diaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IGI Family Letters Family Histories Family Bibles Land Records Naturalization Newspapers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maps • Military Records • Pedigree Resource File • Periodicals • Social Security Death Index • Vital Records • Citizenship
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WHAT TO BRING AND WHERE TO START YOUR RESEARCH:

Please bring your pedigree, family group sheets and other data with you when you come to the library for your reference as you search for your ancestors. *Begin with U.S. records (e.g. census) and work back to the time of the person's immigration, and then on to Europe. Make sure you copy all the census records from 1930 back to when you think they came. 1930, 1920, 1910 and 1900 give dates of immigration and naturalization. Look for all relatives including uncles, cousins, and in-laws, etc.

RUSSIAN HISTORY AT A GLANCE:



YEAR

859
1147
1237
1582
1569
1698
1861
1867
1917
1918
1991

EVENT

The Rus, Viking traders, settle Novgorod.
Moscow settled.
Tartars defeat the Kievan Rus.
Siberia settled.
Russia's first Czar: Ivan the Terrible.
Peter the Great westernizes Russia.
Emancipation of Russian serfs.
Russia sells Alaska to the US.
Bolshevik revolution overthrows Tsar.
Russia pulls out of World War I.
USSR dissolves.

MAPS AND RESOURCES:

1. Maps: check stacks and map table for Russia and bordering countries e.g. Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, Croatia, etc.
2. www.davidrumsey.com
3. www.mapquest.com
4. Russian History Atlas, Historical geographical book on the changing boundaries of Russia and surrounding countries from 800 b.c. to 1970 a.d. as a result of wars, famines, trading and rebellions, exiles and revolutions, Call # 947 E3g.



Emigration, Immigration and Naturalization Sources:



1. Naturalization: Guide to Naturalization Records of the United States. Schaefer, Christina K., Book call # 973.P4s (Ref. Wall). Records in the United States were kept by local courts until 1906. Contact the Reference Desk for help in applying to the US National Archives for naturalization records for 1906 and after. Send for all naturalization papers to the appropriate archives. Forms are in the Copy Room. Women were naturalized on their own after 1922.
2. Migrations from the Russian Empire. Volumes 1-6 (Jan 1875 -June 1891)Book Call # 973 W3r.
3. Collection of Ships Passenger Lists from New York, Boston, New Orleans, Baltimore, and other eastern ports - (see Books on west Reference Wall).
4. Hamburg Passenger Lists 1850-1934 (indices and passenger lists and corresponding films (in burgundy book on Reference Table wall. Book call # 943.515/Hlw2)
5. Germans to America , Glazier and Philby., Book call # 973W2ger (67 volumes starting in 1850).
6. Czech Immigration Passenger Lists, Baca, Leo., Book call # 973 W3bl vol. 1-9
7. Ellis Island: Internet search www.ellislandrecords.org and www.stephenmorse.org Most of the immigrants who came from Eastern Europe arrived after Ellis Island was opened in 1892. Try various spellings of their names. After locating a name on a passenger list, the names and dates for all the other passengers should be copied. Examination of the other names on the passenger list is often productive because whole families and sometimes communities emigrated together.

LIBRARIES:

SALT LAKE GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY 1-800-453-3860 (ask for International desk).
www.familysearch.org Research opportunities, techniques, lessons, research guides and software are available.



Mesa Regional Family History Center (MRFHC): <http://www.mesarfhc.org/> Search the Mesa Regional Family History Center for book holdings, films, fiche, and maps for each country of interest not already mentioned here. Utilize place, surname and keyword searches to broaden your research potential.

1. Research outlines for Eastern European countries and a draft version for Russia are available in the copy room. Other helpful guides are also available for language and letter-writing guides for Eastern European countries. Especially helpful guides are: "Tracing Immigrant Origins" and "Hamburg Passenger Lists" and "Jewish Genealogy".
2. The MRFHC website has Power Point Training and Quick Starts available to assist you with understanding research options and techniques.
3. The MRFHC has notebooks prepared on Eastern European Research (in reference section on north wall) and Jewish genealogy (behind reference desk).

INTERNET WEBSITES:

Villages, towns, cities and regions in Russia may have their own web sites. Utilize Google to see if a site exists; some may indicate they can be translated into English if you use the **** selection offered by Google.

Here are some websites for research:

All Russia Family Tree: www.vgd.ru/english.htm

BabelFish: <http://www.babelfish.altavista.com/>(translates Russian websites into English).

Federation of Eastern European Family History societies: www.feeehs.org

JewishGen Databases: www.jewishgen.org/databases

Researching Russian Roots: <http://www.mtu-net.ru/rrr/>

Russia GenWeb: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~ruswgw/>

Volga Village Census Index (Russia): http://www.ahsgr.org/volga_census_index.htm_census_index.htm

