Tracing our ancestors' origins in another country can seem like a daunting task, especially if you've never attempted it before. I teach the "Immigration and Naturalization Research" class for MyFamily.com, which includes lessons about immigration to the U.S., Canada, and Australia.

During the class, we focus on migration patterns from various places in Europe and on different types of documentation that might have been created during different periods in history. John Philip Colletta's excellent book, *They Came in Ships*, is the best primer concerning passenger arrivals in the U.S. It is essential reading for everyone conducting research into passenger lists. It will give you strong insight into what records and indexes exist.

The Ellis Island Database and the large and growing collection of Immigration Records at Ancestry.com may well provide you with links to the exact passenger manifests you need to establish your ancestor's voyage and arrival date. However, not all of the millions of immigrants' records have been digitized and indexed online. In fact, some of the passenger records may either predate the periods for which manifests were required by government offices or may have been lost or destroyed. You may therefore have to use your creative, critical thinking skills to determine other places where you might locate alternate records.

You will be looking for substitute records, some of which may be overseas. In any event, you are always looking for more and more information about the ships on which your ancestors sailed.

In "Along Those Lines . . ." this week, I want to share a few interesting ship resources that you may or may not already be using.

**The Immigrant Ships Transcribers Guild (ISTG)**

"The Immigrant Ships Transcribers Guild" is a volunteer organization that was established in 1998. They have transcribed more than 5,000 ships' passenger lists, citing over a half-million passenger arrivals.

The transcriptions range from the 1600s to the 1900s and can be browsed and searched by ship's name, port of departure, port of arrival, captain's name, and surname.

**TheShipsList**

TheShipsList provides a tremendous amount of information concerning emigrants and passenger lists for specific ships and ports. More important, however, are the Fleet Lists. If your research leads you to the name of the shipping line that owned and/or operated a ship on which your ancestor immigrated, this resource helps you learn more about the company, its history, its disposition, and sometimes even where the company's records ended up. For example, the Hamburg-America Line's webpage provides a brief history, a list of its routes, description of ships' funnel colors, abbreviations...
Merry Christmas one and all.

Did you notice I did not say Happy Holidays? HUMBUG on the political correctness thing. I say MERRY CHRISTMAS. Whose birthday are we celebrating any way? So there!!! I said it and I’m glad. BLOODY GLAD!

So how is it going? Cold weather and all. How is the Medicare prescription drug thing grabbing you? Probably where it hurts. Well there is a solution. Be a State Legislator for 10 years and all of your medical care is free. Free for you, your spouse and all children up to the age of 21. We were in the wrong business. Should have been a politician.

What is Santa Claus bringing you for Christmas? A digital camera, maybe a LARGE memory card, a scanner perhaps, or maybe a laptop? It is a fantastic age we live in. I remember when I was 10 or so, sitting in the living room with my Grandparents, the dog and my grandmother’s brother, the one who cut his finger off with a wood chisel. We were waiting for Santa Claus to come. After about an hour, my grandfather said that he better go and look for him. So out into the night he went. After about five minutes, Santa showed up. He had presents for all of us. He even knew our names, even the dog’s name. Soon he left and in about five minutes my grandfather showed up. He said he couldn’t find Santa. I was all upset, I kept saying that you missed him, he was here. I was about 15 before I figured it out. Those are GOOD memories.

Don’t forget the Christmas Party on Thursday the 15th of December. It starts @ 5:30 pm at the Stoneybrook restaurant. It’s across from York Volkswagen on East Market Street. Everyone pays for them selves.

There will be a Board Meeting on the 21st @ Wendy’s. The Conference and monthly programs will be the agenda. ALL are invited.

A sad note to report. Sylvia’s sister, Eleanor, passed away on Dec. 3. Some of you had met her. She was the family genealogist. She didn’t need a computer to keep families straight. She was 70.

That’s all folks! See you at the Christmas Party.

See you there.

Pres. Jack

E-mail  jackson@suscom.net

Refreshment Sponsors for THIS month are:
Christmas Dinner!!!

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Executive Board Members

Visit our webpage:  www.rootsweb.com/~pastgc/
used in a variety of shipping documents, and an alphabetical list of every ship in the line, when it was built, years in service and disposition, and tonnage.

This is great reference material!

**Magellan--The Ships Encyclopedia**
Another interesting website is "Magellan - The Ships Encyclopedia". The site is a little funky in its operation, in that it may or may not open an additional browser window when you click on a link. Don't let this put you off, though. This site has an alphabetical listing of ships and biographical information about them. What is interesting about this set of listings is that when you select a ship, the dates of recorded sailings are listed in the left-hand frame of the window. For each sailing, you will see the date of arrival and the port of departure as well as intermediate ports of call on one side of the ocean and the ports of arrival on the other side of the ocean. This can be a real help in determining more about the ship and perhaps even an intermediate stop for your traveling ancestors.

**One Hundred Years of Immigrant Ships from Norway**
The "100 Years of Emigrant Ships from Norway" site is one of the most detailed shipping sites I've seen. The site includes a database of emigrant ships searchable by line or by ship. There is another database containing details about shipping lines or agents--and all of the ships they owned/operated, complete with their authorizations and routes. (This can help you rule possible destinations in or out for some time periods.)

One database contains Norwegian ship arrivals around the world between 1870 and 1894, while another is an index of Norwegian ships from 1825 to 1925. (Some years for Bergen departures are missing.) For each ship, the type of vessel and rigging is included, with a link to a description and a graphic image. Finally, another database, which is an ongoing and growing project, contains the names of Norwegian Emigrants from 1825 to 1925.

**Online German Immigration Lists, Databases, and Indexes**
Effective German migration research requires an understanding of the history of the area(s) where your ancestors may have been originally. There are many records that can be researched, and the GermanRoots site provides a strong collection of resources. Here you will find many instructional guides to help your research in Germany, plus links to a number of online databases, including those at Ancestry.com.

"Link to Your Roots" Database, Hamburg, Germany
The City of Hamburg, Germany, has produced a dynamic and exciting website, accessible in many languages, including English. It specifically recognizes the more than 5 million people who emigrated through that city's port to the U.S. from Germany and all over Eastern Europe between 1850 and 1934. The site is located at:

**The Link to Your Roots databank [database]**
This website is available in other languages, and it provides access to the German State Archives so that you can conduct a search for persons in the historical Hamburg passenger lists. While the Hamburg lists span 1850 to 1934, the databank presently only contains those records for the years 1890 through 1905. This is a fee-based site. You may charge your searches directly to a credit card, or, for an additional charge, pay by check by sending a printout of the person's records you want, along with your check, for processing and return mailing of the records.

**Mariners Website**
You may also be interested in information about mariners, merchant marines, and different navies of the world. The Mariners website will prove helpful in learning more about these ships and about your mariner ancestor's life at sea.

**Look for Shipping Companies Records**
When looking for the shipping companies' actual records, you will probably find that what is on the manifest at the U.S. end is all that there was at the originating port of embarkation, but there may also be other incidental records. These might include correspondence, booking slips, reservation sheets, receipt books and ledgers, and other materials. You never can tell. Let me suggest the following approach:
Use your favorite search engine and construct a search that includes the name of the shipping line in quotes (to make it an exact phrase) and another set of words, shipping records, in quotes, such as shown below:

"Great Western Steamship Company", or "shipping records."

This will present you with lots of responses that may help you determine the trail of ownership of the company. In addition, you might try some other searches to gain access to information about specific shipping companies or vessels such as:

"Swedish American Line" records "ship Pitts," "HMS Pitts," or "H.M.S. Pitts."

Don't overlook the fact that some or all records of a specific shipping company or a vessel or the captains' logs may have found their way into a maritime museum. You might consider using a search such as the following:

"Cunard Steamship Company" records "maritime museum."

Finally, consider the possibility that general references to emigration records may be included on Web pages where the names of countries, provinces, and specific towns' names may also be included. The use of both the place of origin and a destination port may narrow your search too much, but sometimes it also is worth a try. One of the following samples of structured searches might be helpful:

"emigration records" France (or the country or province name), "emigration records" Bordeaux, "emigration," "Le Havre," or "New Orleans."

All of these are possibilities, and you need to be creative and methodical with the types of searches you perform. Look for possibilities for the companies' records having been handed down to successive owners, thus you may have to research the genealogy of the shipping line. In addition, don't overlook The Association of European Migration Institutions website. Click on the link labeled Addresses and, at that page, click on the link labeled List of A.E.M.I. Members for a list of excellent resources, including their postal, Web, and e-mail addresses, and telephone numbers. These can prove to be invaluable reference and contact resources.

Also, if you think you know where your ancestors came from, don't overlook researching in the libraries and archives in that country or specific area. A great research reference is the University of Idaho's Repositories of Primary Sources Web page and I know you will get lost browsing and searching in this one.

Another of my favorite references for libraries online is LibrarySpot.com. While there, don't miss the Libraries Online page that provides access to thousands of libraries' online catalogs.

Summary
Don't let all these resources intimidate you. Instead, consider how very much really is out there on the Internet to get you started. As always, use the materials you find on the Internet as a starting point to locate copies of the actual materials for your own review.

Now, adjust that telescope and set sail to locate YOUR immigrant ancestors!

Happy Sailing!

George George's new book, How to Do Everything with Your Genealogy, has been released by McGraw-Hill/Osborne Media and is selling like hotcakes! You can order it at online bookstores or request a copy at your favorite bookstore today. George is president and a proud member of the International Society of Family History Writers and Editors. Visit the ISFHWE website at http://www.rootsweb.com/~cgc/. Visit George's Web site at http://ahaseminars.com/atl for information about speaking engagements.
Dislikes
We might find surprising some of what colonial Americans disliked. They weren't fond of drinking water. In some areas, where the water was stagnant or tainted, this was good, but even in areas of clear springs, it was not enjoyed. Milk as a beverage was more common in areas such New England and the middle colonies, where cows were kept in barns and fenced fields, than it was in the South, where live-stock were more likely to roam free in the woods. Once fruit trees and orchards were established, cider became the most popular drink. A variety of alcoholic beverages were consumed—not always moderately, as both court records and church actions demonstrate.

Our early ancestors had much in common with small children—they didn't like vegetables, so they added them to stews or soups and cooked them until they were tasteless. It was not until the late eighteenth century that the idea of serving vegetables separately began to be accepted.

Our ancestors had an abundance of fish and seafood available to them, yet they did not consider this a blessing. Some of their reticence probably derived from correlating fish consumption and Catholicism, but some was a matter of taste. New England tour guides delight in telling of the indentured servants who complained of being made to eat lobster several times a week.

Preparations Knowledge
I can certainly attest to the fact that the cook relies most often on the cooking methods she learned "back home." This includes both utensils and preparation methods. Given the same set of ingredients, cooks in different regions, even different towns, would come up with highly varied dishes, but dishes that would be comfortably familiar to their families and neighbors.

Available Foodstuffs
The landscape that the earliest settlers found in America was very different from what they knew in England, yet they attempted to replicate familiar farming styles, which in turn shaped the foods available to them. Our ancestors tried to transplant both crops and livestock each time they relocated, with

(Continued on page 6)
varying degrees of success. The change of environment from Europe meant that many did not survive. Within the North American continent, we find migration most prevalent within what gardeners call "temperature zones" and sociologists call "life zones," because that determines the success of preserving agricultural habits, hence food options.

**Physical Environment**
Climate had an effect also, particularly in house construction. We think of New England as cold, but many of us are not aware that colonial immigrants found themselves in a climatological period known as a mini-Ice Age, averaging several degrees colder than today. Large fireplaces were the center of a home. Much of the year was spent indoors, and the constant fire meant that foods requiring slow cooking and occasional brief attention were practical. In contrast, southern homes favored faster cooking methods and some outdoor cooking.

**Practicality**
Lifestyle was often a near-subsistence existence with fancy food preparation on the bottom of the priority list. This dictated food preparation with the convenience of the one-pot meal. Stew pots and Dutch ovens were ubiquitous.

Pease porridge hot, pease porridge cold
Pease porridge in the pot nine days old
Some like it hot, some like it cold
Some like it in the pot, nine days old

The familiar nursery rhyme refers to a dish that was prevalent throughout New England, boiled beans or peas. The exact nature of both the legume and the seasoning--if any--varied from place to place. Once the initial pot was made, it could sit cozily on or near the fire, with repeated additions of water if it became too thick from one day to the next. When a friend's grade-school-age daughter explained this to me, she concluded by making a face and exclaiming, "How gross!"

**Adaptation**
When their own food supplies were insufficient, colonists benefited from food obtained from the native Indians and from information about how to find or grow unfamiliar foods in the New World. That does not mean the colonists liked the new foods, but they did need them. Eventually, they developed ways of preparation of some that became a standard part of their diet.

Hogs were a convenient source of food, especially in areas in which they could be allowed to roam free, in forests away from fields. We find them more of a staple in early Southern diets. The fat content prompted the idea of fried foods--and the accompanying invention of the skillet--along with the popularity of smoking to preserve foods.

**How Do You Learn about Your Ancestors' Food?**
To get even a relatively accurate reflection of what our ancestors ate and how they prepared it, we may need to back into it. Probate inventories usually enumerate every pot, utensil, and accessory to be found in the house and outbuildings. They occasionally list major food stores. If the ancestral family you are investigating did not leave such an inventory, look for inventories of their closest neighbors and relatives, who are likely to possess similar household items. Contemporary writing about recipes and food are usually available only for the upper class until relatively modern times. But there is one written source that can shed great insight--letters and journals written by travelers. Just as we do when on vacation, they often commented on the meals they were served. By the adjectives they used, we often get a good picture of regional differences--especially what they didn't like.

Patricia Law Hatcher, CG, FASG, is a technical writer, instructor, and professional genealogist. Her oft-migrating ancestors lived in all of the original colonies prior to 1800 and in seventeen other states, presenting her with highly varied research problems and forcing her to acquire techniques and tools that help solve tough problems. She is the author of *Producing a Quality Family History.*
The Green Worm and Other Oddities of Speech

from the Sunday Afternoon Rocking Series

Afternoon All, "Ok, so the green worm got me," I have often said in a somewhat sheepish tone with eyes lowered. And my father, when he was living, would roar with laughter. Of course a person in our family would smile knowingly...but a stranger might have a bit of a problem knowing exactly what was going on with this strange "green worm" business.

They would also have a bit of a problem understanding what was meant when a person announced he was "going to the Capitol" (outhouse), taking a trip to "China Knob" (going downhome...and no, this was not the name of the community at all and China Knob can be found on no map of the area), the definition of a "breezy owl" (chamber pot), or acting like "Mammy Lewis" when they made a land purchase. (Mammy Lewis was some vague person who lived so long ago, no one in the family can quite remember who she was...but they do remember quite clearly that she was fond of announcing she "didn't want any more land, she just wanted what 'jined' her"). A hearty meal was preceded by a simple prayer, "Thank the Lord for supper!" which might seem less than dignified, but for the family that understood its origins, it was truly a deeply felt prayer. And in later years, once a hearty meal was complete and dishes sitting on the table needing some attention, it was widely accepted that we would "just let Rosie do it."

(Hint: Rosie is most definitely not human).

In short, a stranger listening in on our family's conversations might feel a bit like he had stepped into another world for which no translation dictionary had the answers. And we are no different from most. That is part of what makes us family, and part of what makes other families unique too.

A good deal of shared history and shared events have somehow translated themselves into our speech, and even our names for one another. "Booshie" bears absolutely no resemblance to Virginia Ruth's name. But a little girl over seventy years ago could not pronounce her sister's name, and so it is that folks may look askance when we refer to "Booshie" and not quite get the connection that only the family understands.

The little figures of speech entered the family over the years, with first one event and then another, sometimes genuine mistakes that simply became accepted to say, and sometimes sly humor being appreciated to the point of general acceptance as a legitimate family "saying" to be continued. Some of the terminology was born in my own lifetime and I well remember the event that brought it about. Some was born in the lifetimes of my elders and they have explained to me the stories behind the strange little figures of speech. And some...well no one quite remembers where they sprang from...only that this is something the family always "said"...and I expect that as surely as the color of my hair or the shape of my eyes, this or that little saying is a legacy from an ancestor...and a remnant of a long ago event that happened in a family.

And so, as surely as if a family were a unique "elite club" with secret signs and passwords, those little bits and pieces of words, short little sayings identify them one to another, and give them a bit of something no one else quite shares unless one chooses to "let them in on it". As surely as memories, as surely as physical features, as surely as the sharing of names and ancestors, those little nuances of speech are part of the "glue" that says a group of people belong together and can be called "family". I expect it is so in all families...and I expect also that for the most part we take those quirks of speech "for granted." We document our names/dates/facts...we document events in memories and events written of on paper...but we forget that we have a language legacy as well...and so unless I tell my children how "the green worm" came to be...the saying may well continue...but the story behind it lost in the blurred past of a family's history. Not that it is any earthshaking story, not that it is anything more than a family's good laugh one day...but kind of nice to know how a "green worm" managed to wind up in a family's vocabulary for generations to come perhaps.

Now lest you think this bit of musing is less than scholarly keep in mind that I truly do not have one of those "piled high and deeper's". And therein lies another story..

Just a thought, Jan.

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Genealogy Taglines for your use

You've seen them all over: at the end of e-mail, on bumper stickers, on buttons, etc.. If you are looking for a tagline just for you, or just wanting to change the one you are using, here is a list of over 100 tags I've accumulated. Feel free to browse and pick one that feels "just right" for you! If after browsing you know of a tagline that isn't listed, please email me at bridgett@maddoc.net your tag, and will be glad to list it.

1. He ain't heavy--He's my brother's aunt's sister's husband.
2. Hi Ho! Hi Ho! Now where did my ancestors go?
3. How can one ancestor cause so much TROUBLE?!
4. Hunting season is all year long in genealogy.
5. I checked out my family tree. Just as I thought... poison ivy!
6. I collect dead relatives and sometimes a live cousin!
7. I finally got it all together. Now where did I put it?
8. I looked into my family tree and found out I was a sap.
9. I never steal taglines - I'm a genealogist - I just adopt them.
10. I researched my family tree... apparently I don't exist!
11. I shook my family tree, a bunch of nuts fell out.
12. I think that I shall never see a completed Genealogy!
13. I trace family history so I will know who to blame.
14. I used to have a life, then I started doing genealogy.
15. I want to find ALL of them! So far I only have a few thousand.
16. I wonder if a "Missing Persons Bulletin" would locate my g-g-grandpa?
17. I'd rather look for dead people than have 'em look for me.
18. I'm not sick, I've just got fading genes.
19. I'm not stuck, I'm Ancestrally challenged.
20. I'm stuck in my family tree & can't get down!
21. If your family tree doesn't fork, you might be a redneck.
22. Is your family tree evergreen or deciduous?
23. Isn't genealogy fun? The answer to one problem, leads to two more!
24. It's hard to be humble with ancestors like mine!
25. Jeanealogy: the study of LEVIS and WRANGLERS.
26. Just when you think you've found them all, Up pops another!
27. Kinship: it's all relative!
28. Life is lived forwards, but understood backwards.
29. Life, liberty and the right to know who your ancestors are.
30. Looking for needles in haystacks.
31. May all your family trees branch toward the stars!
32. May the Saint of Genealogists Bless You!
33. May you ask the right question of the right person at the right time.
34. Misers are hard to live with but they make great ancestors.
35. Most of my family roots are underground.
36. My ancestors are Copyrighted. You have my permission to use the data.
37. My ancestors are hiding in a witness protection program.
38. My ancestors did WHAT?!
39. My family coat of arms ties at the back.....is that normal?
40. My family tree died in the last drought.
41. My family tree is full of NOT holes... it's NOT him, it's NOT her!!!
42. My family tree is in the forest, somewhere!
43. My family tree must have been used for firewood.
44. My life has become one large GEDCOM!!
45. My problems are all relative.
46. My roots only go down so far, but my branches spread forever!
47. No - yes - maybe - could be - perhaps. Musings of a genealogist.
48. Not tonight dear, I just got the new version of BK!
49. Nothing ventured, nothing gained, no one found!
50. Okay, so I don't descend from anyone... now what?
51. Old Genealogists never die. They just haunt Archives.
The Susquehanna Trails Genealogy Club was established in 1991 to aid genealogist who use Personal Ancestral File® software. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at the LDS Church, 2101 Hollywood Drive, York PA, near the Queensgate Shopping Center. Starting time is at 7 PM and we try to end around 9PM. The first part of the meeting covers club business and is kept as short as possible. The second part of the meeting is informational in nature. Information from other historical societies, local/ state/ federal archives, or other sources, that may be of interest to the membership, is presented. The third part of the meeting is our monthly program. Programs are presented that are of interest to novice through advanced genealogists. Programs can cover anything from basic researching techniques, sources of information, genealogical based computer software and tools, and basic through advanced features of PAF. Come to a meeting and enjoy the experience! STGC is a non-profit organization and is not affiliated with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

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