



Ask your United States Research Question

2 August 2016

Question #1

How to research and track documentation of Pre-Civil War Immigrants entering the US through New Orleans and accessing Steam Boat navigation to continue their journey up the Mississippi River, Ohio River, or Missouri River including steam boat passenger lists for upriver travel? My ancestors from Ireland came in 1848 through New Orleans and ended up in Randolph County, Illinois. Probably journeyed to Chester, Illinois by steam boat packet. How does one research that part of their journey? Similarly, many immigrant families probably came in through other eastern ports and used navigable rivers where steam boat packets were available to reach or come closer to their ultimate destinations. How does one find documentation of river travel?

- Newspapers may mention passengers.
- Website, Old River, Maritime & Steamboat News: www.theoldentimes.com
- Society
- Randolph County historical society to see what they have
- Website, Steamship Historical Society of America: www.sshsa.org
- Ancestry.com does have a site for St Lawrence River
- Local library, state libraries to see if they have company records for one of the companies who had steamships going down the rivers
- New York State Archives has some canal passenger lists, 1827-1829
- ArchiveGrid, Digital Public Library of America are good places to search for diaries
- <http://my.ohio.voyager.net/~lstevens/canal/>
- Dear Myrtle: <http://www.dearmyrtle.com/02/0712.htm>
- Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steamboat#18th_century
- Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steamboats_of_the_Mississippi
- History: The New Orleans, or Orleans, was the first Mississippi steamboat.[2] Launched in 1811 at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania for a company organized by Robert Livingston and Robert Fulton, her designer, she was a large, heavy side-wheeler with a deep draft.[1][3][4] Her low-pressure Boulton and Watt steam engine operated a complex powertrain that was also heavy and inefficient.
- Cyndi's List: <http://www.cyndislist.com/canals/locality/>
- Ohio Historical: <http://my.ohio.voyager.net/~lstevens/canal/>

Question #2

How can I search the 1850, 1860, and 1870 US censuses by occupation without doing a page-by-page search? Neither FamilySearch.org nor Ancestry.com will allow searching my occupation. I can, however, search by occupation on Ancestry.com in the 1880 census.

- Ancestry.com add a keyword search to your census search.
- Look for census transcriptions on USGenWeb
- Feedback to websites to ask for occupation searches
- Google search at USgenweb for the occupation
- US census bureau may have the demographics
- Depending on time period, there may be city directories for locating wagon makers in the area
- Newspaper advertisements
- City or county histories may have information on occupations
- Wagonmaker guild: Historic or genealogical societies in the areas

Question #3

John Anthony Cline b. 1793 Columbia County, NY per State Census died. 1861 Cattaraugus NY 1861. Per census wife Catherine son George daughter Rebecca Jane. Family moved Washington County, NY then Erie NY. I want to locate John's parents.

- Probate records
- County and town historical societies--county sketches on families and descendants
- Church records where he died
- Fulton county postcards: do a google search for this site, has many newspapers
- Land and property: who does John buy from or sell property to
- War of 1812 records
- Western NY Genealogical Society has a helpful Facebook page
- Fold3.com pension records for the war of 1812
- Washington County marriage record for the county he married could have witnesses
- Look for census records for the family in the county where he married
- Search 1800 census for Clines, also do 1810 in Columbia County
- Check Holland Company Land Records for Catteragus, Erie, etc.
- If he marries fairly young he will still be in the same county where his parents were living
- Historical societies, town clerks, genealogical societies,
- Gordon Remington book: Cities, Towns, and Villages of New York
- Marriage announcement in the newspaper
- Research siblings of George and Rebecca always good to research whole family
- Also check library NY G&B
- Periodicals of local genealogical societies and queries can be checked and a query sent in for the area

- New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer at WorldCat
<http://www.worldcat.org/title/new-york-family-history-research-guide-and-gazetteer/oclc/897437533>
- Contact town and county historians

Question #4

Zacheus Willin, b abt 1781, dies in 1863 without a will in Somerset County, MD. Mary Travers is appointed as the administratrix of his estate in May, 1863. No mention other than the sale of assets is given in the records. Zacheus appears next door to George Willin (b 3 May 1802) in the 1850 census, but both are missing from the 1860 census. George dies in 1877 and we have his will. Question: Is Zacheus the father of George? If not, how to discover the father of George?

- Church records for a baptism of George
- Land records to see if George and his possible father are performing land transactions together. If the children get properties they may sell back to the siblings.
- Did anyone with that surname serve in the War of 1812 or the Civil War
- Try different spellings for their names in the 1860 census
- Page by page search in the 1860 census to see if the spelling of the surnames could have placed them with another surname.
- Do a wildcard search with the ? for the first letter of the surname just in case the first letter was indexed incorrectly. Also a first name search in the 1860 census for the county.
- 1810 census search to see if Zacheus has a male child under the age of 10.
- No state censuses for Maryland
- If George has siblings go through their records to see if there is any link to George.
- Tax Lists
- Somerset County cemetery records and Findagrave for Zacheus and George
- Somerset County marriage licenses at the Maryland State Archives, witnesses, parent names
- Search Familysearch duplicates with name spellings of Zacheus.
- Maryland State Archives births by the state in 1898. Birth, death, and marriage index can be searched and downloaded from the Maryland State Archives:
<http://msa.maryland.gov/>.
- Tax Lists of Somerset County: MGSB 31 (1) (Winter 1990) 19-37. MGSB=MD Gen Soc Bulletin
- Historical and genealogical societies
- Maryland Land Records: <https://mdlandrec.net/main/index.cfm>