

# Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston

## Resources for Jewish Genealogy in the Boston Area

### American Jewish Historical Society, New England Archives

(Fifth floor at New England Historic Genealogical Society)

99-101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA

[www.ajhsboston.org](http://www.ajhsboston.org)

617-226-1245 [reference@ajhsboston.org](mailto:reference@ajhsboston.org)

Tu–Thu 9:00–5:00; Fri 9:00–2:00; Mon by appt.

The Wyner Center of AJHS at NEHGS is the archival repository for the record of Jewish life in the Greater Boston area and New England communities. Of special interest are the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) Boston records, NE Jewish family histories and genealogies, and synagogues and Chevra Kadisha records.

### Boston City Archives

201 Rivermoor Street, West Roxbury, MA 02132

[www.cityofboston.gov/archivesandrecords](http://www.cityofboston.gov/archivesandrecords)

617-635-1195 [archives@cityofboston.gov](mailto:archives@cityofboston.gov)

Mon–Fri 9:30–4:30 (by appt. only)

Voter lists, tax poll records, and Office of the City Clerk records, including business and license records. Call for more information.

### Boston Public Library, Central Library

Copley Square, 700 Boylston St., Boston, MA 02116

[www.bpl.org/research/](http://www.bpl.org/research/)

617-536-5400 [ask@bpl.org](mailto:ask@bpl.org)

Mon–Thu 9:00–9:00; Fri, Sat 9:00–5:00

**Social Sciences Department** (617-859-2261): Reference books, encyclopedias, dictionaries; atlases and gazetteers; genealogy and local history resources.

**Microtext Department** (617-859-2018): Historical newspaper collections, including the *Boston Jewish Advocate*; Boston city directories and telephone books; Boston residents lists (voter reg.); Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for NE; Mass. County Probate records.

**Norman B. Leventhal Map Center** (617-859-2387): 200,000 maps and 5,000 atlases dating from the 15th c. to the present, including maps and atlases from the New England region and world urban centers.

### Brandeis University Judaica Dept, Goldfarb Library

415 South St., Waltham, MA 02453

[brandeis.libguides.com/nejs](http://brandeis.libguides.com/nejs)

781-736-4688 [Rosenbloom@Brandeis.edu](mailto:Rosenbloom@Brandeis.edu)

Mon–Fri 9:00–5:00 (by appointment)

120,000 volume Judaica collection, open stacks; genealogical handbooks, collected genealogies; biographies, autobiographies, dictionaries; histories of Jewish communities; Yizkor books; world and American Jewish newspapers and periodicals (on microfilm).

### Rae and Joseph Gann Library at Hebrew College

160 Herrick Rd., Newton Centre, MA 02459

[www.hebrewcollege.edu/library](http://www.hebrewcollege.edu/library)

617-559-8600 [library@hebrewcollege.edu](mailto:library@hebrewcollege.edu)

Mon–Thu 9:00–5:00; Fri 9:00–1:00

Biographical and geographical references; Jewish genealogies; Boston Jewish community surveys; Yizkor books and local histories; periodicals and newsletters of Jewish genealogical and historical societies. *Boston Jewish Advocate* and *Jerusalem Post* on microfilm.

### Jewish Cemeteries & Funeral Homes in Massachusetts

[jgsbg.org/pdfs/cemeteriesdb.pdf](http://jgsbg.org/pdfs/cemeteriesdb.pdf)

An online database, published by the JGSGB, of all known cemeteries and funeral homes in Massachusetts.

### Jewish Cemetery Association of Massachusetts (JCAM)

No research on premises.

[www.jcam.org](http://www.jcam.org) [info@jcam.org](mailto:info@jcam.org)

617-244-6509 ; 800-752-JCAM

Burial records of 106 Jewish cemeteries in Mass. (about half of all Jewish cemeteries); maps, directions to all cemeteries. Search for burials online at: [www.jcam.org/Pages/Services/Search/search.php](http://www.jcam.org/Pages/Services/Search/search.php)

### Massachusetts Registry of Vital Records and Statistics

150 Mt. Vernon St., 1st Floor, Dorchester, MA 02125

617-740-2600 [www.mass.gov/dph/rvrs](http://www.mass.gov/dph/rvrs)

Mon & Thu 2:00–4:30; Tu & Fri 9:00–noon

Massachusetts Vital Records: 1921–present.

Certified copies \$18.00 each; \$9.00/hour research fee.

### Massachusetts State Archives

220 Morrissey Blvd. Boston, MA 02125

[www.sec.state.ma.us/arc/arcgen/genidx.htm](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/arc/arcgen/genidx.htm)

617-727-2816 [archives@sec.state.ma.us](mailto:archives@sec.state.ma.us)

Mon–Fri 9:00–5:00

Vital records, 1841–1920; Boston arrival passenger lists; Mass. county probate records; Mass. annual town reports; WPA Historical Records Survey, 1930s, including church and synagogue records; Mass. state agency records, incl. medical examiners' reports, state hospitals, prisons, institutions.

### Massachusetts Synagogues & Their Records, Past & Present

[jgsbg.org/pdfs/MassSynagogues.pdf](http://jgsbg.org/pdfs/MassSynagogues.pdf)

An online database, published by the JGSGB, of all known cemeteries and funeral homes in Massachusetts.

### National Archives—New England Region

380 Trapelo Road Waltham, MA 02452

[www.archives.gov/boston/](http://www.archives.gov/boston/)

866-406-2379 ; 781-663-0144 [boston.archives@nara.gov](mailto:boston.archives@nara.gov)

Mon–Wed, Fri, & 1st Sat 9:00–4:30; Thu 9:00–9:00

Passenger arrival lists and indexes for Boston, arrival lists for most E Coast ports, Galveston, and Canadian border; naturalization records for NE states, including all courts, copies and index thru 1906; Federal Courts, original records for later dates. Use Public Access Computers to search Ancestry, Heritage Quest, Fold3 for US Census, WWI draft records, some passenger arrival lists and naturalizations.

### New England Historic Genealogical Society

101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA 02116

[www.americanancestors.org](http://www.americanancestors.org)

617-536-5740 [research@nehgs.org](mailto:research@nehgs.org)

Tu–Sat 9:00–5:00; Wed 9:00–9:00

Vital records for NE states, especially Mass., Vt., NH, Maine; city directories for most towns in Mass.; local histories, cemetery records; newspaper abstracts, college alumni directories, atlases; probate court and deed indexes.

### State Library of Massachusetts

24 Beacon St., State House Rm. 341, Boston, MA 02133

[www.mass.gov/anf/research-and-tech/oversight-agencies/lib/](http://www.mass.gov/anf/research-and-tech/oversight-agencies/lib/)

617-727-2590 Mon–Fri 9:00–5:00

City and county atlases and maps; newspapers; local histories; decennial census; annual town reports.

**Special Collections** (Rm. 55, 617-727-2595): City and town directories; voting lists; personal and property tax valuations.



# **Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston**

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Email Address at this Web Address**

**[announce.jgsgb.org](https://announce.jgsgb.org)**



## United States Federal Census

CENSUS YEAR	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940
Date of enumeration	x	x	x	x	x
Names of all members of household	x	x	x	x	x
Relationship to head of household	x	x	x	x	x
Residence	x	x	x	x	x
Residence as of April 1, 1935 - same place (city), same house					x
If different, city and state					x
Race	x	x	x	x	x
Gender	x	x	x	x	x
Month and year of birth	x				
Age at last birthday	x	x	x	x	x
Marital status	x	x	x	x	x
Number of years married	x				
Number of years of current marriage		x			
Age at first marriage				x	
<b>WOMEN ONLY NEXT TWO LINES</b>					
Number of children given birth to	x	x			
How many then living	x	x			
Birthplace	x	x	x	x	x
Mother tongue			x	x	
Birthplace of father	x	x	x	x	*
Mother tongue			x		*
Birthplace of mother	x	x	x	x	*
Mother tongue			x		*
Year of immigration	x	x	x	x	
Number of years in the US	x				
Naturalization status	x	x	x	x	x
If naturalized, year of naturalization			x		

Continued	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940
General nature of industry		x	x	x	x
Months not employed	x				
Wage/salary worker, employer or working on own account		x	x	x	x
If employee, whether out of work April 15, 1910		x			
Number of weeks out of work in 1909		x			
Whether actually at work on last regular day of work				x	
Attend school	x				
Attended school anytime since September 1, 1909		x			
Attended school anytime since September 1, 1919			x		
Attended school anytime since September 1, 1929				x	
Attended school anytime since March 1, 1940					x
Whether able to read	x	x	x	x	
Whether able to write	x	x	x	x	
Highest grade of school completed					x
Whether able to speak English	x	x	x	x	
If not, language spoken		x			
Language spoken at home before coming to US				x	
Language spoken in earliest childhood home					x
Home owned or rented	x	x	x	x	x
If owned, owned free or mortgaged	x	x	x		
Value of home if owned, monthly rental if rented				x	x
Farm or house	x	x		x	x
Own a radio				x	
Survivor of Union or Confederate Army or Navy		x			
Veteran of military service				x	*
What war or expedition				x	*
Wife, widow or child under 18 of veteran					*
Blind (both eyes)		x			
Deaf and dumb		x			
Do you have Social Security number					*
* Supplemental questions for people on lines 14 and 29 in 1940					

*Prepared by Debra Lerner*



## NATURALIZATIONS

	Declaration of Intention	Petition for Naturalization	Certificate of Arrival
Name	X	X	
Current address	X	X	
Occupation	X	X	
Age	X		
Gender	X		
Description-color, complexion, eye color, hair color, height, weight, visible marks	X		
Race	X	X	
Nationality	X		
Birthplace-country and city or town	X	X	
Birthdate	X	X	
Marital status	X	X	
Name of spouse	X	X	
Date and place of marriage	X	X	
Information about spouse			
Birthplace and birthdate	X	X	
Date and location where spouse entered US	X	X	
Current address	X	X	
Names of children	X	X	
Birthdate and birthplace and current residence	X	X	
Last foreign residence	X	X	
Port of departure for US	X	X	
Port of entry in US	X	X	X
Name used when entered US	X	X	X
Date of arrival in US	X	X	X
Name of ship	X	X	X
Picture - only during certain years	X		
Date and Court where filed Declaration of Intention		X	
Lived in US continuously for at least five years starting on what date		X	
In what county		X	
Country(ies) for which you are renouncing allegiance		X	
Affidavits of Witnesses (usually family or close friends)			
Name		X	
Address		X	
Occupation		X	
Oath of Allegiance to US		X	



## MILITARY RECORDS

	WWI DRAFT REGISTRATION 1917	WWI DRAFT REGISTRATION 1918	ABSTRACT OF WWI MILITARY SERVICE	WWII DRAFT REGISTRATION	VA BIRLS DEATH FILE
Name	X	X	X	X	X
Age	X	X		X	
Residence	X	X	X	X	
Telephone number				X	
Date of Birth	X	X	X	X	X
Citizenship-natural born, naturalized, alien	X				
Citizenship-natural born, naturalized, citizen by father's naturalization, alien (declared or non-declared)		X			
Birthplace-Country and City	X		X	X	
If not a US citizen, of what country are you a citizen	X	X			
Occupation	X	X			
Employer	X	X		X	
Address of employment	X	X		X	
Do you have parent, wife, child under 17 or sibling 17 solely dependent on you	X				
If so, specify which	X				
Marital status	X				
Nearest relative-name and address		X			
Race	X	X		X	
Prior military service	X				
Do you claim exemption from service	X				
Description-height, build, eye color, hair color	X	X			

	WWI DRAFT REGISTRATION 1917	WWI DRAFT REGISTRATION 1918	ABSTRACT OF WWI MILITARY SERVICE	WWII DRAFT REGISTRATION	VA BIRLS DEATH FILE
Description-height, weight, complexion, eye color, hair color				x	
Have you lost arm, leg, hand, foot, both eyes or otherwise disabled	x	x			
Army serial number			x		
Date and place of induction			x		
Branch of military with dates of assignments and transfers			x		
Grade with date of appointment			x		
Engagements			x		
Date of enlistment					x
Date of release/discharge					x
Wounds received in action			x		
Dates of service overseas			x		
Date of honorable discharge			x		
Percentage disabled upon discharge			x		
Name and address of person who will always know your address				x	
Date of death					x
Social Security Number					x



## IMMIGRATION

### Ship Manifest

- Name
- Age (in years and/or months)
- Gender
- Married or single
- Occupation
- Able to read
- Able to write
- In what language
- Nationality-Country of which you are citizen or subject
- Race or people
- Last permanent residence-country and city or town
- Name and address of nearest relative or friend in country from where you came
- Final destination - state and city or town
- Whether you have a ticket
- By whom passage paid
- Whether you are in possession of \$50 or more; if not, how much
- Whether ever before in United States
- If yes, when and where
- Whether joining friend or relative; their name and address
- Purpose of coming to US; whether planning to stay permanently
- Condition of health; whether deformed or crippled
- Height
- Complexion
- Color of hair and eyes
- Marks of identification (scars)
- Place of birth-country and city or town

### Record of Detained Aliens

- Name
- Number of aliens - under one year old and over one year old
- Cause of detention
- Disposition
- Date and time of discharge

*Prepared by Debra Lerner*

Your name:

email:

date:

## FAMILY GROUP SHEET p. 1

**Father**

Given Name(s)		Last Name
Born	Place	
Died	Place	
Married	Place	
Father's Father (first, middle, last)		
Father's Mother (first, middle, maiden)		
Other Marriages (first, middle, last)		

**Mother**

Given Name(s)		Last Name
Born	Place	
Died	Place	
Mother's Father (first, middle, last)		
Mother's Mother (first, middle, maiden)		
Other Marriages (first, middle, last)		

Sex

**Child #1**

Given Name(s)		Last Name
Born	Place	
Died	Place	
Spouse (first, middle, last)		
Married	Place	

Sex

**Child #2**

Given Name(s)		Last Name
Born	Place	
Died	Place	
Spouse (first, middle, last)		
Married	Place	

Sex

**Child #3**

Given Name(s)		Last Name
Born	Place	
Died	Place	
Spouse (first, middle, last)		
Married	Place	



## **IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO NOW**

### **I. Tell Your Story**

Don't try to tell everything at once. Do it in small chapters. Childhood, teenage years, working years, retirement, etc. or in whatever way is easiest and most comfortable for you. Include feelings, emotions, descriptions, etc.

#### **A. Record what you know.**

- 1) Dates (Day, month, year) and places of life events: birth, marriage, bar/bat mitzvah, divorce, death, burial, etc.
- 2) Names (1<sup>st</sup>, middle, last, nicknames, Hebrew names, Yiddish names), maiden names, who named after, name in "old" country
- 3) Places lived: (towns, cities and state and county
- 4) European locations, even phonetically if you don't know how to spell it. Use a map to trigger memories. Was it near a larger town?

#### **B. Tape/Videotape yourself**

- 1) Have someone else ask you questions and you answer them into a tape recorder.
- 2) Write your story in various short episodes; one memory at a time in a journal or diary.
- 3) Have someone videotape you while interviewing you.
- 4) Interview the oldest members of the family as well as other living relatives, like siblings, children, cousins, aunts, great-aunts, etc.

### **II. Document Your Sources**

#### **A. Start a family tree with ONE family**

B. Document who told you, when they told you, or what the archival /Internet source was.

### III. **Photos**

A. Make sure all photos are labeled with complete names, dates and places, if possible. Use a special archival pen on the back of photos. (**You** know who these people are by nicknames or by Aunt Mary, but others won't)

B. Preserve photos properly; store in archival-quality boxes or sleeves.

C. Scan photos onto your computer

### IV. **Collect Artifacts**

A. Gather all diaries, bibles, documents (passports, citizenship papers, census records, birth/death certificates, marriage records, etc), and family heirlooms and put them together in a safe place.

B. Put originals in archival plastic sleeves for protection. Look these over carefully for genealogical clues.

### V. **Educate Yourself and Others**

A. Join JewishGen.org (see flyer)

a) Read: Getting Started

b) Sign up for daily digests in your areas of interest.

c) Post questions on the digest.

B. Learn history and geography of ancestral village and area.

C. Take courses in genealogy.

D. Check out Internet sources, repositories and Jewish Genealogical Societies.

E. Distribute your information to family members.

F. Come to JGSGB meetings and/or join the society.

# FIVE-GENERATION ANCESTOR CHART

1 Me	2 Father	4 Father	8 Father	16 Father
				17 Mother
Spouse:	5 Mother	9 Mother	10 Father	18 Father
				19 Mother
	6 Father	11 Mother	12 Father	20 Father
				21 Mother
	7 Mother	13 Mother	14 Father	22 Father
				23 Mother
				24 Father
				25 Mother
				26 Father
				25 Mother
				28 Father
				29 Mother
				30 Father
				31 Mother

*Me*

*Parents*

*Grandparents*

*Great-Grandparents*

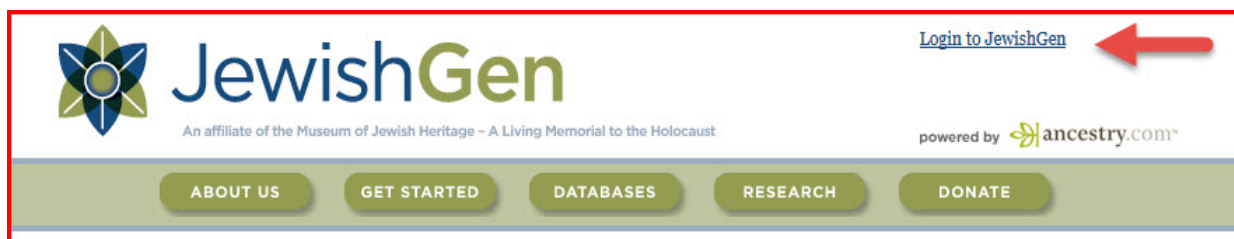
*Great-Great-Grandparents*



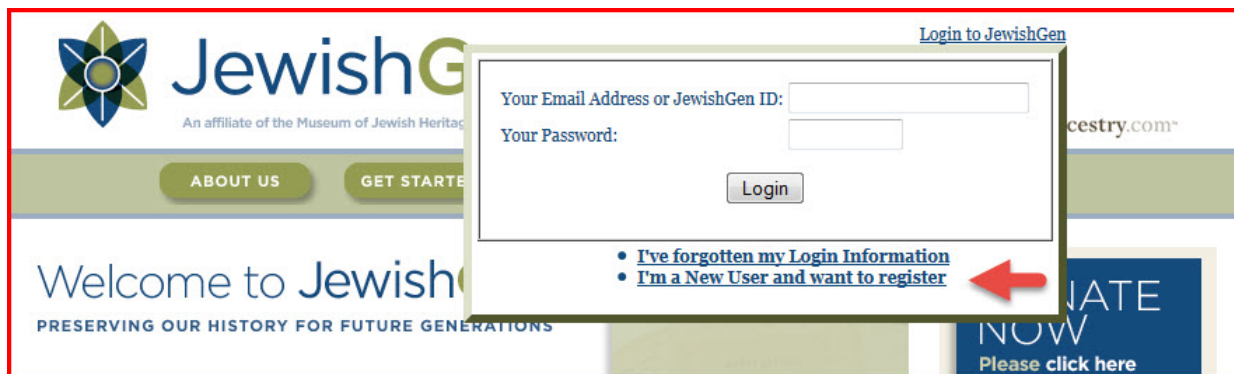
## Creating a New JewishGen Account

**Step 1.** Go to [www.jewishgen.org](http://www.jewishgen.org)

Move your mouse over the [Login to JewishGen](#) on the top right (see figure below)



**Step 2.** When the “Login to JewishGen” screen appears, click on the “I’m a New User and want to register” link below the box with the login form (see the figure below).



**Step 3.** Fill in all the requested information. Most importantly, choose a password, and save it in a safe place. (It is recoverable, but it's best not to forget it.) For the “display options” setting, we recommend the default choice 2. (Choice 1 is quite annoying to other people, because they cannot tell who you are and, therefore, whether they have already written to you previously. Choice 3 is OK, but it takes up a lot of room in the FamilyFinder listings.) These choices are not critical, as they can be changed later. After you click “Register as a New JewishGen User” at the bottom of the form, JewishGen says it will send a confirming email to which you must respond before your registration is verified. When I tested registering as a new user, I never received an email, because they noticed that the house address was the same as an existing user. However, you should set up your registration before it is needed and follow up on any confirmation email according to its instructions.



[www.jgs gb.org](http://www.jgs gb.org)

866-611-5698

[info@jgs gb.org](mailto:info@jgs gb.org)

## USEFUL INTERNET SITES FOR JEWISH GENEALOGY

### **JewishGen**

[www.jewishgen.org](http://www.jewishgen.org)

“The first source to go to for Jewish Genealogy.” Info files by topic and country. Family Finder, Family Tree of the Jewish People, Yizkor book translations and more. First Timer videos for the beginner.

### **Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston**

[www.jgs gb.org](http://www.jgs gb.org)

Monthly educational programs, extensive reference library of worldwide resources, one-on-one assistance.

### **Ancestry**

[www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)

Comprehensive source for U.S. and foreign materials. Free at many libraries. Paid subscription needed for home use after free trial period.

### **Family History Library Catalog**

[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)

World's largest collection of genealogical records available on microfilm and online.

### **My Heritage**

[www.myheritage.com](http://www.myheritage.com)

International genealogy research website and social network service. Available by paid subscription.

### **Ellis Island**

[www.ellisland.org](http://www.ellisland.org)

For immigrant arrival records from 1892-1924. Use the Steve Morse website (next) for easier searches.

### **Steve Morse**

[www.stevemorse.org](http://www.stevemorse.org)

Find your ancestors more effectively in the Ellis Island database and the U.S. and N.Y. census. A wealth of other genealogical material.

### **Routes to Roots Foundation**

[www.rtrfoundation.org](http://www.rtrfoundation.org)

Identifies which Jewish vital records can be found in state archives in Eastern Europe.

### **Yad Vashem**

[www.yad-vashem.org](http://www.yad-vashem.org)

World's largest searchable database of Holocaust victims' names and information.

### **Center for Jewish History**

[www.cjh.org](http://www.cjh.org)

Located in NYC; a partnership of major institutions: American Jewish Historical Society, American Sephardi Federation, Leo Baeck Institute, Yeshiva University Museum; genealogy research library.

### **JRI-Poland (Home of Jewish Records Indexing-Poland)**

[www.jri-poland.org](http://www.jri-poland.org)

Database of indices to the 19th century Jewish vital records of Poland.

### **Hamburg Departure Lists (German)**

The questions asked of departing emigrants varied over time, but generally included the following:

1. Zuname (Surname)

2. Vorname (Forename)

Die zu einer Familie gehörenden Personen sind unter einander zu notiren und durch eine Klammer als zusammengehörig zu bezeichnen (Group family members together and designate using brackets)

3. Geschlecht (Sex) männlich weiblich (male female)

4. Alter (Age)

5. Bisheriger Wohnort (Previous place of residence)

6. Im Staate oder in der Provinz (State or Province)

7. Bisheriger Stand oder Beruf (Previous trade or profession)

8. Ziel der Auswanderung, Ort und Land ist anzugeben (Destination, specify place and country)

9. Zahl der Personen (Number of people)

Davon sind (Of these):

10. Erwachsene und Kinder über 10 Jahre (Adults and children over 10 years)

11. Kinder unter 10 Jahre (Children under 10 years)

12. Kinder unter 1 Jahre (Children under 1 year)

## **Immigrant Ships Passenger List.**

The questions asked on passenger lists changed every few years. This is the two page 29 column version. In the single page 22 column version items 11, 13 and 25-29 were absent. Adjust the column numbers accordingly.

- 1) No. on List
- 2) Name in Full (Family name, Given Name)
- 3) Age (Yrs, Mos)
- 4) Sex
- 5) Married/Single
- 6) Calling/Occupation
- 7) Able to read/write
- 8) Nationality (Country of which citizen/subject)
- 9) Race or People
- 10) Last Permanent Residence (Country/City or Town)
- 11) The name and complete address of nearest relative or friend in country whence alien came
- 12) Final Destination (intended future permanent residence) State/City or town
- 13) No. on List
- 14) Whether having a ticket to such final destination
- 15) By whom was passage paid? (Whether alien paid his own passage, whether paid by relative, whether paid by any other person or by any corporation, society, municipality; or government.)
- 16) Whether in possession of \$50, and if less, how much?
- 17) Whether ever before in the United States; and if so, when and where?  
(If yes, year or period of years. Where?)
- 18) Whether going to join a relative or friend; and if so, what relative or friend, and his name and complete address
- 19) Ever in prison or almshouse or institution for care and treatment of the insane or supported by charity? If so, which?
- 20) Whether a Polygamist
- 21) Whether an Anarchist
- 22) Whether coming by reason of any offer, solicitation promise, or agreement, expressed or implied, to labor in the United States
- 23) Condition of Health, Mental and Physical
- 24) Deformed or Crippled. Nature, length of time, and cause
- 25) Height in Feet and Inches
- 26) Complexion
- 27) Color of Hair and Eyes
- 28) Marks of Identification
- 29) Place of birth - Country and City or town.