

# COURSE I SEARCHING U.S. RECORDS FOR YOUR IRISH ANCESTORS

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## Rochester Genealogical Society

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<http://nyrgs.org>

Sixteenth Annual

### **Rochester Irish Festival**

September 10-12, 2010  
Camp Eastman, Irondequoit, NY

<http://www.rochesteririshfestival.com>

Course I - Searching US Records for your Irish Ancestors  
Course II - Searching Irish Records for your Ancestors  
Course III - Irish Name Variations & Search Techniques

Many of us have a goal of tracing our families back to Ireland. It's very important to do your homework in US records BEFORE trying to identify your Irish immigrant in Irish records.

**What's the problem with searching Irish records?**

- Irish records usually require knowledge of specific geographic info for your family (County NOT enough).
  - **Solution:** Use US records to discover specific geographic info for your family in Ireland
- All Irish families seem to use the same group of names for their children.
  - **Solution:** Use US records to develop a knowledge base of “identifiers” about your family and especially your immigrant ancestor.

**Traditional Irish Naming Pattern** (Source: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~ussnei/IrishNaming.htm>)

*Sons' Names*

- First Son named after Paternal Grandfather
- Second Son named after Maternal Grandfather
- Third Son named after Father
- Fourth Son named after Father's Oldest Brother
- Fifth Son named after Mother's Oldest Brother
- Sixth Son named after Father's Second Oldest Brother

*Daughters' Names*

- First Daughter named after Maternal Grandmother
- Second Daughter named after Paternal Grandmother
- Third Daughter named after Mother
- Fourth Daughter named after Mother's Oldest Sister
- Fifth Daughter named after Father's Oldest Sister
- Sixth Daughter named after Mother's Second Oldest Sister

Any additional children continue the pattern, following the order of father's and mother's brothers and sisters. One other common practice was to name a child after a child who had died within the family.

**Downside of the Irish Naming Pattern:** Given names are used over and over again, resulting in many families with similar subset of names. This complicates identifying your ancestral family and increases the chances of adopting the wrong family.

**Upside of the Irish Naming Pattern:** Can give valuable clues for the names of the next older generation. Note that the naming pattern does NOT prove anything, but may suggest direction of research.

Example:

Father	Michael HOGAN	b1826	
Mother	Susan NAGLE	b1836	
Children	John	b1853	First Son named after Paternal Grandfather
	Catherine	b1854	First Daughter named after Maternal Grandmother
	Bridget	b1855	Second Daughter named after Paternal Grandmother
			<b>[gaps may indicate missing child or new spouse or military service or ...]</b>
	Mary	b1858	Third Daughter named after Mother
	Dennis	b1859	Second Son named after Maternal Grandfather
		[gap]	
	Margaret	b1863	Fourth Daughter named after Mother's Oldest Sister
	Susan	b1865	Fifth Daughter named after Father's Oldest Sister
		[gap]	
	Michael	b1869	Third Son named after Father
	James	b1869	Fourth Son named after Father's Oldest Brother
Father	Michael HOGAN	b1826	[possible parents: John & Bridget HOGAN]
Mother	Susan NAGLE	b1836	[possible parents: Dennis & Catherine NAGLE]

## Basic Genealogy

Record what you know about your family. Find Sources in your home (or a relative's home): family Bible, letters, documents. Talk to the oldest members of your family NOW. Document Family oral tradition.

Start with pedigree charts (<http://www.ancestry.com/trees/charts/ancchart.aspx>)

- Begin with yourself or a child, then work back through time
- For each person determine place & date for death, marriage, birth (in that order) and get copies of records for each event

For each couple on the pedigree chart fill out a family group record (<http://www.ancestry.com/trees/charts/familysheet.aspx>)

There are computer programs that can help you capture this info (free: Legacy, non-free: Family Tree Maker, The Master Genealogist, Reunion-MAC, online: [www.geni.com](http://www.geni.com), [www.tribalpages.com](http://www.tribalpages.com), [www.sharedtree.com](http://www.sharedtree.com) )

For excellent "how to get started" help, see  
[http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Home/Welcome/frameset\\_information.asp](http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Home/Welcome/frameset_information.asp)  
<http://www.cyndislist.com/beginner.htm>

## Top “Ten” List

13. Resist the temptation to make assumptions. Be skeptical.
12. The more you know about the history/culture of the time & place of your ancestors, the “luckier” you’ll be as a genealogist.
11. Before 1900, dates & spelling were not as rigorously followed as today.
10. Develop plan, select one ancestor, what do you want to learn, what resources should be searched
9. Keep research notes using a research log (<http://www.ancestry.com/trees/charts/researchcal.aspx> )
8. Don't wait for "the right time" to talk to the oldest family members
7. Transcribe records EXACTLY as they exist, not as you think they should be
6. Don't stop with the info in an index, use the index to find the original record
5. Search forward (to present day). Find & contact all living descendents of a “brickwall” couple. (**Reverse Genealogy**)
4. Always thoroughly RESEARCH SIBLINGS at each level (**Whole Family Research**)
3. Record & research all individuals with the target surname (and its variations) living in the locality where your ancestors lived as well as friends and neighbors (**Cluster Genealogy**)  
**Note** – If you can't find the info you want for your direct line in vital (bmd), military, probate, land or naturalization records, Reverse/Whole Family/Cluster techniques may very well solve your problem.
2. For every piece of information about your family history, RECORD THE SOURCE
1. VERIFY ALL NEW INFORMATION, whether from the internet, a book or Aunt Susie

## Basic Name & Search Tips

- For O names & Mc/Mac names, search indexes with & without the prefix (& don't forget Ma forms, ex: Magory for McGory)
- Don't assume 1 spelling of names when searching records (use Soundex, non-exact or wild cards when available)
  - o O'Reilly, O'Riley, Reily, Riley, etc
  - o Inconsistent punctuation in indexes: O'Flynn, OFlynn, O Flynn, O\_Flynn, O.Flynn, McGrath, MacGrath, Mc Grath, M'Grath, Mgrath
- Don't assume 1 given name is used in all records (nicknames/synonyms, middle names)  
Nicknames/synonyms: BJ, Delia or Bidy for Bridget, see Coghlan book in Resources
- "Mc is Irish, Mac is Scottish" - Wrong! Mc & Mac are legitimate prefixes for both Irish & Scottish.
- See Course III for more detailed info on Irish Name Variations & Search Techniques
- For females, do a separate search with maiden name and with all married names.

SO, must try searching for variants of names!



- **Tombstones, Cemetery Records, Death Certificates** (sometimes Irish county, parish or townland)
  - o Immigrant tombstones often include their Irish county and sometimes a parish or townland
  - o Tombstones also include dates and may indicate relationships
  - o Cemetery records may include birthplace in Ireland as well as next of kin and lot purchaser
  - o Death Certificates identify the cemetery and maybe the parents if informant is contemporary
  - o See FHC, also [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com), [www.interment.net](http://www.interment.net)
  
- **Church Records** (usually no birthplace info, but sometimes there are interesting notes included)
  - o Baptisms, marriages, funerals; also sometimes first communion, confirmation, cemetery
  - o Pay attention to witnesses & godparents - probably close relatives or friends from Ireland.
  - o Catholic Diocese of Rochester: LDS microfilmed every parish from its origin to about 1905.  
Copy is in microfiche room in basement of library at Nazareth College or available through FHC
  - o These Catholic records are in Latin but decipherable (see Latin Word List, Martin book and Latin links in Resources).
  - o Church records for throughout the US are available through FHC (not just Catholic)
  
- **Naturalization Records** (some include county, parish or townland of origin/some don't)
  - o US naturalization process began in 1795
    - Declaration of Intention (1st papers)
    - Petition for Naturalization (2nd or last papers)
    - Certificate of Naturalization
  - o Info may be birthdate or age, date/place of departure/arrival, name of ship, name of US sponsor
  - o 1900 US census indicates whether alien, naturalized, or applied but not complete
  - o Many did not become citizens, some started process but did not finish
  - o The steps (papers) could be recorded in different localities
  - o No central repository prior to 1906. Since 1906, forms are standardized and records are held by Immigration & Naturalization Services (INS)
  - o Some indexes, see FHC, National Archives and the Szucs book. Also <http://www.germanroots.com/naturalization.html>
  
- **Immigration Records** (prior to late 1800's, no "last residence" info - only port of embarkation)
  - o 1900 census (&1890) includes year of immigration and whether naturalized
  - o US government began keeping arrival lists about 1820 but usually only port of origination
  - o In late 1800's began including last residence, from 1906 includes Town of Birth.
  - o Many Irish initially immigrated to Canada before going to the US
  - o From 1895, US collected info from those crossing into US from Canada. Included birthplace, the US contact to be visited and info about the immigrant's original arrival in Canada. Called "St. Albans Border Crossings" and available on CD. Ancestry.com has Border Crossings, Canada to US, 1895-1956.
  - o Border Crossings: From US to Canada, 1908-1935, 1.6 million names for 200 entry points, Ancestry.com
  - o Famine Irish Data Files, 600,000+ immigrants between 1846 and 1851. US National Archives site at [www.archives.gov/aad](http://www.archives.gov/aad). Some records include "last residence." Steps:
    - Click on "Browse by Subjects >>"
    - Click on "Irish"
    - Find "Famine Irish Passenger Record Data File (FIPAS), 1/12/1846 - 12/31/1851" and click "search"
  - o [www.castlegarden.org](http://www.castlegarden.org) Database of 10 million immigrants (more being added) who passed through Castle Garden and prior New York City immigration centers between ~1820 and 1892. For immigrants prior to Ellis Island (1892), also see US National Archives
  - o [www.ellisland.org](http://www.ellisland.org) Database of 17 million immigrants and 5 million crew members who passed through Ellis Island between 1892 and 1924.
  - o <http://stevemorse.org/> Powerful searching for Castle Garden & Ellis Island sites. Also provides access to other ports, census, and other genealogical resources.
  - o Note that married women from "Catholic countries" often used their maiden names.
  - o Passenger lists are available through the FHC and National Archives as well as [www.immigrantships.net](http://www.immigrantships.net), [www.theshipslist.com](http://www.theshipslist.com), Ancestry.com
  - o Ancestry.com has the "U.S. Immigration Collection" including NY Emigrant Bank, 1850-1883. See Bank User's Guide.
  - o For more info see Szucs book in resources.

- **Military Records** (pension & WWI Draft may contain detailed info, including birthplace)
  - o Registers of Enlistments in the US Army, 1798-1914 includes birthplace. National Archives (NA), microfilm M233 & Ancestry.com. Many Confederate & Union records are in Ancestry.com.
  - o Pension and Veteran's Hospital records can be very valuable resources.
  - o Pensions records for Rev War/1812/Civil, NA has microfilms & indexes. FamilySearch has Civil War Pension index cards. Ancestry.com has many.
  - o **Your immigrant ancestor did not serve? Pension records for his siblings/cousins could yield valuable clues.**
  - o New York State Military Census of 1916. All males 16 to 45. Not all counties survive. Ontario Co copy at County Archives
  - o Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) database includes cemetery info and Confederate as well as Union.
  - o WWI Draft Registration. 24 million men registered - almost all born between 1873 & 1900. Half include birthplace/half include address of next of kin. For 1 million men born in 1896 and 1897 includes Father's birthplace. FHC has microfilm of cards. Included in Ancestry.com
  - o WWII Draft Registration. Born between 1877 & 1897. FHC has microfilm of cards. Included in Ancestry.com
  - o For more info see Neagles book.
  - o Web sites include Online Military Index [www.militaryindexes.com](http://www.militaryindexes.com), Civil War Soldiers, [www.itd.nps.gov/cwss](http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss) and NYS Civil War, [archives.nysed.gov/CivilWarWeb/search.jsp](http://archives.nysed.gov/CivilWarWeb/search.jsp).
- **Vital Records (birth/marriage/death)** (includes birthplace, parents' names)
  - o Not universally kept until about 1890, varies by state
  - o New York required bmd in 1880, but some areas started earlier. Rochester Public Library has index for NYS – does NOT include 5 boroughs of NYC/Buffalo & Albany before 1914
  - o Note that death records are a primary source of death info, but only secondary source for birth info. You're dependent on how accurate is the informant's memory.
  - o FHC has extensive collections. Ancestry.com has some.
- **US Social Security Death Index (SSDI)** (leads to SS application form which has birthplace)
  - o Most records are for those who died after 1962
  - o SSDI includes SS#, given name, surname, birth & death dates, last known address
  - o Using info from the index, can order a photocopy of the SS application form (SS-5) which includes address, birth place, father's full name, mother's full name with maiden name, employer's name & address, applicant's signature
  - o Can be used to track down death records, obituaries, probate records
  - o Free access available at [www.familytreelegends.com/ssdi](http://www.familytreelegends.com/ssdi) (best search features) and <http://www.familysearch.org/>. Also included in Ancestry.com.
- **City Directories** (probably no birthplace, but excellent "census substitute")
  - o Includes info such as occupation and street address
  - o Farm Directories may exist for rural areas.
  - o Directories were published more often than census - many were annual.
  - o Rochester Directories are being digitalized, see [www.libraryweb.org](http://www.libraryweb.org), click on 'Local History'
  - o Ancestry.com has many
- **Newspapers** (anniversary & death notices may include birthplace)
  - o Birth, Wedding & Death notices as well as Anniversary notices, like 25th and 50th
  - o "Fulton History" site, great collection of old New York State newspapers and photographs. <http://www.fultonhistory.com/Fulton.html>
  - o Boston Pilot (1831-1921) had regular columns with Missing Friends ads. They have been indexed in an 8 volume series. The Search for Missing Friends (Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1988-1999). Also available on CD. Now available at free web site, <http://infowanted.bc.edu> This is a country-wide resource, not just for Boston area.
  - o Collections at Ancestry.com, [www.genealogybank.com](http://www.genealogybank.com), [news.google.com/archivesearch](http://news.google.com/archivesearch), [www.newspaperarchive.com](http://www.newspaperarchive.com)
- **Family Bible** (may include birthplaces)
  - o Many transcriptions online, search for 'Family Bible'
- **Court, Land, Probate** (may include birthplaces)
  - o Ancestry.com has many

**Resources** [MCLS= Monroe County Library System (Monroe County, NY, US), GB= Google Books]

- A Guide to Research (Salt Lake City; Utah: Corp. of the President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1994). [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- United States Research Outline (Salt Lake City, Utah: Corp. of the President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1997). [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- New York Research Outline (research outlines available for all states & DC, Canada and all provinces) (Salt Lake City, Utah: Corp. of the President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1997). [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- Tracing Immigrant Origins (Salt Lake City, Utah: Corp. of the President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1992). [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- Latin Word List (Salt Lake City, Utah: Corp. of the President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1997). [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- U.S. Military Records (Salt Lake City, Utah: Corp. of the President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 2000). [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- Coghlan, Ronan, Book of Irish Names: First, Family & Place Names, New York: Sterling Pub. Co., 1989. MCLS
- Dollarhide, William, New York State Censuses & Substitutes, Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2005. MCLS
- Greenwood, Val D., The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy, 3rd ed., Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Pub. Co., 2000 MCLS
- Lainhart, Ann S., State Census Records, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1992. MCLS
- Neagles, James C., U.S. Military Records, Salt Lake City, Utah: Ancestry, Inc., 1994. MCLS
- Rose, Christine, Nicknames Past and Present, Rose Family Association.
- Szucs, Loretto Dennis, They Became Americans: Finding Naturalization Records and Ethnic Origins. Salt Lake City, Utah: Ancestry, Inc., 1998. MCLS
- [www.cyndislist.com](http://www.cyndislist.com) Cyndi's List is a huge collection of links related to genealogy.
- [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) Mega genealogy site from Latter-day Saints (LDS or Mormon) Church. Includes free 1880 US Census, 1881 Canadian Census, 1881 British Census, Social Security Death Index
- [labs.familysearch.org](http://labs.familysearch.org) Preview of the next generation of the Family Search site
- [www.rootsweb.com](http://www.rootsweb.com) RootsWeb, great free collection of resources assembled by volunteers
- <http://helpdesk.rootsweb.com/codes/> Standard country and state abbreviations
- [www.linkpendium.com](http://www.linkpendium.com) contains a directory of over 9 million links focused on US state, county, and local resources and surnames
- [www.usgenweb.com](http://www.usgenweb.com) US Genweb contains sites for all 50 states which are then broken down into sites for all counties
- <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/w2w.htm> Where to Write for Vital Records or see [www.vitalrec.com](http://www.vitalrec.com)
- [www.Irishinnyc.freesevers.com](http://www.Irishinnyc.freesevers.com) "Irish in New York City" Web site, includes excellent book list
- [www.Irishheritagetrail.com](http://www.Irishheritagetrail.com) Everything Boston Irish
- <http://www.ipa.net/~magreyn/#Record%20Interpreter> Martin, Charles T. The Record Interpreter: Latin forms of English names
- [www.from-ireland.net/names/peop/latintoeng.htm](http://www.from-ireland.net/names/peop/latintoeng.htm) Irish Parish Records – Latin to English name translations
- <http://stevemorse.org> Powerful searching for Castle Garden & Ellis Island sites. Also provides access to other ports, census, and other genealogical resources.
- [http://www.archives.nysed.gov/a/research/res\\_topics\\_genealogy.shtml](http://www.archives.nysed.gov/a/research/res_topics_genealogy.shtml) New York State Archives – Genealogy
- [The Source: A Guidebook to American Genealogy](#)
- [Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources](#)
- [The Genetic Genealogist](#) A great source to begin to learn about DNA. Author is a biochemist PhD & longtime genealogist.
- [Soundex Converter](#) Converts any surname to its Soundex equivalent.

**Subscriptions made available by Monroe County Library System:**

- Heritage Quest, Free at [www.libraryweb.org/heritage.html](http://www.libraryweb.org/heritage.html) with a Monroe County library card
- Ancestry.Com, Free at the Rochester Public Library, Rundel Bldg, Local History Room (also Brighton, Fairport, Henrietta, Ogden and Penfield Libraries) with Monroe County library card
- NewEnglandAncestors.org, Free at the Rochester Public Library, Rundel Bldg, Local History Room with a library card

Example of use of a spreadsheet to differentiate people with the same names/same general areas:

Town of:	Farmington	Gorham	Gorham	Middlesex, Yates Co	Gorham	Gorham
1850 (Fed)		None Found		None Found Index & Census		
1855 (NYS)	F007 Michael Susan John Catherine		F085 Thomas Mary Mary John Michael			
1860 (Fed)		D475/F487/p62 M, 30 (Michael), Ire S, 25 (Susan), Ire J, 7 (John), NY C, 6 (Catherine), NY B, 5 (Bridget), NY M, 2 (Mary), NY D, 6/12 (Dennis), NY P, 10 (?), NY		236,241,p30 Thomas, 38, Ire  237,242,p30 Mary, 38, NY Mary, 8, NY John, 6, NY Michael, 4, NY Ellen, 2, NY Anna, 8/12, NY		
1865 (NYS)		F55/p7 Michael Susan John Catherine Bridget Mary (Dennis?) Margaret Susan James (?)	F35/p5 Thomas Mary Mary John Michael Ellen Anna Susan		F11/p2 Patrick Margaret Mary John Michael James	
1870 (Fed)		411/420/p48 Michael, 43, Ire Susan N, 36, Ire John, 17 Catherine, 15 Bridget, 13 Mary, 11 Dennis, 9 Margaret, 7 Susan, 5 James, 5/12 Michael, 5/12	18/19/p2 Thomas, 52, Ire Mary D, 41, Ire Mary, 18, Ire John, 16 Michael, 14 Ellen, 11 Anna, 10 Susan, 6 Margaret, 4 Lizze, 2		92/97/p11 Patrick, 55, Ire Margaret, 49, Ire  John, 23, Ire Michael F, 19, Ire James P, 9	182/189/p21 Patrick, 27, Ire

**Example of use of a spreadsheet to establish the relationship of 3 families & determine home in Ireland:**  
 (Also an example of Whole Family Research/Cluster Genealogy.)

		Birth (Civil Records)	Birth (Church)	Marriage (Civil Records)	Marriage (Church)	Death (Civil Records)	Death (Church Records)	Funeral /Burial	Tombstone /Cemetery	Immigration	Naturalization
<b>Michael</b>	<b>Hogan</b>	~1828 Ireland Census/Death Cert		~Bef 1855 US or Ireland		July 21, 1907 Gorham, Ontario Co, NY Death Cert/Surrogate	July 21, 1907 St Theresa, Stanley Death Cert Church	July 23, 1907 Calvary, Canandaigua Death Cert Church	1828-1907 Calvary, Canandaigua	1838/~Bef 1854 1900 Cen/1870	Yes 1900 Census
<b>Susan</b>	<b>Nagle</b>	~1834 Ireland 1870 Census		~1849-1854 US or Ireland		Dec 22, 1898 Gorham, Ontario Co, NY Death Cert	Dec 22, 1898 St Theresa, Stanley Death Cert Church	Dec 23, 1898 Canandaigua, Ontario Death Cert Church	1833-1898 Calvary, Canandaigua	~Bef 1854 1870 Census	
<b>Thomas</b>	<b>Hogan</b>	~1824 Ireland Death Cert		~1844-1853 Ireland		March 18, 1897 Gorham, Ontario Co, NY Surogate/Death Cert	March __, 1897 Rushville St. Theresa, Stanley	March __, 1897 Calvary, Canandaigua Death Cert Church	Died March 18, 1897 Calvary, Canandaigua	~1852-1854 1870 Census	
<b>Mary</b>	<b>Dunn</b>	~1829 Ireland 1870 Census		~1844-1853 Ireland		December 12, 1906 Gorham, Ontario Co, NY Death Cert	December 24, 1905 Rushville St. Theresa, Stanley	December 27, 1905 Calvary, Canandaigua Death Cert Church		~1852-1854	
<b>Mary</b>	<b>Hogan</b>	~1852 Ireland 1870 Census		Probably Didn't Marry		Aft May 6, 1928 Brother's Death Notice				~1852-1854	
<b>Patrick</b>	<b>Hogan</b>	~1815 Ireland 1870 Census		~Bef 1848 Ireland 1870 Census		Dec 6, 1875 Gorham, Ontario Co, NY Surogate				~1851-1861 1870 Census	
<b>Margaret</b>	<b>Nagle</b>	~1821 Ireland 1870 Census		"		1907	April 5, 1907 St Theresa, Stanley Death Cert Church	April 8, 1907 Calvary, Canandaigua Death Cert Church		~1851-1861 1870 Census	
<b>John</b>	<b>Hogan</b>	~1847 Ireland 1870 Census		~1870-1878 NY		April 2, 1926 Bath, Steuben Co, NY Surogate Estate				~1850/~1851-186 1900 Cen/1870	
<b>Mary</b>	<b>Hogan</b>	~1847 Ireland 1880 Census		~1865-1870 NY 1870 Census		1942			Calvary, Canandaigua 1846-1939		
<b>Jeremiah</b>	<b>Tuohy</b>										
<b>Michael F</b>	<b>Hogan</b>	~1851 Ireland 1870 Census		Probably Didn't Marry		Bef Dec 1875 Surogate/Estate Patrick					

## Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS)

The GPS is the accepted standard in genealogy for evaluating the soundness of our research. It is particularly helpful when there is no direct evidence or conflicting evidence.

The first element of the GPS is a “**Reasonably exhaustive search**”.

I would suggest that the case of our Irish immigrant ancestors warrants an **Extremely exhaustive search**. Researching an immigrant is really like researching two people – the person in the new country and the person in the old country. Plus you then must link those “two people” together using the identifiers that you’ve discovered with your research. Of course many immigrated to Canada and then made their way to the US...that adds research in another country to your quest.

Please understand that I’m not preaching “Doom and Gloom”. You CAN do this. This is doable. There’s just not a quick fix.

## Research Checklist

A research checklist can be a great help in doing an **Extremely exhaustive search**. I’ve created such a checklist specifically for this course (Searching US Records for your Irish Ancestors) which is available at <http://www.dennisahogan.com/lecturesandhandouts.cfm>. This checklist could be applied to anyone in your family tree but could be especially helpful for immigrant ancestors or other “troubled” individuals.

My checklist is based on a free Genealogy Research Log from Gary Minder at <http://censustools.com> . (Many valuable free templates are offered at that site – he does accept optional donations.)