

**The Ellis Island Experience:** *An Historic American Immigration Landmark* at <http://www.kuzmich4.com/Facebook/Ellis%20Island%20Experience.pdf>

If I had a single genealogical genie's wish, I'd love to be a fly on the walls at Ellis Island when my ancestors frequently immigrated to America in the 1890's from Eastern Europe and during first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. I'd have camera/recorder waiting with open arms anxious in speaking with them especially about their extended families in Poland, Ukraine and Slovenia and their hardships in immigrating to America and leaving their homeland during uncertain times which eventually irrupted into World Ward 1 as my father served in the U.S. Navy with an award for serving in a combat zone in the Black Sea under gun fire from the Bolsheviks. Below is my father's ship and he is inside the white circle: John Kuzmich is who I am named after.



**Ellis Island** is a [federally-owned island](#) in [New York Harbor](#) that was the busiest immigrant inspection station in the [United States](#). From 1892 to 1924, nearly 12 million [immigrants](#) arriving at the [Port of New York and New Jersey](#) were processed there under federal law. Today, it is part of the [Statue of Liberty National Monument](#) and is accessible to the public only by ferry. The north side of the island is the site of the main building, now a national museum of immigration. The south side of the island, including the [Ellis Island Immigrant Hospital](#), is open to the public only through guided tours.



**The Ellis Island Experience:** According to [this article in GenealogyInTime Magazine](http://www.genealogyintime.com/articles/Ellis%20Island%20Immigration%20Facts%20page2.html) at <http://www.genealogyintime.com/articles/Ellis%20Island%20Immigration%20Facts%20page2.html>, about 1/3 Americans can trace their ancestry through Ellis Island, a small island off the coast of New York's Manhattan. The article explains travel patterns of families, cases where immigrants might be rejected, how names were recorded, and more. For additional tips on tracking immigration through Ellis Island and other ports, see [Goal D2](https://www.thefhguide.com/project-9-united-statesd2.html#b) at <https://www.thefhguide.com/project-9-united-statesd2.html#b> in the United States page. ([See all tips](https://www.thefhguide.com/tip-of-the-day.html) at <https://www.thefhguide.com/tip-of-the-day.html>)

### Closing Comments about early Immigration to America in 19<sup>th</sup> century

Knowing that my direct ancestors more than likely first landed at Ellis Island is a monumental place in my family history. Can't imagine the diversified language challenges that the immigration officers had in process so many people from all of Europe (Scandinavia, Western, Southern and Eastern portions) plus Russia and elsewhere with people whose languages skills were definitely not native English!

If your ancestors immigrated to the USA through New York City before 1892, Castle Garden was America's first immigration Center (1820 to 1892) and Castle Garden was their first arrival point. [Castlegarden.org](http://Castlegarden.org) is a free database developed and funded by The Battery Conservancy. It contains and makes available eleven million records of immigrants who arrived at the Port of New York from 1820 - 1892. Today more than 100 million Americans can trace their ancestry to this early period of immigration.



