

## [Collaborating With Others: Grass Roots, Part 2](#)

The shortest distance between two points is a straight line. In family history, the shortest point is in collaborating with other living relatives both near and far on every family line. When I started networking in 1970, I was not given any supporting information from my family as to my Eastern European roots. And because of that I needed to focus attention on my USA family roots first before any future endeavors could ever be undertaken with my Eastern European ancestors.

### **Where To Begin Your Family Tree Pursuits: USA Records First**

To search for USA records, I strongly suggest click [here](#) for prime sources for important sources of records in the United States. Note: the first half of this web site provides a comprehensive presentation of USA resources compiled in **FamilySearch.org** but the second half at the end should not be neglected because it uses **The Family History Guide** which offers many levels of step-by-step tutorials of how to more effectively use the **FamilySearch** resources cited in the first half. Here is an example with links ready to motivate you at: <https://tinyurl.com/y3lgs6de> in which all of cited resources below are linked for in-depth tutorials for further study and use.

1: [Records](#)

2: [Location & Geo.](#)

3: [Regions / States](#)

B: Vital Records 1: [Vital Rec.](#) 2: [Birth](#) 3: [Adoption](#) 4: [Marriage](#) 5: [Death, Obits](#) 6: [Cemetery](#)

C: Census 1: [Records](#) 2: [By Decades](#)

D: Immigration 1: [Records](#) 2: [Nat. / Passenger](#) 3: [Other](#)

E: Military 1: [Records](#) 2: [By Conflict](#)

F: Other Records 1: [Religious, Misc.](#) 2: [Property](#) 3: [Court](#) 4: [News.](#) 5: [Arch. / Lib.](#) 6: [Help.](#)

### **Civil Records First Because Most Thorough Information**

The point of reference here is that I was able to obtain documents from civil vital records for birth, marriage and deaths that provided numerous spellings of not only the countries of origin but also what cities they came from. True, the spellings were not consistent but still essential and useable in leading to search for and find other records. For example, Poland wasn't established as a country until 1919. Previously it was part of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire. But the specific area of Poland where my paternal family came from was in Galicia which is a very small area of far southeastern part of Poland today where Poland, Ukraine and Slovakia adjoin each other where my Lemko (Carpathian Mountain region) subcultural was prominent. But I didn't stop there because every record found was invaluable in putting the missing pieces of my ancestor's origin together.

### **Consider Church Records**

I also contacted churches where my ancestors resided in the U.S.A. because their records were equally as informative. If you communicate well with the clergy, you generally get treated well and don't have to pay them upfront for their time and efforts like you have to do with civil records. Donations are always appreciated to churches. Be sure to include a self-addressed pre-paid envelope for the clergy to send you any document records. To learn of the importance of church records, click on this article entitled: [The Value of Church Records in Family History](#) as found on **The Family History Guide**.

### **Newspaper Obituaries**

Newspaper obituaries were also useful after obtaining civil vital and/or church records. Especially useful to learn who were the survivors of the immediate deceased family members which usually would also provide the places where they were living which made it easier to expand future researching assignments. Good reference information for newspaper obituaries can be read at this link: [Inside the Guide: Using Newspapers for Family History Research](#).

### **Cemetery Options**

I didn't stop there as I also found cemetery records useful because sometimes, there were many more ancestors buried there than just the one I was searching for. Their headstones are a magnet for walking through the entire cemetery once you find one original headstones being sought. The cemeteries also have their own records which can also be helpful for reinforcing the civil, church, and newspaper obituary records. See July 9<sup>th</sup> posting, [5 Tools to Find Your Family's Tombstones](#) for more research tools.

### **Motivating Inspirational Broadcasts**

When you have obtained multiple records on the same person, you have more thorough information to help finalize the information that you are researching which can be important whenever you desire to expand your research to Europe or whatever origins your ancestors immigrated from to the USA. When the famous TV series presentation, "Roots," by Alex Haley was produced in 1977 which inspired me to actively seek out my Eastern European pursuits. The general public was shocked and motivated to learn that Black Slaves could be traced back to their roots in Africa. The trick here was to find their slave owners first and then the puzzle pieces started to unravel for further research options much like the domino effects. For information about this historic family history production go to <https://www.history.com/shows/roots>. Educator Henry Louis Gates Jr. later hosted several PBS series that examine U.S. history. In "Finding Your Roots." This Harvard professor continues his quest to "get into the DNA of American culture." In each episode, celebrities view ancestral histories, sometimes learn of connections to famous/infamous people, discover secrets, and share the emotional experience with viewers. Analyzing genetic code, DNA diagnosticians trace bloodlines and occasionally debunk long-held beliefs. See the August 10<sup>th</sup> post by clicking [Getting to the Roots](#). These episodes are extremely motivating and entertaining to see how professional genealogists can put together ones roots and inspire you to do the same through

today's technology, Internet connectivity, DNA and other available research resources.

## **Census Records**

Census records can also be another valuable research to trace your ancestors and their mobility while in the USA. See the; August 30<sup>th</sup> posting entitled: [Census records are a great way to narrow down searches for ancestors in the U.S.](#) There are two good postings to further peruse this matter at: [Tracing Immigrant Origins](#) in the September 1 posting and [Immigration Research Tools for the United States](#) in the August 28 posting

## **More Records Types Available**

There are other records not covered here that can also be of value: probate, military, divorce and other records that are covered in the USA records found at FamilySearch.org at: <https://tinyurl.com/y3lgs6de>

## **The Ultimate Purpose for Genealogy!**

In closing, technology today and their connectivity to the Internet is making family history pursuits a very productive endeavor. In our church, it is a vibrant part of our religion with opportunities to do ordinance work for our deceased family members who never had the opportunity to receive the Gospel plan in its fullness. To quote our Prophet and President Russell M. Nelson: "We are in the process of creating a family tree pattern for the whole human race... We are growing exponentially." We are the most prolific builder of **temples** of the Latter Day Saint movement which is The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. There are 164 dedicated temples (153 currently open; and 9 previously dedicated, but closed for renovation), 16 under construction, and 29 announced (not yet under construction). There are over 6 billion searchable historic records available from around the world on **FamilySearch.org** as of March 12, 2019,

## **The Secret Formula for Connectivity to Your Immigrants from Aboard**

The shortcut for all of this extended Family Tree connectivity is through records that can greatly increase your family tree which can be significantly enhanced by collaborating (networking) with your living relatives first and then gradually use all of the resources outlined in this installment. That's how I did it over many years resulting that in a future installment, I will share how I expanded this USA connectivity with my Eastern European ancestors in Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Ukraine and Slovenia.