

Consider International Professional Genealogists for Assistance When All Previous Attempts for Family History Connectivity Fail!!!

There are times when your abilities to research your overseas ancestry can be difficult because you don't have the foreign language skills or because you don't have specific information to obtain the vital records in search of. Frustration can easily deter one from proceeding any further! However, when the desire is strong to obtain more information, there are other ways to succeed. Prayer and Fasting would be the logical first steps, followed by networking with others. This Facebook Group is loaded with resources for furthering your international research. Here are some game-changing options for possible implementation for your consideration in meeting international family history considerations.

Prerequisite Considerations

There are three essential prerequisite points needed to enable you to accurately pursue your future efforts. First, you will need a **geographical location fix** where these ancestors originated from, such country and its province or locality and ultimately the city or village name. Note: country boundaries may have changed multiple times over hundreds of years. Second, you will need an **approximate time-line fix** to better identify the country's border changes that may have occurred. Third, it is important to have **multiple spellings of the surname(s)** as spellings may not always be the American spellings used because of foreign language translations commonly occurred upon entering America through Ellis Island and other ports of entry.

Recommendation One: Accomplish Your USA Research Thoroughly

The best sure way to eliminate this confusion is to first thoroughly undertake your USA research through various available birth, marriage, death and/or other vital records from civil and church records as well as cemeteries, obituaries and others. Once you have these records as a starting point, you are ready to pursue your research over the ocean(s). Check out your places of origin from your USA researched records in gazetteers which might help you locate one or more villages or cities with nearly the same spellings. A family history consultant at local family history centers would also be a good resource to tap into.

Recommendation Two: Prime Sources to Explore

Prime sources for researching individual countries with your USA vita records are: **FamilySearch** and **The Family History Guide** but if you are needing a short-cut? This Facebook Group has 60 countries already research and posted with appropriate links for you to pursue with a single click of mouse. Click [here](#) for the table of contents of this Facebook Group as it is well organized by country with appropriate links in each country.

Recommendation Three: Still Troubled?

Call the Salt Lake City Genealogical library and ask for a missionary for that country. There are no charges for their assistance and the phone number is 801-240—6996, option 4. The library is open seven days a week. They will possibly even conduct some Internet research for you as they are family history missionaries ready to serve its patrons. But the more USA data you have, the changes of successful connectivity to your international ancestors are enhanced significantly. Another option is to network with your local family history centers for assistance from both their consultants and/or patrons who are familiar with those countries.

Recommendation Four: Still Troubled??? Don't Give Up Because . . . !

Making connections in oversea countries represents quite jump from doing USA research. Consider utilizing professional genealogists for these most challenging situations. Based on my 50+ years of actively doing genealogy, there are times that professional genealogists have literally changed the course of my

international research connectivity astoundingly. Simply stated: both my time and money were well spent. But finding the right genealogist for your needs may also be a difficult challenge because expertise and experiences can vary significantly especially when dealing with international research. Adding to this complexity, professional genealogists are not cheap when you consider they can charge hourly rates at \$60 to \$100 usually bundled 10 to 25 hours plus their travel expenses and room and board. But many times because of website availability, they can also conduct preliminary exploratory research from their computer and telephone without any travel expenses before ever needing to have anybody travel onsite. Denmark was the first country to put all of their records on line. The Czech Republic is another country that is making a huge effort to post their records on line. In my experiences, seasoned genealogists with higher fees are generally able to accomplish more data benefits in a smaller window of time than others. Resulting, I got more accomplishments for my buck. My Polish genealogist for example has a Masters of Library Science degree plus an international certification from the [Association of Professional Genealogists](#). While academia is important for evaluating professional genealogists, personal referrals are the very best way to go when based on successful research results for your friends and/or associates. Your local family history centers might also have personal referrals from their patrons.

Another added factor to consider: the more USA research you have conducted, the more likely an international genealogist will be willing to accept your research assignment. Genealogist rarely are interested in searching when little data is available because their time is worth more than to searching aimlessly. However, my biggest international success occurred in Ukraine even when given faulty data, but in my situation, the Spirit of Elijah intervened dramatically. See [Faith Going Far Beyond The "Iron Curtain"](#): see *July 30 posting* which I persevered for nearly 30 years in frustration for a missing family line. The previous posting, [The Miraculous Assistance of "Temple" Angels](#): or see *January 31, 2020 posting*, also contains equally miraculous stories about unanticipated family history successes from "guardian angels.

Steps In Hiring a Professional Researcher with Suggestions

[Here's what FamilySearch states](#) about hiring a professional genealogist.

Hiring a professional genealogist is an excellent way to discover your family roots. If you encounter a challenging research problem, if you lack skills or the time to research, or if travel is a problem, you may benefit from the assistance of an experienced professional. These guidelines can help you find and employ a competent genealogist.

The keys to finding a good genealogist are the same as those for hiring other competent professionals. First, you need some general information about what genealogists do and the services they provide. This information can be found in Part I of this guide. Second, you need to know how to evaluate genealogists and select the right one to hire. This information is found in Part II and III.

General Information

Services Provided by Professional Genealogists

The services of professional genealogists fall into these categories, with other minor services.

Tracing Ancestry. A professional genealogist can help you trace your ancestors. For example, a genealogist may be able to discover who your immigrant ancestors were and where they came from. Or, a genealogist can research one of your family lines back to a specific time period or individual. This is often

helpful when people want to join a lineage society and must prove that one of their ancestors participated in a historical event such as the United States Revolutionary War.

Researching Descendants. A professional genealogist may help you in descendency research by identifying people who descended from a particular individual. For example, you may be a descendant of Daniel Boone and want to start a family organization of his descendants to share genealogical information. A professional genealogist can help you identify the frontiersman's descendants so you can contact them.

Searching Records. To save time and avoid travel costs, you can employ a record searcher to find and review the records for you. Record searchers review only the records you instruct them to search.

DNA Analysis. Many companies offer services to test your DNA. Professional researchers can help you track down candidates for DNA testing and interpret your results. [Hiring a DNA Testing Company](#) provides further information.

Other Services. Genealogists also provide a range of other services that include the following:

- Consulting and counseling with you about how to solve a research problem
- Deciphering handwriting on old records
- Translating foreign records
- Instructing and lecturing on genealogical topics
- Computerizing genealogical information
- Abstracting and publishing records
- Finding missing people

Professional Genealogists

Genealogists are generally not required by law to be licensed or certified. However, they can receive credentials from several organizations. Each organization sets its own criteria for granting credentials.

You should also consider other criteria as you make your hiring decision. Most genealogists are self-taught, and many competent genealogists do not seek credentials. Years of education, research experience, and satisfactory service to clients may be just as important as credentials.

The URL cite above has all the links for those professional genealogical associations that I did not copy here from FamilySearch.

Here Are Some Prime Resources for Locating Professional Genealogists

- [Start - Association of German Speaking Professional ...](#) Have you reached a dead end in your own genealogical research? ... the specialists of the Association of German-speaking Professional Genealogists is an excellent resource.
- [National Genealogical Society](#)
- [National Archives](#)
- [FamilySearch for International Societies](#)
- [RootsWest](#)
- [Family Tree Magazine](#)
- [Federation of Genealogical Societies](#)
- [Family Search for USA Genealogical Societies with 9,000+ listings](#)

Closing Comments

Nothing is impossible with the Lord's assistance. You may need to take the initial steps in pursuing challenging genealogical assignments. But when you exercise your faith in the Lord with dedicated pursuits, you will be blessed in ways you hardly expect. In my situation, I was blessed for 50+ years with creative financing of conducting international family history trips to Eastern Europe five times plus numerous America trips, in finding the very best professional genealogist you could ever hope to utilize along with many, many genealogical and temple blessings. But even more importantly, eternal blessings for my entire family in immeasurable ways with all offspring and grandchildren being born under the covenant. To best summarize the direct path for genealogical assistance from the Lord for your success, **IF YOU WANT THE HELP OF ANGELS, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU DO THE WORK OF ANGELS!**

Again, see [Faith Going Far Beyond The "Iron Curtain"](#): see *July 30 posting* for an example of how I found the right genealogist who even was given faulty data and still found missing Polish ancestors 100 years later in Eastern Ukraine when there were no published phone books and no digital records available. Finding that particular genealogist is another posting for me to pursue in and of itself. But I took the first step with many in-depth efforts over nearly 30 years to find that very special genealogist.

Never underestimate the Power of the Lord and most important of all, NEVER GIVE UP. Temple and family history can and should be a labor of love, and with the Lord's assistance and your sincere efforts over time, unexpected blessings will surely come to you and your family. Enjoy your genealogical adventures and your life will be both richer and wiser than you can ever image. Good luck!