Finnish Genealogy Group of Minnesota

Basic Internet Research Aid

Getting started:

A. Collect as much information as is known: name, birth date, marriage, death, place of birth, arrival date, etc.

B. Accept the fact misspellings and transcription errors do exist in indexed databases. Use partial names in search criteria and search on multiple sites to increase the probability of success.

C. Re-visit sites often – many are updated regularly.

D. Keep your mind open - some information or family lore you've discovered might not be factual.

E. Verify all findings with an original record, if possible, documenting the source of all findings.

1. **Ancestry** www.ancestry.com

 This site contains searchable databases for census records, vital statistics, immigration lists/passenger records, directories, government records, military records, and specialized lists such as photographs, Jewish family histories, and African-American collections. Ancestry also contains many family trees submitted by members, almost all non-professionals. Family trees, like other databases, might contain errors and inconsistencies. This site is subscription-based; but, many public libraries subscribe.

2. **HisKi Site** www.genealogia.fi/hiskigb.html

 This site contains a searchable database of transcriptions from many Finnish church books . It includes birth, marriage, death and sometimes moving records up to about 1860-70. There are more recent records for some parishes. All parishes are not yet included. New parishes are added as the data becomes available. Transcription is ongoing by the Genealogical Society of Finland. Access to the databases is free.

3. **Finland Family History Association**   www.sukuhistoria.fi

 This site contains digitized images of Finnish Church books. The images include birth, marriages, confirmation, death and moving records. Not all parishes are done yet. The type of records and years covered vary by parish. The images aren't indexed or searchable by name. Access to the digitized books is free; however, some additional records are fee-based. The site is in English and Finnish.

4. **Migration Institute**   www.migrationinstitute.fi/index_e.php

 This site contains searchable databases for Finnish passport records 1890-1920, passenger records of the Finnish Steamship Company 1892-1950 and information on Finns deceased abroad (1918 - 1950. Search of the name index is free. Full search or personal assistance requires a fee.

5. **Castle Garden**   www.castlegarden.org

This site contains a searchable database for immigration records from 1820 through 1892, prior to the time Ellis Island opened and became the official U.S. immigration center. The Castle Garden database does include records up to 1913. Many original immigration records were destroyed in a fire at Ellis Island; but, some are still available including a large number of digitized ship passenger lists. This is free site.

6. **Ellis Island**   www.ellisisland.org

This site contains a searchable database of passenger ships that arrived at the Port of New York between 1892 and1924 and includes digitized images of passenger lists (manifests) and ships. The information included on a manifest varied by year of arrival – later years contain more detail. This is a free site; however, there is a fee to order copies of passenger manifests.

7. **Fold3**   www.fold3.com

This site contains searchable databases to of historical documents including U.S. census records, city directories, historical newspapers, naturalization documents, and World War II Archives and many more. This database search is free; however, a subscription is required to view the records found.

8. **Family Search**   www.familysearch.org

This site contains searchable databases of a variety of U.S. and international collections including birth, death, marriage, military, probate, land and census records. Some digitized images of the original record are available. This is a free site. Additional records are available by ordering microfilms from the catalog of the entire collection.

9. U. S. **National Archives**   www.archives.gov

This site contains searchable U.S. Archives databases including immigration, naturalization, alien registration, military and congressional records. This is a free site; but, there is a fee to order printed copies.

10. **Stephen P. Morse**   www.stevemorse.org
        This site provides one step search capability for a variety of census, passenger list, ship arrival, birth, death and other records located on other websites. It provides a link to access the record found. The search is free; however, any costs for viewing a record are subject to the fee policy of the site where the record is located.

Provided by Minnesota Finnish Genealogy Group of Minnesota

Web site: **http://www.minnesotafinnish.org**

(Click on our name on the left side of the web page to find links to additional websites.)