



# *Ask a Genealogist*

Chatham Community Library

Presented by Jim Davis, Genealogy Volunteer

Reference Librarian Dana Haven



# How can you find relatives in Lithuania?

- All overseas research is amenable to a process:
  - Record what you know already.
  - Build your tree backward from the present.
  - Discover the originating country.
  - Discover the border entry.
  - Backtrack the border entry to the emigration port.
  - Use the FamilySearch research wiki to learn of resources for research in the country/ location of interest.
  - Learn the keywords for genealogical events.
  - When civil records fail, look for religious records.
  - View the actual records, not just the transcriptions.

# Record what you know, build your tree.



- Key sources of interest to build your tree:
  - Birth, marriage and death records.
  - Census records often record country of origin and immigration status, e.g., “Pa” for “papers submitted.”
  - Military records like draft registration.
  - Naturalization records are especially valuable.
- Dates are important, particularly if a name is common.
  - If the person appears in the 1920 census, don’t look for initial arrival after then. However, trips “home” could occur after initial entry, which could have valuable information attached.
  - The 1920 census has immigration status data.



# Backtrack to point of entry

- Using info garnered in all the other records, search passenger arrivals and immigration records.
  - Be mindful of name changes and variations, e.g., “Kimon Karavas” instead of the later “Cimon Caravas.”
  - Understand how Soundex works and doesn’t work.
  - Look for women traveling alone and children traveling with family members other than parents.
- Read the actual records! The transcriptions often do not contain all the info that is in the actual source.
- Note the ship name and port of departure, which you’ll need for the point of emigration.



# Cross back to the point of emigration

- Find the records of departure from the originating country and read them!
  - The information in the departure records may be different than entry info.
    - The person may have told a different story to the departure and arrival officials.
    - Different, more complete info on point of origin may be in the departure records.
  - The embarkation port is usually NOT the same as the hometown.
- Learn the various migration routes from origination to USA arrival.
  - Do a Google search on “migration route [origination] to USA.”
  - You’ll get results like this: <http://vilnews.com/2010-08-lithuanian-emigration-to-the-united-states>.

# Use the FamilySearch research wiki

## to understand resources

- At [https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Main\\_Page](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Main_Page), enter a location or topic to see what is available.
- Enter the location in the search box. Select from the choices that appear, such as *[location]* genealogy, *[location]* Societies and so on.
- Your results will include resources such as:
  - Info on civil registration and church records.
  - Online vital records.
  - Databases and websites.
  - Maps describing political jurisdictions.
  - How to find town of origin.



# Other research ideas

- Go to the Search section of Ancestry to view the collections for that particular area. Example:
  - <https://www.ancestry.com/search/places/europe/lithuania/>
  - See census records, voter lists, vital records, emigration info.
- Find on this page the message boards and member directory.
  - Search the message boards for someone researching the same person as yourself.
  - Do a Member Search by research interest.
    - <https://www.ancestry.com/community/membersearch?researchSurname=&researchLocation=Lithuania&researchYear=&q=&queryId=eb263e92-c4ec-4e42-9f29-c7198a487b98>
    - Explore the results through Ancestry's messaging engine.



# Partial member results

| Surname Enter a name Location Lithuania Year Enter a year <span>Cancel</span> |                                                   |                                                                    |                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| All Members 477 Results                                                       |                                                   |                                                                    |                                                                      |
|                                                                               | <b>ppanagou</b><br>Illinois, USA                  | 9 family trees<br>Derskus; Lithuania                               | <b>Joined:</b> 17 Mar 2006<br><b>Last signed in:</b> 3-11 Months ago |
|                                                                               | <b>ickledi</b><br>Massachusetts, USA              | Levitt; Alytaus, Lithuania; 1800-1940                              | <b>Joined:</b> 24 Aug 2004<br><b>Last signed in:</b> 3-11 Months ago |
|                                                                               | <b>elisarowen</b>                                 | Mikholisok; Vilniaus, Lithuania;<br>1800-1860                      | <b>Joined:</b> 04 Aug 2009<br><b>Last signed in:</b> 3-11 Months ago |
|                                                                               | <b>maericson48</b>                                | 2 family trees<br>Jastrzemski; Vilkauskis, Lithuania;<br>1800-1930 | <b>Joined:</b> 05 Dec 2000<br><b>Last signed in:</b> Over a year ago |
|                                                                               | <b>johnhaffey1</b>                                | Bubnis; Lithuania; 1850-1900                                       | <b>Joined:</b> 07 Jul 2006<br><b>Last signed in:</b> Last week       |
|                                                                               | <b>avilev25</b><br>Southampton, Pennsylvania, USA | Goldstein; Kauno, Lithuania; 1600-2000                             | <b>Joined:</b> 31 Aug 2009<br><b>Last signed in:</b> Last month      |



# More research ideas

- Do an online search for something like “[location] genealogy services.”
  - Somewhere in the list will be links to professional genealogist who cover your desired locations.
    - <https://www.trace.com/genealogists/italian/>
    - <https://www.progenealogists.com/>
- Join a Facebook [location] group and ask for help.
  - Do a Google search for “Lithuania site:Facebook.com”
- Check the Association of Professional Genealogists for someone living in your research location.
  - Home page is <https://www.apgen.org/cpages/home>.
  - Find A Professional > Directory, then put Lithuania into the search box for Research Country.



# Is there a free way to access newspaper articles?

- If you have an Ancestry subscription, then part of the collections at newspapers.com is accessible as part of that subscription.
- The Chatham Community Library makes newspapers.com available to patrons. It and other genealogy resources are available from home for now. See the Genealogy tab at <https://www.chathamcountync.gov/government/departments-programs/library/online-resources>.
- “The Ancestor Hunt” lists many free historical newspapers. For NC, the link is <https://theancestorhunt.com/blog/north-carolina-online-historical-newspapers-summary/#.XKdFEJhKiM8>.
- The Library of Congress “*Chronicling America*” project has newspapers from 1690 to the present.
  - <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers/>



# What is the best genealogy service?

- It depends ... on what you're trying to accomplish.
- If one is looking for a professional research service,
  - Detail your requirements, including time frame, area of research, budget and research questions.
  - Look online for a professional genealogist whose expertise matches your requirements.
  - Open a conversation with that genealogist to nail down a research relationship.
- If one is deciding where to spend online subscription funds,
  - Family Search is free and comprehensive.
  - Ancestry costs varying amounts, depending on how wide your record access needs to be, i.e., USA only or worldwide.
  - Other services focus on various geographies, so explore them.



# What's the best way to educate yourself on researching your ancestors?

- First, start writing down what you know! (See earlier slides). *The best way to done is through begun.*
- There are many genealogy courses available all over the internet. One might look for courses sponsored by major genealogy societies.
  - The path to the Certified Genealogist credential builds an excellent set of skills. See <https://www.bcgcertification.org/>.
- Highly recommend going through the curriculum of the Family History Guide (free).
  - See the “Beginner’s Path” at <https://www.thefhguide.com/>.
- The Family Search web site has an enormous number of free courses and webinars.
  - Visit [https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family\\_History\\_Library\\_Classes\\_and\\_Webinars](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family_History_Library_Classes_and_Webinars).
- Finally, as you progress in researching and recording your family history, you’ll discover areas you want to strengthen. Go find resources to improve them.

# How do you search maiden names?



- Most search engines will accept multiple names in the last name field. So, if you know the birth name, include it so the search engine will look for it.
- Certain record sets include birth names routinely.
  - Most marriage records include birth names and many include parental names. Also, these records frequently record whether a marriage is a first for the parties.
  - Search for male relatives and hunt for mention of the first name of the person you are researching.
  - Some birth and death records, e.g., civil records in Scotland, record the “maiden surname” of female parties. Often abbreviated as MS.



# Is there a way I can access old marriage records?

- *The focus of this question is Crown Point, Indiana.*
- First, many marriage records are online and generally accessible by search engines on the major genealogy sites.
- For those that are not, go to the Family Search research wiki to see what is available and where.
- Look for the nearest “*Gretna Green*,” a place for marriage with fewer restrictions.
  - For Indiana, it is South Bend.



# Research wiki for Crown Point

## Search results

Q crown point, indiana

Advanced search: [Sort by relevance](#) X

Search in: [\(Main\)](#) X [Help](#) X [Category](#) X [GuidedResearch](#) X

Did you mean: crown point *indian*

[Gretna Greens in the United States](#)

Illinois **Crown Point**, Lake, **Indiana** Illinois, Cook County St Joseph, Berrien, Michigan Illinois (southeastern) Evansville, Vanderburgh, **Indiana** **Indiana** South  
11 KB (775 words) - 14:46, 17 July 2021

[Indiana Vital Records](#) (category **Indiana**, United States) (section [Indiana Birth, Marriage, and Death Indexes and Records Online](#)) of the marriage. Eloping couples from **Indiana**, Kentucky, Illinois and Ohio were married in **Crown Point, Indiana**. Original marriage records can be obtained  
29 KB (3,052 words) - 10:01, 1 November 2021

[Lake County, \*\*Indiana\*\* Genealogy](#) (category Lake County, **Indiana**)

(section [Lake County, \*\*Indiana\*\* Record Dates](#))

2293 N Main Street **Crown Point**, IN 46307 Phone: 219-755-3000 County Website Lake County Health Department 2900 West 93rd Ave. **Crown Point**, IN, 46307 Health  
32 KB (2,237 words) - 14:24, 7 November 2021

The wiki points to many resources for Crown Point, which is part of Lake County.

The local library might have a genealogy section with details on one's research.

[Lake County Public Library \(\*\*Indiana\*\*\)](#)

**Indiana** Lake County Lake County Public Library (**Indiana**)  
5 KB (8 words) - 14:00, 19 June 2019



# Sharing with family

- How do I take my notes and documents and collect them in one place to share with family members?
- As ever, the answer starts with “it depends ...”
  - In what form are all the notes and documents?
    - Will you be mixing photographs, scans of sources, video/ audio recordings and other digital media?
  - Is the information entered into desktop genealogy software?
  - What is your vision for sharing?
  - How soon do you want to share with family, i.e., is there a deadline?

# In what form are all the notes and documents?



- If it is all on paper, scan it into digital form.
- Once it is digital, you can combine it into a digital book and edit it to put pictures and text into the order you want.
- You can do this with a word processor and Adobe Acrobat can be used to assemble digital items of different types.



# Is your information entered into desktop genealogy software?

- Entering all your data to one of these programs is the easiest way to start publishing it to share, but it does take time.
- Almost every major desktop genealogy software (Roots Magic, Family Tree Maker, Family Historian, Heredis, etc.) has a publishing function.
- Many supplementary programs can directly read files from these programs, or at least use a GEDCOM export from them. Examples:
  - Charting Companion
  - Family Atlas
  - Family Book Creator
  - Get My Family Tree



# What is your vision for sharing?

- You can build a family history web site with many versions of desktop genealogy software.
- You can publish a physical book and send copies to your family.
  - See a good discussion at <https://www.lifewire.com/publishing-family-history-book-1077297>.
  - Many considerations listed at <https://www.48hrbooks.com/genre/genealogy-printing>.
- You can create an eBook and share that instead of printing.



# How soon do you want to share?

- If you've got lots of time, see earlier slides.
- If you have a tight deadline, you may want to get professional help.
  - Some professional genealogists will help you assemble your book.
  - Publish-on-demand websites sometimes offer proofreading, interior book design and illustration services.
  - Collaborate with a friend!



# Questions?

Contact Jim at  
[genealogy@creeksidefarm.org](mailto:genealogy@creeksidefarm.org)  
Schedule individual sessions at  
[this link](#)