Commonly Used Websites at No Charge
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Castle Garden   http://www.castlegarden.org

Before Ellis Island, many immigrants came through Castle Garden, also known as Castle Clinton. It was located off the southwestern tip of Manhattan and was New York's first immigrant processing center. Immigrants came through Castle Garden from 1 August 1855 through 1 April 1890. However, this website covers immigration from 1820-1913 with more than 11 million immigrants listed.

Chronicling America (Library of Congress)   http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/

The Library of Congress and the National Endowment for the Humanities teamed up and digitized many newspapers from 1836-1963. This is only a sampling of newspapers throughout the United States and is no way inclusive of all newspapers ever printed.

Cyndi's List   http://www.cyndislist.com

Updated daily, this site is an index to many of the genealogical site available on the internet. It is a good starting place if you are looking for genealogy sites on particular subject areas. There are nearly 320,000 links through Cyndi's List. This website links to both pay-for-use and free websites.

Ellis Island   http://www.libertyellisfoundation.org

There were more than 22 million immigrants who came to America through the port of New York at Ellis Island between 1892 and 1924. Searches are free but copies of the actual record are not. Information includes immigrants' given names, surnames, ethnicity, last place of residence, date of arrival and age, ship of travel, port of departure and line number on the manifest. To make the best use of this website, it is necessary to register. There is no registration fee.

FamilySearch   https://familysearch.org/

This website is supported by the LDS Church of Christ and includes both domestic and international records. Many of the records are abstracts while others include actual images. Some abstracts are linked with partners, such as Ancestry and Fold3 which may charge a fee to access the records. Other images need to have a free login to view.

Find-A-Grave   http://www.findagrave.com/

Search more than 85 million grave records. Information available through this website depends on individuals posting information and photos. With a login, individuals may contribute new information or create new records.

Rootsweb   http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com

Meet cousins you never knew existed. Add your name to mailing lists or search various message boards for your missing ancestor.

Stephen P. Morse One-Step Webpage   http://stevemorse.org

Stephen P Morse has created a search system that simplifies the search process of Castle Garden, Ellis Island, the 1940 US Census, and much more. Some of his links cost money. These are designated by a dollar sign ($).

US Bureau of Land Management   http://www.glorecords.blm.gov/

Search for warrantees and/or patentees on this web site. Digitized copies of the records are available.

USGenWeb   http://www.usgenweb.org

This website was started in 1996. The information available varies from state to state, county to county. Volunteers post information on a particular county for all to see, free of charge. Cemetery records, biographies, family histories, marriage records, county histories, and digitized images of information are examples of some information found through this website.

WorldGenWeb   http://www.worldgenweb.org/

If interested in research in other countries, this website would be one to consider. Similar to the USGenWeb project, the amount of information available through USGenWeb varies from country to country.