

Arizona State University

7 December 2021

They Changed My Name: Immigration Myths & Mythologies

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- **How many of your family's stories include the following:**
 - The family name was changed at Ellis Island
 - The first names of your immigrant ancestors were changed at Ellis Island
 - Your family left Europe with silver or gold or jewels or other precious possessions sewn into their coats or clothing
 - Your immigrant ancestors stowed away on the ship from Europe
 - Small children were sent back to Europe on their own
- **What is Ellis Island?** In 1808, New York State bought Ellis Island from Sam Ellis to use as an ammunition dump. In 1892 it became an immigration facility. From 1892 to 1954, over twelve million immigrants entered the United States through the portal of Ellis Island, a small island in New York Harbor. Ellis Island is located in the upper bay just off the New Jersey coast, within the shadow of the Statue of Liberty. Ellis Island is located 1.5 miles west of Castle Garden.
- **What was steerage? Why did people travel that way? Why did they leave from Europe at a port far from their homes?**
- **What happened when immigrants landed at Ellis Island?**

Resources:

<https://www.ancestry.com/>

<https://www.gjenvick.com/Immigration/ImmigrantDocumentation/1923-EllisIslandHistoricalDocuments.html>

<https://www.gjenvick.com/Immigration/ImmigrantDocumentation/1923-EllisIslandHistoricalDocuments.html>

Vincent J. Cannato, *American Passage: The History of Ellis Island*, (New York: Harper Collins Publishers, 2009).

Lorie Conway, *Forgotten Ellis Island: The Extraordinary Story of America's Immigrant Hospital*, (New York, Harper Collins Publishers: 2007).

William Paul Dillingham, *Report of the Immigration Commission: Emigration conditions in Europe*, United States Immigration Commission (1907-1910)

https://www.google.com/books/edition/Emigration_conditions_in_Europe/ioaOAAAAMAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1

Mary Antin, *The Promised Land* (Boston, Houghton Mifflin Company: 1912)

https://www.google.com/books/edition/The_Promised_Land/oX4rAAAAYAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=Mary+Antin,+The+Promised+Land&printsec=frontcover



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