

Orange County Genealogical Society

www.ocgsny.org

ALL-DAY SEMINAR (IN PERSON)

Saturday, 16 May 2026

Seminar Presenter: Fred Voss

Seminar Location: Goshen Public Library

366 Main Street, Goshen NY 10924

Reservation Fee: \$20.00 see form below

Session 1: 10:00 am – 11:00 am "Stories From Ellis Island"

Q&A with 15-minute Break

Session 2: 11:15 am – 12:15 pm "More Stories From Ellis Island"

Q&A with 45-Minute Lunch Break

Session 3: 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm "Finding Your Immigrant Ancestor"

Q&A Close of Seminar

Please turn over for information about our speaker and programs

Mail Reservation Form to: OCGS, 2026 All-Day Seminar, 101 Main Street, Goshen, NY 10924

Early Registration is suggested due to limited seating

Deadline for reservations: 9 May 2026

Registration Fee: \$20.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

Phone: (required) _____

Email: (required) _____

Please make sure your email is readable, to receive future notices of programs

Fred Voss is a professional genealogist researcher and educator. He has been doing personal genealogy since 1990 and is a Trustee and Education Chair for the Genealogical Society of Bergen County. His areas of interest are Germany, Switzerland, and New Hampshire, with special interest in DNA, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Immigration and Naturalization.

Mr. Voss is a certified holder of the Boston University Genealogical Research Certification program (OL13). He is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists and the International Society of Genetic Genealogists as well as various regional societies.

He formerly volunteered for over 9 years as a tour guide at Ellis Island, leading both historical and photographic tours of the abandoned hospitals on the south side of the island (SaveEllisIsland.org).

"Stories From Ellis Island"

Ellis Island opened on January 1, 1892 as the nation's first federal immigration entry point. During the next 32 years, it was by far the busiest US inspection station, processing 12.5 million people, each hoping for a chance at a new life. It is estimated that 40% of all Americans can trace their roots back to immigrants who came through Ellis Island.

Did you have relatives who came through Ellis Island? Did the inspectors detain them? Were they treated at the island's hospitals? Did your family names get changed by the inspectors? Mr. Voss will give an illustrated talk about the past, present, and future of this iconic landmark as well as sharing some of his favorite immigration stories.

Mr. Voss will provide an overview of the workings of the Island – how immigrants arrived, how they were processed through the different parts of the Island, and what might mean a long stay on the Island or a return-ticket home. He will also dive into those squiggles on the manifest and how to decipher them.

"More Stories From Ellis Island"

From 1892 to 1954, more than 12.5 million immigrants were processed through Ellis Island. Coming from all corners of the world, these souls-whom nearly 40% of Americans can call "family" - left behind possessions and family to reinvent themselves in America. Most were processed through Ellis Island without incident. But some immigrants found themselves detained due to mental or physical illness, because their paperwork was not in order, or because those who were due to receive them did not show. What kind of stories could they tell?

Mr. Voss will explore the personal, sometimes heartbreaking, stories of those who came through the facility, those whose visit to the US ended there, and those whose stay on the island was unexpectedly lengthy.

"Finding Your Immigrant Ancestor"

How do you find those ancestors who immigrated from the Old Country? Shipping manifests can contain valuable information about that ancestor and where they came from. And if we are unsure when they came to America, the naturalization papers and petitions can often fill that gap. Find out more about find and interpreting these interesting records.

Mr. Voss will explore where shipping manifest records can be found and what information is stored on these pages.

OCGS Web Site www.ocgsny.org