



Immigration into the United States

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*One of the great challenges for many genealogists is to
prove the home town of an immigrant ancestor.*

I. A Lightning History of Colonial and United States Immigration

- A. Some early migration failures (no known descendants who stayed in America).
 - Spain (Catholic): Pensacola 1559; Virginia Jesuits 1570¹
 - France: (Huguenot) 1564-1565 Jacksonville FL; (Catholic) 1598 Sable Is.; 1604 St Croix²
 - Britain (Episcopalian): 1586 & 1587 Roanoke Island, NC 1&2; 1607 Popham, ME³
- B. Earliest successful colonies (living descendants in America).
 - 1519 map shows St. John to Maine seasonal fishing villages (unofficial colonies) (English, French, Portuguese); 1583 St. John Newfoundland becomes first official English colony⁴
 - 1520-1521 Spanish (Roman Catholics) conquer Mexico⁵ 1598 Spanish settle Santa Fe
 - 1565 Spanish kill Huguenots & build St. Augustine, 1598 near Santa Fe, 1716 Nacogdoches⁶
 - 1599 French (Catholics) build trading post at Tadoussac; 1605 Port Royal; 1608 Quebec; Later: 1634 Green Bay; 1699 Biloxi, 1750 Erie PA; 1754 Pittsburgh, 1764 St. Louis⁷
 - 1607 English (Episcopalian) settle at Jamestown; 1610 Cuper's Cove, Newfoundland;

¹ "List of North American cities by year of foundation" in Wikipedia [accessed 8 January 2007] at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_North_American_cities_founded_in_chronological_order, and "History of Hispanic people in the United States" in Wikipedia [accessed 8 January 2007] at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Hispanic_people_in_the_United_States.

² "Jacksonville, Florida" in Wikipedia [accessed 8 January 2007] at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacksonville,_Florida#History, and "French colonization of the Americas" in Wikipedia [accessed 8 January 2007] at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_colonization_of_the_Americas#Early_exploration_and_colonies.

³ "British colonization of the Americas" in Wikipedia [accessed 8 January 2007] at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_colonization_of_the_Americas#English_North_America.

⁴ "St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador" in Wikipedia [accessed 8 January 2007] at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._John's,_Newfoundland_and_Labrador.

⁵ "Spanish conquest of Mexico" in Wikipedia [accessed 9 January 2007] at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanish_conquest_of_Mexico.

⁶ "Spanish Florida" in Wikipedia [accessed 9 January 2007] at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanish_Florida, and "New Mexico" in Wikipedia [accessed 9 January 2007] at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_mexico#History, and "Nacogdoches the oldest town in Texas" in Wikipedia [accessed 9 January 2007] at <http://www.visitnacogdoches.org/>.

⁷ "Tadoussac, Quebec" in Wikipedia [accessed 9 Jan 2007] at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tadoussac,_Quebec, & "List..." and "Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania" in Wikipedia [accessed 9 Jan 2007] at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pittsburgh#History>, "St. Louis, Missouri" in Wikipedia [accessed 9 Jan 2007] at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Louis%2C_Missouri.

1620 Pilgrims at Plymouth; 1630 Puritans at Massachusetts Bay⁸
1624 Netherlands (Dutch Reformed) settle NYC-Albany, NJ-CT; 1674 conquered by England⁹
1638 New Sweden (Lutheran) settles lower Delaware River; 1655 conquered by Netherlands¹⁰
1670 British Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) established; 1682 York Factory settled¹¹
1784 Russians (Russian Orthodox) settle Kodiak, Alaska¹²

C. United States immigration history

1776 U.S. no longer part of British Empire (oaths of allegiance), convicts sent to Australia
1783 Treaty of Paris expands borders of United States beyond the Appalachians
1803 Louisiana Purchase
1808 importation of slaves from Africa banned.
1820 first year of National Archives passenger arrival list record keeping
1845 Texas annexed
1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo brings in parts of 10 southwest states, but Mexicans don't get to vote
1861-1864 American Civil War
1862 Homestead Act; 1869 transcontinental railroad completed
1882 Chinese Exclusion Act
1906 federal government takes over naturalization process from the state

II. Principles and Strategies for Immigration Research.

A. For help see FamilySearchWiki: Tracing Immigrant Origins at

1. https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Tracing_Immigrant_Origins has articles about how to research a variety of records to learn immigrant home towns.
2. Also try state and national articles in the Wiki.

B. Minimum I.D.

1. Name
2. Birth date
3. Birthplace
4. **Relative's name**—Use relatives' names to connect old- & new-world

C. Use country-of-arrival records first

1. Especially home sources.
2. Talk to living relatives.

D. If you can't find your ancestor's hometown, find the hometown of neighbors or relatives.

III. Country of Arrival Tactics and Records

A. Search Tactics—according to "Tracing_Immigrants_Arrival_Search_Tactics" in Wiki.

1. Search Family Sources
2. Survey General Records of Previous Research
3. Check Local Records for Previous Research

⁸ "List . . .," and "Cuper's Cove, Newfoundland and Labrador" in Wikipedia [accessed 9 January 2007] at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cuper%27s_Cove.

⁹ "Dutch colonization of the Americas" in Wikipedia [accessed 9 January 2007] at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dutch_colonization_of_the_Americas.

¹⁰ "Swedish colonization of the Americas" in Wikipedia [accessed 9 January 2007] at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swedish_colonization_of_the_Americas.

¹¹ "Hudson's Bay Company" in Wikipedia [accessed 9 January 2007] at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hudson_Bay_Company.

¹² "Russian Colonization of Alaska" in the Library of Congress' Meeting of Frontiers [accessed 9 January 2007] at <http://frontiers.loc.gov/intldl/mtfhtml/mfak/mfakrcol.html>.

4. Search Local Original Records
 5. Determine Immigration Information
 6. Search Other Jurisdictions
 7. Determine the Country, State, or Region of Origin
 8. Trace Relatives and Neighbors
- B. **Tracing Immigrants Arrival Records Selection Table** in Wiki give records for tactics.
- C. Passenger Arrival Lists
1. Pre-1820 (pre-NARA)—Filby's Passenger and Immigration Lists Index (PILI) at <http://www.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=7486>
 DEMO: how to find a PILI source in
 - a. FHL Catalog at www.familysearch.org/eng/Library/FHLC/frameset_fhlc.asp
 - b. WorldCat at <http://www.worldcat.org/>
 2. 1820-1891 (pre-Ellis Island)—Ancestry.com at <http://content.ancestry.com/iexec/?htx=List&dbid=7488&offerid=0%3a7858%3a0>
 DEMO: Ancestry all the way to passenger manifest
 3. 1892-1924 (Internet Ellis Island)
 - a. Ellis Island in One Step at www.jewishgen.org/databases/EIDB/ellisgold.html
 - b. Ellis Island at <http://www.ellisland.org/search/passSearch.asp?>
 DEMO: and contrast these two sites
 4. 1925-1957 (other Internet) see #2
- D. Use the Wiki to learn about the other Country-of-Arrival Record Types.

IV. Country of Origin Tactics and Records.

- A. Search Tactics—according to "Tracing_Immigrants_Origin_Search_Tactics" in Wiki.
1. Survey Records of Previous Research
 2. Search Nationwide Records
 3. Search Departure Records
 4. Localize the Surname
 5. Search Regional Records
 6. Search Local Records
- B. **Tracing Immigrants Origin Records Selection Table** in Wiki give records for tactics.
- C. Passenger Departure Lists
1. Learn about Hamburg Passenger Lists in the Wiki at https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Hamburg_Passenger_Lists
 DEMO: Use the Wiki article to find right Hamburg Passenger List index
 DEMO: Find a Hamburg Passenger List image on Ancestry.com's Internet index at <http://content.ancestryinstitution.com/iexec/?htx=List&dbid=1068&offerid=0%3a7858%3a0>
- D. Localize the surname—DEMO: use the International Genealogical Index at http://www.familysearch.org/eng/search/frameset_search.asp?PAGE=iqi/search_IGI.asp&clear_form=true
- E. Use the Wiki to learn about the other Country-of-Origin Record Types.

V. Key Reference Tools—DEMO Wiki articles

wiki.FamilySearch.org

- Tracing Immigrant Origins
- Hamburg Passenger Lists
- United States

- United States Emigration and Immigration
- United States Naturalization and Citizenship
- other national pages
- state pages

VI. Homework

1. Follow the instructions in Tracing Immigrant Origins in *FamilySearch Wiki* to look for an immigrant ancestor's original home town.
2. Use *Ancestry.com* to look for passengers.
3. Let me know if you find an immigrant's home town thanks to taking this class.