

**Jumping the Pond in the 19th Century:
19th Century Immigration from Europe to North America
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Presentation Overview:

1. A summary of the history of immigration to the American colonies and the U.S.
2. The value of migration records for American family history researchers
3. An overview of the records created during the immigration process
4. Process for locating migration records
5. Published immigration lists
6. The Castle Garden period of immigration

History and Timeline of U.S. Immigration

- The Colonial Period: Largely undocumented
- Prior to 1800: More immigrants arrived at Philadelphia than at New York City
- 1800: Beginning of Federal Passenger Arrival Records but minimal compliance
- Baggage Lists at Port of Philadelphia
- New Orleans 1813 & 1815
- Alexandria, VA (very spotty)
- Pre- 1820: Estimated 650,000 individuals arrived in America, (estimated 60 percent were English and Welsh)
- 1819: Congress enacts law requiring passenger lists to combat overcrowding and victimization of immigrants. Lists include age, sex, occupation and country of origin
- 1820-1880: About ten million immigrants most from northern Europe, the British Isles, and Scandinavia
- 1840-1850: Dramatic increase in the number of immigrants from Germany and Ireland
- 1847: Nine percent of passengers headed to U.S. died; State of New York converts Castle Garden into receiving station to protect immigrants from swindlers
- 1880-1900: Nine million immigrants entered U.S. which was largest number in any 20 year period
- 1886: "The Statue of Liberty Enlightening the World" was a gift of friendship from the people of France to the United States and is recognized as a universal symbol of freedom and democracy

- 1880-1920: More than twenty-five million immigrants, primarily from southern and eastern Europe; The largest numbers (in order) came from Germany, Italy, Ireland, Austria-Hungary, Russia, and England; Many of these immigrants settled in the larger cities, including New York City, Chicago, and Philadelphia
- 1890: U.S. Treasury Department assumes control of immigration
- 1892: Ellis Island opens in New York harbor
- 1892-1924: Twenty million to U.S. (71% through NY)
- 1925-1954: Over four million (56% through NY)
- 12 Nov 1954: Ellis Island closed

Value of Immigration Records

- Value is variable – later records better than early ones
- Early passenger lists have most value when families immigrated together.
- Early records have few details – name, age, occupation, country of birth, (some even less)
- Hometown in country of origin can sometimes be better found in other U.S. records.
- 20th century passenger lists are rich in details including birthplace, nearest relative name & hometown, etc.

Records for Migration/Citizenship

- Emigrant manumission, permission, property sales & letters of recommendation in country of origin
- Passenger lists at port of departure
- Passenger lists for U.S. Customs or Immigration Officials at port of arrival
- Indentures to pay for passage on both ends
- Declaration of Intention
- Petition for Naturalization
- Certificate of Citizenship

Locating Migration Records

- Begin at home(s): attics, closets, drawers & file cabinets- a reasonably exhaustive search
- Low hanging fruit- (i.e. Compiled Sources) Online databases, family histories, county, town, and village histories & censuses
- Family Search Wiki & Catalog
- Ancestry.com Wiki & Catalog
- WorldCat.org
- Digital Public Library of America <https://dp.la>

- Local, state and regional genealogy library catalogs
- Search by city, county, state and country in wikis, catalogs and web search engines
- Searches by name of ship, date, port of departure and arrival
- Newspaper arrival records for ships
- Browsing passenger list collections at Ancestry and FamilySearch
- Naturalization records through local libraries, archives and government offices; Search FamilySearch Wiki for terms: ["locality name" + "Naturalization"]

Immigration/Emigration Databases at Ancestry.com

<u>Database Name</u>	<u>Coverage Period</u>	<u>Record Count</u>
• New York, Passenger Lists	1820-1957	82,932,426
• UK, Outward Passenger Lists	1890-1960	23,768,544
• UK, Incoming Passenger Lists	1878-1960	16,195,292
• Canadian Passenger Lists	1865-1935	7,286,089
• Mass., Passenger & Crew Lists,	1820-1963	6,012,399
• U.S. Naturalization Indexes	1791-1992	5,823,363
• Mexico Border Crossings	1895-1964	5,807,437
• Pass. /Immig. Lists Index	1500s-1900s	5,255,044
• Canada Border Crossings,	1895-1956	5,057,039
• Hamburg Pass. Lists,	1850-1934	4,938,987
• U.S. Nat. Records Indexes	1794-1995	2,494,753
• U.S. Passport Applications,	1795-1925	1,835,566
• Victoria, Aust., Pass. Lists	1839–1923	1,656,966
• Select U.S. Nat. Records ,	1790-1974	1,543,305

Published Immigration Lists

- Pilgrim Ship Lists Early 1600's, Over 7100 families and 290 ships, website by Anne Stevens, gives the name of the ship and the master, the departure date, departure point, arrival date, and arrival point.
- Best Source for Pre – 1820 Passenger Arrival Records P. Wm. Filby, ed. Pass. and Immig. Lists Index- An excellent index of over 4,588,000 names found in more than 2,500 published sources; Database on Ancestry.com -- Keyword: = Filby; Books at many Texas libraries

Customs Passenger Lists

- 1820 to circa 1891
- Proof of arrival of 20 million people
- Intended to avoid overcrowding and improve health
- Name, age, sex and occupation
- Lists kept by Customs Collectors at ports
- Copies sent to State Department
- Natl. Archives microfilmed in 1977
- Originals at Temple University

Unable to Find Your Ancestor?

- Check for variant spellings and transcription errors
- Use soundex, wildcards, begins with, etc.
- Try a different index if there is one for the years needed
- Search the indexes of other port cities
- Browse the passenger lists by year or ship

Ellis Island period

- Extract Forms -Blank forms for extracting information from Capital Area Genealogical Society. (www.cyndislist.com/ships/general/)
- 1893-1906 – 22 lines
- 1907-1918 – 29 lines
- 1919-1925 – 33 lines
- Post 1925 – 36 lines
- Many passenger list forms (esp. 20th Cen.) were two pages long. Click "Previous" and "Next" to see all pertinent images

Emigration records from country of departure

- Letters of Manumission
- Sale of Property
- Letters of Recommendation
- Permit to Emigrate
- Shipping Company Records
- Emigration Permission
- Port of Departure Lists
- Hamburg Passenger Lists

List of Recommended Books and Websites Regarding Immigration and Emigration Records

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Books

American Passenger Arrival Records by Michael Tepper, 1988

They Came in Ships by John P. Colletta, PhD., 1989

Ellis Island: Gateway to the American Dream by Pamela Reeves, 2000

Passenger and Immigration Lists Index, P. Wm. Filby, ed. , 1981

Websites

FamilySearch Wiki- https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/United_States_Emigration_and_Immigration

U.S. National Archives and Records Admin. (NARA)- <http://www.archives.gov/research/immigration/>

Castle Garden- <http://www.castlegarden.org>

Ellis Island- <http://www.ellisland.org>

Immigrant Ships Transcribers Guild- <http://www.immigrantships.net>

Ancestry.com- Search catalog for "immigration" or use Wiki to learn more www.ancestry.com

CyndisList.com- Ships & Passenger Lists » General Resources
<http://www.cyndislist.com/ships/general/>

A Brief Timeline of U.S. Policy on Immigration and Naturalization-
http://www.flowofhistory.org/themes/movement_settlement/uspolicytimeline.php

Pilgrim Ship Lists Early 1600's, Over 7100 families and 290 ships, by Anne Stevens, gives the name of the ship and the master, the departure date, departure point, arrival date, and arrival point.
<http://www.packrat-pro.com/ships/shiplist.htm>

Texas Seaport Museum has compiled computerized listing of immigrants to Galveston, Texas-
<http://www.galvestonhistory.org/attractions/maritime-heritage/galveston-immigration-database>

The Association of Professional Genealogists- www.apgen.org

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