

Presenter: Jenny Greenwood

.....and they came
..... in waves

IMMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- The movement of non-residents to the US
- Major source of population growth and cultural change throughout our history
- Economic, social and political aspects of immigration caused controversy regarding:
 - Race Ethnicity Religion Economic benefits Job growth
 - Settlement patterns Impact on upward social mobility
 - Levels of criminality Nationalities Moral values Work habits.

It began with the first successful English Colony in Jamestown Va in 1607 and as of 2006, the US accepts more legal immigrants as permanent residents than the rest of the world combined.

- Immigration was a risky venture given the distance from North America
- Hardship of travel
- Inspired myths and dreams of prosperity and opportunity not found in the old world.

American Dream is the belief

- Hard work and determination. Could achieve a better life.
- Avoid religious persecution Country without a rigid class structure at a time
- The rapid economic and industrial expansion not simply a function of a resource rich, hardworking and inventive country, but that anyone can share in the country's wealth if he or she was willing to work hard
- Opportunity to increase wealth and position

This program will only touch on the period, early 1600's to early 1900's.

- The 1620 Census indicated a total population of about 500
- 1790 the population had grown to over 3,900,000 persons.
- Majority of whom were from Europe and Africa.. About 80% were pf British ancestry.
- Thriving slave trade in the 18th century brought more than 500,000 African Americans to our shores.

FIRST WAVE - 1820-1860 PERIOD

- For the first time, federal records, including ships passenger lists, were kept for immigration. Finding entry records on ancestors arriving prior to 1820 can be much more difficult.

SECOND WAVE - 1860-1890 PERIOD

THIRD WAVE - 1890-1910 PERIOD

- 3.5 million British and 4.5 million Irish entered the US between 1820 and 1830.
- About 5 million Germans immigrated between 1850 -1930
- Peak years being between 1881 and 1885.
- About 900,000 French Canadians left Quebec, settled mainly in New England
- Italian immigration high point between 1910 and 1920.
- Same period about 1.5 million Swedes and Norwegians entered America.
- Between 1880 and 1924 over 2 million Eastern Europeans immigrated here.

First naturalization law - March 26, 1790 Naturalization Act:

Restricted naturalization to free white person of good moral character
Who had resided here 2 years -current state 1 year.

In 1795 this Act was changed:

Required 5 years residency and 3 years after notice of intent to apply for citizenship.

Changed again in 1798 to require:

14 years residency and 5 years notice of intent.

Fourteenth Amendment passed to protect newly emancipated slaves

- 1898 Supreme Court Case interpreted it to cover everyone born in US regardless of citizenship of the parents. (Excepting the children of diplomats.)

Scope of the naturalization law was changed significantly in 1870:

- Allowed African-Americans to be naturalized
- Excluded Asians from being naturalized but not from living in the US.

Act passed in 1882.

- Specifically limited further Chinese immigration. This ban was not repealed until 1943.
- Banned persons because of their health: i. e. lunatic & infectious disease carriers.

1901 added Anarchist Act to exclude anarchist agitators.

1917 a literacy requirement was added.

1921 Congress passed the Emergency Quota Act

- Established national quotas on immigration. Quota were based on number of foreign-born residents of each nationality living in the US as of the 1910 census.

Where are my ancestors and how do I find them.

To start you need to know:

- Their names
- Where they were coming from
- Approximate year of arrival
- Probable port of departure
- Probable port of arrival.

Spelling of names is NOT always reliable. Check for similar sounding names. The spelling of the name was only as accurate as the person writing it down. His English may have been poor or the person giving the information may not have spoken English. Match the facts wherever possible: his age, wife & children's names & ages.

Hand written records are also a challenge. Trying to decipher some of these are next to impossible. Always have a magnifying glass available when researching 9old records.

The internet has become a fantastic source in today's world. It can open many possibilities for you. But much of this information is not correct. You must be able to prove that it is correct. Always take the time to verify it. **GENEALOGY WITHOUT DOCUMENTION IS MYTHOLOGY!**

Begin searching with Passenger Lists

- Excellent overview source of Passenger List Research :
They came in ships: a guide to finding your immigrants ancestor's arrival record
By John P Colletta (1993).
- Bibliographic information for more than 2,500 published passenger immigration lists: *Passenger and Immigration Lists Bibliography, 1538-1900L Being a Guide to Published Lists of Arrivals in the United States and Canada.* By P William Filby, 2nd Edition, Detroit: Gale Research Co (1988)

Historical facts about Passenger List.

- Five major ports in US where most immigrates tended to arrive:
Boston
New York (most popular by 1850)
Philadelphia (most popular in Colonial Era}
Baltimore
New Orleans
- Colonial era arrivals not formally documented on any passenger list
May need to search other published records: church records, local histories, land records, census, and freeman records are just a few.
- 1819: Congress required ships' masters to file list of arriving passengers to US
Customs Officers with name, age, gender, occupation, country of origin and Destination count.
- 1882: Federal legislation required separate lists for immigrants.
- 1891 Immigration Act established Superintendent of Immigration (Later became Immigration Bureau) with more regulations over control of passenger lists; their creation, distribution and retention. It required the last residence of the alien.
- **MOST IMMIGRANT PASSENGER LISTS AFTER 1891 ARE INDEXED!**
- 1906 Naturalization Act with 1907 amendments required documentation of place of birth and physical description, including race.

ELECTRONIC SOURCES:

<http://www.stevemorse.org/> Stephen P Morse has created an overwhelming amount of Web pages that will link you many passenger list resources, links to find pictures and much, much more.

<http://www.ellisland.org/> Database covering ships that arrived in the New York port at Ellis Island from 1892 to 1954.

<http://www.castlegarden.org/> Castle Garden was the fore runner of Ellis Island and operated from 1830 until 1892. This database allows you to search passenger records for this New York Port

www.cyndislist.com/ships.htm Cyndi's list is a website that provides numerous links to resources on the web, including passenger lists.

www.familysearch.org *Immigrant and Passenger Arrivals: a select catalog of National Archives microfilm publications.* Provides lists of US Customs arrival lists on microfilm From 1820-1957 for New York and major Atlantic, Gulf Coast and Pacific ports. Most of these ports have indexes. You may order these microfilmed records through your local *Church of the Latter-Day Saints Family History Center Library.*

www.archives.gov/research_room/arc/index.html This Web site is a working prototype for a future NARA online catalog.

<http://uscis.gov/graphics/aboutus/history/> This site contains information about the Immigration and Naturalization Historical Reference Library collection and services.

<http://www.genealogytoday.com/columns/ruby/011117.html> Castle Garden- Tracing Lines by Ruby Coleman (from Genealogy Today, November 2001)

<http://home.att.net/~arnielang/shipguide.html> Arnie Lang's Immigration Ships Passenger Lists and Naturalization Research Guide with excellent step by step advice.

Other sites that provide extensive information on genealogy:

<http://www.rootsweb.com/>

<http://ancestry.com>

<http://usgenweb.com>

www.colonialancestors.com

www.genealogy.com

www.lva.lib.va.us/whatwehave/gene

www.worldgenweb.org