

IMPORTANT DATES FOR U.S. IMMIGRATION RESEARCHERS

| Date | Event |
|-------------|--|
| 1498 | King Henry VII grants letters of Patent to John Cabot & sons for new undiscovered lands |
| 1534 | New France established on St. Lawrence River [Canada] |
| 1565 | Saint Augustine [Florida] settled by Spanish |
| 1603 | Charter of Acadia by King Henry IV of France |
| 1607 | Jamestown [Virginia] settled by English |
| 1608 | Polish join the English at Jamestown Quebec city founded by French |
| 1614 | Albany [New York] settle by Dutch |
| 1619 | Beginning of Black slaves at Jamestown |
| 1620 | Plymouth Colony [Massachusetts] settled by Mayflower pilgrims |
| 1622 | Grant for the Province of Maine |
| 1623 | New Amsterdam [New York City] settled by Dutch West India Company |
| 1629 | Massachusetts Bay Colony settled by Puritans Grant for Hampshire [New Hampshire] |
| 1634 | Maryland settled by English Catholics |
| 1639 | Colony of New Haven [Connecticut] |
| 1640 | Plantation Agreement at Providence [Rhode Island] |
| 1648 | German immigration prompted by Treaty of Westphalia (Thirty Years War) |
| 1654 | First Jewish immigrants settled in New Amsterdam (Spanish & Portuguese from Brazil) |
| 1660 | English discouraged from emigration (Charles II) |
| 1663 | Charter for Carolina [North Carolina] |
| 1664 | New Netherlands taken by English Charter for New Caesarea , or New Jersey |
| 1666 | French add Fort Sainte Anne [Vermont] to New France |
| 1681 | Quakers' colony in Pennsylvania (William Penn) |
| 1685 | Huguenots settle in South Carolina (French Protestants – Edict of Nantes) |
| 1683 | First Mennonites arrive in Pennsylvania |
| 1701 | Fort St. Jean [New Orleans] founded by French Charter of Delaware |
| 1709 | Migration from German Palatinate begins (Northwest Germany – border with France) |
| 1717 | British begin to ship criminals to England (mostly Virginia & Maryland) Migration of Scots-Irish from Highland Clearances |
| 1721 | First German Baptist Brethren(Dunkers) settle in Pennsylvania & New Jersey |
| 1732 | Foundation of Georgia (James Oglethorpe) |
| 1734 | Moravians begin to settle in Pennsylvania |
| 1740 | Non-British immigrants in America given British citizenship |
| 1751 | Pennsylvania Road is main trans-mountain route to interior |
| 1755 | French Acadians [Nova Scotia] expelled by British (settle in Colonies & Louisiana) |
| 1763 | New Orleans ceded to Spanish rule Quebec ceded to British |
| 1774 | Wilderness Road opens passage through Cumberland Gap |

See: The Avalon Project: http://avalon.law.yale.edu/subject_menus/statech.asp

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| Dates | Events |
|--------------|---|
| 1775 | British halt emigration to America (Revolutionary War) |
| 1776 | United States declares independence |
| 1777 | Constitution of Vermont |
| 1783 | End of Revolution – British & Irish emigration resumes |
| 1790 | First US Federal Naturalization Act (2 year residency) |
| 1795 | Second Naturalization Act (5 year residency) |
| 1795 | First U.S. Passport Applications |
| 1798 | Alien and Sedition Acts (14 year residency) Failure of United Irishmen uprising – more Irish immigration |
| 1800 | Spain returns New Orleans to France |
| 1802 | Alien and Sedition Acts repealed (naturalization returned to 5 year residency) |
| 1803 | Napoleon sells Louisiana Purchase to the U.S. |
| 1808 | Importation of Black slaves prohibited |
| 1812 | War of 1812 halts British immigration |
| 1814 | Treaty of Ghent – British immigration resumes |
| 1820 | Immigration Law mandates US immigration passenger lists |
| 1825 | Erie Canal completed linking Great Lakes to Hudson River |
| 1825 | England repeals prohibition of emigration |
| 1840 | European immigration by steamship begins |
| 1843 | Oregon Trail opens immigration to Pacific territories |
| 1845-1849 | Irish Potato Famine |
| 1847 | California Gold Rush starts mass immigration from Europe and Asia |
| 1849 | Nicaragua Route provides trans-Isthmus passage |
| 1855 | Castle Garden opens (1 August) |
| 1865 | Official Canadian passengers lists initiated at Quebec for US immigrants |
| 1869 | Transcontinental railroad completed |
| 1882 | Chinese Exclusion Act (plus many undesirable categories) |
| 1891 | Federal jurisdiction over all Ports of Entry |
| 1892 | Ellis Island opens – replaces Castle Gardens (1 January) |
| 1897 | Ellis Island burns to the ground (14 June) |
| 1900 | Ellis Island reopens (17 December) |
| 1900 | Horseless Carriage introduced in U.S. |
| 1905 | Immigration surpasses 1 million individuals in a single year |
| 1913 | Lincoln Highway traverses continent |
| 1914 | Panama Canal opens |
| 1914-1918 | WW I curtails immigration |
| 1924 | Immigration processing reassigned to American consulates abroad Border Patrol established |
| 1937 | Pan American Airways inaugurates first commercial trans-Atlantic flights to and from Europe |
| 1939-1945 | WW II slows immigration |
| 1991 | Greatest number of immigrants in a single year (1.8million) |

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