

How to Chart your Origin



Immigrants

In days gone by, immigrants entered the US due to religious persecutions and political situations around Europe.

Dates and circumstances can be traced and such information goes a long way in discovering one's roots. Essentially, prior to 1700, the New England states were settled by the English and Germans while Virginia was mostly settled by the English with Norman roots.

In other words, the first ship load to Jamestown were mostly persons from London and surrounding shires, whose circumstances had come to nought.

Tracing Virginia lineages is interesting because if one goes far enough back they discover members of the nobility, some of whom came with William the Conqueror. Beginning about 1732, the Germans came through Pennsylvania and Maryland took the Wilderness Road into the unsettled West (North Carolina, Virginia and Kentucky).

A good many Germans settled in the Alleghany Mountains in the western portion of North Carolina and Virginia. Also, about the same time, the archbishop of Austria ordered all of the protestants out of the country. This group roamed around Europe, some settling among the Dutch until the last group of about 100 people were invited by General James Oglethorpe to

settle a colony in Ebenezer, Georgia.

Meanwhile, the Scotch-Irish were escaping political and religious persecutions and establishing settlements in North Carolina along the Great Dismal Swamp.

Thereafter, one can follow congregations of Presbyterians as they moved through North Carolina and South Carolina. Hence, zeroing in on the history of European Nations during certain time-frames serves as the perfect guideline to knowing where to search for ancestors!