

## Canadian Immigrant Investigations – A Nation of Immigrants

### Who Came to Canada?

- French – Champlain brings Louis Hebert and colonists, missionaries and priests
- New England Planters- Between 1758 and 1762 arrival to Nova Scotia
- United Empire Loyalists- Beginning 1775 to settle Maritimes, Ontario and Quebec
- Irish Famine Immigrants – 1825 to 1850 potato famine in Ireland
- Scotland Clearances -After 1815 there were Highland farmers who emigrated from Scotland after being ejected from their land to make way for sheep grazing
- Ontario Settlers- British and Germans formed the majority of the early settlers in Ontario
- Western Land Grants- settlers come from many European Countries to settle the West in early 1900's

### Where to Start?

- Personal stories of older relatives, family bibles, marriage records, death records.
- Find out as much as you can about your ancestor here in Canada.
- Census records are available up to 1921 (including valuable 1906, 1916 Prairie census records)
- Cemetery records, gravestones, obituaries
- Try to locate the parish or town using Google, familysearch.org online gazetteer, catalogue, ShtetlSeeker for alternative names <https://www.jewishgen.org/Communities/LocTown.asp>

### What Kind of Immigration Records are Available?

- Passenger lists
- Naturalization records
- Border Crossing records
- Newspaper archives
- 1940 National Registration for Canada

### Where to find the Immigration Records?

- Canadian Archives. <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/immigration/Pages/introduction.aspx>
- Familysearch.org – Canadian Immigration in Wiki or catalogue
- Ancestry.com- Pick both US and Canada as destinations as some came on ships bound for US ports to travel to Canada – Go to Card Catalogue type in search “Passenger” or “Immigration”
  - Canada Passenger Lists – 1865 to 1935
  - Immigration and Emigration books
  - Canada Steam Boat Records – 1819-1838
  - US Crew and Passenger lists (US bound vessels) arriving in Canada – 1912-1939, 1953-1962
  - Ocean Arrivals – 1919-1924 ( at LAC you have to send away for these)
  - Border Crossing US to Canada – 1908-1935

- Find My Past.com- [www.findmypast.com](http://www.findmypast.com)- go to A-Z Directories and put in either the word “Passenger” or “Immigration”
  - Passenger lists leaving the UK 1890 to 1960- Some more comprehensive than other records

### Earlier Passenger Lists

- Immigrants to Canada - <http://jubilation.uwaterloo.ca/~mari/genealogy/thevoyage.html>
- Various Ships lists – [www.theshipslist.com](http://www.theshipslist.com)
- Immigrant ships transcriber guild- <http://www.immigrantships.net>
- Ellis Island Records - <https://www.libertyellisfoundation.org>
- No official lists of passengers were kept prior to 1865. However, individual ship lists have been found in various government and archive files. [www.theshipslist.com](http://www.theshipslist.com)
- The Hudson’s Bay Company has the lists of some of the people who came to Manitoba to work for the company as well as lists of some of the early settlers to the Red River.

### Online Resources for Various Groups of Immigrants

- United Empire Loyalists-Loyalist List - [http://www.uelac.org/Loyalist-Info/loyalist\\_list.php](http://www.uelac.org/Loyalist-Info/loyalist_list.php)
- Scottish Clearances -<http://www.theclearances.org/clearances/main.php>  
<http://www.angelfire.com/ns/bkeddy/HIES/2.html>
- Irish Famine Immigrants -New Brunswick Irish Famine Immigrants - <http://archives.gnb.ca/Irish/Databases/Toner/?culture=en-CA>
- Early Maritime Immigrants -Archives of New Brunswick.  
<http://archives.gnb.ca/Irish/Databases/PassengerLists/?culture=en-CA>
- Hudson Bay Records - Archives of Manitoba – Hudson Bay Company records.  
<http://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/archives/hbca>

### Immigrant Records from Other Sources

- 1940 National Registration - <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/AAS-DAR/cpsp-prfp-eng.cfm#wb-head>
- Our roots /Nosracines – digitized books about the different communities, mostly on the prairies.  
<http://www.ourroots.ca>
- Newspapers- <http://newspaperarchives.com>

### How important is the time frame that your ancestor immigrated?

- Very important. More recent records are harder to find.
- Real old records are hard to find or non-existent.
- Post 1935 passenger lists are held by Citizenship and Immigration Canada. Applications for copies of information must be submitted on an *Access to Information Request Form* by a Canadian citizen or an individual present in Canada.