

## **IMPORTANT DATES FOR U.S. IMMIGRATION RESEARCHERS**

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
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 <a href="#">New Caesarea</a> , or <a href="#">New Jersey</a>
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](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/subject_menus/statech.asp)

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<b>Dates</b>	<b>Events</b>
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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