CAUSES OF GERMAN IMMIGRATION TO AMERICA
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Determining Background Information
- When did the immigrant arrive in America?
- In which port did they enter and are passenger/port records available?
- In which specific area in America did they settle and what records exist for that area?
- What historical events occurred in Germany/America that influenced emigration & immigration?
- Were they brought to America by a particular community or religious leader?
- Is the immigrant group that they came over with, identified in any local or county histories?
- Was the immigrant prominent or have an unusual surname?
- Did anyone on the passenger list or port record, settle in the same area as the ancestor?

Events Leading to Emigration
- 1618 - 1648, Thirty Year’s War.
- 1661 - 1664, War against the Turks.
- 1668, War of Devolution.
- 1674, Dutch War.
- 1688 - 1697, War of the League of Augsburg.
- 1701 - 1714, War of the Spanish Succession.
- 1733 - 1735, War of the Austrian Succession.
- 1740 - 1745, 1756 - 1763, Schlesien Wars.
- 1778 - 1779, War of the Bavarian Succession.

Germany (1650 - 1750)
Factors Influencing Emigration and Migration
- 1661 - 1664, War against the Turks.
- 1688 - 1697, War of the League of Augsburg.
- 1701 - 1714, War of the Spanish Succession.
- 1700 - 1720, Settlement of Virginia, Middle Colonies and Caroline Tidewater Regions by German Palatines and Scotch-Irish.
- 1720 - 1750, Conflict between Germans and the English/Welsh colonists caused German to settle westward at Lancaster, Conestoga and York also southeast to Maryland and Virginia.
- 1733 - 1735, War of the Austrian Succession.
- 1740, Swiss and Germans settle Bucks, Berks and Northampton counties in Pennsylvania.

Germany (1750 - 1800)
Factors Influencing Emigration and Migration
- 1750, Flat boats invented for navigation on inland waters.
- 1750, Cumberland Gap was discovered.
- 1750, Immigration deflected from New York to Philadelphia.
• 1750's, French and Indian Wars.
• 1760 - 1790, Revolutionary War period.
• 1764, South Carolina settled by Germans.
• 1775, The following passages were established west through eastern mountains:
  Canada via Hudson River & Lake Champlain.
  Ohio via Mohawk River and Lake Ontario.
  Ohio via Susquahanna River and Monongahela River.
  Ohio via Potomac River and Monongahela Rivers.
  Ohio via Roanoke and Kanawha Rivers.

**Germany (1800 - 1830)**

*Factors Influencing Emigration*

• A rise in food prices.
• Asian Cholera epidemics.
• Decline in the economy affected farmers and small businesses who were no longer able to exchange goods for services.
• The cost of marriages increased in most of Germany. 1 out of 5 children born out of wedlock.

**Germany (1830 - 1845)**

*Factors Influencing Emigration*

• The economy was unable to support Germany=s dense population.
• Taxes and the cost of getting married increased.
• Remaining in Germany meant farmers and small business people had to settle for a lower standard of living which they wouldn=t do.
• As land was divided among each generation, the size decreased, making it difficult to support families.
• Germany=s poor social conditions included an increase in births and deaths.
• Increase in the printed material and letters from family and friends in America, made Germans aware of free land and no taxes in America.
• Additional cholera epidemics.
• There was a threat of Revolution in Germany.

**Germany (1845 - 1900)**

*Factors Influencing Emigration*

• 1845, Potato famine.
• The German revolution failed.
• An extended railway system made it cheaper and easier to leave from Hamburg or Bremen.
• Some German governments paid passages for criminals and people on welfare.
• Whole communities were emigrating.
• 1860 - 1864, Emigration decreased during the Civil War in America.
• 1863 - 1869, Emigration increased because of conflicts in Germany.
• 1871, Emigration decreased in 1871 when Germany became an empire.
• 1871 - 1885, Emigration increased because of the U.S. Homestead Act.