

# **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 - 1742, 1744 - 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.
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