

Investigating

Migrant Ancestors



**East Yorkshire
Family History Society**

Many of the waves of population movements have been associated with natural disasters and wars of various types and sizes. Some, such as the big Gold Rush events have simply been driven by greed with others, such as the economic migrants of the early 21st century, being driven by a desire to improve family prospects by making a brave move to more affluent western countries of the world. **Between 18?? and 19??**, over 20 million foreigners landed at Hull. From here they journeyed overland, by train, to Liverpool where they re-embarked for North and South America. Memorials at The Bull Nose (where the majority of these transients would have landed) and Paragon Station record these events.

When investigating a mobile family, a close examination of the reasons for the move will almost always provide additional vital clues. Always check newspapers to discover if your family were emigrating simply on a whim; or were they part of a population shift such as those of the late C20th in response to the fall of the Iron Curtain, Iraq war or expansion of the European Union. A great deal can be learned by reading through Colonial Office correspondence files, such as the small selection from the West Indies, listed here;

1845: Colonial Office and Predecessors West Indies Original Correspondence CO 318/165

- migrants to West Indian colonies
- preferred vessels for use as migrant ships
- difficulties in providing ships
- emigration expenditure
- suggestion that emigration from Madras should commence

1858: Colonial Office and Predecessors West Indies Original Correspondence CO 318/218

- deaths of Indian indentured migrants on the ship Saladin
- emigration from China visit to Madeira of British official

1858: Colonial Office and Predecessors West Indies Original Correspondence CO 318/220

- expenses of emigration agent
- immigration finances
- inducements for emigrants to Grenada and St Lucia
- passage money
- return migrants' savings
- immigration legislation
- immigrant bounties
- mortality on emigrant ships
- request for migrants for **British Guiana**

1870: Colonial Office and Predecessors West Indies Original Correspondence CO 318/259

- ordinance for extending the time for feeding of indentured migrants
- annual report of immigration agent
- condition, treatment, and discontent of Indian and Chinese immigrants in British Guiana
- proportion of females

1871: Colonial Office and Predecessors West Indies Original Correspondence CO 318/262

- to postpone departure of 'time-expired' migrants in St Kitts [St Christopher]
- rules for appointment of recruits
- relations between 'Creole women' and Indian and Chinese immigrants
- time period for emigration
- request for migrants to Trinidad

1871: Colonial Office and Predecessors West Indies Original Correspondence CO 318/261

- on ship Harkaway and accounts of deposits made by these return migrants
- application for authority to pay Dr Ireland £372
- application for authority to pay Dr Winstone £356
- request from colonial secretary of Jamaica for acceptance of bill
- clothing

1872: Colonial Office and Predecessors West Indies Original Correspondence CO 318/266

- migrants
- British Guiana agency at Canton
- migration to Cuba planters
- report of protector of emigrants at Calcutta
- immigrant wages
- time period for emigrant embarkations
- immigration legislation
- wages and 'advantages' which migrants may expect

1872: Colonial Office and Predecessors West Indies Original Correspondence CO 318/264

- original correspondence relating to the West Indies and immigration
- treatment of Indian migrants in British Guiana
- gratuities for emigration agents bills of exchange drawn by emigration agents

1873: Colonial Office and Predecessors West Indies Original Correspondence CO 318/270

- in Cuba
- measures of Argentine Government for defence of southern frontier against 'Indians'
- fresh scheme for emigration to Brazil
- seizure of Dutch vessel for surreptitiously carrying Chinese migrants
- immigration of Chinese migrants into San Francisco

Refugees and Minorities

The National Archives Research Guide No 16 provides information on refugees and minorities, as defined by the League of Nations in 1926. It covers records from over 600 years and is a history lesson in its own right; covering subjects as diverse as the treatment of minority groups in the UK (1970s), the Suez Crisis (1957), the disposal of Polish refugees in East Africa (1949-1950), Ukrainian persecution of the Jews (1918-1919), The Edict of Nantes (1598) and Britain's use of Barbados as a base for transporting Irish slaves during the Reformation. The easiest way to obtain a copy of this leaflet is to download a copy from the Internet, at the following address:

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue/RdLeaflet.asp?sLeafletID=312&j=1>

Most public libraries or community centres will be able to help with this if you do not have a personal Internet connection.

Immigrants – Domestic Records

While names and information relating to foreigners coming to the UK over the past 600 years is available in the National Archive, there is no composite index. The Huguenot Society of London can be of great help and, from 1800, they have produced an index of names and other publications that could prove invaluable in finding the information which you seek. They can be contacted as follows;

☒ The Huguenot Society, The Huguenot Library, University College London, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT ☎ 020 7679 5199 🌐 <http://www.huguenotsociety.org.uk/>

Information Leaflet 50 provides a full listing of available records in the Domestic Records catalogue, which includes the following selection;

The Chancery and The Exchequer (C47 and E106)

The earliest records are recorded in this series, covering the period Henry III to Henry VIII and Edward I to Edward IV.

Exchequer Subsidy Rolls (E179)

Details of the names of foreigners living in the city and suburbs of London and the taxes levied on them, 1523-1561. This information is included in Vol X of the Huguenot Society Publications: *Returns of Aliens in London, 1523-1625*.

Exchequer Accounts Various (E101)

Accounts of transactions involving foreign merchants residing in London in the period from Henry III to Charles I.

State Papers (SP10 and SP11)

Includes returns of strangers in London and other places from 1560 onwards. Provides names of many Huguenots from France and Walloons from the Low Countries. Includes names of members of the French & Dutch church in London and refugees settled at Norwich, Colchester, Rye, Sandwich, Canterbury and other parts of England.

Non-Parochial Registers (RG4)

Non-Parochial registers including some formerly kept in the French, Dutch, German and Swiss churches for refugees in London. Includes registers of births, baptisms, marriages and deaths for the period 1567-1857.

Oath Rolls (KB24)

Oath Rolls of Naturalisation, 1708 to 1712. All foreign Protestants who subscribed the Oath Rolls in the Courts of Chancery, King's Bench, Common Pleas or Exchequer, or at General Quarter Sessions, were deemed to be natural-born British subjects and the names have been printed in Huguenot Society, Vol XXVII, at pages 78-107.

Treasury In-Letters (T1)

Refers to refugees and other foreign persons in receipt of annuities, pensions and other payments for their support or in return for services rendered to the Crown. Names can be traced in the indexes to the printed volumes of the Calendar of Treasury Papers, covering the period 1557 to 1728. Also includes Embarkation Lists, located in T1/119, of Palatine subjects shipped from Holland to England in 1709.

Denizations (C97 and HO4)

In two series, Chancery Original Denizations (C97), 1751 to 1793, and Home Office Original Patents for Denization (HO4), 1804 to 1843.

French Émigrés (HO69, PC1, FO95, WO1, T93)

Large numbers of people fled to England at the time of the French Revolution. Many letters and papers exist concerning those French émigrés, 1789-1814. There are also many names amongst Treasury records of the French Refugees Relief Committee for the period 1792-1828.

Home Office (HO1, HO45, HO144, HO334, C54)

The regulation of aliens was made a specific responsibility of the Home Secretary in 1793; and later, in 1844, granting naturalisation certificates also became a Home Office function. A great many names of alien immigrants and some details of their origins, trades, new places of residence, etc can be traced in these records.

Aliens Act, 1836: Certificates of Aliens (HO 2), 1836-1852

Original certificates of arrival of individual aliens in England and Scotland, arranged by port of arrival. Each certificate gives the alien's nationality, profession, date of arrival and last country visited, with his signature and occasionally other details. Earlier have not survived, but several indexes to certificates, covering 1826-1849, exist.

Aliens Act, 1836: Returns and Papers (HO3), 1836-1869

Returns of alien passengers made by masters of ships under the Act. The returns are in date order and there are no indexes to the names in them.

Entry Books (HO5), 1794-1909

Out-letters relating to aliens and naturalisations, registers of applications for denization, and indexes to the certificates of arrivals in series HO2.

Registered Papers (HO45 and HO144)

Includes papers about denizations and naturalisations issued between 1841 and 1878. From 1879 similar material is amongst files in the series of Registered Files. Useful indexes available in The National Archives research enquiries room. Between 1937 and 1980, the indexes form bound volumes on the open shelves in the research enquiries room.

Passenger Lists (BT26)

Passenger Lists Inwards, 1878 to 1888 and from 1890 onwards, contain the names of all persons arriving in the United Kingdom from most places outside. Many lists earlier in date than 1890 have been destroyed. The lists are arranged under the names of the ports of arrival. Keeping passenger lists was discontinued in 1960.

Registers of Passenger Lists, 1906-1951 (BT 32)

These contain names of ships for which passenger lists exist in BT26 and BT27. they are of limited use to readers hoping to find the name of a passenger.

Alien Registration Cards (MEPO35)

Contains the surviving Metropolitan Police aliens' registration cards for the London area, represent some 1,000 cases out of the tens of thousands of aliens resident in London since 1914. The cards include name, date of birth, date of arrival, employment history, address, marital status, details of children, and date of naturalisation. The cards usually include at least one photograph and for some cases there are continuation cards.

Internment Tribunal Cards (HO396)

Internees Index consists of 307 sets of records which give details of mostly Germans, Austrians and Italians and their spouses who were interned or considered for internment by internment tribunals. The slips, which date from 1939 to 1947, are on microfilm in the Reading Room.

There are numerous references in documents in The National Archives to individuals and families emigrating to other countries, but no single index to the names of such persons. The chief sources of information are the Colonial Office records and those of the Home Office, Board of Trade and Treasury. Many overseas libraries and record offices have copies of original material, notably the Library of Congress in Washington, The National Archives of Canada in Ottawa, the National Library at Canberra and the Mitchell Library in Sydney. The following is not a comprehensive list but offers an introduction to the scope of available records.

Privy Council Registers 1540-1978 (PC2)

Contain entries about the colonies, petitions and letters of people going or resident there.

Plantation Books 1678-1806 (PC5/1-16)

Copies of commissions, instructions, orders and letters to governors and other officials, warrants for the appointment of Colonial councillors, letters of marque, grants and surrenders of offices.

Chancery Patent Rolls (C66)

Various entries relating to grants of offices and lands in America and elsewhere.

Audit Office Declared Accounts 1779-1827 (AO1)

Pensions and allowances paid to emigrants, American loyalists and others in the colonies.

Assize Records 1559-1972 (ASSI1-80)

These can provide details of sentences and those transported

Transport Department Records (ADM108 and MT23)

The transport by sea of military forces to various parts of the world 1773-1917.

Colonial Office Emigration Original Correspondence 1817-1896 (CO384)

Contains letters from settlers or people intending to settle in the colonies; names appear in the Entry books 1814-1871 and in the Land and Emigration Commission papers 1833-1894.

Ministry of Health Poor Law Union Papers 1834-1890 (MH12)

Includes material about parish-assisted emigration under the new Poor Law of 1834, arranged alphabetically under county and union.

Foreign Office Passport Registers 1795-1898 (FO610)

These contain entries, in chronological order of passport number, which contain the names, destinations and the names of referees of all those who applied for passports. Such applications were abnormal and the majority of emigrants did not apply for a passport. Indexes of names give the date of issue and serial number of each passport between 1851-1862 and 1874-1898.

Passenger Lists (BT27)

Sea-going Passenger Lists, Outwards, from 1890 to 1960, contain the names of the persons leaving the United Kingdom from ports within England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland for final destinations outside of Europe and the Mediterranean Sea. Currently undergoing digitisation.

Registers of Passenger Lists, 1906-1951 (BT32)

These contain names of ships for which passenger lists exist in BT26 and BT27 . The entries are not complete, the earliest years have entries for a few ports only, and there are omissions. Of limited use to readers hoping to find the name of a passenger.

Child Emigration (MH102, BN28, BN29, BH62, HO45, HO144)

British child emigration schemes operated from 1618 to 1967. During this period it was estimated that some 150,000 children were sent to the British Colonies and Dominions, most notably, America, Australia, and Canada, but also Rhodesia, New Zealand, South Africa and the Caribbean. Many of the children were in the care of the voluntary organisations who arranged for their migration. Child emigration peaked from the 1870s until 1914, and some 80,000 children were sent to Canada alone during this period.

Emigration of Pauper Children

Archives of the voluntary agencies may provide more details. Records relating to Maria Rye, Annie Macpherson and those relating to the work of Dr Barnardo's are in the custody of the Department of Special Collections and Archives (Social Works Archives), Sydney Jones Library, the University of Liverpool, PO Box 123, Liverpool L69 3DA. These records include registers of child emigrants and case files. Such personal archives are subject to access restrictions. The closed period is usually 100 years. In addition to these archives, Barnardo's retains an extensive archive of some 400,000 photographs detailing the work of the charity. The photographs date from 1866. Further information is available at Barnardo's Photographic and Film Archive, Tanners Lane, Barkingside, Ilford, Essex, IG6 1QL.

Records Relating to Individual Colonies:

- America and the West Indies (CO1, CO391, E157). For further information visit the website for the US National Archives and Records Administration at www.archives.gov
 - Australia (CO1/2, CO202, CO306, CO 369, HO10/21-27, WO1, DO35/3366-3443). Further information is available on the website of The National Archives of Australia at www.naa.au
 - New Zealand (CO208). The web site of the Archives of New Zealand can be found at www.archives.govt.nz
 - Canada (BH1, DO131, HO45, HO144, MH102). For additional information visit the web site of The National Archives of Canada at www.archives.ca
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Bibliography

The following National Archives recommended publications may be ordered through the EYFHS bookshop. The Society receives a small commission on all purchases made at: www.eyfhs.org.uk

- Bernard Bailyn, *Voyagers to the west: emigration from Britain to America on the eve of the Revolution* (London, 1987)
- J M Bumsted, *The people's clearance: Highland emigration to British North America 1770-1815* (Edinburgh, 1982)
- Peter Wilson Coldham, *English adventurers and emigrants, 1609-1660: abstracts of examinations in the High Court of Admiralty with reference to Colonial America* (Baltimore, 1984)
- David Dobson, *Directory of Scottish settlers in North America 1625-1825* (Baltimore, 1980)
- Guy Grannum, *Tracing your West Indian ancestors* (Public Record Office Readers' Guide, XI, 2002)
- The Guildhall Library, *The British overseas; a guide to records of their births, marriages, deaths and burials available in the United Kingdom* (Guildhall Library Research Guide, II, 1994)
- David T Hawkings, *Bound for Australia* (Chichester, 1987)
- Robert Hughes, *The fatal shore: a history of the transportation of convicts to Australia, 1787-1868* (London, 1987)
- Maldwyn Allen Jones, *Destination America* (London, 1986)
- Roger Kershaw, *Emigrants and expats: a guide to sources on UK emigration and residents overseas* (Public Record Office Readers' Guide, XX, 2002)
- Roger Kershaw and Mark Pearsall, *Family history on the move: where your ancestors went and why* (Kew, 2006)
- Privy Council, *Acts of the Privy Council of England, colonial series 1613-1783*, ed W L Grant and James Munro (London, 1908-1912), I-VI
- Gwyn A Williams, *The search for Beulah: the Welsh and the Atlantic Revolution* (London, 1980)

EYFHS Publications also produce a wide range of;

- Monumental Inscriptions (headstone transcriptions).
- Parish Register Transcriptions (records of baptisms/christenings, marriages and interments).
- East Yorkshire census returns.
- Historical maps of the UK.
- Newspaper Transcriptions (hatches, matches & dispatches).
- Various searchable CD data sources.

For a full list of all EYFHS publications, please send a self addressed envelope, stamped at the 'small letter' rate, to;

Mrs J Bangs
5 Curlew Close
Beverley
HU17 7QN

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