

# Finding Origins: Cluster Research in Practice!

## Class 3: Immigrant Origins

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### Overview

1. Assume: amongst an immigrant ancestor's friends, associates, and neighbors are individuals with a shared origin.
2. Hypothesize: if a preponderance of cluster members are from 'X', then my ancestor is possibly from 'X'.
3. Confirm: do the records from X support my hypothesis?

### Immigration History

#### Online:

AmericanAncestors.org External Databases, including Academic OneFile Select providing access to millions of scholarly articles: <https://www.americanancestors.org/search/external-databases>

FamilySearch Research Wiki, including many articles on immigration history and group-specific immigration resources and databases: [https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Main\\_Page](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Main_Page)

Internet Archive, including many works on immigration history: <https://archive.org/>

### Great Migration Resources

#### In print:

Robert Charles Anderson, *The Great Migration Directory: Immigrants to New England, 1620-1640: A Concise Compendium*, (New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2015). Survey of all people known to have arrived in New England in the period 1620-1640. Compendium of best sources in print for each migrant.

Robert Charles Anderson, *The Great Migration: Immigrants to New England 1634-1635* (New England Historic Genealogical Society). Covering multiple volumes, the series documents members of the Great Migration who arrived between 1634 and 1635, with sketches that include birthplace, when known.

Robert Charles Anderson, *Puritan Pedigrees: The Deep Roots of the Great Migration to New England* (New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2018). In this contextual history, Anderson explores the origins of the Great Migration, including the relationship between Puritan ministers and a follower's willingness to migrate to North America.

**Online:**

The Great Migration Parish Map: <https://www.americanancestors.org/publications/great-migration-study-project/parish-map>

Vita Brevis Blog on The Great Migration Parish Map:

<https://vitabrevis.americanancestors.org/2019/04/mapping-great-migration/>

## **Immigration and Naturalization Resources**

The USCIS Genealogy Program for ordering naturalization records from 1906 to 1951:

<https://www.uscis.gov/records/genealogy>

For records after 1951, a Freedom of Information Act request is required:

<https://www.uscis.gov/records/request-records-through-the-freedom-of-information-act-or-privacy-act>

The online catalog of the National Archives and Records Administration: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>

## **Helpful Guides**

Naturalization Records Research Guide: <https://www.americanancestors.org/tools/naturalization-records>

Tracing Immigrants Search Strategies:

[https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Tracing\\_Immigrants\\_Search\\_Strategies](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Tracing_Immigrants_Search_Strategies)

Family Tree Magazine's guide to American Immigration Records:

<https://familytreemagazine.com/records/immigration/us-record-types-immigrant-ancestors/>