

Assimilation

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Submitted for Project 1 of [CMST 205 3408B893 D](#)

Culture Concept

Welcome

Colonists, immigrants, slaves, indentured workers, and refugees have been arriving in what is now the United States since the 16th Century. What next?

Assimilation or rejection.
Prejudice.

What does it take to make this land into home, to convert a person's everyday frame of reference away from the "Old Country" into unthinking acceptance of here and now?



An illustration of immigrants on the steerage deck of an ocean steamer passing the Statue of Liberty from Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, July 2, 1887. National Park Service, Statue of Liberty NM

Assimilation of Immigrants

Generally, the more generations pass, the greater the assimilation, both as to acceptance with ever-lessening prejudice by the current population, and the increasing feeling by newcomers of being at home.

Is the current widespread interest in genealogy and DNA ancestry testing a manifestation of a cultural pendulum? Most who do this are proud of their once-scorned immigrant ancestors.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pendulum_clock



There has been a good deal of scholarly research into assimilation, as shown in the Literature Review Example No. 2, but as much as possible this presentation will focus on the presenter's family history of assimilation – a demo. Some highlights:

Richard Stout – Penelope Van Princis
Married about 1643 in New Amsterdam

Edward Perry – Mary Freeman
of Bridford, Devon of London
Married 1653 in Sandwich, MA

Isaiah Stout – Catherine Kennedy
Married 1773 in Ringoes, NJ

Robert Knowles Perry – Nellie Louise Young
Married 1883, living in Cimarron
(aka “No Man’s Land” now Oklahoma Panhandle)

George Walter Stout – Bernice Burhans
Married 1912 in New York, NY

Arthur Choate Perry – Lucile Smith
Married 1917 in Kansas City, MO

George Walter Stout II – Janet Perry
Married 1943 In Hollywood, CA

Judith Robert (Stout) Johnson

Literature Review - 1st example

In the 1600s, the European countries doing the colonizing often offered land patents or grants to those who would organize a new settlement, recruiting artisans and craftsmen and guards contracted to work for a time and thereafter be able to obtain land of their own. My friend Rob who compiles genealogy records has found that the Stout branch of my ancestry has two notable examples deriving from The Netherlands. One has to do with a family among the colonists sponsored by Cornelis Melyn.

Cornelis Melyn (1600 - c. 1662) was an early [Dutch](#) settler in [New Netherland](#) and [Patroon](#) of [Staten Island](#). He was the chairman of the [council of eight men](#), which was a part of early steps toward [representative democracy](#) in the [Dutch colony](#).
https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cornelis_Melyn

Literature Review - 1st example (continued)



Melyn's role in history is recognized in a mural in the [Staten Island Borough Hall](#) by [Frederick Charles Stahr](#) entitled *Cornelius Melyn Trades With the Indians*.¹

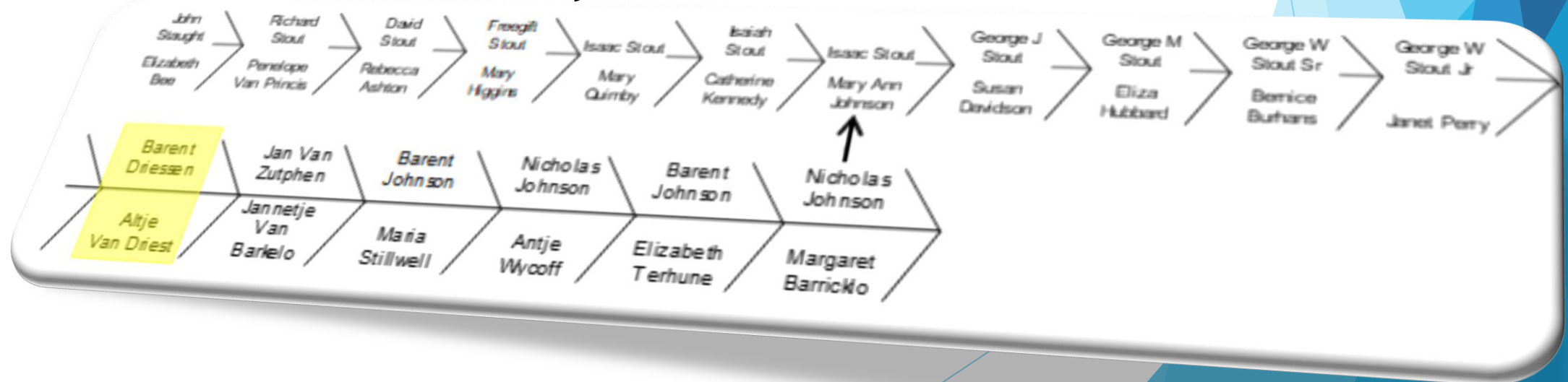
“A major portion of Staten Island is granted to Melvin on 1641 by the Dutch West Indies Company. Between 1641 and 1655, colonies are continuously destroyed by Native Americans in conflict over the policies of the Dutch Governor General.”

After the Peach Tree War, Melyn and family left for the English [New Haven Colony](#), where he took an oath of allegiance to the English crown April 7, 1657. In 1659, he agreed with the West India Company to relinquish his right of Patroonship of Staten Island but was so capable that he became a prominent public servant for the British.

Literature Review - 1st example (continued)

In 1655, one of Melyn's colonists caught an Indian woman stealing a peach from his trees, and shot her dead; ...this helped to ignite the “Peach Tree War,” where dozens of colonists were massacred and Melyn ransomed his family and the other survivors.

In one of these Indian attacks my ancestor, Jan Van Zutphen, was left orphaned. His descendants changed their last name to “Johnson” as (Dutch) New Amsterdam became (English) New York and the family sought to assimilate. Mary Ann Johnson changed the Stouts from Baptists into pillars of the Dutch Reformed Church in New Jersey.



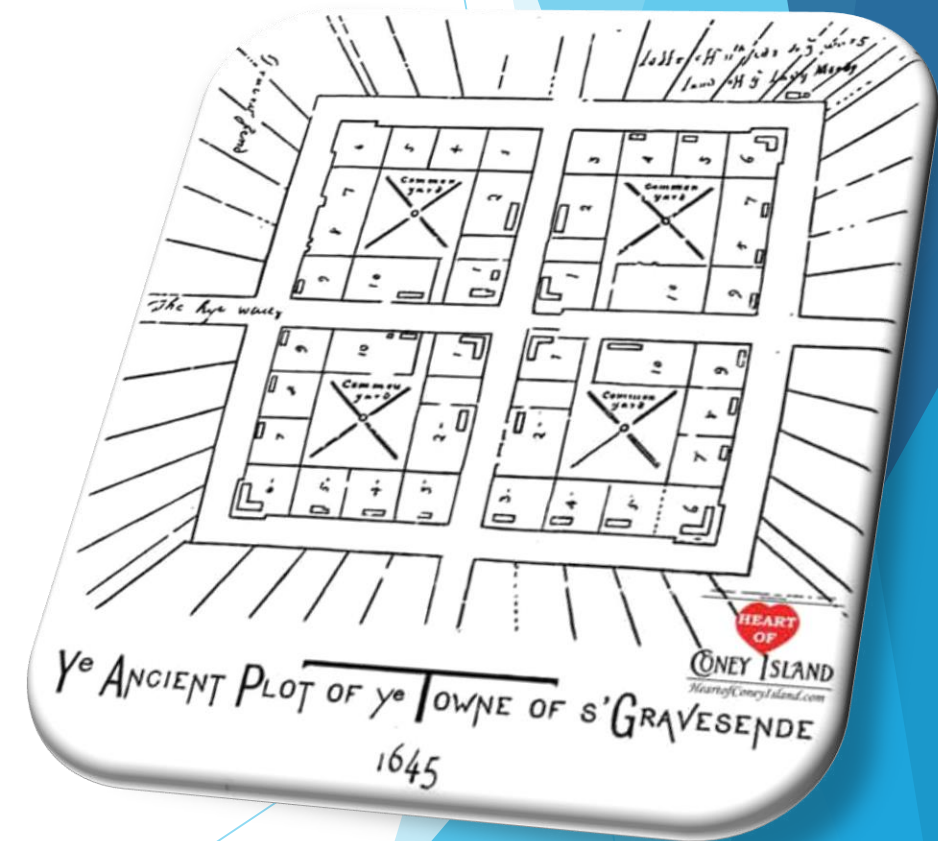
The Stout Patriarch

Richard Stout apparently first served as a mercenary officer for the Dutch in New Amsterdam, then for the Coney Island settlement of Lady Moody in Gravesend (Brooklyn, NY). “The land grant was given to thirty-nine principals among Lady Moody's group, among them both individuals and heads of households. These principals were known as 'patentees'.”

Lady Moody was the wealthy, educated, well-connected and eminently capable widow of a baronet, Sir Henry Moody. She also was a kinswoman of Oliver Cromwell... She had settled first in Salem, MA, but held differing religious views.

<http://www.heartofconeyisland.com/early-coney-island-history.html>

Here, Richard Stout prospered as a patentee/landowner, and his family increased, but he struck deals with the Indians in New Jersey for large tracts of land, and the family relocated there.



Literature Review - 2nd example

The Time Periods Selected

The design of *Immigrants in American History: Arrival, Adaptation, and Integration* is organized around a division of American history into three principal time periods, with [Part 4](#), the [final volume](#), devoted to issues in American immigration, especially presently.

- Part 1: Approximately 1600–1870
- Part 2: From 1870–1940
- Part 3: From 1940–Present
- Part 4: Issues in U.S. Immigration

Immigrants in American history / Elliott Robert Barkan, editor, p. cm. Includes bibliographical references and index. ISBN: 978-1-59884-219-7 EISBN: 978-1-59884-220-3

Literature Review - 3rd example

The Stout Matriarch

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Penelope_Stout



Penelope VanPrincis Stout
Commemorative Coin - Recto -
depicting the scene of Penelope's first
rescue by an old Indian Chief after
surviving a shipwreck and the ensuing
attack on the beach by the indigenous
inhabitants after being abandoned by
their fellow shipmates.

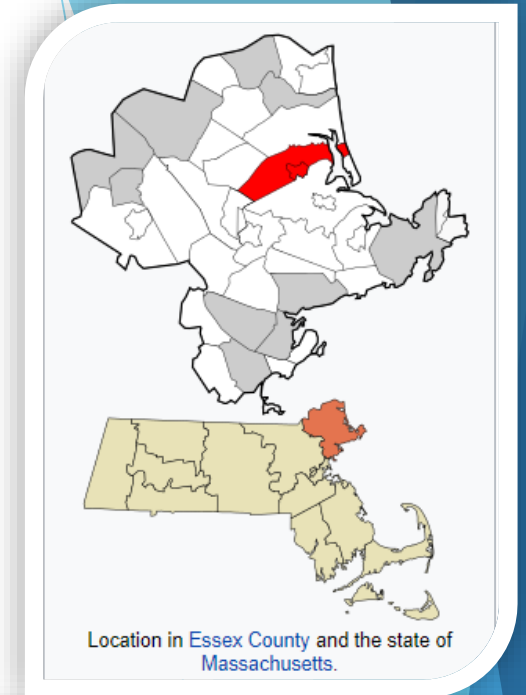
In 1643 [3] Penelope and her husband took a ship from the Netherlands to New Amsterdam. Their ship foundering, she and her husband and several others made land at [Sandy Hook](#), NJ. Her husband was not able to travel and she remained with him. After the couple was abandoned, they suffered an attack from the natives and her husband was killed. She survived ... and sheltered in a hollow tree until she made herself known to the [Navesink tribe](#) of [Leni Lenapi](#). ...When she was well enough ...she was, perhaps sold, to the Dutch at [New Amsterdam](#). There she married Richard Stout. They had a large family ... mostly born at [Gravesend](#) in the area of [Coney Island](#), [Brooklyn](#).



Penelope VanPrincis Stout
Commemorative Coin - Verso -
depicting the scene of Penelope's
second rescue by an old Native chief
after surviving her first series of
ordeals, and finally "rescued" to Fort
Amsterdam, Penelope and her new
husband return to Sandy Hook to build
a home. Here the old Native Chief
warns Penelope to escape a planned
attack.

Those were examples of immigrants rejected by the native inhabitants in their new country but persevering; various other immigrants at various instances gave up and went back to the Old Countries; however, some – even most – assimilated.

- ▶ Two Boynton brothers came from Yorkshire on a ship full of Puritans. The congregation founded Rowley, Massachusetts, named after their Pastor.
- ▶ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rowley,_Massachusetts
- ▶ But I'm pleased to note that each generation of Boyntons after that moved further away from the Puritans, who were not very tolerant or kindly.
- ▶ One branch moved to Quebec to take up land grants given to English speakers by the British who won Canada from the French due to the 1763 Treaty of Paris.



- ▶ Another ancestral branch, the Perry family, settled on Cape Cod in the first place so as to avoid Puritan Boston.
- ▶ They left Massachusetts for Rhode Island because of the Shannock Purchase – the Indians had sold this land. Cheap land with good mill streams were the reason for the move. The Perrys built mills, invented machinery, and refined bog iron. I visited this mill in 2013.
- ▶ The Perrys were Quaker families entwined with the “Fighting Quakers,” the Hazards. Rhode Island welcomed them, but my branch is descended from a renegade who defied the pacifist Quakers and enlisted in the Continental Army; after they rejected him, he went to Connecticut and became a Presbyterian farmer.



The historic Perry (formerly Carpenter's) Grist Mill, grinding Rhode Island-grown whitecap flint corn since 1703.

<https://newengland.com/yankee-magazine/travel/samuel-e-perry-grist-mill/>

<http://navalwarcollegemuseum.blogspot.com/2010/07/perry-family-of-newport.html>

The Smith family of my grandmother traces to a younger son of a “gentry” family who immigrated as an officer serving the Governor’s expedition to Virginia. Major Lawrence Smith became a successful military leader through Indian wars and the Bacon Revolt, and his family built this home, York Plantation, where George Washington accepted the surrender of Cornwallis in 1781, thus ending active fighting in the Revolutionary War.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/58965935/lawrence-smith>

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Smith-1217>

<https://www.nps.gov/york/learn/historyculture/moore-house.htm>

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bacon%27s_Rebellion



Literature Review - 4th example

Primogeniture produced many landless younger sons. **Free Land** was a driving force behind voluntary immigration; there was no such thing in the Old Countries. It was difficult to even buy land except as a smallholder; land in large chunks was reserved one way or another for “The Gentry,” who kept their smaller neighbors “in their place” by fair means or foul.



- ▶ There's a town on Whidbey Island in Washington State called “Freeland” and it's not a founder's name but a cry of exultation.
- ▶ So immigrants kept coming, whether welcome or not, and subsequent generations assimilated as a natural consequence.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homestead_Acts

“Buy land. They ain’t making any more of the stuff.” Will Rogers (not a relative)



Will said this after most of the free land was already taken away from the Native Americans and title vested in the Immigrant owners. He meant it as investment advice.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Will_Rogers

Less than voluntary immigration

Deportation from the Old Country – The Highland Clearances
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Highland-Clearances>

A famous Romance writer founded a museum on the East Coast of Scotland with a theme about Highlanders forcibly removed from the fertile glens so that the Lairds could more profitably raise sheep there. Most were resettled on the coasts in harsh conditions but some, it is claimed, were forced aboard ships and taken to the American colonies. If so, they were probably indentured under unfavorable terms and afterward found non-prime land. The Foxfire books might show how that scenario evolved, with very little or at least late assimilation. <https://www.foxfire.org/about-foxfire/>

However, not a few Scottish emigrants were voluntary, and there are multiple records I've seen in the Edinboro library where a Laird's steward, called a "Factor," hired a ship and recruited most of the skilled estate workers to sail away with him to found a new settlement with well-chosen lands. Unforgotten resentment about the clearances might have helped.

http://www.scottishhistory.com/articles/highlands/clearances/clearance_page1.html



<https://www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk/usscotfax/history/clearances.html>

Military service in the Colonies – Alexander Young

- ▶ Because the Regimental records were destroyed by the Blitz in WWII London, we'll never know where in The Highlands another ancestor was from exactly. He enlisted in Scotland at Stirling in the mid 18th Century, and he fought throughout most of the French and Indian Wars in the American British Colonies.
- ▶ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/77th_Regiment_of_Foot_\(Montgomerie%27s_Highlanders\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/77th_Regiment_of_Foot_(Montgomerie%27s_Highlanders))
- ▶ <https://warfarehistorynetwork.com/daily/military-history/rogers-rangers-the-battle-of-labarbue-creek/>
- ▶ Young remained a loyal Tory during the Revolutionary War, and was forced to abandon his granted lands in New York state and flee with his family to Canada.
- ▶ My branch of his line combined with another Young family (and the Canadian Boyntons), and left Canada for the USA where the combined Young family descendants took advantage of the Homestead Acts (starting in 1862), which offered choice free land, to farm in Kansas near Fort Larned. My great-grandmother, Nellie Young, met Robert Knowles Perry near there.
- ▶ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homestead_Acts
- ▶ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Larned_National_Historic_Site

Rogers' Rangers fought the French Canadian Coureurs de Bois through the northern forests during the French and Indian War.

Refugees – War, famine, pogroms, and hopelessness forced others to emigrate – and assimilation after arrival could not possibly be onerous enough to matter, at least to that generation...

But subsequent generations in America were in their turn intolerant of other religious believers. Many Quakers left Boston and went to Rhode Island.

Religion and the Founding of the American Republic
America as a Religious Refuge: The Seventeenth Century, Part 1
<https://www.loc.gov/exhibits/religion/rel01.html>



Lutherans leaving Salzburg, 1731. Engraving by David Böecklin from Die Freundliche Bewillkommung Leipzig: 1732. Rare Books Division. The New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations (7)



Massacre of the Protestant Martyrs at the Bridge over the River Bann in Ireland, 1641. Engraving from Matthew Taylor, England's Bloody Tribunal: Or, Popish Cruelty Displayed London: J. Cooke, 1772. Rare Book and Special Collections Division, Library of Congress (5)



Mary Dyer led to execution on Boston Common, 1 June 1660. Color engraving. Copyprint Nineteenth Century. Courtesy of The Granger Collection, New York (20)

Political barriers to immigration are nothing new

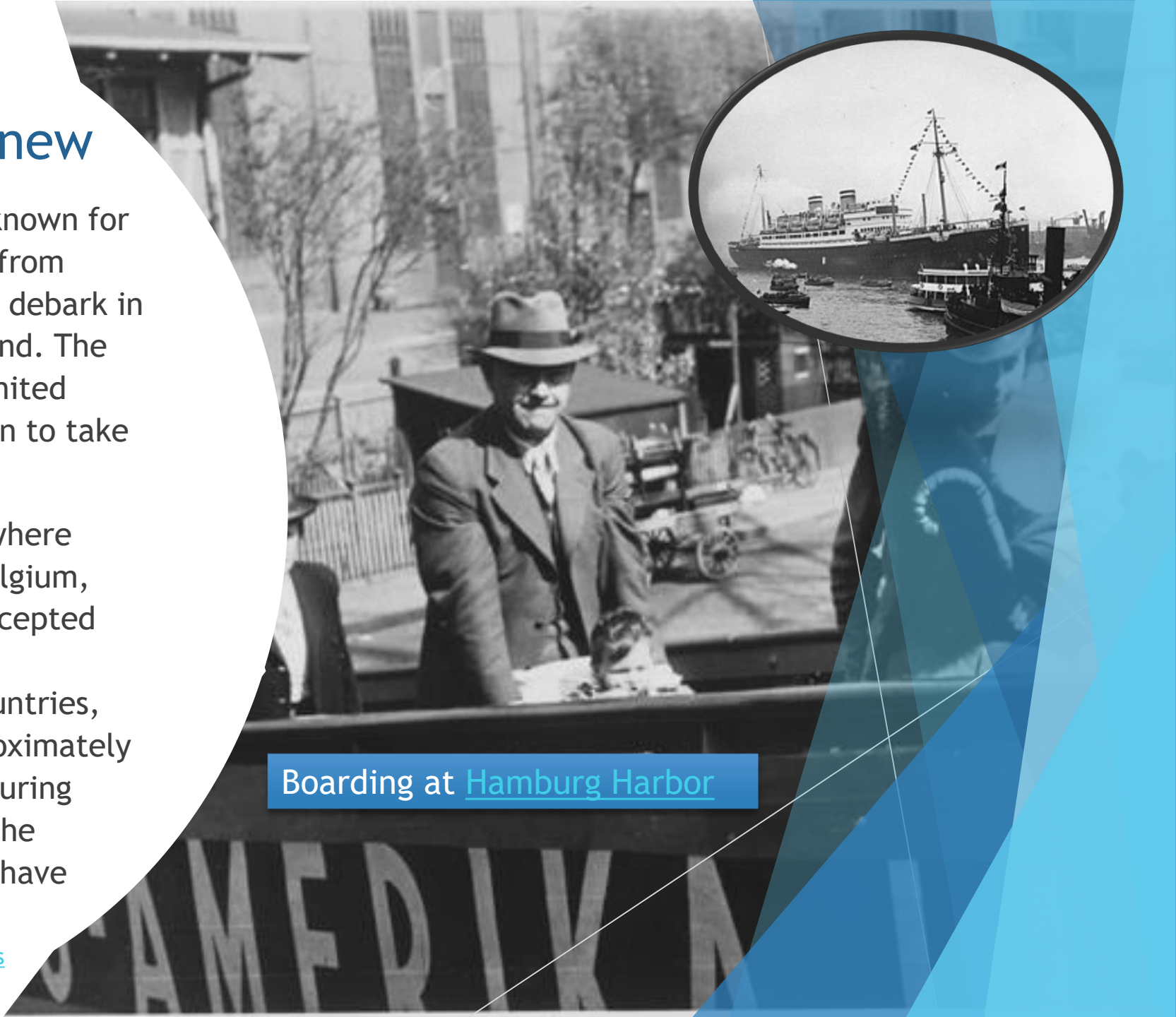
MS St. Louis was a German [ocean liner](#) known for carrying more than 900 Jewish refugees from Germany in 1939. Originally intending to debark in Cuba, they were denied permission to land. The captain, [Gustav Schröder](#), went to the United States and Canada, trying to find a nation to take them in, but both refused.

He finally returned the ship to Europe, where various European countries, including Belgium, the Netherlands, the UK, and France, accepted some refugees. Many were later caught in [Nazi](#) roundups of Jews in occupied countries, and historians have estimated that approximately a quarter of them died in [death camps](#) during World War II.^[2] These events, known as the "Voyage of the Damned" in one account, have inspired film, opera, and fiction.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MS_St._Louis



Boarding at [Hamburg Harbor](#)





Colonial Williamsburg actor-interpreters perform a scene during the filming of the Electronic Field Trip "Chained to the Land," in which a slave owner on horseback oversees the work of enslaved people on a rural tobacco plantation.

<http://slaveryandremembrance.org/articles/article/?id=A0056>

Slavery – gone but not forgotten.
Assimilation in America – civil
rights – is incomplete to this day.
That’s disgraceful.

However, here are some interesting snippets to do with my family history.

- ▶ Rob the genealogist likes to put me in my place by noting those of my ancestors who were slave-owners. The Rhode Island Perry family usually had a few slaves, according to the recorded wills, until the Abolitionist Movement gained influence. So did the Stouts.
- ▶ The suspicion is that my Smith grandmother’s family from Missouri prospered by breeding slaves and selling them “down the river” to end up in the cane fields in Louisiana. Slavery importation to the US had been outlawed in 1807, under the sponsorship of Thomas Jefferson, and slowly suppressed. Some saw this law as a business opportunity, and it sheds a new light on the economic factors behind the Civil War.



The Green Book - a true story and not that long ago

Green Book Set in the 1960s, it follows a concert tour of the Deep South endured by an African-American classical and jazz pianist and an Italian-American bouncer who served as Shirley's driver and bodyguard.

The film was written by Farrelly, Brian Currie and Vallelonga's son, [Nick Vallelonga](#), based on interviews with his father and Shirley, as well as letters his father wrote to his mother.^[6] The film is named after a mid-20th century guidebook for African-American travelers to help them find motels and restaurants that would accept them.

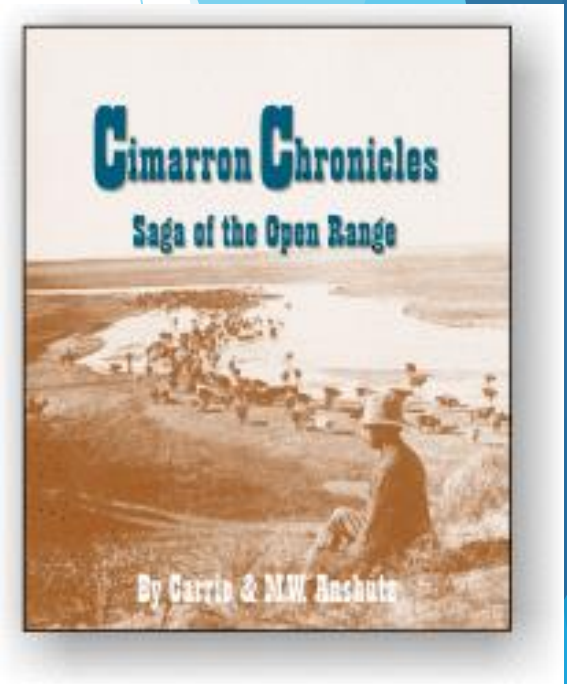
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Green_Book_\(film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Green_Book_(film))

No Man's Land

Cimarron Chronicles, Saga of the Open Range

- That's my great-grandfather, Robert K. Perry, on the book cover. He was descended from the Connecticut former-Quaker Revolutionary soldier and he married a descendant of the Tory family which came back from Canada to farm the free land near Fort Larned, KS.
- After the buffalo were nearly wiped out by commercial hunting, RKP and his brother came from CT to Kansas in the 1870s with a money belt, and bought cattle to graze on the Open Range ("Free Range" it was called then) all over the unfenced, untitled, land in south central Kansas.
- A widespread prairie fire caused the cattlemen in the region to move the herds south into what later became the Oklahoma panhandle, but at the time it was "Cimmaron, or "No Man's Land" as it was not even part of Oklahoma Territory.
- My grandfather was born in a sod house near what is now Beaver, OK.

<http://www.kansashistory.us/cimchron.html>



Was assimilation always easy? Seldom.

- ▶ Those of my ancestors usually had it easier if they immigrated with status and wealth, but not always. Penelope's party of immigrants were (in most versions of the tale) connected to the Governor, but her first husband was killed by Indians right after they landed, and she suffered horribly, but lived long and had many New Jersey descendants named Stout.
- ▶ Two toddlers of the Stout family were killed and scalped in Kentucky.
- ▶ The Young family of my Perry great-grandmother, Nellie of the T6, was originally from Northern Ireland (and likely Scotland before that). One branch of the family went through Canada to Australia to hunt for gold, and left Nellie a modest inheritance.



No Man's Land Monument, U.S.
Highway 64 east of Gate (Oklahoma
Panhandle)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oklahoma_Panhandle

Prejudice against immigrants by my family

- ▶ Nellie Perry, my great-grandmother in Cimarron, was a woman of some asperity who, according to family tales, lamented the trials of forever training some Irish immigrant girl to be an acceptable servant at the T6 Ranch HQ, only to see the ungrateful wench get married to some cowboy and the whole process had to begin again. Each ethnic wave of immigrants suffered prejudice.
- ▶ My grandfather, when courting his Smith wife, promised her she would always have immigrant servants to do the laundry and cleaning. He meant Mexican immigrants, of course, and he called his best horse “Little Nigger.”

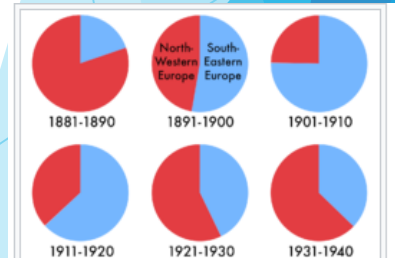
The Clash of Cultures



Reformers teaching immigrant women to maintain middle-class American standards of hygiene and cook American food. [Library of Congress]

<https://anti-immigrant.weebly.com/1920s-resurgence.html>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Immigration_Act_of_1924



Relative proportions of immigrants from Northwestern Europe^[b] (red) and Southern and Eastern Europe^[c] (blue) in the decades before and after the immigration restriction legislation.

Progression of assimilation from ugly death to prejudice

It's true that horrible things have happened to immigrants all through the history of immigration. Some still suffer violence and that is inexcusable. But not generally. We're all human; make the best of it, not the worst.

- When I was in High School in Kansas in the 1950s, the Rest Homes looked for German-speaking staff, because many of the old people lost their English.
- In South Dakota, which contains several large Native American reservations, the land was settled by immigrant Poles and Scandinavians. My mother-in-law said when she was a girl the small towns and farms had social gatherings regardless of which accents mangled the common language of English; the only families to be scorned were those who were shiftless, meaning mostly those not land owners. The Native Americans she wouldn't talk about.

Gut Check on  NBCNEWS.com

1910s-1920s: Immigration, defining whiteness

http://www.nbcnews.com/id/24714378/ns/us_news-gut_check/t/s-s-immigration-defining-whiteness/#.XFjRzFzYrDc

Nativism and fundamentalism in the 1920s

In the 1920s, a backlash against immigrants and modernism led to the original culture wars.

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/us-history/rise-to-world-power/1920s-america/a/transformation-and-backlash-cnx>

Should assimilation be total, then?
Everybody indistinguishable as to
morphology, accent, and culture?
No! What a waste!

- ▶ The constant absorption of immigrants defines our national destiny; it's what makes us what we are.
- ▶ On the one hand, it has caused great suffering, Indians forced off their land, and terrible conflicts between rival ethnic groups.
- ▶ On the other hand, successful assimilation makes us incredibly strong and creative, as each group contributes to the melting pot but retains some of its original culture.
- ▶ Now that European immigration has tapered off, and those fearful of strangers see threats because recent newcomers have more varied skin tones and languages and religions, calm down — the assimilation is just widening.



https://www.irishcentral.com/https://www.irishcentral.com/uploads/article/4427/cropped_MI-no-irish-sign-1.jpg?t=1526815369

Transport

“Native” Americans walked across the Bering Land Bridge

The first Europeans came on sailing ships, some to conquer and loot, or “planted” to hold the conquest

Many more sailed to escape from religious persecution and poverty

Some were “imported” as slaves or forced labor

Then immigrants came in steamships, mostly from Europe

And now they fly in airplanes, many from Asia



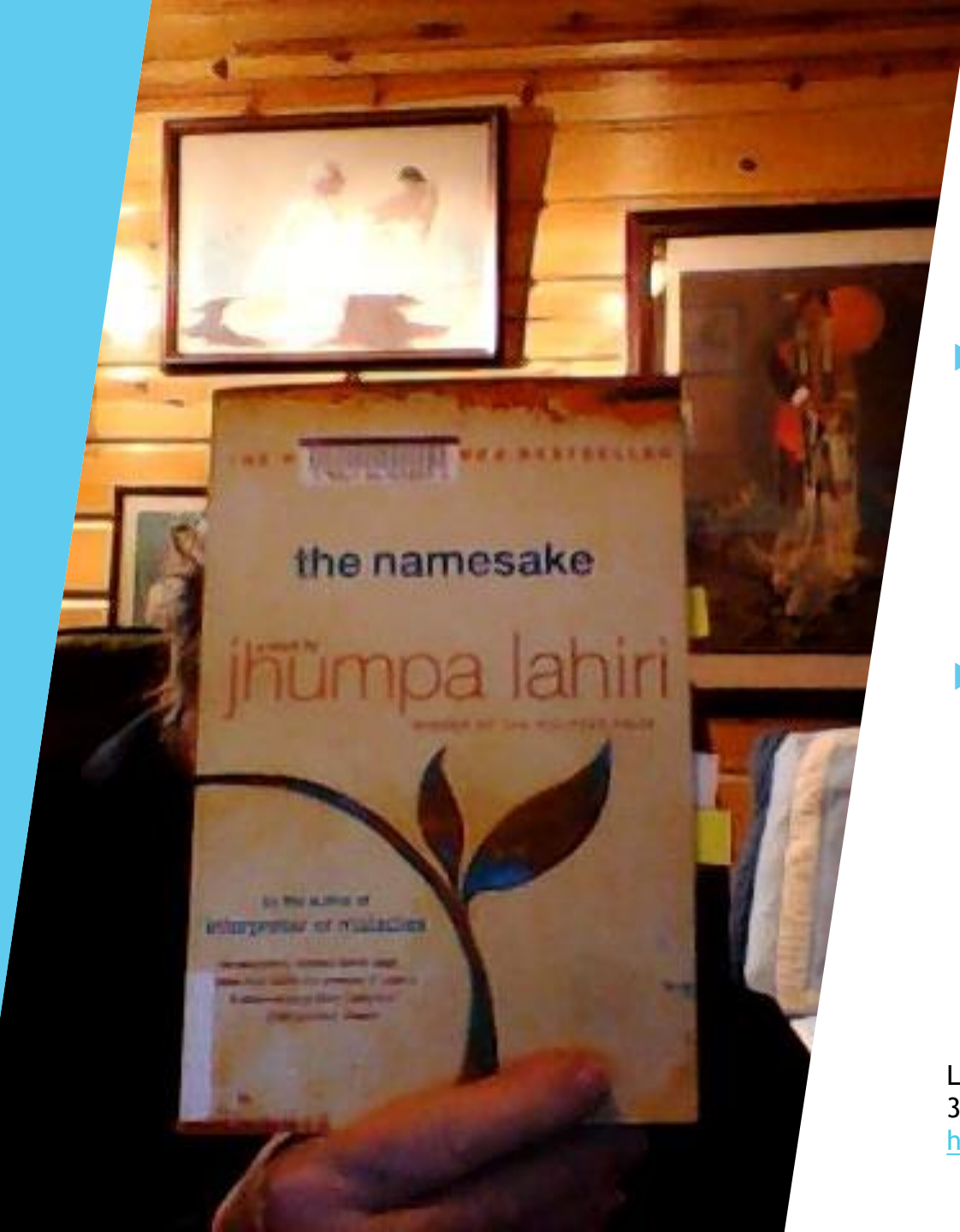
Photo: Susan Walsh, AP

Literature Review

– 5th Example

- ▶ The Airplane Immigrants are often highly skilled professionals, many of whom studied at USA universities and so were already rigorously selected to be the brightest and the best.
- ▶ “...So many Cambridge Bengalis gathered on Saturday evenings, ...the parents conversing in the Bengali their children don't speak among themselves... They learn to roast turkeys, albeit rubbed with garlic and cumin and cayenne.”

Lahiri, Jhumpa (2004). *the namesake*. Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt Publishing Company, 3 Park Avenue, 19th Floor, New York, NY 10016. ISBN: [0-395-92701-6](https://www.isbn-international.org/en/0-395-92701-6)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Namesake



For the record

<https://www.ethnologue.com/country/US>

Official Name	United States of America
Population Full	324,930,000 (2016 census)
Principal Languages	English
Literacy Rate	99% (2003 World Factbook)

Recognized Nationalities

The Department of the Interior of the United States government maintains a listing of nearly 600 federally recognized tribes. By virtue of being recognized, they are eligible for funding and services from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).

Language Counts

The number of individual languages listed for United States is 232. Of these, 219 are living and 13 are extinct. Of the living languages, 195 are indigenous and 24 are non-indigenous. Furthermore, 3 are institutional, 12 are developing, 1 is vigorous, 58 are in trouble, and 145 are dying.

By 2020, the yearly total will hit 340,000.

“Everyone has been of the opinion we need more workers, we need more skilled workers, we need more people to power our economy, address our real skills shortages, address our real labour market shortages and also address the regional nature of some of these requirements,” Immigration Minister Ahmed Hussen said Wednesday.

<https://globalnews.ca/news/3836805/340k-immigrants-per-year-by-2020-government-unveils-new-immigration-targets/>

We are being surpassed: Canada’s Ruthlessly Smart Immigration Policy

Given the xenophobia now sweeping the rest of the West, Canadians’ openness might seem bizarrely magnanimous. In fact, it’s a reasonable attitude rooted in national interest. Canada’s foreign-born population is more educated than that of any other country on earth. Immigrants to Canada work harder, create more businesses and typically use fewer welfare dollars than do their native-born compatriots.

Indeed, their contributions go all the way to the top. Two of the last three governors-general – Canada’s ceremonial heads of state – were born abroad (one in Haiti and one in Hong Kong), and the current cabinet has more Sikhs (four) than the cabinet of India. Quoted from:
<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/28/opinion/canada-immigration-policy-trump.html>

Acknowledgements

- ▶ The bibliographical citations, mostly from online sources, are on the pages near the items they reference.
- ▶ Rob Wilcox has compiled my family genealogy and updates it every year or so, along with several others for his family and friends, as a contribution to the knowledge base in Ancestry.com, and I pay for our subscription to the international segment of Ancestry.com.
Copy and paste URLs for Google Drive into your browser for the relevant online archives; however, the Ancestry.com won't work unless you're a member.
 - ▶ <https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/0BzAxreAuL2eDb0VZM0lwUHV2cTQ>
 - ▶ <https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/0BzAxreAuL2eDOGtjN3RQTXpHMm8>
 - ▶ <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/tree/12795042/family>