

Name _____

How did your family get here?

Modern U.S. History

Mr. Raby

All of our families have taken some sort of journey to get here. Your task for this assignment is to find out where your family came from. I would recommend delving into your family's history by branches, for example those of your grandparents. Look into the following.

- Where did their family come from?
- When did they come to America?
- Why did they come to America?
- Where did they enter America? East Coast? West Coast?
- Where did they settle when they reached America?
- What type of work did they look for when they came to America?

Each of your families is different and this formula may not work perfectly for some of you. When in doubt remember the objective of this assignment is to discover how your family came to this country.

Mr. Raby's Family History

My mother's side of the family arrived in the United States over a long period of time. My mother's paternal grandfather's family, Hays, arrived from Scotland and Ireland in the late 1700s and early 1800s. They originally settled in the Williamsburg, Virginia area but then moved west through Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Utah, with most ending up in Idaho. Most of the family was either farmers or businessmen. When the Hays family arrived in the Idaho territory, they became interested in law and government. My mother's great-grandfather, Samuel Hubbard Hays, was the first Attorney General of Idaho.

My mother's paternal grandmother's family, the Sebree's, was a French-Huguenot family and probably arrived in the late 1700s. They, like the Hays family, moved west on the wagon trains and eventually settled in Idaho, where my mother's paternal grandparents met. The Sebree family was made up of mostly bankers and ranchers.

My mother's maternal grandfather's family, the Runge's, came from an area called Pomerania, which had been exchanged back and forth between Germany and Poland. My mother's maternal grandfather arrived in the United States in the late 1800s and headed to Texas and Oklahoma, where he participated in the land rush. He worked as a photographer during this time. About ten years after he arrived in the United States, he sent for his girlfriend and eventual wife, Charlotte Gebhardt. They moved to New Haven, Connecticut where he worked as a carpenter making furniture. They did move back to Germany in 1936 but my mother's grandfather was an outspoken critic of the German government at the time and decided it would be best to return to the United States.

The branches of my father's family arrived in the mid to late 1800s. His paternal great-grandfather, John Raby, was born in 1843 around Berlin, Germany. He moved to the United States in 1851 and settled in the area around San Antonio, Texas. He worked as a Methodist minister there and also fought for the Confederacy in the Civil War. He had a son, Robert Raby, through his first marriage. After John's first wife died, he remarried a woman with several children. Robert was soon forced out of the family and moved to New York City. There he met, and eventually married, Elizabeth Farley, who had recent emigrated from Ireland.

My father's maternal grandmother's family, the Santini's, came from Lucca, Italy. Annuncio Santini was a gentleman farmer. He moved to the United States in 1887 and settled in New York City. He had eleven children: ten sons and one daughter. Along with many of his sons, he started the Seven Brothers Moving Company in the Bronx.

The sole Santini daughter, Emma, was my father's maternal grandmother. She married George Lambrose, whose family had emigrated from the area around Sparta in Greece. The name Lambrose was anglicized possibly from the name Lambrogakos, according to our own George Mendros. Not much is known about the Lambrose family because George dumped Emma and their two children, including my paternal grandmother, after seven years of marriage and returned to Greece.