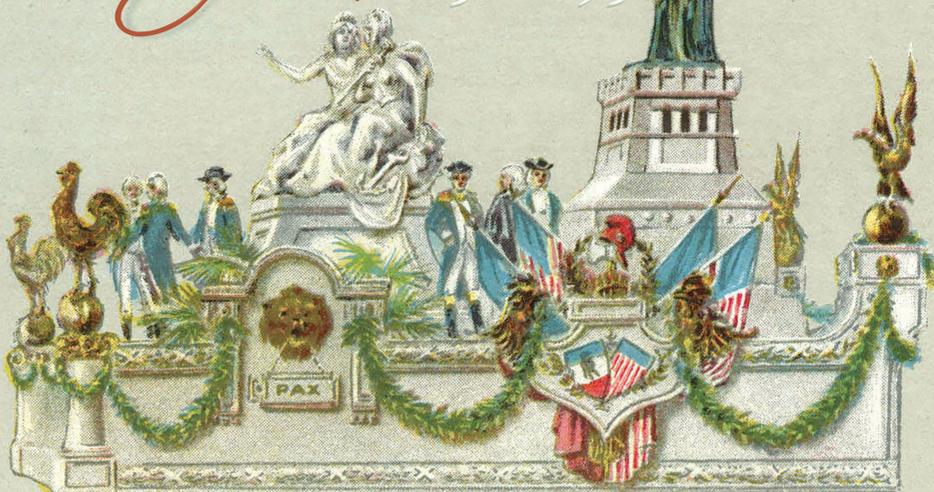


immigration  
1650-1950



FLOAT — STATUE OF LIBERTY

**RIGHT**  
Float: Statue of Liberty Postcard  
The Statue of Liberty Enlightening the World, which stands on Bedloe's Island in New York Harbor, was presented to the United States by the people of France as a memorial of the ties of friendship which have united two nations ever since the French Army and Navy helped the Americans with their national independence.  
Hudson-Fulton Celebration, NY Heritage

**BELOW**  
Statue of Liberty, New York - Postcard  
A color postcard depicting the Statue of Liberty in the evening.  
Fresport Memorial Library, NY Heritage



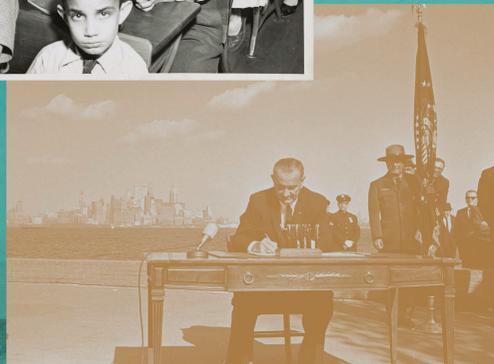
Laws

GOVERNMENT POLICIES for immigration control in New York date back as early as the Dutch settlement of New Netherland.

In 1890, 42% of New York City's population of 1.5 million was foreign-born. The U.S. Congress passed the Emergency Quota Act in 1921, which placed numerical limits on specific groups immigrating to America. The National Origins Act, or Immigration Act of 1924, reinforced the Quota Act. The law was especially designed to limit the number of people from southern and eastern Europe. After the new immigration laws went into effect, the foreign-born population of New York City fell to 34% in 1930 and 29% in 1940.

Since that time, more laws have been introduced to limit, isolate or assimilate immigrants into this country. Laws perceived as discriminatory or antithetical to the "American Dream" have also been challenged.

New York State first became a symbol of immigration because of its physical entryways and ports. The state continues to reflect the struggle over immigration and the celebration of diversity with the political, social, and cultural experiences of its newest residents.



**LEFT**  
Hungarian Gypsies—all of whom were deported. The Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Division of Art, Prints and Photographs, New York Public Library

**ABOVE**  
Group of Puerto Rican children in C. class / World Telegram & Sun photo by Al Aumiller. A classroom of Puerto Rican children in New York around 1950. Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division

**ABOVE**  
Signing of the Immigration and Nationality Act. President Lyndon B. Johnson signing the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965. LBJ Presidential Library, National Archives

PORTRAITS

Joseph Octave Lewis

The northern border between Canada and New York has long been a source of new populations. After the Civil War, labor shortages in the textile industry offered economic opportunities in New York for immigrant labor, including many people arriving from Quebec. Joseph Octave Lewis, the first of his family to immigrate to the United States, left Montreal for Troy in the 1870s. His father, Ferdinand Lewis, had died of cholera after helping the sick in Quebec City. French Canadian immigrants like the Lewis family faced heightened discrimination because of their Catholic faith and French language. These new arrivals were particularly targeted by nativist policies and movements like the Know-Nothing Party.

**BELOW**  
Torchlight meeting of "know-nothings" at New York.  
An illustration of a Know Nothing demonstration, which the New York Herald declared as "one of the largest mass meetings ever held" in New York City. The Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Division of Art, Prints and Photographs, New York Public Library



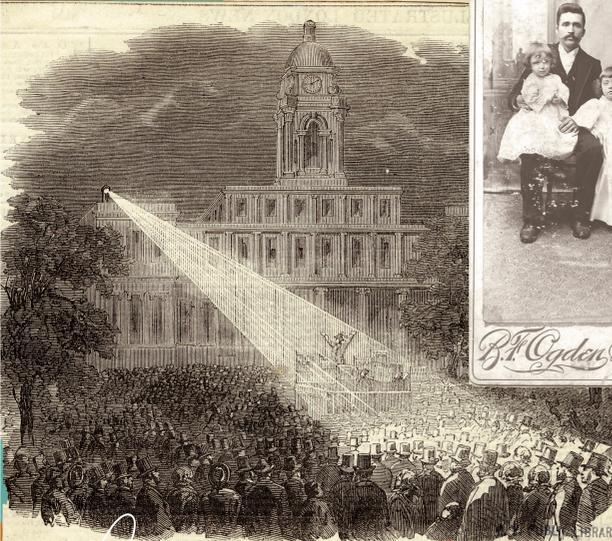
B.K. Ogden & Sons  
Stereos, N.Y.  
Pittsfield, Mass.  
Hogroze, Mass.

The Dellapolla Family

A series of droughts at the turn of the century caused many agricultural workers in southern Italy to immigrate to the United States. Amato Dellapolla worked as a farm laborer in a town called Avalino when his brother Joe Dellapolla immigrated to New York. Joe wrote and encouraged others to join him as he worked for the railroad on Long Island. Amato Dellapolla arrived in the 1910s and was slowly able to bring his wife and children as the Quota Act allowed. Many residents from Avalino settled near one another in East Hampton, arriving only a few at a time because of the Quota Act's limitations.

**LEFT**  
Joseph Octave Lewis and Family. Joseph Octave Lewis was the first of his family to immigrate to the United States from Montreal, Canada. Joseph and Julie are seated with their children Joseph Arthur, Eva Margaret, and John A. Lewis. Siena College, NY Heritage

**ABOVE RIGHT**  
3rd Grade Class in Front of White Building. S. Dellapolla is the second student in the second row from left to right. Amagansett Historical Association, NY Heritage



TORCHLIGHT MEETING OF "KNOW-NOTHINGS" AT NEW YORK.

Laws, restrictions & reactions

Explore the entire exhibit online: NYHERITAGE.ORG/IMMIGRATION

