

# NEW YORK STATE

# immigration

1650-1950



**ABOVE**  
Ukrainian Band at the Rochester HomeLand Exhibition, April 10-19, 1926, on the grounds of Exposition Park in Rochester, NY.  
Other parts of the exhibition included live performances, like this Ukrainian band, at the Memorial Art Gallery of the University of Rochester, NY Heritage.

**BELOW**  
Emanuel Maroun Oral History Interview.  
An interview with Emanuel Maroun in 1986, part of the Mathias Opatowski Photography and Oral History project Adirondack Faces, commissioned by the Adirondack Museum, Adirondack Experience Archives.

# Life

**ALL IMMIGRANT GROUPS CARRIED THEIR OWN UNIQUE TRADITIONS to the United States. Immigrants tended to settle in ethnic enclaves with neighbors from the same town of origin.**

Sometimes this allowed a continuation of native languages and traditional lifestyles. Some immigrants settled in mixed neighborhoods and felt pressure to assimilate into American culture. Children of immigrants tended to adopt American ways more readily than their parents. Public schools and shared workplaces accelerated Americanization.

Through the centuries, new arrivals often faced poor conditions and few options. Reform efforts came from middle-class Americans. They tried to assist immigrant families in balancing old world ways with the demands of new American

lives. Immigrant communities also created their own safety networks by establishing mutual aid societies.

Industrious immigrants opened businesses catering to their compatriots. As neighborhoods grew, respective customers could shop at Greek grocery stores, stay at Italian boarding houses, watch Yiddish theater productions, worship at Polish-language churches, or patronize Irish taverns.

New York's immigrants, now as in the past, are important contributors to the state's workforce sectors and revenue streams from taxes. Most of all, they contribute to the unique character of New York State's society and culture.

## The history of immigration is ongoing and ever-evolving.



**RIGHT**  
Pine Street Shul and the young Harold Arlen, 1918.  
Members of a shul in Buffalo that included Harold Arlen, born Hyman Arluck, the composer of *Over the Rainbow*, University at Buffalo, NY Heritage.

**MIDDLE**  
City of Syracuse - Five Ukrainian worshippers.  
Five worshippers at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Church in Syracuse in the 1940s, all children of immigrants. Of these five young adults, only one parent was born in the United States. The other nine parents were born in Slovakia, Russia, Poland, Ukraine, Canada, or Austria in the 1880s or 1890s. Liverpool Public Library, NY Heritage.

**LEFT**  
Burmese monks Statute of Liberty.  
The Statue of Liberty continues to be an icon for new immigrants. SUNY Polytechnic Institute, NY Heritage.



**ABOVE**  
Emanuel Maroun, 1986.  
Emanuel Maroun, born in Tupper Lake, in his store in the 1980s. Adirondack Experience, NY Heritage.

**RIGHT**  
Camilil Maroun's Store.  
Two members of the Maroun family standing in front of their store. Camilil Maroun is Emanuel's brother. Adirondack Experience, NY Heritage.

**UPPER RIGHT**  
Rosa Coplon in 1915.  
Rosa Coplon in 1915 at the age of 59. University at Buffalo, NY Heritage.

**RIGHT**  
S. Coplon and Son, Oils and Glass, 818 Broadway, Buffalo.  
Samuel Coplon's business on Broadway in Buffalo did well enough to fund their philanthropic ventures later in life. University at Buffalo, NY Heritage.

## The Maroun Family

Emanuel Maroun was well known in Tupper Lake for his store, Maroun's Market. His grandfather, Astanteen Maroun, arrived in the Adirondacks in the 1890s via Utica. His wife and children stayed behind in Lebanon. Villages like Tupper Lake experienced booming economic and population growth in the 1890s because of lumber. Many Syro-Lebanese immigrants like Astanteen Maroun worked as peddlers, bringing dry goods from New York City to remote places up north. Emanuel's father also came to Tupper Lake to work as a peddler. All three generations of Maroun men returned to Lebanon to find wives in the traditional manner.



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## Rosa and Samuel Coplon

Rosa Coplon and her husband Samuel were born in 1856 in the Russian Federation (now Lithuania). They emigrated and moved to Buffalo in 1890, where they lived on Broadway in a Jewish neighborhood. They owned a small business, S. Coplon and Son, Oils and Glass, and were very successful. They became philanthropists, best known for gifting their family home or use as the first Daughters of Israel Jewish Old Folks Home, later known as the Rosa Coplon Home.



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Explore the entire exhibit online: [NYHERITAGE.ORG/IMMIGRATION](http://NYHERITAGE.ORG/IMMIGRATION)

