

American Stories

Reading our history and literature has provided me a constant treasure trove of thought and ideas about America and its people.

The words on the plaque at the base of the Statue of Liberty in New York are lines from the poem, “The New Colossus” written by Emma Lazarus in 1883. They say, “Give us your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door.” This is not a welcome; it is a promise.

Our American exceptionalism in part is that we have likely the greatest representation of all the peoples of the earth of any country, starting with our own indigenous people who, immigrants themselves, crossed a temporary ice bridge from Siberia thirteen thousand years ago.

And so they came over the centuries, the explorers (Portuguese, Spanish, Dutch, French), the settlers (English, Irish, Scottish, Germans, Italians, Polish, eastern Europeans, Africans, Asians), from our north and south and all corners of the globe.

Some were immigrants and some were heroes. They were all great Americans. Upon this land we developed as a nation of people. Here in this collection are some of the stories of us.



David is a writer and historian who lives with his wife and son in Liverpool, N.Y.

He was an engineer throughout most of his career.

S

Published by Southern Heart

Author's website:

www.davidclairejennings.com