

Name: Ms. Kief

DUE: DEC 4

Immigration Project

Interview Questions:

1. Where did your ancestors (family members) emigrate from?

My Dad's family came from Armenia. Nick Kefsizian was the first to come.

2. What year did they immigrate?

They immigrated around 1910.

3. Why did they leave? What were the push and pull factors?

push- Armenia was very poor it was very difficult to make a living. Armenia was a dangerous place. Turkey was invading and eventually there was a genocide occurring. My family fled because they were scared for their lives. pull - The United states economy was doing very well. The U.S. also had religious freedom. My family would no longer be persecuted for their race or religion.

4. How did they get to the US? Describe the journey, did they stop anywhere else?

They traveled by train to Egypt. The they went to England by boat. He stayed there for 2 years before coming to America.

5. Where did they arrive once they came to the United States (Ellis Island, Angel Island, O'hare Airport?)

Nick traveled through Ellis Island.

6. Where did they live once they arrived in the US?

He took a train from Ellis Island to Detroit where he spent the rest of his life.

7. How did they assimilate into American culture?

Nick changed his last name to Kief to try to blend in. He worked at Ford Motor Company to get the money to bring the rest of his family over.

8. What traditions do you celebrate? Anything special from the place your family came from?

Nick went to an Armenian Church to continue things from his

culture. My family makes a traditional cheese and bread dish for every holiday.

9. Other interesting facts that you learned about your family?

Nick went to tailoring school while in England. His father came with him and opened up a tailor shop. This became a family business. Even my Grandfather continued the family business until the riots of 1969.

The Armenian Genocide was from April 24, 1915 – 1917. All of my family left Armenia because Armenians were being killed during this time.