Since the early 17th century, there have been records of the Dutch immigrating to the United States. These records include census data, ship manifests, and the presence of Dutch churches spread across America. All of this data exists, but it has yet to be used to map out the path of immigration that the Dutch used during these past four centuries.

My summer research project was to create multiple series of maps that projected the numbers of Dutch immigrants in a variety of different ways. The maps were made to show the spread and growth of the Dutch in the United States.

The Dutch crossed the ocean by ship, most of which embarked from major ports in the Netherlands, such as Rotterdam, where modern day Europoort is located.

The immigrants from the Netherlands came from all walks of life, from the farmer in Winterswijk to the cigar maker in Amsterdam. Young and old, rich and poor alike all made their way west for their own reasons, most of which were for economic gains and religious freedom.

Since their arrival, the Dutch immigrants have settled all throughout the United States. Their path of immigration started in the Hudson Valley, in states such as New York and New Jersey. As time progressed however, the Dutch began to move westward, with a majority of the Dutch settling in the Midwest.

Today, there are not as many foreign born immigrants from the Netherlands in the United States anymore. Most of the citizens who identify as Dutch are native born on American soil, but have ancestors who had immigrated here sometime in the past four centuries. The Dutch have spread to almost every county in all fifty states.

A special note of thanks to all those who have contributed to this project. This includes Professor Henk Aay who organized the research effort, Robert Swieringa, whose many data sources were used in this project, and Peter VandeHaar and Nathan Longfield for also creating some of the databases that I had used.