

My Old Country

I had always thought
I was just “American,”
from no “old country”

my ancestors came
some four centuries ago,
leaving all behind

they carried my genes,
braving a new beginning
on frail oaken ships

today, tracing steps
of eight thousand Englishers,
my direct forebears,

I’ve found part of me,
missing piece of who I am,
in my Old Country



Photo: In London with the pre-UK flag of England. Nearly all my ancestors immigrated from England between 1620 and 1750. Thirteen generations ago, each person alive today had over 8000 direct-line ancestors living around the same time. Mine lived in England.

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