



2







5

# Periods of immigration to 1924 • Several waves of immigration • Different motivations and

- Different motivations and primary nations of origin for each wave
- Each wave bigger than the previous, generally
- Estimated more than 35 million immigrants between the colonial period and 1924

#### **Periods of immigration to 1924**

#### 1607-1640

- *Primarily from*: British Isles
- How many: 100,000
- Main reasons: religious persecution, establish new settlements





• "Great Migration"

7

#### Periods of immigration to 1924

#### 1640-1783

- *Primarily from*: British Isles, Holland, Germany, Africa
- How many: 750,000
- Main reasons: religious persecution, opportunity to own land, Industrial Revolution, slave labor





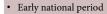
Nieu Amsterdam at New Yorck, engraving by Thomas Doesburgh, 1700

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#### **Periods of immigration to 1924**

#### 1783-1815

- Primarily from: British Isles, Holland, Germany, Scandinavia, Africa
- How many: 250,000
- *Main reasons*: Industrial Revolution, opportunity to own land, escape from war, slave labor





Arch Street Ferry, Philadelphia, engraving by William birch, 1800

#### **Periods of immigration to 1924**

#### 1815-1860

- Primarily from: British Isles, Holland, Germany, Scandinavia, Switzerland
- How many: 5 million
- Main reasons: opportunity to own land, escape from war, escape from famine





Packet ship Samoset, painting attributed to Dunca

10

#### **Periods of immigration to 1924**

#### 1860-1890

- Primarily from: British Isles, Holland, Germany, Scandinavia, Switzerland
- How many: 10 million
- *Main reasons*: opportunity to own land, promise of a better life



11

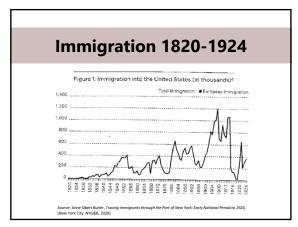
### Periods of immigration to 1924

#### 1890-1924

- Primarily from: Austria-Hungary, Italy, Russia, Greece, Turkey
- How many: 15 million
- *Main reasons*: promise of jobs, higher wages
- Peak years



Steam ship *Regina Elena*, postcard, aft 1907, Mystic Seaport Museum



# Immigration 1924-WWII • Quota system • Introduction of visas • Major drop in immigration numbers

14

# **Immigration Post-WWII**

- Humanitarian relief (refugees and displaced persons)
- Bracero program (seasonal agricultural workers)
- · Family reunification
- Recruitment of skilled workers



#### **Ports of Arrival**

- The vast majority of immigrants to the U.S. came through the port of New York
  - 75% entered through NYC
  - Next-most popular were East Coast ports
- Other ports were located elsewhere on the East Coast, on the West Coast, in the Gulf of Mexico, and Great Lakes
  - About 96 ports total, many small with relatively few arrivals
- Many immigrants bought ship passage to Canada (cheaper) and crossed overland to the U.S.

17

#### **Ports of Arrival**

- NYC and East Coast: European immigrants with destinations anywhere in the U.S.
- Southern East Coast: European immigrants with destinations in the Southern U.S.
- Gulf Coast: European immigrants with destinations in the Midwest
- Great Lakes: European immigrants with destinations in the Midwest
- West Coast: Asians, Australians, South Americans—typically with destinations in the Western U.S.

# Arrival Ports, 1821-1914 U.S. IMMIGRATION 1821-1914 January Control Prince Magazine Source "A Maga of Susines US immigration Ports," family Tree Magazine, Intro-/// Immigration Ports, "family Tree Magazine, Intro-/// Immigration Ports," family Tree Magazine, Intro-// Immigration Ports, "family Tree Magazine, Intro-// Immigration Ports," family Tree Magazine, Intro-// Immigration Ports, "family Tree Magazine, Intro-// Immigration Ports," family Tree Magazine, Intro-// Immigration Ports, "family Tree Magazine, Intro-// Immigration Ports," family Tree Magazine, Intro-// Immigration Ports, "family Tree Magazine, Intro-// Immigration Ports," family Tree Magazine, Intro-// Immigration Ports, "family Tree Magazine, Immigration Ports, "family Tree Magazine, Immigration Ports, "family Tree Magazine, Immigration Ports,

19

#### Hawaii

- Territory of Hawaii created in 1898
- Passenger lists dating back to ca. 1843
- Hawaii, Collector of Customs, Ships' Passenger Manifests, 1843-1900 [FamilySearch.org]
- Hawaii, Honolulu Passenger Lists, 1900-1953 [FamilySearch.org]
- Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, Portuguese

20



#### **Passenger Lists**

- Also called a passenger manifest, ship's manifest, arrival list
- Contains names of those traveling aboard a ship
- Information typically collected by the shipping agency at the port of departure (not the port of arrival)
- Separate lists for crewmembers

22

#### **Passenger Lists**

- Earlier lists contain little detail
- · Later lists contain more detail
- Laws passed throughout the 19th century dictated what information was to be collected



23

# **Passenger Lists**



 What we typically think of are the "Customs Passenger Lists" which begin in 1820

#### **Passenger List Myths**

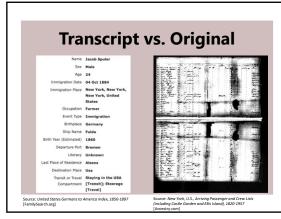
- Passenger lists survive for all ships
  - Particularly false for early arrivals: very few pre-1820 lists, even some gaps after 1820
- Passenger lists are perfect and complete
- Passengers participated in creation of the lists
- Passenger lists were created upon arrival or debarkation
- There is a "book of names" at Ellis Island

25

#### **Passenger Lists as Sources**

- Published vs. unpublished
  - Whether or not the transcription or index appears in a book
- Transcribed vs. original
  - Database transcription or index vs. image
  - As with all genealogical sources, the best option is to view the original image
  - Problems with transcriptions: misreading or misinterpreting the original, human error when creating the transcription resulting in a misspelling, all details not being included in the transcription

26



#### **Passenger Lists: Where to Find**

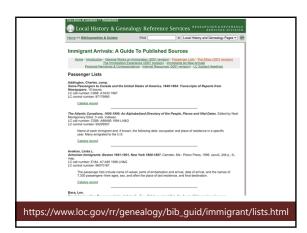
- Post-1819 passenger lists held by NARA
- Searchable databases on Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org, StatueOfLiberty.org, and other websites
- Books and other publications

28

#### **Published Passenger Lists**

- Books and journals
- Typically, multi-volume sets focused on one ethnicity or nationality; one port; or a particular span of years
  - Germans to America 1850-1897.
  - Armenian Immigrants: Boston 1891-1901, New York 1880-1897.
  - Passenger Lists for Galveston, 1850-1855.
  - The Famine Immigrants: Lists of Irish Immigrants Arriving at the Port of New York, 1846-1851.
  - LOC bibliography for more titles

29



[eI Read the book intro to fully understand what you are working with.

31

#### **Published Passenger Lists**

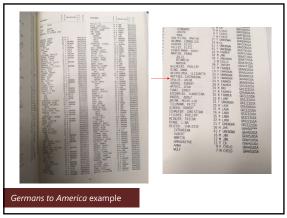
- Germans to America 1850-1855 (first phase)
  - Includes complete passenger lists with 80%
     "German surnames" and therefore includes some passengers that are not German as well as immigrants from France, Belgium, the
     Netherlands, etc. with German-sounding names
  - Numbers of names included in the book do not match the total number of German immigrant arrivals based on official numbers reported for those years

32

#### **Published Passenger Lists**

- Some are now available as searchable databases on Ancestry.com or FamilySearch.org, e.g.:
  - United States Germans to America Index, 1850-1897 [FamilySearch.org]
  - U.S. and Canada, Passenger and Immigration Lists Index, 1500s-1900s [Ancestry.com]





35

# **Searching Passenger Lists**

- General rule: to find your ancestor on a passenger list, you need to know their full name, when they immigrated, and how old they were at the time
- Bonus info: where they entered, and where they came from





38

### **Port of Philadelphia**

- Required to provide Captains' Lists of immigrant passengers beginning in 1727
- Arrivals from Continental Europe, largely German, Dutch, Swiss and French
- Often names of women and children were omitted

#### **Customs Bureau**

- 1789: Customs Bureau tasked with overseeing U.S. ports
- Eventually leads to the "Customs Passenger Lists"

40

#### **Steerage Act of 1819**

- Required ship captains to report names, ages, sex, and occupations of passengers to U.S. Customs
- Limited the number of passengers per ship tonnage
- Established minimum requirements for provisions
- Effective 1 January 1820
- Created "Customs Passenger Lists"

41

# Carriage of Passengers Act of 1855

- Repealed the Act of 1819
- Regulated conditions aboard the ship (space, ventilation, cleanliness, provisions) and imposed fines for noncompliance
- Continued the passenger list obligation from 1819, but also required that the part of the vessel in which the passenger traveled be reported

#### Passenger Act of 1882

- Repealed the Act of 1855
- Required that captains report to Customs "the name, age, sex, calling, and native country of each emigrant passenger, or passengers other than cabin passengers, and their intended destination or location, and the number of pieces of baggage belonging to each passenger, and also the location of the compartment or space occupied by each of such passengers during the voyage."

43

# **Immigration Act of 1891**

- Created the Office of the Superintendent of Immigration and transferred control to the federal government
- Formalized inspection of passengers
- Barred polygamists, persons convicted of "crimes of moral turpitude," and those with contagious diseases
- Required information be collected about overland immigrants from Canada and Mexico (bordercrossing records)

44

# **Immigration Act of 1893**

- Revised inspection of passengers
- Expanded the passenger information collected by shipmasters

Table 2, information in this immigration of Passwager Lists Beginner Service (1997) and Carlo (1997) and Car

Source: Anne Sibert Buiter, Tracing Immigrants through the Port of New York: Early National Period to 1924, (New York City: NYG&B, 2020).

#### **Immigration Act of 1903**

- Also known as the Anarchist Exclusion Act
- Excluded four "inadmissible classes" from entering the country: anarchists, epileptics, beggars, and importers of prostitutes
- Expanded the information collected under the Act of 1893

46

#### **Immigration Act of 1924**

- Also known as the Johnson-Reed Act or National Origins Act
- Required all noncitizens arriving in the U.S. to present a visa when applying for admission
- Imposed quotas per year
- Visa records: another source in addition to the passenger list

47

# **Other Immigration Acts**

- 1875: Banned immigration of felons
- 1882: Chinese Exclusion Act
- 1885: Banned contract laborers
- 1917: Banned people from many parts of Asia and immigrants over 16 who are illiterate
- 1921: Imposed temporary quotas

[eI Consider the context – what laws were in place when your ancestor entered the country?

49



50

### **Ship Technology**

- Early immigrants arrived on cargo ships
  - First passenger ships used in the 1830s
- Wind-powered ships dominated to the mid-1860s
- Sail to steam: slow transition
  - First transatlantic steamship arrived in NYC in 1838
  - Hybrid ships first, with both sails and steampower
- Transition from wood-clad ships to iron-clad
- By the end of the 1800s, travel time reduced from 2-3 months to one week

## **Steerage Class**

- Cabin passengers (first and second class) and steerage (third class)
- Steerage also sometimes called 'tween because it was the in-between deck
- Typical 19<sup>th</sup> century steerage experience: "[the steerage deck] was just four or five feet high, perhaps six if the immigrants were fortunate.
   The only fresh air came from hatches..."



52

#### **Maritime Terminology**

- Sailing ship: ship powered by sails/wind only
- Steamship: ship powered by steam
- $\bullet$  Packet: a ship that carried cargo and passengers and had a regular schedule, used  $16^{th}\text{-}19^{th}$  century
- $\bullet$  Ocean liner: ocean-going vessel designed primarily to transport passengers, but also sometimes mail and cargo, used  $19^{\text{th}}\text{-}20^{\text{th}}$  century
- Shipping line: company that transports passenger or cargo (Cunard, White Star, etc.)

53

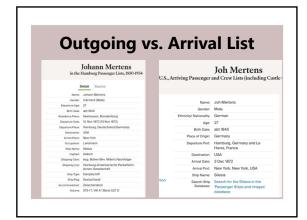
#### **Maritime Terminology**

- There are many different classes/types of ships based on size, configuration of masts, etc.
  - You may come across these terms reading shipping registers or shipping news
- Glossary:
  - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glossary\_of\_nautical\_ terms\_(A-L)

#### **Outgoing Passenger Lists**

- Lists of passengers leaving on a particular ship
- Different than the lists turned over to U.S. Customs/U.S. Immigration Office
- U.S. did not require departing passenger lists
- Departure lists available for the U.K. (1890-1960), Hamburg (1850-1934), and Bremen (1904-1914, 1920-1939)
- Emigrant indexes available for many parts of Germany (but not passenger lists)

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56

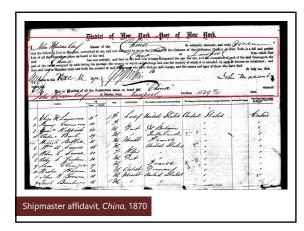


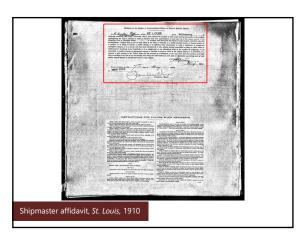


#### **Beyond the Passenger List**

- Research the vessel itself to provide context
- Note details about the ship and its captain given on the passenger list
- Use other primary sources to identify details about the ship's construction, owners, size, and typical travel routes
  - Shipping news
  - Shipping registers

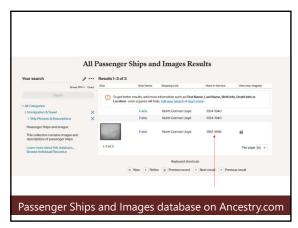
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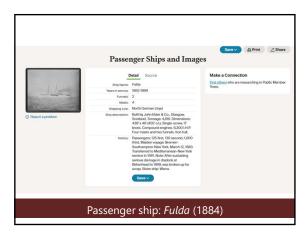


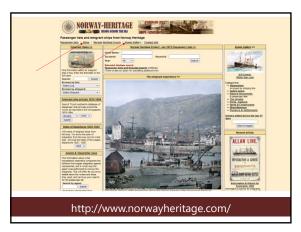




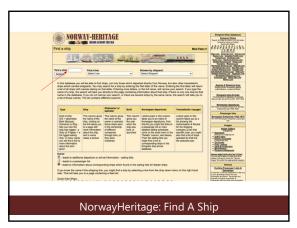
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65



#### NorwayHeritage: Find A Ship

- Stats: tonnage, builder and date, shipowner or operator, dimensions
- Incomplete list of voyages
- Images of the ship or similar ships
  - Images are watermarked, can be purchased



67

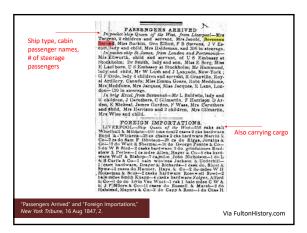
#### **Shipping News**

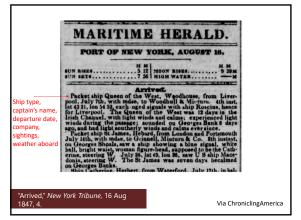
- Search by ship name in online newspaper articles for additional information on the voyage
  - Tip: can be difficult if the ship name is a common word, so restrict to a time (i.e. arrival month) and location (i.e. NYC or port city)
- Details about when a ship left port or where it was last seen.
- Port arrivals might name the cabin passengers, give the total number of passengers on board, list the number of births and deaths at sea, or give the total length of the journey

68

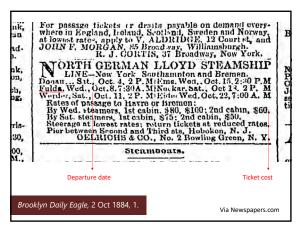
#### **Historical Newspaper Databases**

- Newspapers.com (\$)
- GenealogyBank.com (\$)
- NewspaperArchive.com (\$)
- ChroniclingAmerica.LOC.gov
- $\bullet \quad Fulton History.com$
- 19th Century U.S. Newspapers (NEHGS external)
- Early American Newspapers, Series I, 1690-1876 (NEHGS external)





71



#### **Maritime Disasters**

- Passenger lists, though created at the port of departure, were turned in at the port of arrival so NARA will not have a record of a ship that was destined for a U.S. port but never arrived
- May find newspaper accounts with names of passengers (or descriptions of unclaimed persons)
- May find an outgoing passenger list, depending on origins

Source: "The Late Director at Sea." The New York Timer. 22 July 1966



73

#### **Registers of Ships**

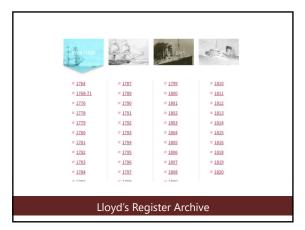
- Lloyd's Register, Germanisches Lloyds Register, American Lloyd's, etc
- Created to classify ships and determine their condition for insurance purchases
  - Tonnage, materials, type of ship
- Earliest registers (Lloyd's) date to 1764

74

#### Lloyd's Register

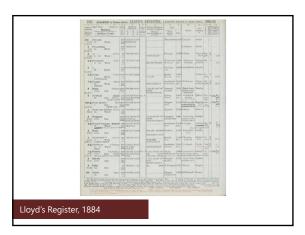
- First published in 1764 in England
- Published yearly since 1778 with a few exceptions
- Beginning in 1776, all ships received a grade, with A1 being the highest
  - Purpose: provide information about risks to insurance underwriters
- After 1870s, supposed to include all sea-going merchant ships of 100 tons or greater, whether or not they were surveyed by Lloyd's

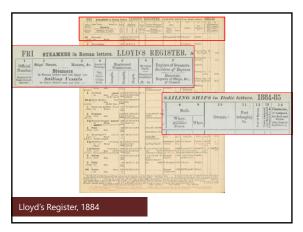




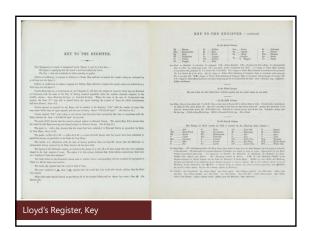
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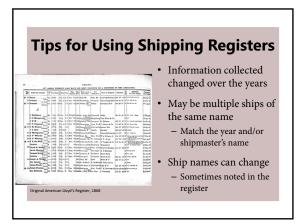
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#### **Other Registers**

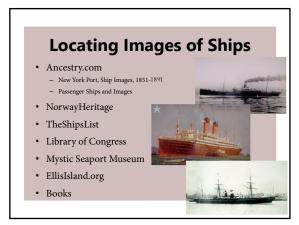
- Internationales Register, Germanischer Lloyd Aktiengesellschaft
   1870, 1872, 1874 on Google Books
- Original American Lloyd's: https://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/webbin/serial?id=amlloyds
- Danish shipping registers: <a href="https://mfs.dk/ms-videnscenter/arkiv/registre/danmarks-skibsliste/">https://mfs.dk/ms-videnscenter/arkiv/registre/danmarks-skibsliste/</a>
- Swedish ship database: <a href="http://ddss.nu/ships/shipsSearch">http://ddss.nu/ships/shipsSearch</a>
- Roundup shipping registers for the Commonwealth: <a href="https://www.maritimearchives.co.uk/ships.html">https://www.maritimearchives.co.uk/ships.html</a>

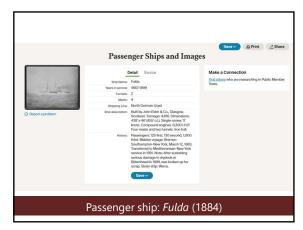
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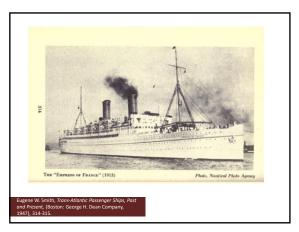




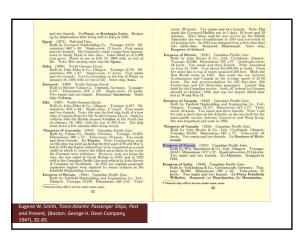
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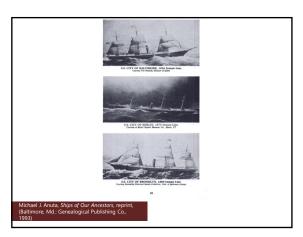
# NorwayHeritage: Find A Ship Stats: tonnage, builder and date, shipowner or operator, dimensions Incomplete list of voyages Images of the ship or similar ships Images are watermarked, can be purchased





89





#### **Tips for Searching Ship Images**

- Keep in mind that there were often multiple ships of the same name--corroborate with what you know, such as the date of the photo vs. dates of service
- Check multiple sources
- Try a Google search
- Try international resources consider museums and archives abroad

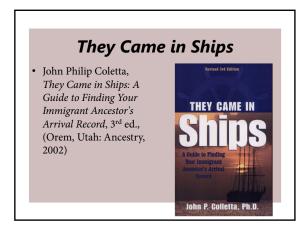
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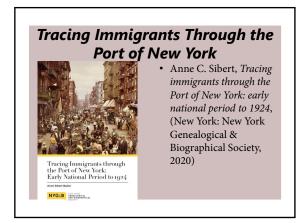






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