

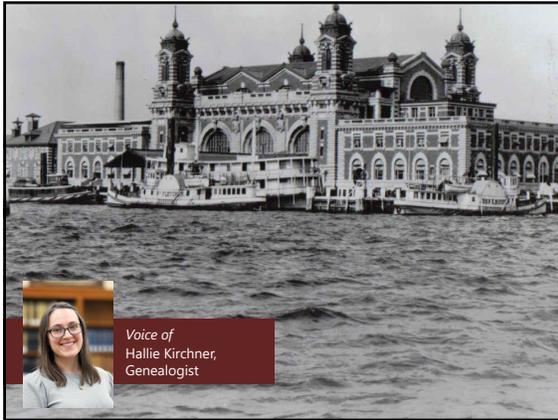
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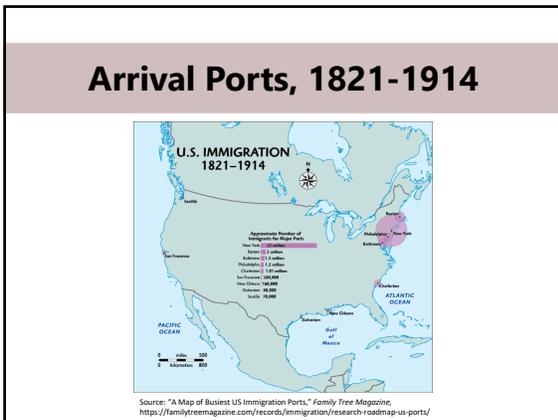
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6

New York City

- Main port of arrival in the U.S. throughout the 19th century
- Three official immigration stations: Castle Garden (1855-1890), Barge Office (1890-1891 and 1897-1900), and Ellis Island (1892-1954)
 - Castle Garden Emigrant Landing Depot: state
 - Barge Office and Ellis Island: federal

7

Wharves of NYC



- Before 1855, no official immigration station
- Immigrants arrived on various NYC piers, and on piers in other cities
- Immigrants easy targets for those looking to exploit or steal such as labor recruiters, money changers, robbers, fraudsters
- No barrier for contagious diseases

William Hooker Map, 1827

8

NY State Board of Emigration Commissioners

- Founded May 5, 1847
- Goal: create an immigrant landing depot/immigration station to funnel all immigrants through one spot
- First steps: creation of two hospitals for arriving immigrants, one on Staten Island (contagious diseases) and one on Ward's Island (non-contagious)

9

The first immigration station

- New York State created the first official immigration station to receive and process immigrants
- Multiple purposes:
 1. Prevent contagious diseases from entering the country
 2. Prevent immigrants from falling prey to fraudsters, robbers, kidnappers, etc. upon immediate arrival to the country
 3. Provide practical information and assistance to new arrivals

10

Fort Clinton/Castle Garden/Castle Clinton

- Battery Park
- Built 1808-1811 as a fort, though never used
- 1824-1855 Castle Garden entertainment venue
- 1855-1890 first American immigration station
- 1896-1941 New York Aquarium
- 1897 fire destroyed many records



T.G. Bradford Map, 1838

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Castle Garden Immigration Station

- Run by NYS from 1855-1875
- Run jointly by the state and the federal government (treasury dept.) from 1875-1890
- NYC refused to allow the federal government to use Castle Garden outright
- Area fenced off from the rest of the Battery



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The Barge Office



- Used for processing immigrants from 1890-1891 and 1897-1900
- Temporary processing center while Ellis Island was being constructed (and then rebuilt)

13

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 (border-crossing records)

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Ellis Island



- Island in Upper New York Bay, land shared by NY and NJ
- 27 acres, mostly landfill
- Immigration station from 1892 to 1954 (closed 1897-1900)
- 12 million immigrants processed
- Coast Guard base and hospital in later years

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Ellis Island

- Immigrants were brought to NYC and steerage passengers transferred to ferries that took them to Ellis Island
- Passengers inspected, per Act of 1891
- Immigrants suffering from diseases were quarantined and treated
 - New hospital built on the island
- Undesirable persons deported
- Lodging and meals provided for those who were detained
- Federal agents assisted with money changing and purchasing of railroad tickets



16

Port of Boston

- Immigrants initially were processed at Long Wharf
- Purpose-built immigration station opened in East Boston in 1920
- Most inspections still took place on board ships, with those held for special inquiry transferred to the immigration station; only a small percentage of those entering at Boston passed through the station

17

Port of Baltimore

- Locust Point piers constructed by the B&O RR in 1868 for immigrant arrivals
- Piers served as a terminal for steamship lines and railways
- Inspections took place on board ships
- Piers closed in 1914



18

Other Ports



• About 100 ports total had immigrant arrivals in the 19th century, many were small “minor ports”

Bath, Maine

19

Customs Passenger Lists & INS Lists

20

Customs Passenger Lists

- Created by the Act of 1819
- Required beginning January 1, 1820
- Blank lists printed by private companies and sold to shipping companies – much variation in how the lists appear
- Only five items required initially: name, age, sex, occupation, nationality
- Customs lists cover 1820-1891

21

Name
Age
Country of Birth
Last Legal Residence
Destination
Occupation



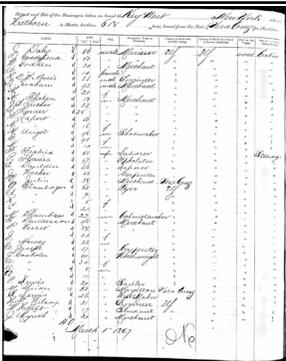
Berlin, passenger arrival list, Baltimore,
30 May 1874

22

Customs Passenger List Abstracts

- 1820-1874: Captains sent lists to Customs, Customs copied lists and sent those to State Department each quarter
 - Sometimes the copies sent to the State Department included names of all passengers who had arrived that quarter, not individual ships' lists
 - Quarterly abstracts often have initials rather than full given names

23



Key West, passenger list abstract, New Orleans, 1 March 1867

24

Customs Lists as Sources

- Partially indexed in the 1930s by the WPA
- Microfilmed in the 1940s
- Originals held by NARA until 1948, when they were transferred to Temple University
- The short version: usually you're looking at a microfilm copy

25

INS Passenger Lists

- Immigration and Naturalization Service (and its forerunners) handled passenger lists beginning in 1891
 - Lists from 1891-1957 called INS passenger lists or Immigration Passenger Lists
 - INS created 1906
- Standardized forms starting in 1893 – still had to be purchased by shipping lines
- Original records no longer exist, microfilm only

26

LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIEN ARRIVALS FOR THE QUARTERS OF IMMIGRATION.

Reported by the regulations of the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, under Act of Congress approved March 3, 1875, and Act of Congress approved August 3, 1892, and Act of Congress approved August 3, 1894, and Act of Congress approved August 3, 1895, and Act of Congress approved August 3, 1896, and Act of Congress approved August 3, 1897, and Act of Congress approved August 3, 1898, and Act of Congress approved August 3, 1899, and Act of Congress approved August 3, 1900, and Act of Congress approved August 3, 1901, and Act of Congress approved August 3, 1902, and Act of Congress approved August 3, 1903, and Act of Congress approved August 3, 1904, and Act of Congress approved August 3, 1905, and Act of Congress approved August 3, 1906, and Act of Congress approved August 3, 1907, and Act of Congress approved August 3, 1908, and Act of Congress approved August 3, 1909, and Act of Congress approved August 3, 1910, and Act of Congress approved August 3, 1911, and Act of 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Congress approved August 3, 2023.

Waesland, passenger arrival list, Philadelphia, 7 April 1896

27



28



29

Digitization: a boon to researchers

- Previously, you needed to check an index to passenger lists THEN the microfilm
 - If you weren't sure of the year, you'd have to examine collections from both Customs and INS
- Database searching combines these two steps into one
- However, you *can* still search indexes if needed!

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Online Databases

- NARA microfilm available as searchable databases on Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org, StatueofLiberty.org/EllisIsland.org, and FindMyPast.com
 - Customs and INS lists sometimes combined by location
- Databases can be searched or browsed

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Searching Passenger Lists

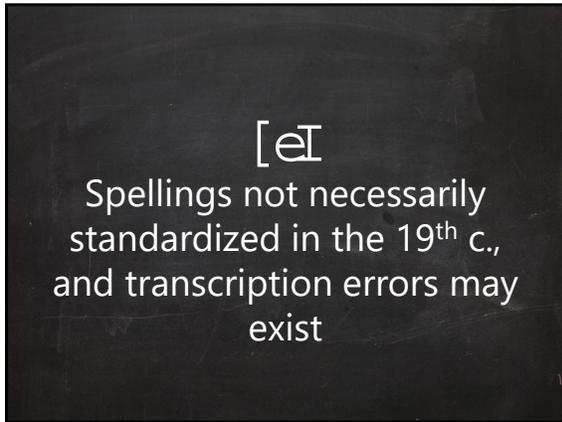
- General rule: to find your ancestor on a passenger list, you need to know their full name, when they immigrated, and how old they were at the time
- Bonus info: where they entered, and where they came from

32

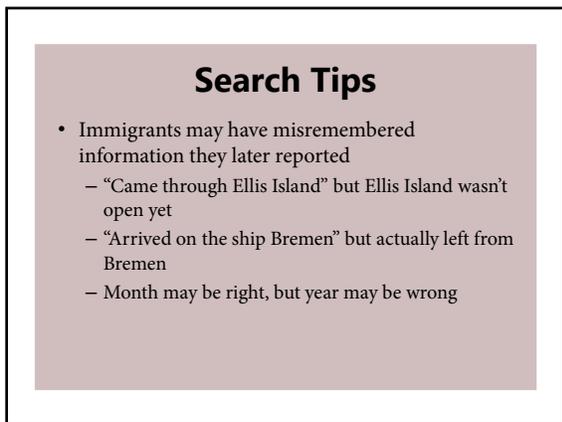
Search Tips

- Spelling: doesn't really matter
 - Use wildcards (*, ?), Soundex, or sounds like searches
 - Consider first name variations in language of origin (e.g. Johann/John, Emilia/Emily)
- Age: give or take
- Arrival year: give or take
- If looking for a family, consider the group as a whole (do the names and ages of the group generally match?)

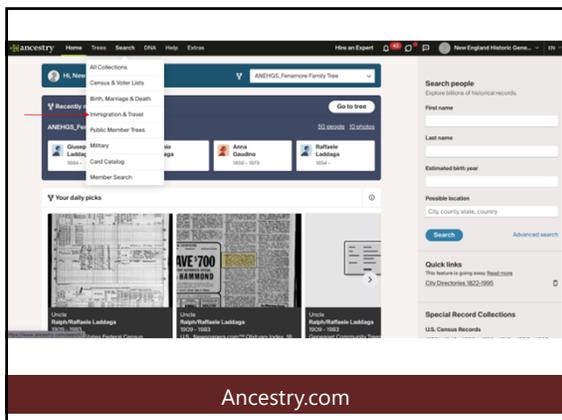
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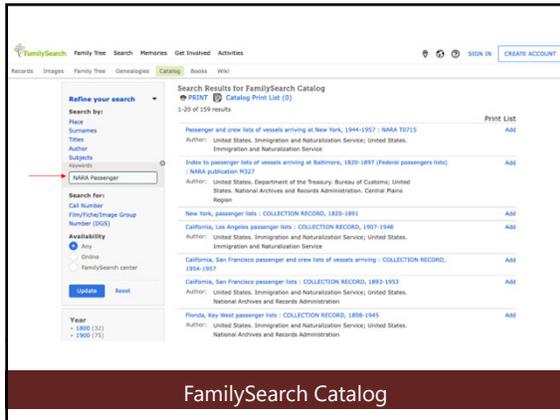
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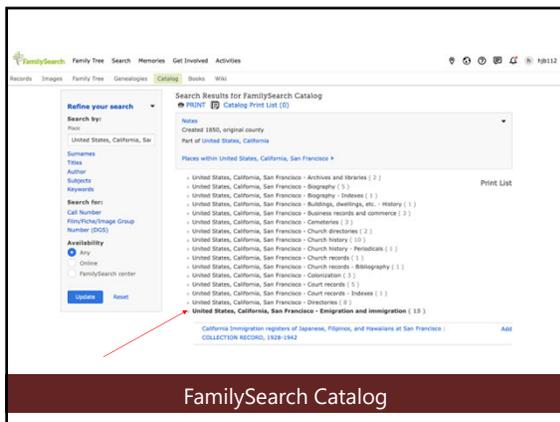
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41



SteveMorse.org

- Enhanced search options for passenger lists (improved algorithms)
- Free to use SteveMorse, some databases link to Ancestry.com (\$)

- Ellis Island/NYC
- Baltimore
- Boston
- Galveston
- New Orleans
- Philadelphia
- San Francisco
- Hamburg Outbound
- Germans to America
- Italians to America
- Russians to America

42



Lijst der de Rijk der Nederlanden

Naam	Vanwaar	Opmerkingen
...

Hendrika, passenger arrival list,
Baltimore, 16 Sep 1833

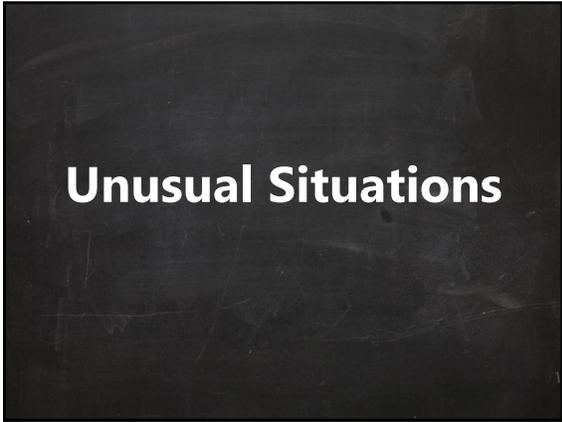
49

Virginia, passenger arrival list,
Baltimore, 7 Nov 1833

50

Virginia, passenger arrival list,
Baltimore, 7 Nov 1833

51



52

Special Cases

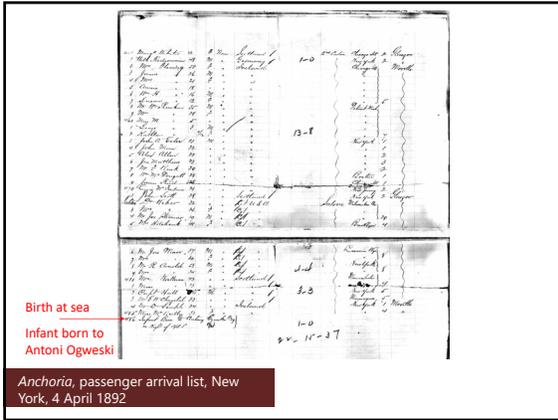
- Births and deaths at sea not required to be recorded by Customs, but often appear
 - Births tend to be at the end of the manifest, may or may not include parents' names
 - Deaths in a column towards the right, and/or at the end
- Stowaways may be recorded as passengers or crew

53

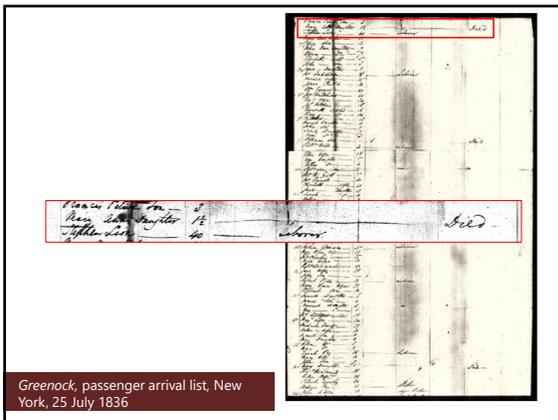
Birth at sea
Baby Sissler

Berlin, passenger arrival list, Baltimore, 30 May 1874

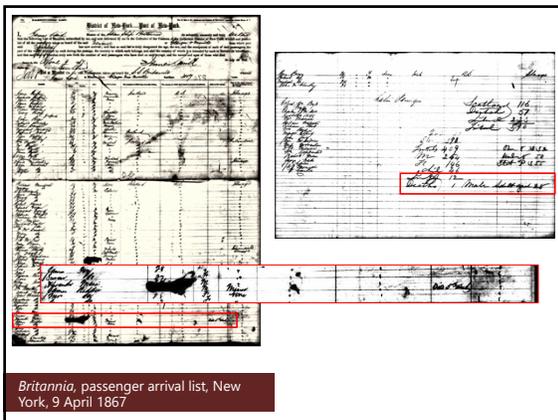
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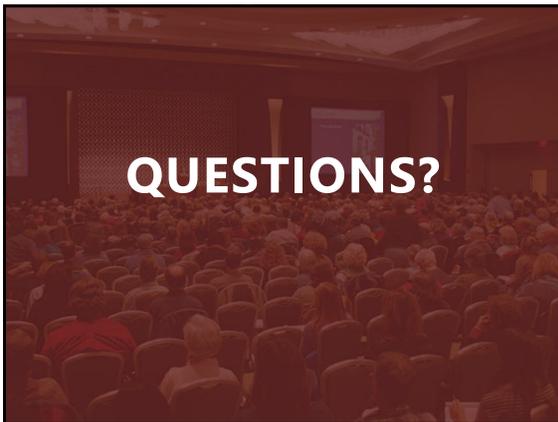


57

Chinese Arrivals

- Separate lists of Chinese passenger arrivals were maintained after the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882
- Additional resource: case files
- Ancestry.com:
 - *San Francisco, California, U.S., Registers of Chinese Laborers Returning to the U.S., 1882-1888*
- FamilySearch.org:
 - *Lists of Chinese passengers arriving at Seattle and Port Townsend, 1882- 1916: NARA RG85 M1364*
 - *Lists of Chinese passengers arriving in San Francisco, California, 1882- 1914: NARA publication M1414*

64



65



66

Minor Ports

- Most passengers arrived at one of the major ports (and the majority of those arrived at NYC) but there were about 100 total ports with incoming passengers
- FamilySearch.org:
 - *United States, Index to Passenger Arrivals, Atlantic and Gulf Ports*
 - *Copies of lists of passengers arriving at miscellaneous ports on the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts and at ports on the Great Lakes, 1820-1873* : NARA RG36 M575
- Ancestry.com:
 - *Atlantic Ports, Gulf Coasts, and Great Lakes Passenger Lists, Roll 8: 1845-1849* (and other Rolls)
 - *U.S., Atlantic Ports Arriving and Departing Passenger and Crew Lists, 1820-1959*

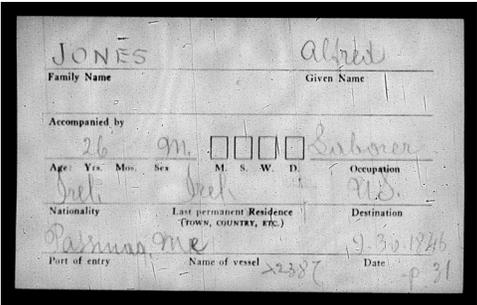
67

United States, Index to Passenger Arrivals, Atlantic and Gulf Ports

States and ports covered by this collection include:

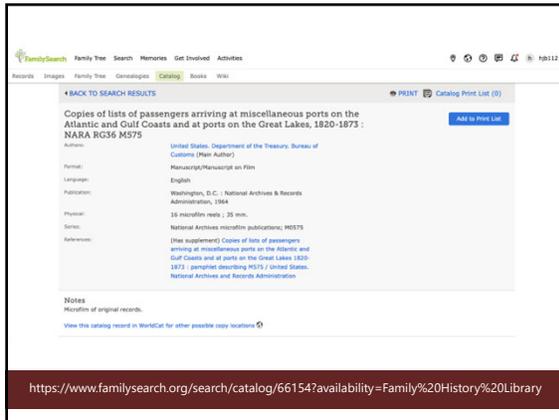
- Alabama: Mobile
- Connecticut: Bridgeport, Fairfield, Hartford, New Haven, New London, Saybrook
- Delaware: Wilmington
- District of Columbia: Georgetown
- Florida: Key West, St. Augustine, St. Johns
- Georgia: Charlem, Savannah
- Louisiana: New Orleans
- Maine: Bangor, Bath, Belfast, Frenchmen's Bay, Kennebunk, Passamaquoddy, Penobscot, Portland, Falmouth, Waldboro, Wiscasset, Yarmouth
- Massachusetts: Barnstable, Beverly, Boston, Charlestown, Digton, Edgartown, Fall River, Gloucester, Hingham, Marblehead, Nantucket, New Bedford, Newburyport, Plymouth, Salem
- Maryland: Annapolis, Baltimore, Havre de Grace
- North Carolina: Beaufort, Edenton, New Bern,
- New Hampshire: Portsmouth
- New Jersey: Bridgetown, Cape May, Little Egg Harbor, Newark, Perth Amboy
- New York: Oswego, Rye, Rochester, Sag Harbor
- Ohio: Sandusky
- Pennsylvania: Philadelphia
- Rhode Island: Bristol, Warren, Newport, Providence
- South Carolina: Charleston, Port Royal
- Texas: Galveston
- Virginia: Alexandria, East River, Hampton, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Petersburg, Richmond

68

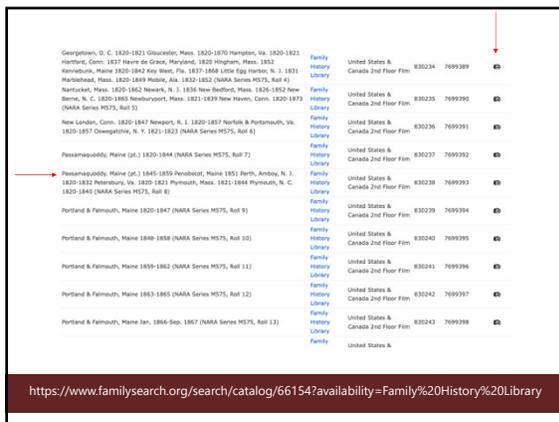
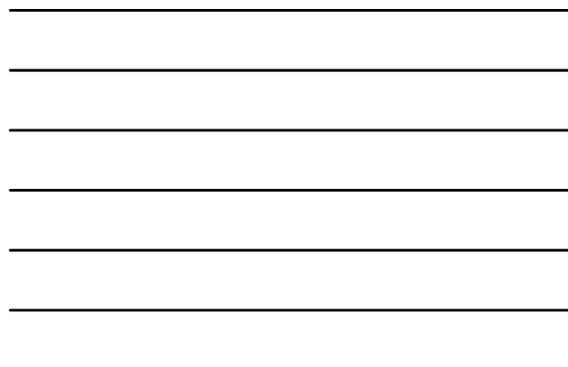


Index to Passenger Arrivals

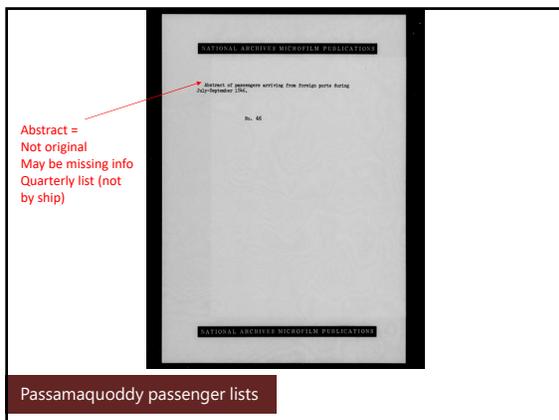
69



70



71



72



Adolph von Borstel

- Not located in 1855 NYS Census
- Grocer in the 1859 NYC directory
- Enumerated in NYC Ward 1 in 1860, age 27, born in Hanover
- Naturalized 10 July 1860
 - Naturalization records do not give date/port of arrival
- Married in 1861
- Deceased before census enumerations asked about immigration

76

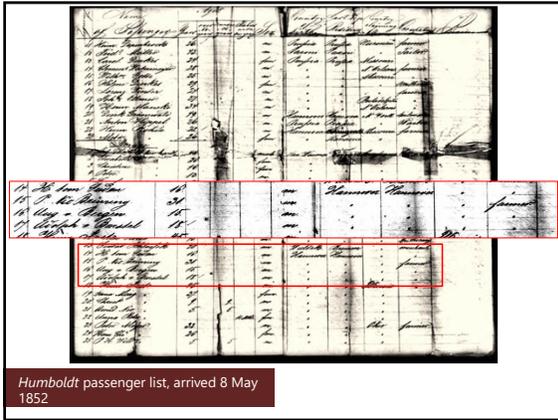
Educated Guesses

- Arrived 1855-1858
 - Not located in 1855 NYS Census, first mention is 1859
- Arrived in NYC
 - Living in NYC in 1859, so probably came through that port
- Arrived alone?
 - No other von Borstels at the same address in 1859

77

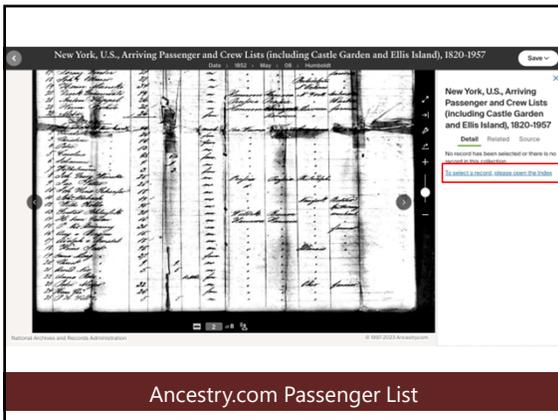
Emigrant Savings Bank Test Book

78

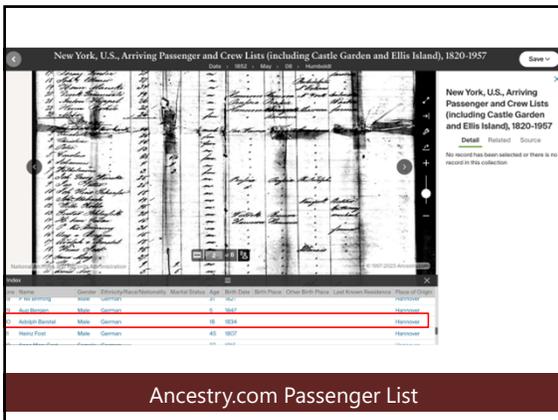


Humboldt passenger list, arrived 8 May 1852

85



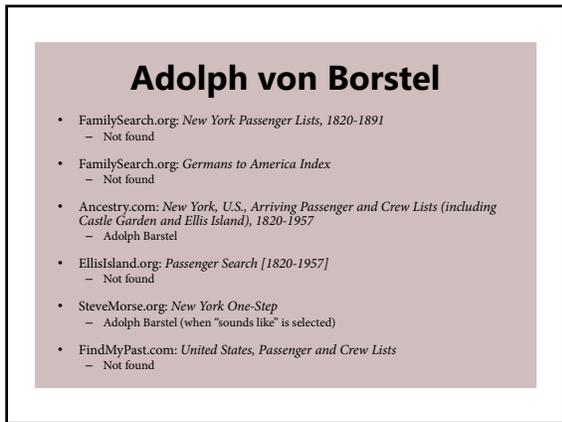
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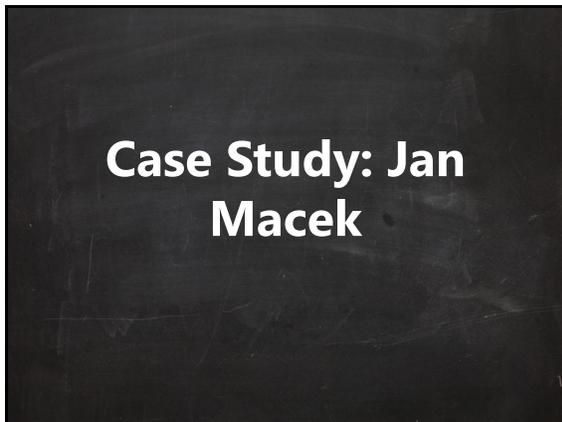
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88



89



90

Jan/John Macek

- Born 15 July 1826 in Dzbanov, Bohemia (Czech Republic)
- Married to Anna Olivova
- Ten children born in Bohemia, three died young
- In Caledonia, Racine, Wisconsin in 1880 and 1900
 - 1900 Census shows Jan, his wife, and two sons all arrived in 1874
- Naturalized in Racine in 1888

91

No.	Name	Sex	Age	Color	Mar.	Prof.	Ind.	Occ.	Value of Real Estate	Value of Personal Estate	Place of Birth	Year of Immigration	Year of Naturalization
1	John Macek	M	54	W	M						Bohemia	1874	
2	Anna Macek	F	47	W	M						Bohemia	1874	
3	John Macek	M	17	W	S						Bohemia	1874	
4	Anna Macek	F	15	W	S						Bohemia	1874	
5	John Macek	M	12	W	S						Bohemia	1874	
6	Anna Macek	F	10	W	S						Bohemia	1874	
7	John Macek	M	8	W	S						Bohemia	1874	
8	Anna Macek	F	6	W	S						Bohemia	1874	
9	John Macek	M	4	W	S						Bohemia	1874	
10	Anna Macek	F	3	W	S						Bohemia	1874	

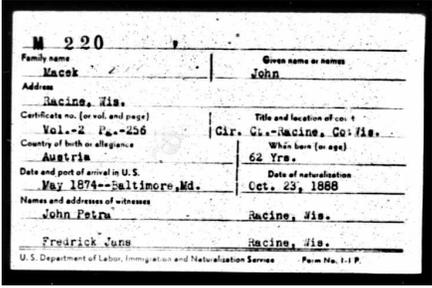
1880 Census, Household of John Macek

92

No.	Name	Sex	Age	Color	Mar.	Prof.	Ind.	Occ.	Value of Real Estate	Value of Personal Estate	Place of Birth	Year of Immigration	Year of Naturalization
1	John Macek	M	74	W	M						Bohemia	1874	
2	Anna Macek	F	67	W	M						Bohemia	1874	
3	John Macek	M	28	W	M						Bohemia	1874	
4	Anna Macek	F	26	W	M						Bohemia	1874	
5	John Macek	M	24	W	S						Bohemia	1874	
6	Anna Macek	F	22	W	S						Bohemia	1874	
7	John Macek	M	18	W	S						Bohemia	1874	
8	Anna Macek	F	16	W	S						Bohemia	1874	

1900 Census, Household of John Macek

93



N 220

Family name Macek	Given name or names John
Address Racine, Wis.	
Certificate no. (serial and page) Vol.-2 Pg.-256	Title and location of court Cir. Ct.-Racine, Co: Wis.
Country of birth or allegiance Austria	When born (in age) 62 Yrs.
Date and port of arrival in U.S. May 1874--Baltimore, Md.	Date of naturalization Oct. 25, 1888
Names and addresses of witnesses John Peter	Racine, Wis.
Frederick Jura	Racine, Wis.

U.S. Department of Labor, Immigration and Naturalization Service Form No. 1-1 P.

Naturalization Index, John Macek

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Educated Guesses

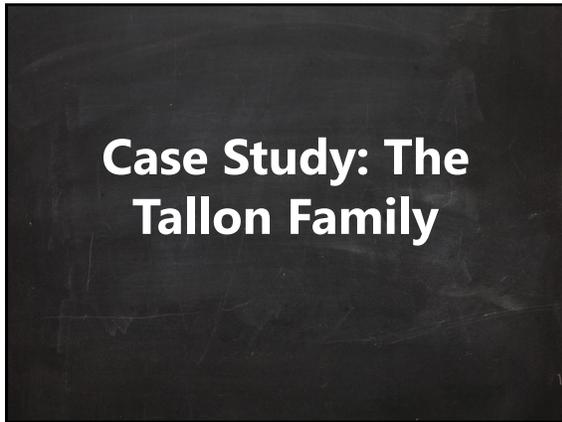
- Arrived in 1874 in Baltimore
 - Both naturalization and 1900 Census give 1874
- Family traveled as a group
 - Wife and sons arrived same year, per 1900 Census

95

Macek Family Births

Birth from parish/census records	Age in May 1874
• Jan/John Macek, b. 15 July 1826	• Jan/John = 47
• Anna Olivova Macek, b. abt 1831	• Anna = abt 43
• Anna Macek, b. abt 1854	• Anna = abt 20
• Marie Macek, b. 14 Sep 1855	• Marie = 18
• Jan/John Macek Jr., b. 7 Dec 1858	• Jan/John Jr. = 15
• Wenzel Macek, b. 28 March 1862	• Wenzel = 12
• Tobias Macek, b. 12 March 1864	• Tobias = 10
• Katherine Macek, b. 23 May 1869	• Katherine = 4-5
• Sophie Macek, b. 17 Nov 1872	• Sophie = 1

96



103

Pat and Ellen (Goss) Tallon

- Immigrated to Boston from Rathvilly, Carlow, Ireland
- Enumerated in the 1850 Census
- Nine children total
- Patrick died in 1852, Ellen in 1878
- Two sons, Joseph Patrick and James, both naturalized

104

Joseph Patrick Tallon and James Tallon

- Both naturalized in Massachusetts in 1855
- Both stated they arrived on 15 April 1839 at NYC
 - Only three ships appear in the databases on that date, no Tallon family found when browsing lists

 Two side-by-side images of naturalization certificates. The left one is for Joseph Patrick Tallon and the right one is for James Tallon. Both certificates are dated 1855 and mention their arrival in the US.

105

Educated Guesses

- Supposed to have arrived in 1839, but...
 - Youngest brother Thomas was born in Ireland in 1840. James was 10 in 1839 and Joseph Patrick was 8, so they probably arrived later than they remembered.
- The brothers were young but gave the same immigration date, so probably traveled as a family.

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Tallon Family Births

Birth from parish/census records

- Pat Tallon, b. abt 1787
- Ellen Tallon, b. abt 1830
- Ellen Goss Tallon, b. abt 1796
- Joseph Patrick Tallon, bap. 8 Nov 1830
- Mary Ann Tallon, b. abt 1817
- Margaret Tallon, bap. 13 April 1834
- Elizabeth Tallon, bap. 1 Nov 1819
- Anne Tallon, bap. 19 Feb 1837
- Bridget Tallon, bap. 25 April 1822
- Thomas A. Tallon, bap. 23 Feb 1840
- Catherine Tallon, bap. 11 March 1827
- James H. Tallon, b. abt 1829

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Passenger List Search

- No hits for James or Joseph Patrick Tallon/Talon/Tallen from 1837-1841
- 1850 Census mistranscribed as “Salon” on Ancestry.com...maybe the passenger list is too?

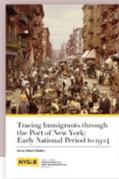
108



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Published Guides

- John Philip Coletta, *They Came in Ships: A Guide to Finding Your Immigrant Ancestor's Arrival Record*, 3rd ed., (Orem, Utah: Ancestry, 2002)
- Anne C. Sibert, *Tracing immigrants through the Port of New York: early national period to 1924*, (New York: New York Genealogical & Biographical Society, 2020)

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US Ports of Arrival and their Available Passenger Lists 1820-1957
Includes Canadian and Mexican Border Crossing Records

US Ports of Entry - their Immigration Records and Passenger Lists - A Genealogy Guide by Joe Betts

Below is a list of many United States sea ports and land border ports that have published immigration records (passenger arrival lists) 1820-1957, organized by state. Included are Canadian border crossing records, which are listed under each border state, with further information in a separate section near the end of this webpage. Mexican border crossing records are also listed here for California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. The red are for ship passenger arrival records and a select few for airplane passenger lists. Some crew lists, a few passenger departure records, and some passenger arrivals after 1957, are also included. U.S. Territories are listed following the Wisconsin section below.

For some basic research guides for finding ship passenger lists see...

[Immigration and Immigration, Passenger Lists and Naturalization Records](#)

The links below have information about indexes for passenger lists, digitized passenger records, or other finding aids for various ports. For some ports you will see information about these items listed directly on the page. (NIA=National Archives and Records Administration, PHS=USDO Family History Library.)

Alabama

- Mobile, Alabama Passenger Lists, 1832-1852
- Mobile, Alabama Passenger Lists, 1890-1924

Alaska

- Online Database: Alaska Alien Arrivals, 1906-1958. Name Index and Digitized Microfilm Images at Ancestry (requires payment); coverage varies by port; includes the following:

 - Eagle, Alaska
 - Hyder, Alaska
 - Ketchikan, Alaska
 - Nome, Alaska
- Shipway (Orin Pass), Alaska

• Online Database: Alaska Ship Arrivals at Various Locations, 1906-1956 at FamilySearch, from National Archives microfilm publications A3434, M2516, M2017, and M2018

- Microfilm Information: Passenger Lists for Alaskan Ports, 1906-1946 at the National Archives

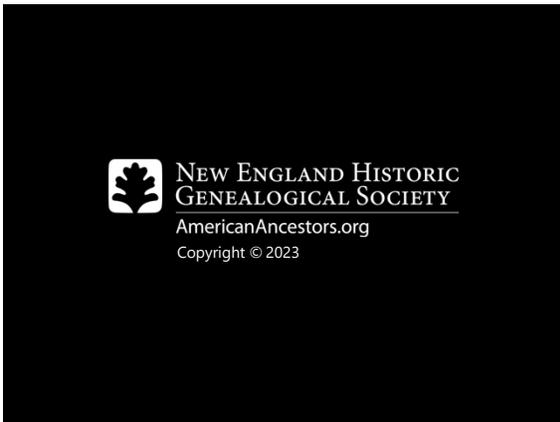
Arizona (Mexican Border Crossing Records)

<https://www.genesearch.com/ports.html>

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