Researching Immigrant Ancestors to America, 1620-1965

Class 2: Passenger Lists

Hallie Kirchner, Genealogist

THE BRUE FAMILY **LEARNING CENTER**

American Ancestors
by NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Meet today's presenter

Hallie Kirchner

Genealogist

OVERVIEW

- **Presentation** (60 mins.)

    - Historical context
    - Types of passenger lists
    - Availability of lists
    - Tips for searching

- **Q&A** (30 mins.)

Voice of
Hallie Kirchner,
Genealogist

What is a passenger list?

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

Passenger Lists

- Earlier lists contain little detail

- Later lists contain more detail

- Laws dictated what information was to be collected and how lists were kept

Passenger Lists

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

20ᵗʰ Century Process

- U.S. Government printed blank passenger lists and distributed to ships companies

- Completed at port of departure

- Headings in English, but remainder could be in native tongue (especially names)

- Ship's purser would complete
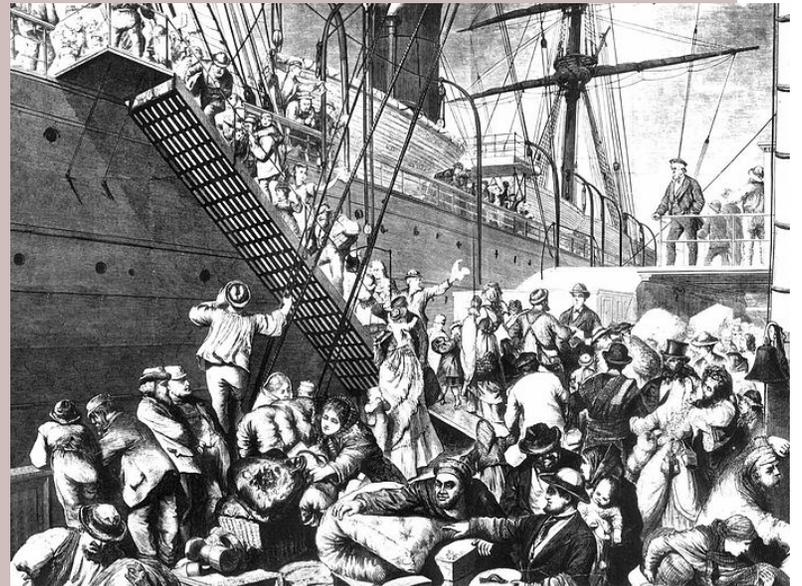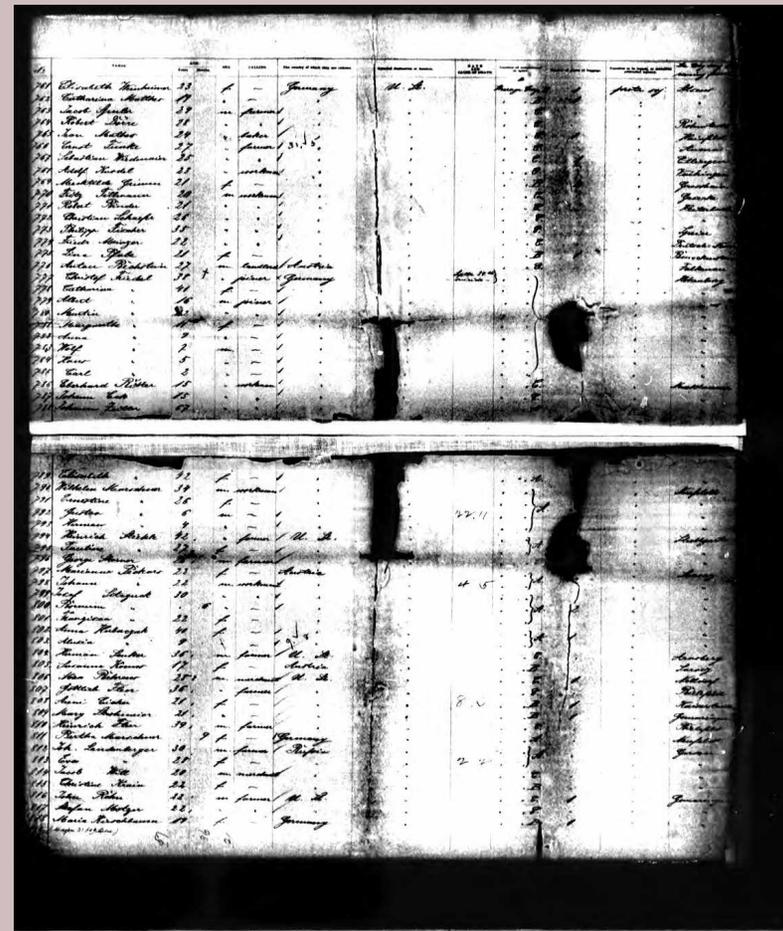
Passenger List Myths

- 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

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- Published vs. unpublished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

Transcript vs. Original

Name	Jacob Spuler
Sex	Male
Age	24
Immigration Date	04 Oct 1884
Immigration Place	New York, New York, New York, United States
Occupation	Farmer
Event Type	Immigration
Birthplace	Germany
Ship Name	Fulda
Birth Year (Estimated)	1860
Departure Port	Bremen
Literacy	Unknown
Last Place of Residence	Alsens
Destination Place	Usa
Transit or Travel Compartment	Staying in the USA [Transit]; Steerage [Travel]

Source: *United States Germans to America Index, 1850-1897* [FamilySearch.org]

Source: *New York, U.S., Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820-1957* [Ancestry.com]

U.S. Laws Regarding Passenger Lists

Immigration vs. Migration

- A significant number of early "immigrants" were in fact *migrants* as they were English settlers going from England to an English colony

    – Of course, there were non-English who settled in the early years too

    – Probably part of the reason there are so few early passenger lists

Port of Philadelphia

- Required to provide Captains' Lists of immigrant passengers beginning in 1727

- Arrivals from Continental Europe, largely German, Dutch, Swiss and French

- Pre-Revolution lists do *not* include those from the British Isles

- Often names of women and children were omitted

Creation of the U.S. Customs Service

- 1789: Customs Service created within the Treasury Department

- Customs Service tasked with overseeing U.S. ports

- Eventually leads to the "Customs Passenger Lists"

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"

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."

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)

Immigration Act of 1893

- Revised inspection of passengers and established Boards of Special Inquiry

- Expanded the passenger information collected by shipmasters

Table 2. Information in the Immigration Passenger Lists Required by the Act of 1893

1. Full name, age, gender, whether married or single
2. Calling or occupation
3. Whether able to read or write
4. Nationality
5. Last residence
6. U.S. port of landing
7. Final destination, if any, beyond port of landing
8. Whether having a ticket to such final destination
9. Whether the immigrant paid for his own passage
10. Whether in possession of more than 30 dollars and the amount if 30 dollars or less
11. Whether going to join a relative. If so, what relative and his name and address
12. Whether ever in the United States before, and if so, when and where
13. Whether ever in a prison or almshouse or supported by a charity
14. Whether a polygamist
15. Whether under an express or implied contract to perform labor in the United States
16. Condition of mental and physical health and whether deformed or crippled, and if so, how

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

Availability Overview

- 17th-18th century
  - Low availability
  - Mostly compiled lists based on other sources
  - Typically published

- 19th century
  - Middling availability, but actual lists exist
  - Records should exist after 1820 but there are gaps in the mid-19th century
  - Typically microfilmed and digitized

- 20th century
  - Good availability
  - Lots of details
  - Typically microfilmed and digitized
  - Additional resources available (Class 4)

First Takeaway

- U.S. laws regarding immigration impacted record-keeping

- The more recent an arrival, the more likely it is that a true list is going to exist

QUESTIONS?

17th and 18th Century Lists

Show Me the Lists

- There are no passenger manifests, as we know them, in existence for this early period.

- There may be compiled records that show lists of individuals who immigrated to these early settlements and others.
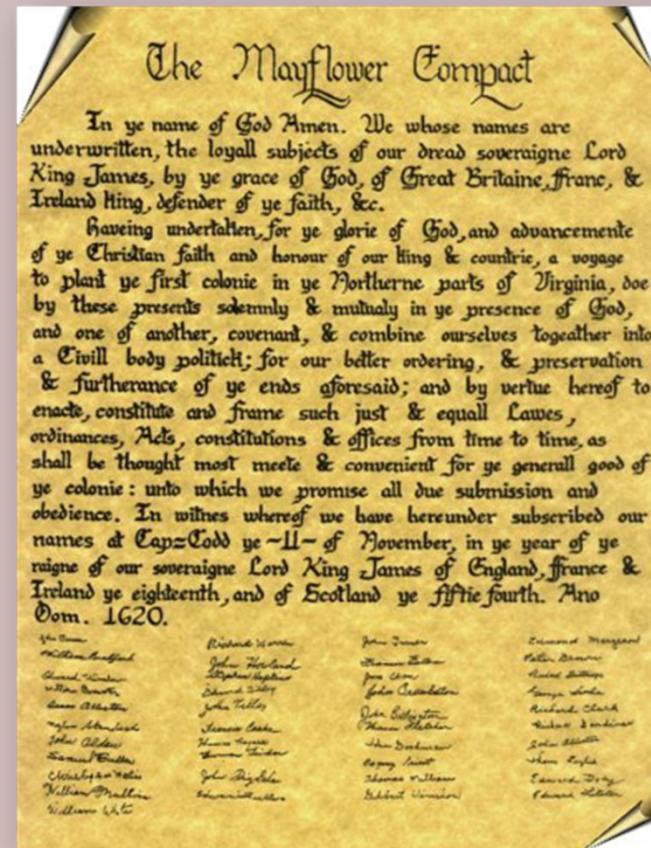
Show Me the Lists

The Original Lists of
PERSONS OF QUALITY
1600–1700

John Camden Hotten, ed.
with a foreword by Robert Charles Anderson, FASG

- With few exceptions, the lists that are used for those arriving before 1820 are compiled in books.

- In most instances they have been taken from records located in the old country.

- Typically pulled from sources such as court records, emigration lists, newspapers, and more.

Where to Find Published Lists

- Most comprehensive publication of lists in books would be P. William Filby's *Passenger and Immigration Lists Index*

- Originally published in 1981 with annual supplements

- Searchable on Ancestry

- Browsable on FamilySearch

U.S. and Canada, Passenger and Immigration Lists Index, 1500s-1900s

Search ☑ Match all terms exactly

First & Middle Name(s)

thomas

✓ Exact

Last Name

carter

✓ Exact

Quick Fill Suggestions

*KOBJ Family Tree ⌄   ✕

No suggestions found

	Year	**Location**
Birth		—
Arrival	1635 ✓ +/-5 yrs	City, County, State, Country
Any Event		City, County, State, Country

Keyword

e.g. pilot or "Flying Tigers" ⌄

Source Publication Code

Related data collections

New York, U.S., Arriving Passenger and Immigration Lists, 1820-1850
This data set contains alphabetical listings of approximately 1.6 million individuals who arrived in the United States at New York from foreign ports between 1820 and 1850. The following types of information may be included here: gender, birthplace, age, occupation, country of origin, port of departure, port of arrival, date of arrival, destination, and name of ship.

Baltimore, Maryland, U.S., Passenger and Immigration Lists, 1820-1872
This data set contains alphabetical listings of approximately 227,000 individuals who arrived at Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A. from foreign ports between 1820 and 1872. Information available in this database includes: name, gender, age, occupation, place of origin, destination, name of ship, port of departure, port of arrival, date of arrival, and source information.

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, U.S., Passenger and Immigration Lists, 1800-1850
This data set contains alphabetical listings of approximately 180,000

Ancestry.com

Entry from Filby

Name:	Thomas Carter
Birth Year:	abt 1610
Arrival Year:	1635
Arrival Place:	Virginia
Age:	25
Source Publication Code:	3283
Primary Immigrant:	Carter, Thomas
Annotation:	Standard work. Includes lists of ships to Bermuda, Barbados, and continental North America. Indexes family names. Names of Jews are excerpted in Adler, no. 61. Care should be taken when using Hotten. There are two versions, one with accurate text and inde

Source Bibliography:	HOTTEN, JOHN CAMDEN, editor. The Original Lists of Persons of Quality; Emigrants; Religious Exiles; Political Rebels; Serving Men Sold for a Term of Years; Apprentices; Children Stolen; Maidens Pressed; and Others Who Went from Great Britain to the American Plantations, 1600-1700. With Their Ages, the Localities Where They Formerly Lived in the Mother Country, the Names of the Ships in Which They Embarked, and Other Interesting Particulars. From MSS. Preserved in the State
Page:	122

Filby's Source: Hotten

Thomas Carter, age 25

Hotten's Source: Colonial Office and Office of the Exchequer

- Charles I required those going overseas to get a license, essentially taking an oath of allegiance

- Those licenses held at the UK National Archives, some are searchable on FindMyPast

6.1 Lists of 17th-century emigrants

John C Hotten compiled Original lists of persons who went from great Britain to the American plantations 1600-1700 (London 1874) based on Colonial Office records, as well as the Registers of Licences to Pass beyond the Seas kept by the Exchequer (series E 157) for passengers requiring licences to travel to New England, Barbados, Maryland, Virginia and other colonies 1634-1639 and 1677.

See the 'Online records' section of this guide for advice on how to view the registers in series E 157.

https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/emigration/

www.findmypast.co.uk

This is the Thomas Carter found in Hotten's volume.

TNA E157 on FindMyPast

Thomas Carter, Original Image
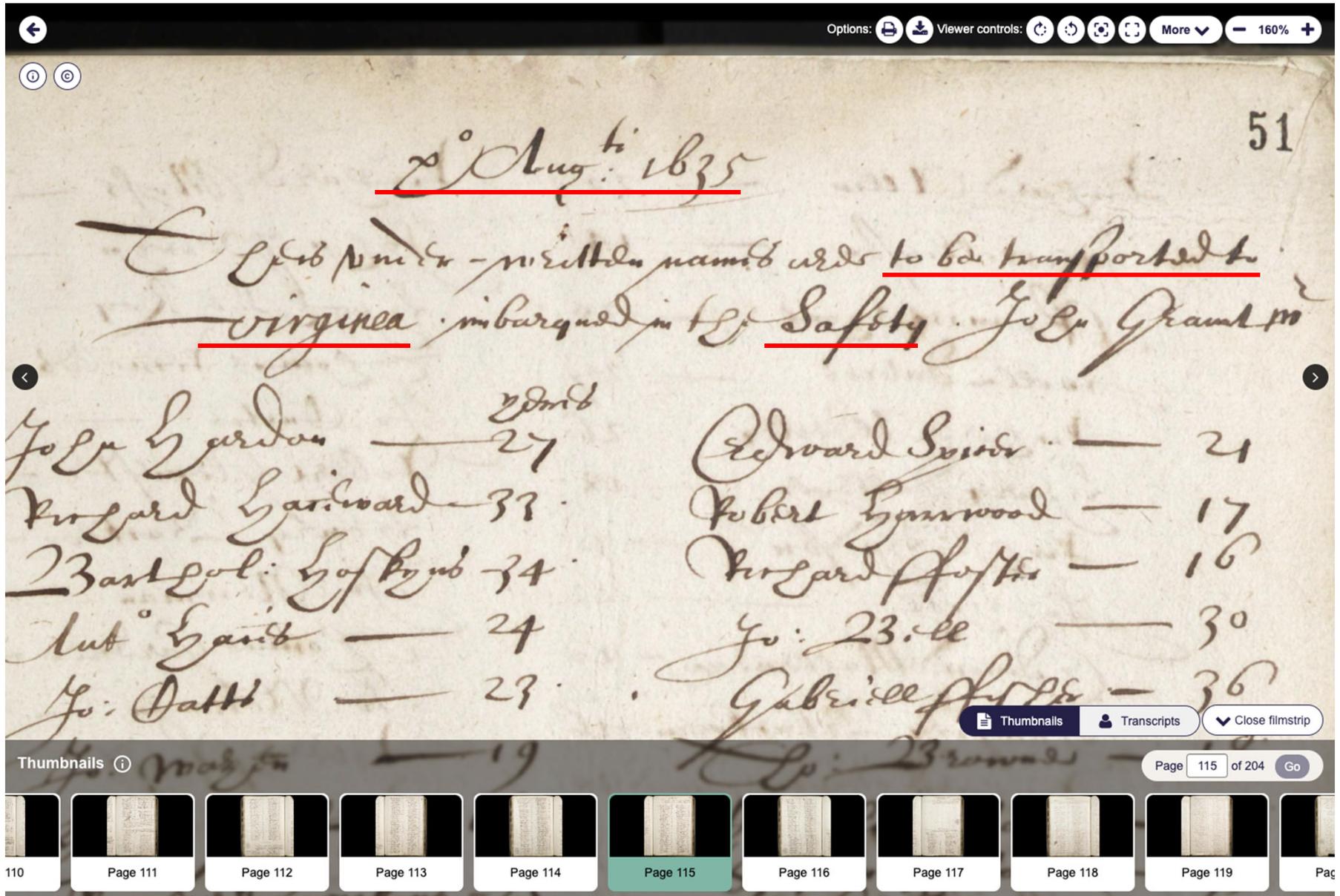
Thomas Carter – Ship Info

Compilations of Early Arrivals

- Published lists

- Draw from a variety of sources from the U.S. and abroad

- May or may not include actual passenger lists

- Many estimates based on first mention in the U.S.

- Men more heavily represented than women and children

"At the Courthouse of Philadelphia, September 1st, 1736.
One hundred fifty one Foreigners from the Palatinate & other Places, who, with their Families, making in all three hundred eighty eight Persons, were imported here in the Ship Harle, of London, Ralph Harle, Master, from Rotterdam, but last from Cowes, as by Clearance thence, were this day qualified as usual." From the Minutes of the Provincial Council, printed in *Colonial Records*, Vol. IV, p. 58 f.

[List 41 B] Palatines imported in the Ship Harle, Ralph Harle, Master, from Rotterdam, but last from Cowes. Qualified September the 1st 1736.

Frans Heckert
Johannes von Laeschet
Johannes Peters von Laschet
Christian von Laaschet

Johannes Krück
Johann Philipp Wick
Johann Philip Wageman
Abraham Tegarden

Compilations of Early Arrivals

- John Camden Hotten, *The Original Lists of Persons of Quality, 1600-1700,* emigrants from Great Britain to America, 11,000 names

- *The Great Migration* (NEHGS), study project, New England, 1620-1640

- Peter Wilson Coldham, *The Complete Book of Emigrants, 1607-1660,* includes all colonies in the "New World"

- Peter Wilson Coldham, *The Complete Book of Emigrants in Bondage, 1614-1775,* transportations to American colonies, 50,000 names

Compilations of Early Arrivals

- Holland Society Yearbook compilations, arrivals to New Netherland, 1650s-1660s

- Strassburger and Hinke, *Pennsylvania German Pioneers*, 3 volumes, includes passenger lists, oaths of allegiance, and oaths of fidelity

- David Dobson, *Directory of Scottish Settlers in America, 1625-1825*, 7 volumes

Search HathiTrust   LOG IN

Year book of the Holland Society of New York. 1902.

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5

LIST OF PASSENGERS, 1654 TO 1664.

FROM NEW YORK COLONIAL MSS., VOL. 14, PP. 83-123.

JULY 8, 1654. IN *De Pereboom* (THE PEARTREE).

JACOB ABOAF, Jew. Landed in England and did not continue his voyage to New Netherland.

JACOB BARSIMSON, Jew.

AUGUST 3, 1654. IN *De Geldersche Blom* (THE FLOWER OF GELDERLAND).

JACOB STEVENSEN KUYPER, and wife.

MARCH 13, 1656. IN *De Bontekoe* (THE SPOTTED COW).

HARMEN DE CONINCK and wife.

DECEMBER 20, 1656. IN *De Bever* (THE BEAVER).

JAN GILLESEN KOCK, from Utrecht, and wife and three children.

CARSTEN JANSEN and wife.

MARITIE JEURIAENS.

LYNTIE BROUWERS.

IN *De Beer* (THE BEAR). (Should probably be *De Bever*.)

LYSBET VAN HOOGHVELT.

APRIL 2, 1657. IN THE SHIP *Draetvat* (WIRE-CASK), CAPTAIN JAN JANSEN BESTEVAER.

ARENT JANSEN, house carpenter, wife, and daughter sixteen years old.

MARCUS DE CHOUSOY, wife, two workmen, and two boys, over twelve years of age.

TEUNIS KRAY, from Venlo, wife and four children (two of whom under ten year...

HERTWICK STOEFF, f...

JACOB HENDRICS HA...

27 / 222   VIEW

Holland Society Year Book, 1902

Eastabrook, Edward. S Mar 1757. De.
Eastbury, James. S 14 yrs for s cloth from bleaching yard at Stow on the
    Wold Lent 1773. G.

Eastbury, James, **S**entenced to transportation for 14 years for stealing cloth … 1773. **G**loucestershire.

Greyhound. E.
Easton, Alice. S for murder of child Lent R 14 yrs Summer 1751. No.
Easton. Frances. SOS Thirsk Apr TB Sep 1742. Y.

Easton, Alice, **S**entenced for murder of child in Lent, **R**eprieved for transportation, 14 years, Summer 1751. **No**rthamptonshire.

Emigrants in Bondage

Tip
Use a published or compiled list to locate the original record

19th Century

19ᵗʰ Century Lists

- Two categories, based on the agency that created them
  - Customs lists 1820-1891
  - Immigration/INS lists 1891-1957

- What does that mean for researchers?
  - Collections of lists may be divided by creating agency

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

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

Name
Age
Country of Birth
Last Legal Residence
Destination
Occupation

Berlin, passenger arrival list, Baltimore, 30 May 1874

Early Lists: The Wild West

- Forms not standardized

- Fewer rules about how lists had to be recorded

Clara Wheeler, passenger arrival list, New Orleans, 16 March 1851

Clara Wheeler, passenger arrival list, New Orleans, 16 March 1851

Hendrika, passenger arrival list, Baltimore, 16 Sep 1833

Hendrika, passenger arrival list, Baltimore, 16 Sep 1833

Virginia, passenger arrival list, Baltimore,
7 Nov 1833

Virginia, passenger arrival list, Baltimore,
7 Nov 1833

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

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

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

Waesland, passenger arrival list,
Philadelphia, 7 April 1896

Name
Age
Sex
Marital Status
Occupation
Literacy
Nationality
Last Residence
Arrival port
Final destination
Ticket to destination
Passage paid by
In possession of money
Ever in the U.S. before
Joining a relative
Health condition
Deformities
Contract ticket #

20th Century

20ᵗʰ Century Passenger Lists

- Continued expansion of details collected about immigrants

- Typical passenger list is now a 2-page spread
  - *Be sure to click to the next image when viewing an original list online!*

- Starting in 1907, lists include a brief physical description (height, hair color, eye color)

Blank 1907 Passenger Manifest Form

Port: _____
Microfilm Publication Number: _____
Roll Number: _____
Page or Group: _____
Line or List: _____

1907

List or Manifest of Alien Passengers For the United States

Required by the regulations of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor of the United States under Act of Congress approved February 20, 1907, to be delivered

S.S._____ sailing from _____, _____, 1907

1	2		3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10		11	12	
	Full Name		Age					Able to				Last Permanent Residence		The name and complete address of nearest relative or friend in country whence the alien came	Final Destination	
No. on List	Family Name	Given Name	Yrs.	Mos.	Sex	Married or Single	Calling or Occupation	Read	Write	Nationality (Country of which citizen or subject)	Race or People	Country	City or Town		State	City or Town

https://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/charts-forms

Blank 1907 Passenger Manifest Form

Immigration Officer at Port of Arrival

to the United States Immigration Officer by Commanding Officer of any vessel having such passengers on board upon arrival at a port in the United States

Arriving at Port of _____, _____, 1907

13	14	15		16	17			18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25		26	27		28	29	
No. on List	Whether having a ticket to such final destination	By Whom was the Passage Paid?		Whether in possession of $50, and if less how much?	Whether ever before in the United States; and if so, when and where?			Whether going to join a relative or friend; and if so, what relative or friend, and his name and complete address	Ever in prison or almshouse, or institution for care and treatment of the insane, or supported by charity? If so, which	Whether a polygamist	Whether an anarchist	Whether coming by reason of any offer, solicitation, promise, or agreement, express or implied, to labor in the United States	Condition of health: mental and physical	Deformed or Crippled, nature, length of time, and cause	Height		Complexion	Color of		Marks of identification	Place of birth	
		(Whether alien paid his own passage, whether paid by any other person, or by any corporation, society, municipality, or government)			Yes or no	If yes?									Feet	Inches		Hair	Eyes		Country	City or town
						year and period of years.	Where?															

https://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/charts-forms

Special Cases

Special Cases

- Births and deaths at sea were 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

Deaths

Britannia, passenger arrival list, New York,
9 April 1867

Stowaways

Wm. D. Sewall, passenger arrival list, New Orleans, 10 July 1851

Board of Special Inquiry

- Established 1893 to review exclusion cases

- Made up of three inspectors who heard testimony and accepted evidence in excluded immigrants' cases

- About 10% of all immigrants detained daily between 1892 and 1924

- Most immigrants who were detained were classified "likely public charge" [LPC]

- Last page of ship's manifest may have Special Inquiry list

Patris special inquiry list, 9 June 1910

Patris special inquiry list, 9 June 1910

Patris special inquiry list, 9 June 1910

Constantinos Kinos
26 male
Stowaway
DCD – trachoma
Deported 11 June 1910 on ship *Patris*
Given 1 lunch

Second Takeaway

- 17th and 18th century lists are often compiled (created) after the fact using other sources

- Availability of lists improves after 1820

- More information was collected later on

QUESTIONS?

Searching Passenger Lists

Starting the Search

- 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

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

Published Passenger Lists

- Typically contain transcribed passenger lists in chronological order with an alphabetical index of names

Germans to America example

Tip

Read the intro so you know *exactly* what you're working with

Understanding the Record Set

- *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

Understanding the Record Set

• *The Great Migration Begins, 1620-1633*

In the absence of a complete set of passenger lists for these years, how do we decide which persons had arrived by the end of 1633 and which came later? We have compiled our list of immigrants by employing three broad sets of criteria:

    1) appearance in a record generated by 14 May 1634,

    2) direct or indirect implication of arrival by the end of 1633 in-cluded in a record of later date, and

    3) appearance as a member of the immediate family of a person known to have arrived by the end of 1633.

Let us examine each of these categories a little more closely

Digitization: A Boon to Researchers

- Many published lists now available online
    - Archive.org
    - HathiTrust
    - Google Books
    - FamilySearch Digital Books
    - Ancestry.com

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!

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

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?)

Tip

Spellings not necessarily standardized in the 19th c., and transcription errors may exist

Search Tips

- Immigrants may have misremembered information they later reported

  - "Came through Ellis Island" but Ellis Island wasn't open yet

  - "Arrived on the ship Bremen" but actually left from Bremen

  - Month may be right, but year may be wrong

Ancestry.com

https://www.ancestry.com/search/categories/40/

https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/7488/

Source Information

Ancestry.com. *New York, U.S., Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820-1957* [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010.
Original data:

Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York, New York, 1820-1897. Microfilm Publication M237, 675 rolls. NAI: 6256867. Records of the U.S. Customs Service. Record Group 36. National Archives at Washington, D.C.

Passenger and Crew Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York, New York, 1897-1957. Microfilm Publication T715, 8892 rolls. NAI: 300346. Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service; National Archives at Washington, D.C.

Supplemental Manifests of Alien Passengers and Crew Members Who Arrived on Vessels at New York, New York, Who Were Inspected for Admission, and Related Index, compiled 1887-1952. Microfilm Publication A3461, 21 rolls. NAI: 3887372. RG 85, Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, 1787-2004; Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

Index to Alien Crewmen Who Were Discharged or Who Deserted at New York, New York, May 1917-Nov. 1957. Microfilm Publication A3417. NAI: 4497925. National Archives at Washington, D.C.

Passenger Lists, 1962-1972, and Crew Lists, 1943-1972, of Vessels Arriving at Oswego, New York. Microfilm Publication A3426. NAI: 4441521. National Archives at Washington, D.C.

https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/7488/

Browsing on Ancestry

FamilySearch Catalog

FindMyPast Passenger Lists

Welcome to our free Ellis Island Passenger Search database, home to 65 million records of passengers arriving to the Port of New York from 1820 to 1957. For tips on how best to utilize the database, check out our Genealogy Primer page. If you have questions, please email ContactUs@LibertyEllisFoundation.org. ✖

PASSENGER SEARCH
Explore our vast database of 65 million passenger records...
? Need more information? Click here.

First Name or Initial	Last Name	→ RESULTS

Narrow your Search   ✺ Wizard | 📄 One page form

✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓

StatueOfLiberty.org

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

Ellis Island & Castle Garden
Other Ports
US Census
Phonetic Matching
Canada/UK Census
New York Census
Vital Records
Calendar, Maps, etc
Foreign Alphabets
Holoc & East. Europe
Genetics (DNA)
Create Search Application
8086
Publications
Recorded Lectures
Awards
Biographies/Interviews
Miscellaneous

Step One-Step Webpages by **Stephen P. Morse**

This site contains tools for finding immigration records, census records, vital records, and for dealing with calendars, maps, foreign alphabets, and numerous other applications. Some of these tools fetch data from other websites but do so in more versatile ways than the search tools provided on those websites.

Public Appearances   **List of Lectures**

About this Website and how to use it

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	Any	SEARCH ➤
		LOCALITY	

⊟ 🗁 **Ellis Island & Castle Garden Search Forms and Ship Arrivals**

Overview: Which Ellis Island Search Form to use

Ellis Island Passengers Gold Form (1892-1924): Preferred Form for Searching for Ellis Island Passengers in One Step
Ellis Island Passengers White Form (1820-1957): Form for Searching for Ellis Island Passengers prior to 1892 or beyond 1924 in One Step
Ellis Island Ship Lists (1820-1957): Searching for Ships in the Ellis Island Microfilms in One Step
Ellis Island Manifest Viewer (aka Missing Manifests) (1820-1957): Direct Access to Ellis Island Manifests in One Step
Ellis Island Passenger IDs: Decoding Ellis Island Passenger IDs in One Step

$ **All NY Passengers (1820-1957) - ancestry**: Searching for all New York Passengers in One Step
All NY Ship Lists (1820-1957) - ancestry: Searching for Ships in all New York Microfilms in One Step
$ **All NY Manifest Viewer (1820-1957) - ancestry**: Direct Access to all New York Manifests in One Step

New York Passengers (1820-1891) - familysearch: Searching for New York Passengers up to 1891 in One Step
New York Passengers (1925-1957) - familysearch: Searching for New York Passengers from 1925 onward in One Step
All NY Ship Lists (1820-1957) - familysearch: Searching for Ships in all New York Microfilms in One Step
All NY Manifest Viewer (1820-1957) - familysearch: Direct Access to all New York Manifests in One Step

SteveMorse.org

Searching the [$ Boston ▾] Passenger Lists in One Step

Stephen P. Morse, San Francisco

Covers the years 1820 to 1963

[Ship Pictures] [Ship Lists] [Manifests] [Frequently Asked Questions] [My Other Webpages]

PERSON (any or all fields in this section can be left blank)

First Name
- ○ is exactly
- ● starts with
- ○ ends with
- ○ sounds like
- ○ is similar to
- ○ initials are

Last Name
- ○ is exactly
- ● starts with
- ○ ends with
- ○ sounds like
- ○ is similar to

Date of birth [▾] [▾] [   ] +/- [0]   Place of Birth [   ] [exactly ▾]
Gender [▾]   Race [   ]   Nationality [   ]

GEOGRAPHY & SHIP (any or all fields in this section can be left blank)

Ship Name [   ]

Departure Port [   ] [exactly ▾]   Residence [   ] [exactly ▾]
Date of Arrival [▾] [▾] [▾] +/- [0] yrs

MISCELLANEOUS (any or all fields in this section can be left blank)

Series [M277, T843]   Keyword(s) [   ]   Start search at entry [1]   hits/page [50 ▾]

SteveMorse: Boston One-Step

Research Guides

They Came in Ships

- John Philip Coletta, *They Came in Ships: A Guide to Finding Your Immigrant Ancestor's Arrival Record*, 3rd ed., (Orem, Utah: Ancestry, 2002)
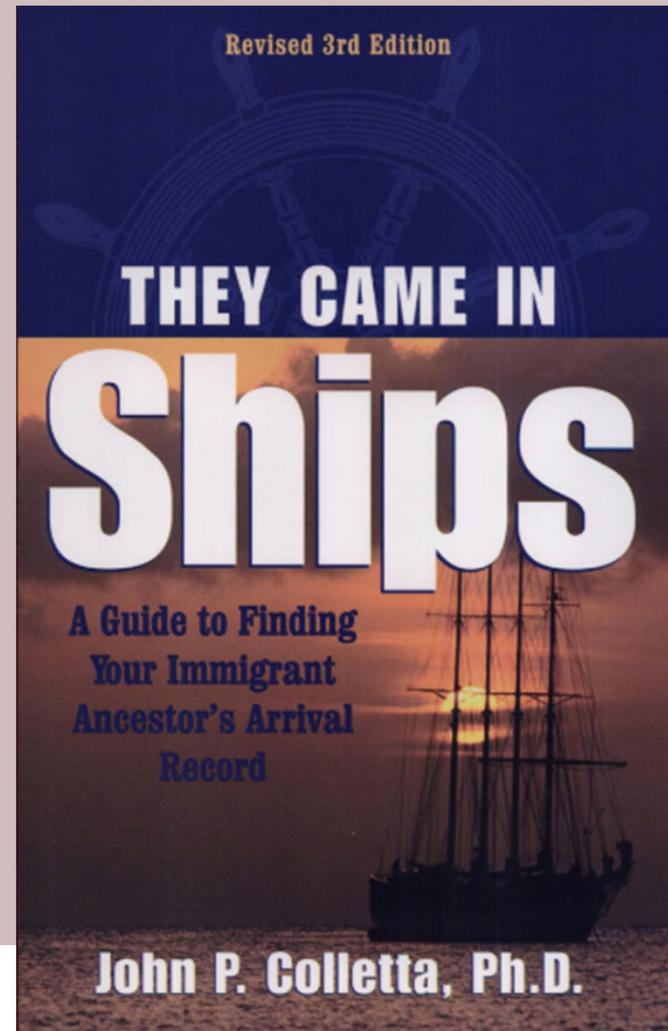
Tracing Immigrants Through the Port of New York

Tracing Immigrants through
the Port of New York:
Early National Period to 1924

Anne Sibert Buiter

NYG&B

NEW YORK
GENEALOGICAL
AND BIOGRAPHICAL
SOCIETY

- Anne C. Sibert, *Tracing immigrants through the Port of New York: early national period to 1924*, (New York: New York Genealogical & Biographical Society, 2020)

MANIFEST markings

A Guide to Interpreting Passenger List Annotations

by Marian L. Smith
Historian, U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service

with the assistance of
Elise Friedman,
Flora Gursky, and Eleanor Bien

Passenger Lists or manifests. Every genealogist and his sister wants to find one. But after years of searching, many find a document that raises as many questions as it answers. This is especially true of passenger lists dating after 1892, which are frequently found to have a variety of markings, codes, and annotations squeezed into the margins and small blank spaces above and behind information written in the list form's columns.

These web pages are intended to provide a comprehensive reference guide to interpreting the markings, or annotations, found on immigration passenger lists. It is written for researchers with a U.S. passenger list in hand. To learn more about finding passenger lists, see JewishGen's Immigration InfoFiles and the Passenger Lists section of the JewishGen FAQ. The information is generally organized by where the annotation is found on the record--in the left margin, for example, or in the occupation column. Within each location category are 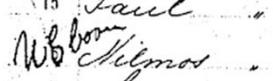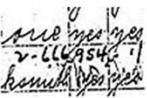examples of the various types of annotations found in that space, and an explanation of each. Every attempt has been made to provide several examples of each annotation type so that researchers may come to recognize the form and pattern that characterizes each type. Each page also has a link to a glossary of commonly-found acronyms and abbreviations.

In the Left Margin . . . Letters, Stamped words, Numbers, Checkmarks . . .	In the Name Column . . . Corrected names, Cryptic numbers, . . .	
In the Occupation Column . . . Numbers, dates, Cryptic letters and words . . .		In Other Columns . . . Head Tax, Read and Write, Medical and Visa Matters, Discharged, and Much Much More . . .
	Cross-Reference Annotations . . . See also, Transferred to . . .	Nationality and Citizenship . . . USB, USC, Naturalized . . .
Record of Detained Aliens . . .	Lists of Aliens Held for Special Inquiry .	

https://www.jewishgen.org/infofiles/manifests/
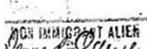
Third Takeaway

- Digitization is a boon to researchers

- You need to have some information to start your search

- Spelling doesn't matter

Originally published in "Harper's Weekly" May 1880

IMMIGRANTS LANDING AT CASTLE GARDEN.—Drawn by A. B. Shultz.

QUESTIONS?

Hire Research Services
research@nehgs.org

Chat with a Genealogist
AmericanAncestors.org/chat

Consultations

Book a one-on-one consultation with a genealogist and receive help with your family history research!

AmericanAncestors.org/Expert-Help/Consultations

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Researching Immigrant Ancestors to America, 1620–1965

Thank you for registering for the online course, *Researching Immigrant Ancestors to America, 1620–1965*!

For centuries, people have immigrated to America to escape religious or social persecution, claim a better life, or seek adventure. No matter what century your ancestors arrived in America, this five-week online seminar will provide you with the historical context, records, resources, and research strategies for understanding immigration and naturalization in the United States since 1620. From passenger lists and border crossings to naturalization records and alien files, our instructors will explain how various records can be used in your family history research. We will also provide several case studies demonstrating how to uncover immigrant origins and next steps in taking your research back to the old country.

www.americanancestors.org/researching-immigrant-ancestors-america-1620-1965

THANK YOU!

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