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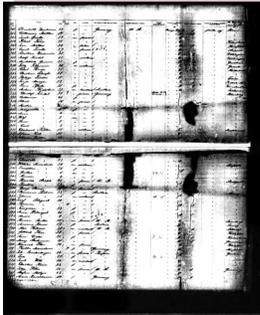
Passenger Lists

- Earlier lists contain little detail
- Later lists contain more detail
- Laws dictated what information was to be collected and how lists were kept



7

Passenger Lists



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

8

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



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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

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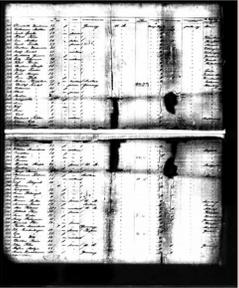
Passenger Lists as Sources

- Published vs. unpublished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

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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]

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U.S. Laws Regarding Passenger Lists

13

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

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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

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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”

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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”

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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

18

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.”

19

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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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 20 dollars and the amount if 20 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 Butler, *Tracing Immigrants through the Port of New York: Early National Period to 1924*. (New York City: NYG&B, 2020).

21

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

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Availability Overview

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17th-18th century <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Low availability – Mostly compiled lists based on other sources – Typically published • 19th century <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Middling availability, but actual lists exist – Records should exist after 1820 but there are gaps in the mid-19th century – Typically microfilmed and digitized 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20th century <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Good availability – Lots of details – Typically microfilmed and digitized – Additional resources available (Class 4)
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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



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25



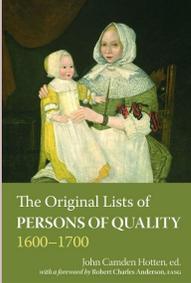
26

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.

27

Show Me the Lists



- 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.

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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



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

Match all terms exactly

First & Middle Name(s) Last Name

(Home) center

Exact Exact

Quick Fill Suggestions
*NOBI Family Tree

No suggestions found

Year Location

Birth

Arrival

Any Event

Keyword

esp. prior to "Flying Tigers"

Source Publication Code

Related data collections

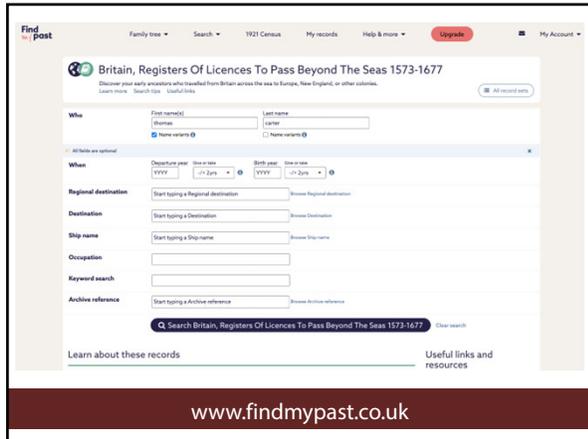
New York, U.S., Arrivals, Passenger and Immigration Lists, 1820-1850
 This data set contains alphabetical listings of approximately 10 million individuals who arrived in the United States at New York from foreign ports between 1820 and 1850. The following types of information may be included here: gender, birthplace, age, occupation, country of origin, port of departure, port of arrival, date of arrival, and name of ship.

Baltimore, Maryland, U.S., Passenger and Immigration Lists, 1820-1872
 This data set contains alphabetical listings of approximately 220,000 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.

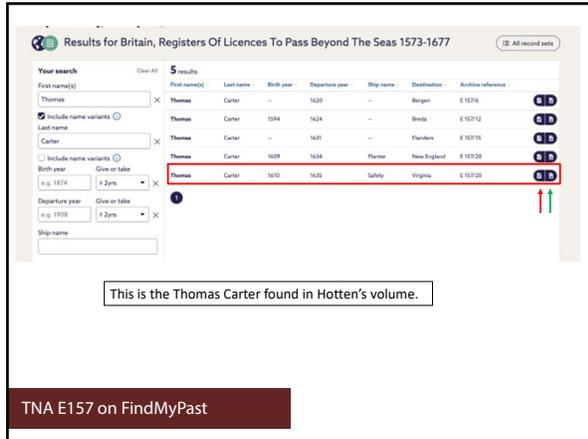
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, U.S., Passenger and Immigration Lists, 1800-1850
 This data set contains alphabetical listings of approximately 180,000

Ancestry.com

30

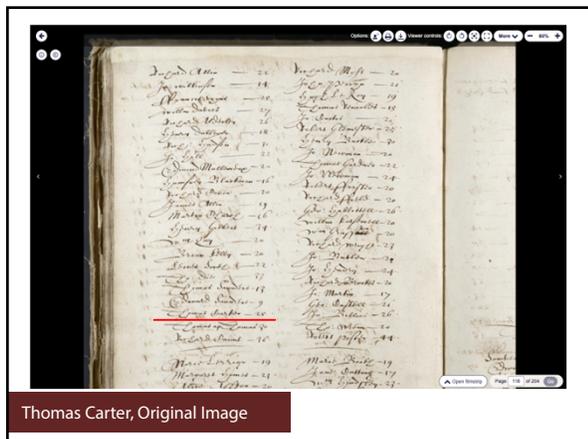


34



TNA E157 on FindMyPast

35



Thomas Carter, Original Image

36

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

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The screenshot shows a digital page from the 'Year book of the Holland Society of New York, 1902'. The page is titled 'LIST OF PASSENGERS, 1654 TO 1664'. It lists several arrivals with their dates and names, such as 'JULY 8, 1654. In *De Pinckhom* (The Peantries). JACOB AMAR, Jew. Landed in England and did not continue his voyage to New Netherland.' and 'AUGUST 3, 1654. In *De Gederde Blom* (The Flower of Geerland). JACOB STEVENSON KUYPER, and wife.' The page number '5' is visible at the top center.

Holland Society Year Book, 1902

41

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.
 S 14 yrs Summer 1773. G.

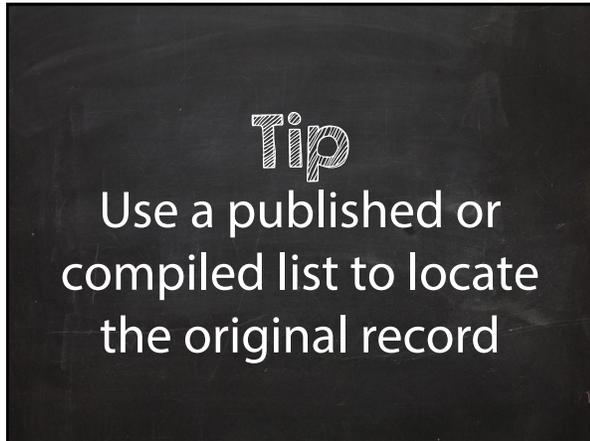
Eastbury, James, Sentenced to transportation for 14 years for stealing cloth ... 1773. Gloucestershire.

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.

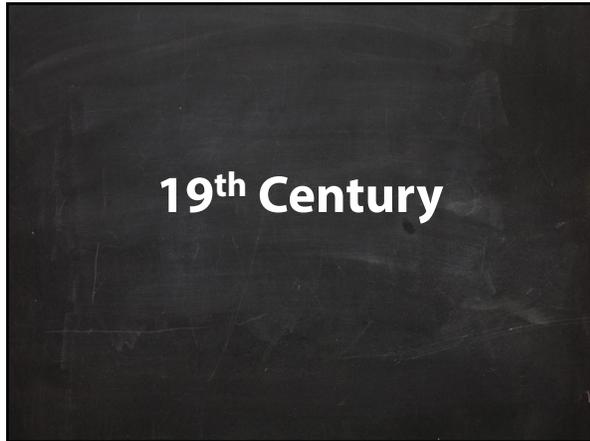
Easton, Alice, Sentenced for murder of child in Lent, Reprieved for transportation, 14 years, Summer 1751. Northamptonshire.

Emigrants in Bondage

42



43



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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



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Customs Passenger Lists

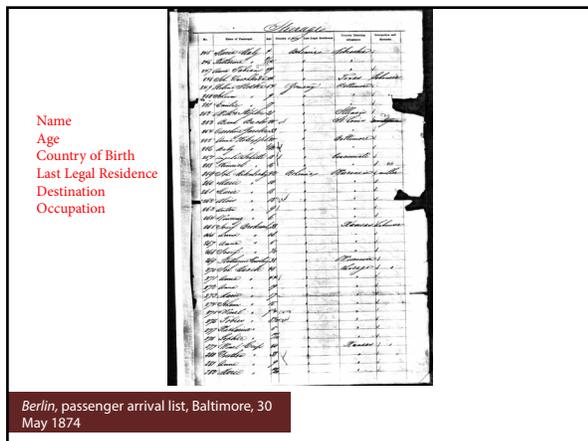
- Created by the Act of 1819
- Required beginning January 1, 1820
- Blank lists printed by private companies and sold to shipping companies – much variation in how the lists appear
- Only five items required initially: name, age, sex, occupation, nationality
- Customs lists cover 1820-1891

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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

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48

Early Lists: The Wild West

- Forms not standardized
- Fewer rules about how lists had to be recorded

49

DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI - PORT OF NEW ORLEANS

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

50

DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI - PORT OF NEW ORLEANS

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

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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

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LIST OF MANIFEST OF ALIEN IMMIGRANTS FOR THE COMMISSIONER OF IMMIGRATION.

Required by the regulations of the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, under Act of Congress, approved March 3, 1882, to be delivered to the Commissioner of Immigration by the Commanding Officer of any vessel having such passengers on board, upon arrival at any port of the United States.

Vessel from LIVERPOOL, N.Y. Arrived at Port of PHILADELPHIA, Pa. 7 April 1896

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 #

59

20th Century

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Special Cases

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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

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Deaths

Went to the deck

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

66

No.	Name	Age	Sex	Origin	Destination
233	Patrick Kelly	24	male	Ireland	New Orleans
234	Michael Kelly	19	male	Ireland	New Orleans
235	James Kelly	19	male	Ireland	New Orleans
236	Miss Mc Hugh	32	female	Ireland	New Orleans
237	Michael Kelly	27	male	Ireland	New Orleans
238	James Kelly	24	male	Ireland	New Orleans
239	Patrick Kelly	27	male	Ireland	New Orleans
240	Patrick Kelly	35	male	Ireland	New Orleans
241	Patrick Kelly	16	male	"	"
242	Patrick Kelly	16	male	"	"
243	William Kelly	16	male	"	"
244	Patrick Kelly	15	male	"	"
245	Patrick Kelly	15	male	"	"
246	Patrick Kelly	15	male	"	"
247	Patrick Kelly	15	male	"	"
248	Patrick Kelly	15	male	"	"
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298	Patrick Kelly	15	male	"	"
299	Patrick Kelly	15	male	"	"
300	Patrick Kelly	15	male	"	"

Stowaways
 Thomas Kelly 22 male Ireland New Orleans
 Daniel Kelly 22 male Ireland New Orleans
 James Kelly 11 male Ireland New Orleans

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

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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

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No.	Name	Age	Sex	Origin	Remarks
101	John Kelly	35	male	Ireland	likely public charge
102	Michael Kelly	30	male	Ireland	likely public charge
103	James Kelly	25	male	Ireland	likely public charge
104	Patrick Kelly	20	male	Ireland	likely public charge
105	William Kelly	15	male	Ireland	likely public charge
106	Thomas Kelly	10	male	Ireland	likely public charge
107	Daniel Kelly	8	male	Ireland	likely public charge
108	James Kelly	5	male	Ireland	likely public charge
109	Patrick Kelly	3	male	Ireland	likely public charge
110	Michael Kelly	2	male	Ireland	likely public charge
111	John Kelly	1	male	Ireland	likely public charge
112	William Kelly	1	male	Ireland	likely public charge
113	Thomas Kelly	1	male	Ireland	likely public charge
114	Daniel Kelly	1	male	Ireland	likely public charge
115	James Kelly	1	male	Ireland	likely public charge
116	Patrick Kelly	1	male	Ireland	likely public charge
117	Michael Kelly	1	male	Ireland	likely public charge
118	John Kelly	1	male	Ireland	likely public charge
119	William Kelly	1	male	Ireland	likely public charge
120	Thomas Kelly	1	male	Ireland	likely public charge
121	Daniel Kelly	1	male	Ireland	likely public charge
122	James Kelly	1	male	Ireland	likely public charge
123	Patrick Kelly	1	male	Ireland	likely public charge
124	Michael Kelly	1	male	Ireland	likely public charge
125	John Kelly	1	male	Ireland	likely public charge
126	William Kelly	1	male	Ireland	likely public charge
127	Thomas Kelly	1	male	Ireland	likely public charge
128	Daniel Kelly	1	male	Ireland	likely public charge
129	James Kelly	1	male	Ireland	likely public charge
130	Patrick Kelly	1	male	Ireland	likely public charge

Patris special inquiry list, 9 June 1910

69



73



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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

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Tip

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

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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

80

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 included 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

81

Digitization: A Boon to Researchers

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

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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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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?)

85

Tip

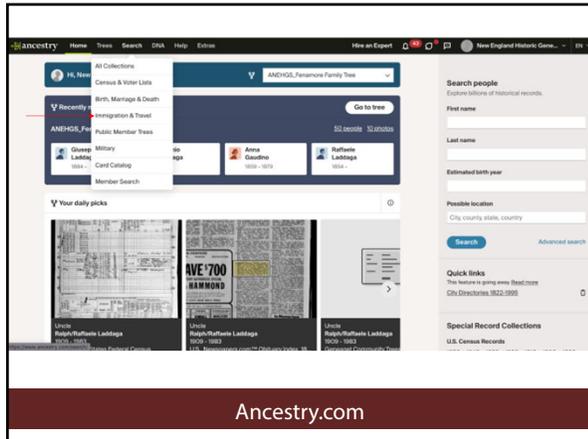
Spellings not necessarily standardized in the 19th c., and transcription errors may exist

86

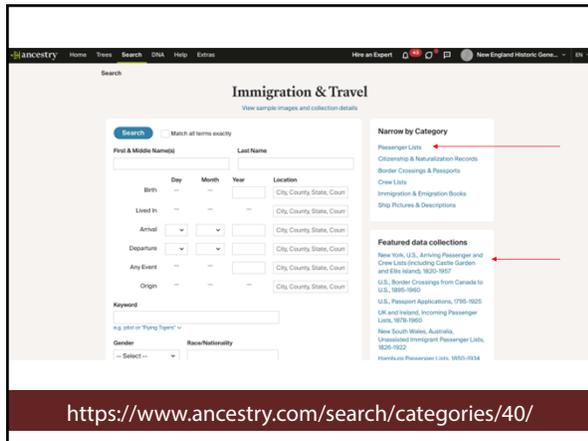
Search Tips

- 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

87

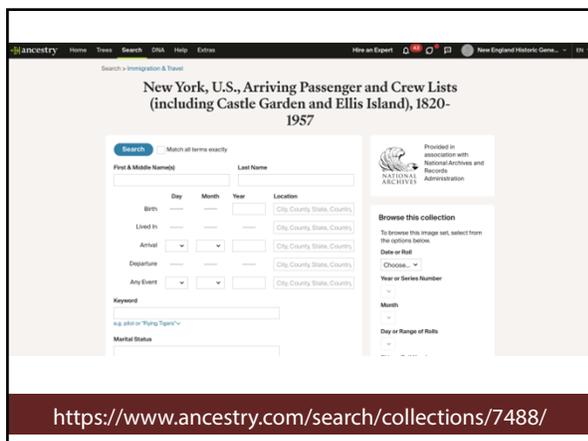


88



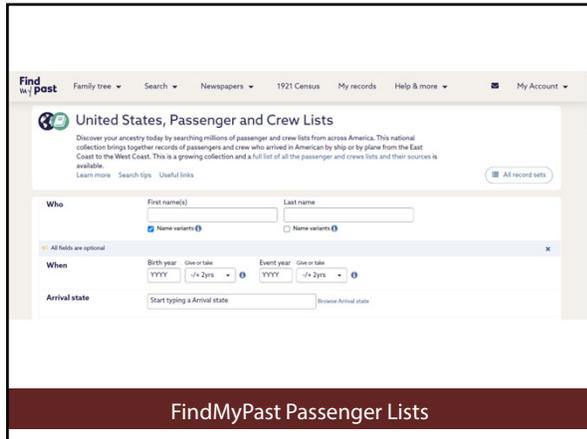
<https://www.ancestry.com/search/categories/40/>

89



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

90



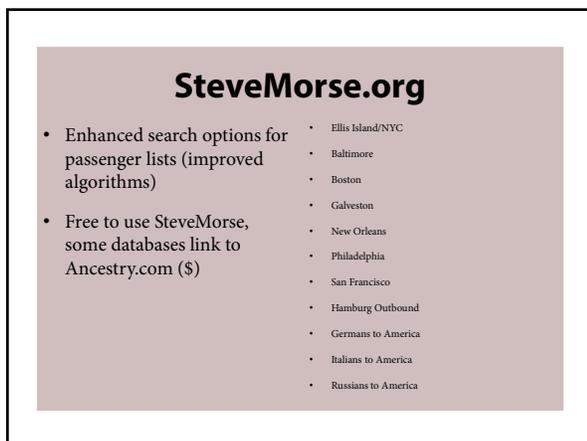
FindMyPast Passenger Lists

94



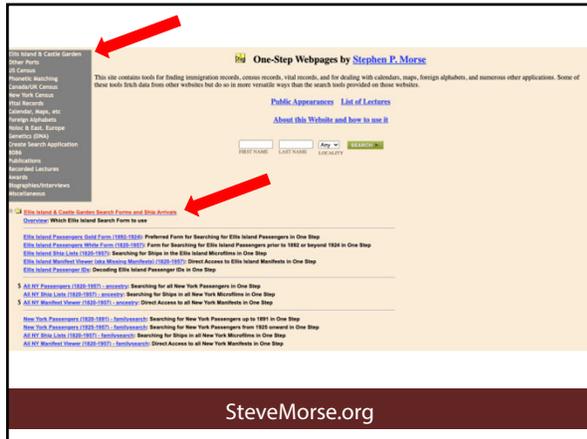
StatueOfLiberty.org

95

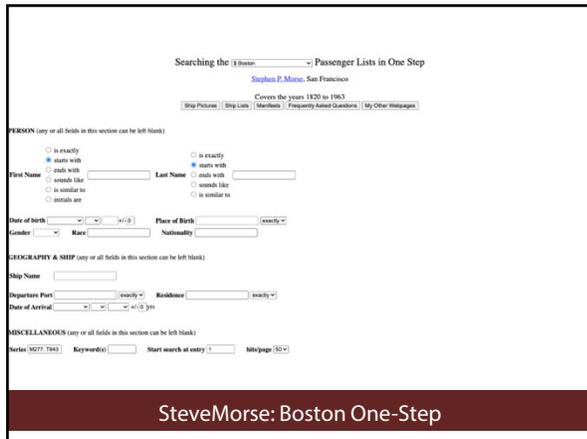


SteveMorse.org

96



97



98



99

They Came in Ships

- John Philip Colletta, *They Came in Ships: A Guide to Finding Your Immigrant Ancestor's Arrival Record*, 3rd ed., (Orem, Utah: Ancestry, 2002)

100

Tracing Immigrants Through the Port of New York

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

101

MANIFESTS in a Minute

A Guide to Interpreting Passenger List Annotations

By Martin L. Smith
Historian, U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service
with the assistance of
Ellen Prochman,
Peter Gansky, and Elaine Bies

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 scattered into the margins and small blank spaces above and below information written in the list-former'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 [Immigration Lists](#) and the [Passenger List](#) sections of [The JewishGen 101](#). The information is generally organized by where the annotations 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 forms and patterns that characterize each type. Each page also has a glossary of commonly-found acronyms and abbreviations.

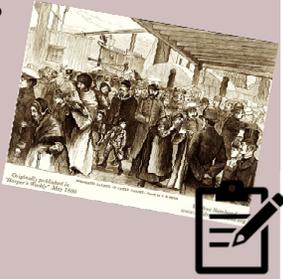
In the Left Margin ... Letters, Symbols, and Symbols ... Checkmarks ...	In the Name Column ... General marks ... Cross-Reference Annotations ... Lists of Aliens Held for Special Inquiry ...	In Other Columns ... Head, Sex, Race, and Birth ... Married and Visa Dates ... Checkered and Tick Marks ...
In the Occupation Column ... Numbers ... Codes ... Symbols ...	Cross-Reference Annotations ... In the Manifest ...	Nationality and Citizenship ... U.S. Citizens ...

<https://www.jewishgen.org/infofiles/manifests/>

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Third Takeaway

- Digitization is a boon to researchers
- You need to have some information to start your search
- Spelling doesn't matter



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QUESTIONS?

Hire Research Services
research@nehgs.org

Chat with a Genealogist
AmericanAncestors.org/chat

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Consultations

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

AmericanAncestors.org/
Expert-Help/Consultations



 **SCAN ME**

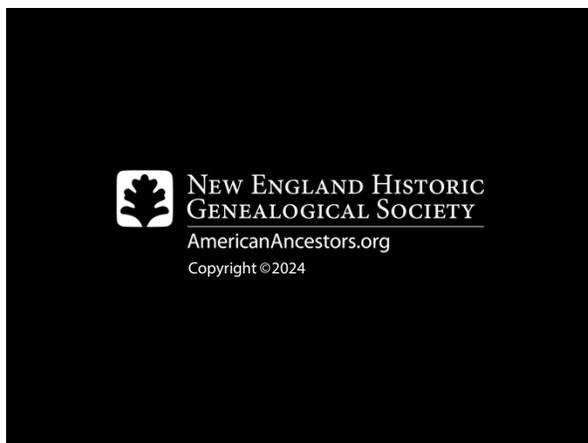
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