

# **PASSENGER LISTS:**

## **SELECTED SOURCES IN THE GROSVENOR ROOM**



### **KEY**

*	= Oversized book
GRO	= In Grosvenor Room
Ref.	= Reference book, cannot be borrowed
Ref. Index Table	= Reference book on Passenger List Index Table
Ships Ref.	= Reference book in Ships section
WNYGS	= In Western NY Genealogical Society's collection

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Buffalo and Erie County Public Library  
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## INTRODUCTION

### What are Passenger Lists?

Immigration records, also known as "ship passenger arrival records," may tell you when an immigrant ancestor first arrived in this country. These records may provide you with the following information: nationality and place of birth; ship name and date of entry to the United States; age; physical description; profession; place of last residence; name and address of relatives they are joining in the U.S.; and the amount of money they are carrying, etc.

### What we have:

Passenger lists & indexes from various European nations and tends to focus on Atlantic Ocean port cities. The Grosvenor Room and the Western New York Genealogical Society collect passenger lists that have been indexed or published in print or microfilm.

In addition, the Library has many passenger list resources focused on specific nations and ethnicities, not all of which are listed here. This list shows the most popular and frequently used titles. The Library's collection is not comprehensive, meaning that it does not include the names of every person who ever came to the United States. The Library has few actual, original passenger lists. Your research may take you to the National Archives, the Family History Centers of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS), or the New York Public Library Research Libraries Division all of which carry comprehensive passenger lists for 1850 and after.

### How to start?

You will have the best results if you know the name (along with possible spelling variations), age, and possible travel companions of the ancestor being sought, as well as the place and approximate dates of departure and arrival. 1900-1930 census records can help narrow down the year of arrival.

Check this guide, as well as the immigration sources listed by ethnicity in our other research guides (i.e. *Irish Genealogy: Selected Sources in the Grosvenor Room*). Don't forget to search <http://www.libertyellisfoundation.org/passenger>, the **Ancestry Library Edition** database, and other web sources listed in this guide.

Shelf locations are always subject to change. To view this and other subject guides online, use the following site: <https://www.buffalolib.org/special-collections/guides-publications>

## CANADIAN RECORDS

**Canada?** If your ancestor first arrived in Canada before traveling to Buffalo, here's what you need to know:

Since there is no direct water route from the Atlantic Ocean to Buffalo, immigrants would have first arrived at another port city, usually New York. However, those that traveled to Canada first would have then crossed the border at Buffalo, or somewhere else along the U.S. & Canada border. Therefore, there are no "passenger lists" for those immigrants, but there may be **border-crossing records**. These border crossings/port-of-entry records are called the "St. Alban's Lists."

Border crossing lists for Buffalo, Lewiston, Niagara Falls, and Rochester, New York are available in the Western New York Genealogical Society microfilm collection, which is housed in the Grosvenor Room (see page 10). These lists, as well as border crossings for other areas, are also available in **Ancestry Library Edition**, a database available at any B&ECPL location (see page 10). To learn more about *St. Alban's Lists* use the following sites:

<http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2000/fall/us-canada-immigration-records-1.html>

<http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2000/fall/us-canada-immigration-records-2.html>

Some passenger lists of ships arriving in various Canadian ports and Canadian immigration records are also in **Ancestry Library Edition**.

## ERIE CANAL

**Except for the years 1827-1829, the names of passengers on the Erie Canal were not recorded.** Those brief records are in the New York State Archives.

<http://www.archives.nysed.gov/a/research/index.shtml>

## GENERAL HOW-TO GUIDES

GRO Ref. \*CD3026 1988

Szucs, Loretto Dennis, and Sandra Hargreaves Luebking

**The Archives: A Guide to the National Archives Field Branches**

Salt Lake City, UT: Ancestry ©1988

GRO Ref. \*CS49 .C383 2005

Carmack, Sharon DeBartolo

**The Family Tree Guide to Finding Your Ellis Island Ancestors: A Genealogist's Essential Guide to Navigating the Ellis Island Database and Passenger Arrival Lists**

Cincinnati, OH: Family Tree Books, 2005

GRO Ref. CS49 .C63 2002 (Ships Ref.)

Colletta, John P.

**They Came in Ships: A Guide to Finding Your Immigrant Ancestor's Arrival Record**, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed.

Orem, UT: Ancestry, Inc., ©2002

GRO Ref. \*CS49 .S35 1999

Schiess, Wini M.

**The "What," "Where" & "How" of Passenger Lists**

[Santa Monica, CA]: W.M. Schiess, ©1999

## GENERAL HOW-TO GUIDES

GRO Ref. CS49 .S98 2000

Szucs, Loretto Dennis

**Ellis Island: Tracing Your Family's History through America's Gateway**

Provo, UT: Ancestry, ©2000

GRO Ref. Index Table CS68 .M62 1974, 2 vols.

Miller, Olga K.

**Migration, Emigration, Immigration: Principally to the United States and in the United States**

Logan, UT: The Everton Publishers, ©1974-1981

GRO Ref. Index Table CS68 .T46 1993

Tepper, Michael

**American Passenger Arrival Records: A Guide to Records of Immigrants Arriving at American Ports by Sail and Steam, Updated and Enlarged Edition**

Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., ©1993

GRO Ref \*JV7225 .O24 2010

Obee, Dave

**Destination Canada: A Genealogical Guide to Immigration Records**

Victoria, B.C. : D. Obee, 2010

GRO Ref. \*KF4710 .N49 1985

Newman, John J.

**American Naturalization Processes and Procedures 1790-1985**

[n.p.]: Indiana Historical Society, 1985

Closed Stacks Non-Circulating \*Z5305 .U5 U54 1991

**Immigrant and Passenger Arrivals: A Select Catalog of National Archives Microfilm Publications**

Washington, DC: National Archives Trust Fund Board, [1991]

GRO Ref. Index Table \*VM381 .P77 1992

Ptak, Diane Snyder

**A Passage in Time: The Ships that Brought Our Ancestors, 1620-1940**

Albany, NY: [The Author], ©1992

## SELECTED PASSENGER LISTS IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER

The volumes listed below are the most frequently used passenger lists books in our collection.

<p><b>1538-1900</b></p>	<p>GRO Ref. Index Table *CS47 .F55 1988            Filby, William, ed.  <b>Passenger and Immigration Lists Bibliography, 1538-1900, Being a Guide to Published Lists of Arrivals in the United States and Canada, Second Edition</b>            Detroit, MI: Gale Research Company, ©1988</p>
<p><b>1538 – 20<sup>th</sup> cent.</b></p>	<p>GRO Ref. Index Table *CS68. P363, multiple volumes            Filby, William, ed.  <b>Passenger and Immigration Lists</b>            Detroit, MI: Gale Research Co., c1982-present</p>
<p><b>ca. 1538- 1825</b></p>	<p>GRO Ref. Index Table CS61 .L2 1963            Lancour, Harold, comp.  <b>A Bibliography of Ship Passenger Lists, 1538-1825: Being a Guide to Published Lists of Early Immigrants to North America, Third Edition</b>            New York: The New York Public Library, ©[1963]</p>

<b>SELECTED PASSENGER LISTS IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER</b>	
<b>1538-1825</b>	GRO Ref. Index Table CS68 .B75 Boyer, Carl, ed. <b>Ship Passenger Lists: The South</b> Newhall, CA: Boyer, 1979
<b>1600-1700</b>	GRO Ref. Index Table E187.5 .H7945 1968 Hotten, John Camden, ed. <b>The Original Lists of Persons of Quality, Emigrants, Religious Exiles, Political Rebels, 1600-1700</b> Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., ©1968
<b>ca. 1600-1750</b>	WNYGS 929.4 vir Virkus, Frederick Adams, ed. <b>Immigrants' Ancestors: A List of 2,500 Immigrants to America before 1750</b> Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1978
<b>1600-1825</b>	GRO Ref. Index Table CS68 .B73 Boyer, Carl, ed. <b>Ship Passenger Lists, National and New England</b> Newhall, CA: Boyer ©1977
<b>1600-1825</b>	GRO Ref. Index Table CS68 .B74 Boyer, Carl, ed. <b>Ship Passenger Lists: New York and New Jersey</b> Newhall, CA: Boyer, 1978
<b>1607-1660</b>	GRO Ref. Index Table CS61 C625 1987 Coldham, Peter Wilson, ed. <b>Comprehensive Book of Emigrants</b> Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Pub. Co., ©1987
<b>ca.1607 to present</b>	GRO Ref. Index Table *CS25 .P77 1993 Ptak, Diane Snyder <b>A Compilation of American and Canadian Passenger Emigration Registers</b> Albany, NY: [The Author] ©1993
<b>1614-1775</b>	GRO Ref. Index Table CS61 .C62 1988 Coldham, Peter Wilson <b>The Complete Book of Emigrants in Bondage, 1614-1775</b> Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., ©1988
<b>1614-1775</b>	GRO Ref. Index Table CS61 .C62 1988 Sup. Coldham, Peter Wilson, comp. <b>Supplement to the Complete Book of Emigrants in Bondage, 1614-1775</b> Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., ©1992
<b>1614-1775</b>	CS61 .C62 1988 Suppl. 2 Coldham, Peter Wilson, comp. <b>More Emigrants in Bondage, 1614-1775</b> Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Pub. Co., ©2002
<b>ca. 1620's</b>	WNYGS 942.1 ban Banks, Charles Edward <b>The English Ancestry and Homes of the Pilgrim Fathers Who Came to Plymouth on the "Mayflower" in 1620, the "Fortune" in 1621, and the "Anne" and "Little James" in 1623</b> Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1989

<b>SELECTED PASSENGER LISTS IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER</b>	
<b>1628-1828</b>	GRO Ref. Index Table E184 .S3 D69 1998 Dobson, David, comp. <b>Ships from Scotland to America, 1628-1828</b> Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., ©1998
<b>ca. 1630</b>	GRO F67 .B2 1968 Banks, Charles Edward <b>The Winthrop Fleet of 1630: An Account of the Vessels, the Voyage, the Passengers and their English Homes from Original Authorities</b> Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1968
<b>ca. 1630-1750</b>	GRO Ref. Index Table F106 .I47 Tepper, Michael, ed. <b>Immigrants to the Middle Colonies: A Consolidation of Ship Passenger Lists and Associated Data from the New York Genealogical and Biographical Record</b> Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., ©1978
<b>ca. 1630-1750</b>	GRO Ref. Index Table CS68 .P37 1977 Tepper, Michael, ed. <b>Passengers to America: A Consolidation of Ship Passenger Lists from <i>The New England Historical and Genealogical Register</i></b> Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., ©1977, 1978
<b>1641-1819</b>	GRO Ref. Index Table F148 .T4 1978 Tepper, Michael, ed. <b>Emigrants to Pennsylvania, 1641-1819: A Consolidation of Ship Passenger Lists from the Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography</b> Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., ©1975
<b>1641-1825</b>	GRO Ref. Index Table F148 .B76 Boyer, Carl, ed. <b>Ship Passenger Lists: Pennsylvania and Delaware</b> Newhall, CA: [The Author], ©1980
<b>1661-1669</b>	GRO Ref. Index Table CS61 .C626 1990 Coldham, Peter Wilson <b>Complete Book of Immigrants, 1661-1669...</b> Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Pub. Co. ©1990
<b>1675-1878</b>	GRO Ref. Index Table CS68 .N48 1979, 2 vols. Tepper, Michael <b>New World Immigrants: A Consolidation of Ship Passenger Lists and Associated Data from Periodical Literature</b> Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., ©1979
<b>1700s</b>	GRO F160 .G3 B85 1997 Burgert, Annette K. <b>Eighteenth Century Emigrants from Langenselbold in Hesse to America</b> Myerstown, PA: AKB Publications, ©1997
<b>1700-1750</b>	GRO Ref. Index Table CS61 .C627 1992 Coldham, Peter Wilson <b>Complete Book of Immigrants 1770-1750...</b> Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Pub. Co. ©1992
<b>ca. 1700-1899</b>	GRO Ref. Index Table E184 .G3 S376 1992 Schrader-Muggenthaler, Cornelia <b>The Baden Emigration Book: Including Emigration from Alsace</b> Apollo, PA: Closson Press, ©1992

<b>SELECTED PASSENGER LISTS IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER</b>	
<b>ca. 1701-1800</b>	GRO Ref. Index Table CS614 .H33 1994 Hacker, Werner, ed. <b>Eighteenth Century Register of Emigrants from Southwest Germany (to America and Other Countries)</b> Apollo, PA: Closson Press, ©[1994]
<b>1709-1786</b>	GRO F160 .G3 P43 1980 Yoder, Don, ed. <b>Pennsylvania German Immigrants, 1709-1786: Lists Consolidated from Yearbooks of the Pennsylvania German Folklore Society</b> Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1980
<b>1727-1808</b>	GRO F160 .G3 S8 1992, 2 vols. Strassburger, Ralph Beaver <b>Pennsylvania German Pioneers: A Publication of the Original Lists of Arrivals in the Port of Philadelphia from 1727 to 1808</b> Camden, ME: Picton Press, ©1992
<b>1731-1735</b>	GRO Ref. CS516 .S34 S25 1999 Rohrbach, Lewis Bunker, ed. <b>The Salzburger Expulsion Lists</b> Rockport, ME: Picton Press, ©1999
<b>ca. 1750-1900</b>	GRO Ref. Index Table CS627 .W86 S34 1986, 6 vols. Schenk, Trudy, comp. <b>The Wuerttemberg Emigration Index</b> Salt Lake City, UT: Ancestry Inc., ©1986-1992
<b>1751-1776</b>	GRO Ref. Index Table CS61 .C628 1993 Coldham, Peter Wilson, comp. <b>Comprehensive Listing Compiled from English Public Records of Those Who Took Ship to the Americas for Political, Religious, and Economic Reasons; of Those Who Were Deported for Vagrancy, Roguery, or Non-Conformity; and of Those Who Were Sold to Labour in the New Colonies</b> Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1993
<b>1761-1853</b>	GRO Ref. Index Table *CS88 .A88 P86 2008 Punch, Terrence M. <b>Erin's sons : Irish arrivals in Atlantic Canada, 1761-1853 Vol.1 - 3</b> Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Pub. Co., c2008.
<b>1800s</b>	GRO Ref. CS68 .S34 1989, 2 vols. Schrader-Muggenthaler, Cornelia <b>The Alsace Emigration Book</b> Apollo, PA: Closson Press, 1989-©1991
<b>1800s</b>	GRO Ref. E184 .G3 B9 1997 Burkett, Brigitte <b>Nineteenth Century Emigrants from Baden-Württemberg</b> Camden, ME: Picton Press, ©1997-
<b>1800-1819</b>	WNYGS 929.3 Pas Tepper, Michael, ed. <b>The Complete Book of Emigrants, 1751-1776: A Passenger Arrivals at the Port of Philadelphia, 1800-1819: The Philadelphia "Baggage Lists"</b> Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1986
<b>1803-1806</b>	GRO Ref. Index Table E184 .I6 I687 1995 <b>Irish Passenger Lists, 1803-1806</b> Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Company, ©1995

<b>SELECTED PASSENGER LISTS IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER</b>	
<b>1811-1817</b>	GRO Ref. Index Table E164 .I6 .S34 1980 Schlegel, Donald M. <b>Passengers From Ireland...Between 1811-1817</b> Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Pub. Co., ©1980
<b>1817-1849</b>	GRO Ref. Index Table *CS88 .AI .A27 1999 Action, John A. <b>Index of Passengers Who Emigrated to Canada Between 1817 &amp; 1849</b> Toronto, ON: Ontario Genealogical Society, ©1999
<b>1817-1831</b>	GRO F160 .G3 G78 1994 Grubb, Farley Ward <b>German Immigrant Servant Contracts Registered at the Port of Philadelphia, 1817-1831</b> Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Pub. Co., ©1994
<b>1819-1820</b>	GRO Ref. Index Table JV6461 .A54 1967 <b>Passenger Arrivals, 1819-1820: A Transcript of the List of Passengers Who Arrived in the United States from the 1<sup>st</sup> October, 1819, to the 30<sup>th</sup> September, 1820, with an Added Index</b> Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Company, ©1967
<b>1820-1829</b>	GRO Ref. Index Table E184 .A1 .B37 1999 Bentley, Elizabeth P. <b>Passenger Arrivals at the Port of New York, 1820-1829</b> Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Pub. Co., ©1999
<b>1820-1834</b>	WNYGS 929.4 pas Tepper, Michael, ed. <b>Passenger Arrivals at the Port of Baltimore, 1820-1834: From Customs Passenger Lists</b> Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1982
<b>1820-1850</b>	GRO E184.S23 O43 Olsson, Nils William <b>Swedish Passenger Arrivals in New York, 1820-1850</b> Chicago, IL: Swedish Pioneer Historical Society, 1967
<b>1821-1823</b>	GRO Ref. Index Table *JV6461 .A542 1969 <b>Passengers Who Arrived in the United States, September 1821-December 1823, from Transcripts Made by the State Department, with Index</b> Baltimore, MD: Magna Carta Book Company, ©1969
<b>1833-1839</b>	GRO Ref. Index Table CS497 .L66 .M58 1989 Mitchell, Brian <b>Irish Emigration Lists, 1833-1839</b> Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., ©1989
<b>1835-189?</b>	WNYGS Microfilm ML661-666 <b>Ontario Immigration Records</b> Includes: <i>Toronto emigration office records "Hawkes Papers"</i> : Chief Emigrant Agent's Letterbooks 1835-1869. <i>Toronto emigration office records, Kingston Office</i> : Emigrant Agent's letter book 1849-1851; Register of Children's Home 1865; List of immigrants arriving in Quebec, New York, Boston 1865; Toronto area accommodation listings 1871-1874 and employment listings 1870-1874; and assisted immigration registers 1865-1877. <i>Toronto emigration office records, arrival and destination registers</i> 1857-189?.
<b>1840-</b>	WNYGS 943.1 ger, multiple vols. Glazier, Ira A., ed. <b>Germans to America: Lists of Passengers Arriving at U.S. Ports</b> Wilmington, DA: Scholarly Resources, Inc., 1988 - present



<b>SELECTED PASSENGER LISTS IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER</b>	
<b>1841-1849</b>	GRO Ref. E184 .I6 J64 1996 Johnson, Daniel F. <b>Irish Emigration to New England through the Port of Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada, 1841-1849</b> Baltimore, MD: Clearfield, ©1996
<b>1846-1851</b>	GRO Ref. Index Table E184 .I6 .F25 1983, 7 vols. Glazier, Ira A., ed. <b>The Famine Immigrants: Lists of Irish Immigrants Arriving at the Port of New York, 1846-1851</b> Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., ©1983-1986
<b>1847-1851</b>	GRO Ref. Index Table JV6518 .M37 1971 Monroe, J.B., ed. <b>List of Alien Passengers Bonded from January 1, 1847, to January 1, 1851, for the Use of the Overseers of the Poor, in the Commonwealth</b> Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., ©1971
<b>1847-1871</b>	GRO Ref. Index Table E 184 .G3 .Z56 1985, 4 vols. Zimmerman, Gary J., comp. <b>German Immigrants: Lists of Passengers Bound From Bremen to New York...With Places of Origin</b> Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Pub. Co., ©1985 [1988]
<b>1847-1871</b>	GRO Ref. Index Table E184 .I6 I69 1988 Mitchell, Brian, comp. <b>Irish Passenger Lists, 1847-1871; Lists of Passengers Sailing from Londonderry to America on Ships of the J. &amp; J. Cooke Line and the McCorkell Line</b> Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., ©1988
<b>1847-1896</b>	GRO Ref. Index Table *E184 .B67 .B32 1983 Baca, Leo <b>Czech Immigration Passenger Lists</b> Hallettsville, TX: Old Homestead Pub. Co., ©1983
<b>1850</b>	Film #347 (3 rolls) <b>Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York in May and July, 1850</b> <i>Our only film of actual passenger lists</i>
<b>1850</b>	GRO E184 .G3 S663 1987 Smith, Clifford Neal <b>From Bremen to America in 1850: Fourteen Rare Emigrant Ship Lists</b> Baltimore, MD: Reprinted for Clearfield Company, Inc. by Genealogical Publishing Co., 2004, ©1987
<b>1853-1876</b>	GRO F127 .C7 B37 1991 Barris, Lois, comp. <b>Emigrants Aided in Chautauqua County New York 1853-1876</b> Dunkirk, NY: The Society, 1991 <i>Includes date arrived in New York and vessel came over on; may include nativity. Many German, Irish, and Swedish settlers as well as other ethnic groups.</i>
<b>1855-1873</b>	GRO Ref. Index Table E184 .J5 M667 1996 Moser, Geraldine, ed. <b>Hamburg Passengers from the Kingdom of Poland and the Russian Empire: Indirect Passage to New York, 1855-June, 1873</b> Washington, DC: Landsmen Press, ©1996

SELECTED PASSENGER LISTS IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER	
1870-	GRO Ref. Index table E184 .B7 E45 2006 Glazier, Ira A., ed. <b>Emigration from the United Kingdom to America: Lists of Passengers arriving at U.S. Ports</b> Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press, 2006
1875-1891	WNYGS 947 gla, multiple vols. Glazier, Ira A., ed. <b>Migration from the Russian Empire</b> [Baltimore, MD]: Genealogical Pub. Co. Inc., ©1995
1880-19??	GRO Ref. Index Table E184 .I8 I8444 1992, multiple vols. <b>Italians to America: Lists of Passengers Arriving at U.S. Ports, 1880-</b> Wilmington, DE: Scholarly Resources Inc., 1992
1902-1954	WNYGS Microfilm ML700-ML861 <b>Canadian Border Crossing Records, 1902-1954 (St. Albans Lists, National Archives M1480 Manifests of Alien Arrivals at Buffalo, Lewiston, Niagara Falls, and Rochester, New York, 1902-1954.)</b> Reproduces card manifests of over one million alien arrivals. Some citizen arrivals are also included. The bulk of the arrivals were at Buffalo and Niagara Falls. The cards are arranged by Soundex code (last name code) and include permanent, temporary, statistical, and nonstatistical arrivals. May include date of birth, place of birth, relative in country of origin, and occupation. A guide to these records is available in a binder labeled "Western New York Genealogical Society, Inc. Canadian Border Crossings 1902-1954," which is on top of the microfilm cabinets.

DATABASES		
<a href="http://dbaz.buffalolib.org/dbaz.php">http://dbaz.buffalolib.org/dbaz.php</a>		
Name	Description	Access
<b>Ancestry Library Edition</b>	The <i>U.S. Immigration Collection</i> and features passenger lists, border crossings, Australian convict transportation records, crew lists, passport applications, slave manifests, citizenship registers, Ellis Island oral histories, and some naturalization records.	Available for walk-in users at every public library in Erie County. No at-home use.

TIPS ON FINDING YOUR ANCESTORS IN PASSENGER LISTS
<p>1. <b>The U.S. did not require passenger lists until Jan. 1, 1820.</b> Before that time period ship captains and ship companies made lists according to their needs. States or ports may have required lists too. <b>Very few passenger lists before 1820 survived.</b> Surviving lists could be located at the port, with the shipping company, or in the collection of a library, museum, or archive. Most of these lists have been transcribed and published in book or periodical format. <b>FindMyPast</b> (<a href="http://www.findmypast.com/persi">http://www.findmypast.com/persi</a>) includes an index to local history and genealogy periodicals called <b>PERSI</b>. <b>FindMyPast</b> is free to search.</p>
<p>2. <b>Search <i>Ancestry Library Edition</i> for U.S. passenger lists.</b> Ancestry includes millions of passenger lists from numerous ports such as New York City, New Orleans, Baltimore, Boston, Philadelphia, Hawaii, Florida, Alaska, Texas, Puerto Rico, and many others. The <u>dates</u> of passenger lists are mainly from <u>1820 - 1960</u>. <b>Ancestry Library Edition is available for use at any Buffalo &amp; Erie County Public Library location.</b></p>

## TIPS ON FINDING YOUR ANCESTORS IN PASSENGER LISTS

3. **Search *Ancestry Library Edition* for overseas departure lists.** Unfortunately, not all U.S. passenger lists survived. For some years and locations, copies and abstracts supplement the missing original lists. Copies and abstracts were handwritten and errors certainly occurred. Also, the abstracts usually did not spell out first names. Some foreign ports kept outgoing passenger departure lists. These lists may be easier to read, or may have been more accurate than the U.S. lists (or copies/abstracts). Some major collections of foreign departure lists in **Ancestry** include: United Kingdom, Hamburg, and Sweden.
4. **Search *Ancestry Library Edition* for Canadian or Mexican Border Crossings.** Canadian Border Crossings were first kept in 1895 and Mexican Border Crossing Records began in 1903. Before those dates, immigrants coming in through Canada and Mexico were not recorded or regulated. Immigrants were issued compiled inspection cards that they surrendered to US officials on trains as they crossed the border. The information on the cards was similar to what was on passenger lists. Before Sept. 30, 1906, Canadians and Mexicans entering the US were not included on border crossing records.
5. **Search *Ancestry Library Edition* for Canadian arrival lists.** In the early 1890s, numerous passengers arriving in Canada were en route to the United States. Many immigrants came through Canada on their way to the U.S. because it was cheaper than coming directly to the U.S. *Also, immigration across the Canadian border was not regulated or recorded until 1895.* This allowed persons who were restricted from entering the U.S. under the immigration laws of the time a way into the country ([https://wiki.rootsweb.com/wiki/index.php/Major\\_Settlements,\\_Immigration,\\_and\\_Naturalization](https://wiki.rootsweb.com/wiki/index.php/Major_Settlements,_Immigration,_and_Naturalization)) Canadian passenger lists are available in *Ancestry* from 1865-1935. It should be noted that Canadian lists were not strictly kept for all ports and all time periods.
6. **Search *FamilySearch* ([www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)).** *FamilySearch* is a free website available to everyone and includes many of the same passenger lists and border crossing records as **Ancestry**. Though they are the same lists, the indexing may be different, so you may find a name in one database and not in the other.
7. **Search the Ellis Island website.** If you think your immigrants came through the Port of New York (Castle Garden or Ellis Island), use the Ellis Island website (<http://libertyellisfoundation.org>) to search for passenger lists (1820-1957.) It should be noted that the lists available through Ellis Island are the same lists that are held at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). NARA's lists are those that have been digitized by **Ancestry**, **FamilySearch**, and other sources. Though they are the same lists, the indexing is different, so you may find a name in one database and not in the other. See the list below for the dates that Ellis Island and Castle Garden were used as immigrant processing stations.
  - August 1, 1855 - April 18, 1890 - Castle Garden
  - April 19, 1890 - December 31, 1891 - New York City Barge Office
  - January 1, 1892 - June 13, 1897 - Ellis Island
  - June 14, 1897 - December 16, 1900 - New York City Barge Office
  - December 17, 1900 - 1924 - Ellis Island
8. **See the Library's guide: *Passenger Lists: Selected Sources in the Grosvenor Room*** [this guide] for books and websites that include passenger lists.
9. **If you have any of the following documents related to your ancestor, you may already have detailed information about your ancestor's arrival to the United States.**

**Naturalization Records** - If your ancestor arrived in the U.S. after 1906, and was naturalized, a *Certificate of Arrival* would have been created as part of the naturalization process. The Certificate of Arrival provides the immigrant's date, port, and ship of arrival. These certificates may be found in your ancestor's naturalization records.

**Erie County, NY, Naturalizations** - Naturalizations after 1906 may be found at the Erie County Clerk's Office (usually only until 1929) or through the National Archives at New York City (<https://www.archives.gov/nyc/finding-aids/naturalization-holdings>). Naturalizations before Sept. 27, 1906 can be found in the Erie County Clerk's Office, Basement Record Center in Erie County Hall, at 92 Franklin St.

**Western New York Naturalizations, U.S. District Court** - The Grosvenor Room has an index that covers the National Archive held records for Western New York from Sept. 27, 1906 – 1966. Partial data from the index can also be found online for free through *FamilySearch*: <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1854307>

## TIPS ON FINDING YOUR ANCESTORS IN PASSENGER LISTS

### Naturalizations for other locations

- *County Clerk's Office* where your ancestor lived at the time of naturalization.
- Sept. 27, 1906 and later – *National Archives*.
- *Ancestry Library Edition* – Many naturalization records are included, though none from Erie County. Most are U.S. District Court naturalizations vs. county naturalizations.
- *FamilySearch* – Many naturalization records are included, both U.S. District Court and some county naturalizations. There are many from WNY, but none for Erie County. Here is a link to the New York county naturalizations: <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1999177>

**Passports**—May include the date and ship of immigration and/or naturalization information. U.S. passport applications from 1795-1925 are available in *Ancestry Library Edition* and *FamilySearch*. Passports after 1925 can be requested through a Freedom of Information Act request at the following website:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports/have-passport/passport-records.html>. Passports were not required for overseas travel until the end of 1941 (as well as during the Civil War and during WWI), but many U.S. citizens obtained them anyway.

### Visas and Alien Registration

**Visas** were required for every immigrant intending to stay permanently in the U.S. beginning July 1, 1924. The back of the visa application provides the alien's date, port, and ship of arrival.

**Mandatory Alien Registration began on August 1, 1940.** Alien registration forms asked (in addition to other questions) for the port, date, and ship of the alien's last (most recent) arrival as well as the date of the first arrival.

*U.S., Index to Alien Case Files at the National Archives at Kansas City, 1944-2003* - This database is available in *Ancestry Library Edition* and *FamilySearch*. It covers aliens from most areas in the United States who were born before 1909 and either did not naturalize before April 1, 1956, or never naturalized. *Ancestry's* index usually includes name, date of birth, date of arrival, port of entry, country of origin, and registration number. *FamilySearch's* index usually includes name, event date (arrival date), birth date, and record identifier (registration number).

Visa and alien registration information is available through [May 1, 1951](#) for genealogy research. To obtain a [visa](#) or [alien registration](#) record, or to learn more, see: <https://www.uscis.gov/genealogy>

**10. Browse passenger lists** - If you have worked through all of the above steps and still have not found the passenger list that you are seeking, browsing passenger lists may produce the list. You can browse passenger lists using databases such as *Ancestry Library Edition* and *FamilySearch*. You can also browse passenger list microfilm. The Buffalo & Erie County Public Library does not carry passenger lists on microfilm. The Family History Library has microfilmed passenger lists which can be rented for a fee at a local Family History Center ([https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Introduction\\_to\\_LDS\\_Family\\_History\\_Centers](https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Introduction_to_LDS_Family_History_Centers)).

For a detailed list of surviving passenger lists housed by the National Archives, see: <https://www.archives.gov/research/immigration/passenger-arrival.html#film>

For a list of European passenger steamship arrivals for the Port of New York from 1890-1930 and for the ports of Philadelphia, Boston, and Baltimore from 1904-1926, see:

GRO INDX Morton Allan directory of European passenger steamship arrivals for the years 1890 to 1930 at the Port of New York and for the years 1904 to 1926 at the ports of New York, Philadelphia, Boston, and Baltimore. Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1993.

You will need to narrow down your search to as small a date range as possible. One way to do that is by using data found in census records. The following chart shows the immigration information that can be found in both U.S. Federal Census records and New York State Census records. Census records from other states may include immigration data too.

### Question Asked in the U.S. Federal Census and New York State Census

Year of immigration to the U.S.: 1920, 1930

Year of naturalization: 1920

Number of years in the U.S: 1900, 1905, 1910, 1915, 1925

If naturalized, when and where: 1925

## TIPS ON FINDING YOUR ANCESTORS IN PASSENGER LISTS

- 11. Try searching for married women using their maiden names.** In some countries, women used their maiden names for business, especially France, Italy, and the Netherlands.
- 12. Births and deaths at sea** were usually recorded at the end of a passenger list or through a column or a notation near the person's name on the list.
- 13. Stowaways** were usually found along the journey. Their names were generally added to the end of the passenger list or added to the crew list because they were required to work for their passage fare. If they were not discovered, then there will not be evidence of their arrival.
- 14. Detained Aliens** – Lists of detained aliens were kept beginning in 1903. If your ancestor was detained, you should see the notation S.I. (for special inquiry) or the word admitted or deported stamped next to his name. If any of these are present, there should be a list of detainees directly after the last page of the ship's manifest. Next, there should be a list of detainees held for special inquiry. The list should provide details about why the person was detained; how long they were detained; if they were deported and the name of the return ship; and if the person was detained because they were waiting for someone, the name and address of the person they are waiting for should be provided.  
  
Prior to 1903, if the alien deportation was an open and shut case, no special records were kept, but there should still be a notation by the person's name, such as S.I. If there was an appeals case, NARA may have records associated with the case, but they are not indexed.
- 15. Return/Seasonal Migration** - Italians, Poles, and Greeks usually made multiple trips back home. Some just came to the U.S. to make enough money to buy land in their home countries. Others were saving up to send for the rest of their family and may have gone back and forth between countries before permanently settling.

## WEBSITES

<http://www.cyndislist.com/ships>

**Cyndi's List: Ships & Passenger Lists**

<http://www.udvanderarkivet.dk/udvandererprotokollerne/>

**Danish Emigration Archives**

<http://www.libertyellisfoundation.org/passenger>

**Ellis Island Records**

See also Stephen Morse

<http://www.findmypast.co.uk/>

**Find My Past** - British, U.S., Irish, and Australian passenger lists. Free to search, but you must pay to view records.

<http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/db/hawke.aspx>

**Canada. Hawke Papers, 1831-1892.** Document assistance provided to immigrants by the Toronto Emigration Office Records

<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/exploration-settlement/Pages/exploration-settlement.aspx>

**Exploration and Settlement - Canada**

<https://www.deutsche-auswanderer-datenbank.de/>

**German Emigrants Database, Bremerhaven 1820-1939.**

<http://www.germanroots.com/ei.html>

**German Roots Emigration and Immigration** [not just German]

<http://www.immigrantships.net/>

**Immigrant Ships Transcribers Guild**

<https://library.harvard.edu/collections/immigration-united-states-1789-1930>

**Immigration to the United States, 1789-1930**

<http://www.dunbrody.com/get-involved/irish-emigration-database/>

**Irish Immigration Database**

## WEBSITES

<http://www.familysearch.org>

**Family Search** – Choose a world region from the list on the main page and then input the word “passenger” in the collection name search box. Other keywords to try are “immigrants,” “passport” and “border crossing.”

<http://www.italygen.com/>

**ItalyGen Passenger Lists**

<http://www.jewishgen.org/InfoFiles/Manifests/>

**Manifest Markings: A Guide to Interpreting Passenger List Annotations**

<http://aad.archives.gov/aad/>

**National Archives: Access to Archival Databases** – choose the passenger list category which includes indexes to passenger lists, mostly by ethnic group.

<http://www.archives.gov/research/immigration/>

**National Archives: Immigration Records (Ship Passenger Arrival Records)**

<http://www.norwayheritage.com/norwegian-emigration-records.htm>

**Norwegian Emigrants Online**

<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/emigration/>

**Scottish Emigration Database**

<http://www.theshipslist.com/>

**The Ships List**

[https://dcms.lids.org/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?dps\\_pid=IE3835834](https://dcms.lids.org/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?dps_pid=IE3835834)

**The Shipwrecked Passenger Book: Sailing Westbound from Europe for the Americas, 1817 - 1875**

<http://www.stevemorse.org/>

**One-Step Web Pages by Stephen Morse**

Alternate search forms for Ellis Island, Other ports (Boston, New Orleans, etc.), Ship identification resources, and Canadian Border Crossings.

## VESSEL LISTS AND PICTURES

The books listed below do not contain any passenger lists or names. Instead, they have pictures of ships, directories and descriptions of ships, or dates when ships arrived at various ports. Perhaps one of them has a picture of your ancestor’s ship.

GRO Ships Ref. \*F106 .J24

Jackson, Robert Mosley, Jr.

**Ships’ Locator: A Reference to Over 2,000 Ships, Schooners, and Other Vessels of Nineteenth-Century New England and the Atlantic Seaboard**

Salem, MA: Higginson Book Co., ©1998

GRO Ships Ref. HE565 .A3 S48 1978

Smith, Eugene W.

**Passenger Ships of the World: Past and Present**

Boston, MA: George H. Dean Company, ©1978

GRO Ships Ref. HE945 .A2 A3 1940

**Adler’s Directory: A Compilation of Passenger Steamships Sailing from European Ports and Arriving in the Eastern Ports of the United States from 1899 to 1929, Inclusive**

New York City: Steamship Directory Publishers, © [1940]

GRO Ships Ref. HE945 .A2 D5 1993

**Morton Allan Directory of European Passenger Steamship Arrivals**

Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1931, reprinted 1993

## VESSEL LISTS AND PICTURES

GRO Ships Ref. TF320.H5

Hilton, George W.

### **The Great Lakes Car Ferries**

Berkeley, CA: Howell-North, 1962

GRO Ships Ref. \*VK23 .L9

Lytle, William, comp.

### **Merchant Steam Vessels of the United States, 1807-1868**

Mystic, CT: Steamship Historical Society of America, 1952

GRO Ships Ref. VM18 .G5 1957

Gibbs, C.R. Vernon

### **Passenger Liners of the Western Ocean: A Record of the North Atlantic Steam and Motor Passenger Vessels from 1838 to the Present Day, Second Edition**

New York: John De Graff Inc., ©1957

GRO Ships Ref. VM381 .A58 1983

Anuta, Michael J.

### **Ships of Our Ancestors**

Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., ©1983

GRO Ships Ref. \*VM381 .M446 1984

Miller, William H.

### **The First Great Ocean Liners in Photographs: 193 Views, 1897-1927**

New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1984

GRO Ships Ref. \*VM381 .P37 1991

Steuart, Bradley W., ed.

### **Passenger Ships Arriving in New York Harbor, Volume I**

Bountiful, UT: Precision Indexing, ©1991

GRO Ships Ref. Dewey 656 176

### **Record of the Arrival of Passenger Steamships from Europe...1904 to 1926 Inclusive**

New York: Immigration Information Bureau, ©1927

GRO Ships Ref. Dewey 656 264

Smith, Eugene W.

### **Trans-Atlantic Passenger Ships Past and Present**

Boston, MA: George H. Dean Co., ©1947

## THE ONLINE CATALOG OF THE BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

[https://bepl.ent.sirsi.net/client/en\\_US/default](https://bepl.ent.sirsi.net/client/en_US/default)

Search the online catalog to find books, magazines, CDs, DVDs, maps, and manuscripts owned by the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library. It includes the Grosvenor Room, all departments in the Central Library, and every town and branch library. Anyone may access it at the address above.

To find additional passenger lists in our collection beyond those listed in this guide, try these Subject searches:

## THE ONLINE CATALOG OF THE BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

IMMIGRANTS UNITED STATES REGISTERS  
 NEW ENGLAND EMIGRATION AND  
 IMMIGRATION REGISTERS  
 OCEAN LINERS HISTORY PICTORIAL WORKS  
 OCEAN LINERS REGISTERS  
 REGISTERS IMMIGRANTS  
 REGISTERS PASSENGER SHIPS  
 SHIPS NEW YORK STATE NEW YORK  
 PASSENGER LISTS

SHIPS NORTH AMERICA PASSENGER LISTS  
 SHIPS PASSENGER LISTS  
 SHIPS PICTORIAL WORKS  
 STEAMBOAT LINES  
 UNITED STATES EMIGRATION AND  
 IMMIGRATION INDEXES  
 [Input Country Here] EMIGRATION AND  
 IMMIGRATION

### WHERE ELSE CAN I FIND PASSENGER LISTS?

### NOTES

**Williamsville Family History Center**  
 The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
 1424 Maple Road  
 Williamsville, New York 14221  
 (716) 688-2439  
[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)

Has passenger list microfilm from the National Archives. See below.

See web site for other local Family History Centers.

**National Archives and Records Administration**  
 8601 Adelphi Road  
 College Park, MD 20740-6001  
 1-86-NARA-NARA or 1-866-272-6272  
<https://www.archives.gov/research/immigration>

Immigration records for arrivals to the United States from foreign ports between approximately 1820 and 1982. The records are arranged by Port of Arrival and are on microfilm. These same microfilms are available through LDS Family History Centers.