# Why Finding Atlantic Shipping Records is Challenging

North American Atlantic Ship Records Prior to 1914

- 45 Million Immigrants entered Canada & The Unites States between 1500 and 1914
  - Most of them crossed the North Atlantic and arrived by ship
- In 2010, 72.4% of the US population was of European decent

# Why is it so difficult to find their shipping records?

# Agenda

- How did they travel?
- Why did they come?
- Regulations & Records
- Transmigration
- Online Resources
- Search Strategies

#### Terminology

- Emigration Leaving a country and settling somewhere else
- Transmigration Passing through a country while emigrating
- Immigration Entering a country and settling there

# How did they travel?

## Atlantic Crossings by Sail

- This was the only option until the mid 1800's
- A normal, uneventful trip took 7 8 weeks
  - It could be done in 4 weeks
  - It sometimes too as long as 12 weeks
- Schedules were unreliable
- Emigrants congregated at the point of departure waiting for their ship
- The entire trip could take 2 5 months

## Eating During the Voyage

- Early passengers were required to bring enough food and water to feed themselves for 6 weeks.
- From about 1850 ships from Bremen and Hamburg provided meals for all passengers
- By 1873 all ships furnished food
  - But steerage passenger still had to provide their own utensils and bedding

## Emigrants Were Another Type of Cargo

- Ships brought goods and cargo to Europe
  - Lumber, Furs, Dried Fish, Whale Oil, Iron, Gunpowder, Rice, Tobacco, Indigo
- Europe sent manufactured goods, textiles, furniture, luxuries
- Carrying Emigrants provided an additional source of income
  - The ships were designed to carry cargo not people
  - People went where the cargo was being shipped

## Atlantic Crossings: Steam Ships

- Steam powered ships emerged in the 1850's
  - Sailing ships continued to sail during this transition period
- 1865 1<sup>st</sup> year more people traveled on steamships than sailing ships
- Steam effectively took over by 1880
- Regular schedules were established
- Crossing times reduced to 1 week by 1914

#### Atlantic Crossings: Steam Trains

- Use of Steam powered trains also expanded greatly during this period.
- Made it easier to travel to the port departure
  - Enabled development of integrated train/ship routes and schedules
- Made it easier to travel from the point of arrival to more distant destination

# Why did they come?

- Food Shortage
- To escape oppression
- Economic Opportunity
- Cheap/free land
- Slavery

# 3 Waves of Migration

• 1<sup>st</sup>: Prior to 1820

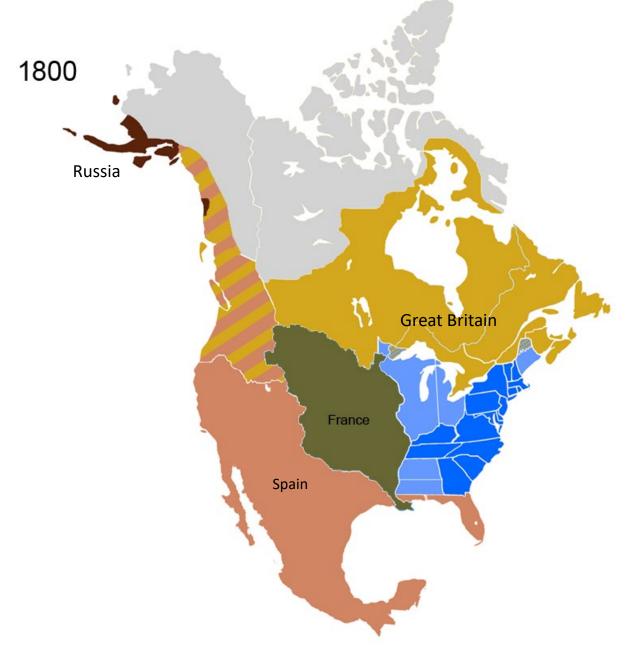
• 2<sup>nd</sup>: 1820 – 1890

• 3<sup>rd</sup>: 1890 – 1920's

#### Prior to 1820: The 1st Wave

#### **Organized Migration**

• Several European Powers established outposts in the new colony



Map Source:

Wikipedia - Territorial evolution of North America since 1763

#### Prior to 1820: The 1st Wave

#### **Organized Migration**

- Several European Powers established outposts in the new colony
- There was a shortage of labor
- Rotterdam (The Netherlands) and Antwerp (Belgium) were major ports of departure
  - Many boats brought freight into these ports & had capacity to carry people on the return trip
  - Emigrants could travel there by boat (Rhine/Meuse river)

#### Protestants from northwestern Europe

Approximately 1.2 Million people arrived in this period

- Soldiers
- Religious missionaries
- Settlers recruited for chartered colonies
- Indentured servants
- Exiles
- Convicted laborers
- Slaves

#### Slaves

- Brought into Virginia as early as 1619
  - Most arrived before 1780
- It is estimated that 800,000 were in the US by 1808 (when the importation of slaves into the United States was banned)
- In 1820 slaves represented 16% of the United States population

## Major Port

#### Philadelphia

- Popular port of arrival for immigrants settling East of the Alleghenies
  - Agricultural Germans and Scotch-Irish settlers

#### 1820 – 1890: The **2**<sup>nd</sup> Wave

#### **Autonomous Migration**

- Rapid industrialization provided opportunities for migrants of modest means and/or skills
- European barriers to emigrating (such as serfdom) were removed
- Military conscription and ethnic discrimination prompted mass migration out of Eastern Europe
- Government policies encouraged/facilitated transatlantic relocation
- Advances in transportation (steamships and railway networks) made travel easer, more reliable and more economical

#### Major Ports

#### New York

• Provided better transportations options to Buffalo, Cleveland and Milwaukee

#### New Orleans

- Longer voyage (2 3 weeks longer)
- Ships were inferior
- Travel up the Mississippi was unpleasant & dangerous.

# 15 Million people arrived during this period

- Countries of Origin
  - Irish (Potato Famine 1847)
  - German (failure of the democratic revolutions of 1848)
  - Scandinavians
  - (Chinese)
- Vast majority of the US arrivals were processed in New York City
  - Castle Garden established in 1855

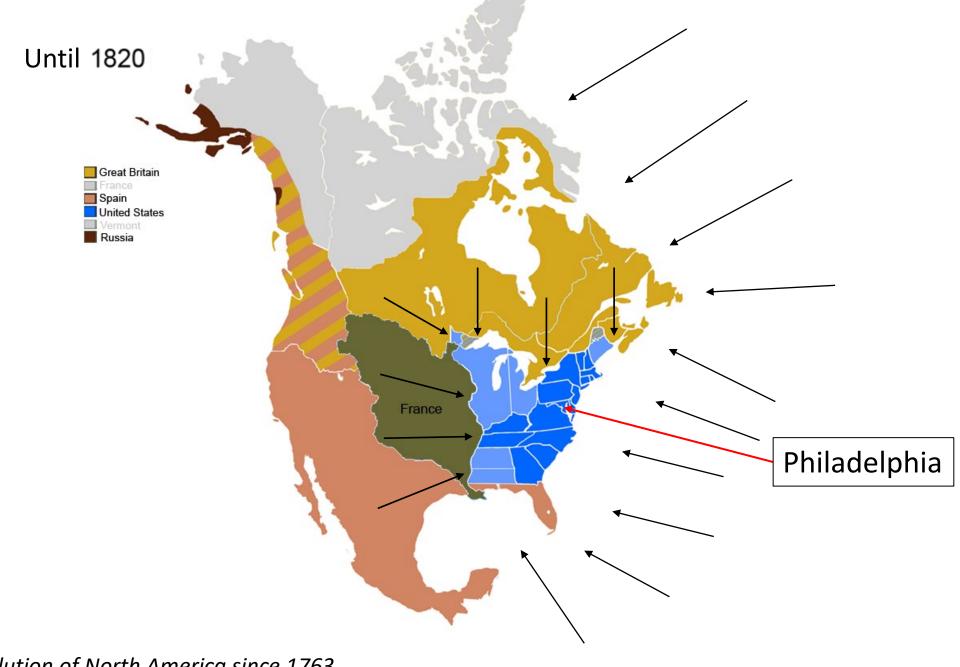
#### 1890 – 1920's: The 3<sup>rd</sup> Wave

- Approximately 22.3 Million people
  - From Southern and Eastern Europe (Italy, Russia, Austro-Hungary)
- 75% came through New York
- Emigration was severely restricted at the outset of WWI (1914)

# Regulations & Records

#### Prior to **1820**

 No records or documentation were required for immigrants arriving by ship in the United States



Map Source:

Wikipedia - Territorial evolution of North America since 1763

## The Steerage Act of 1819

- a.k.a. the **Manifest of Immigrants Act** 
  - Intended to provide statistical information about immigrants
- Took effect in 1820
- Customs Passenger Lists were submitted to U.S. Customs on arrival
  - Contained limited information about the passengers

#### DISTRICT OF NEW-YORK .- PORT OF NEW-YORK.

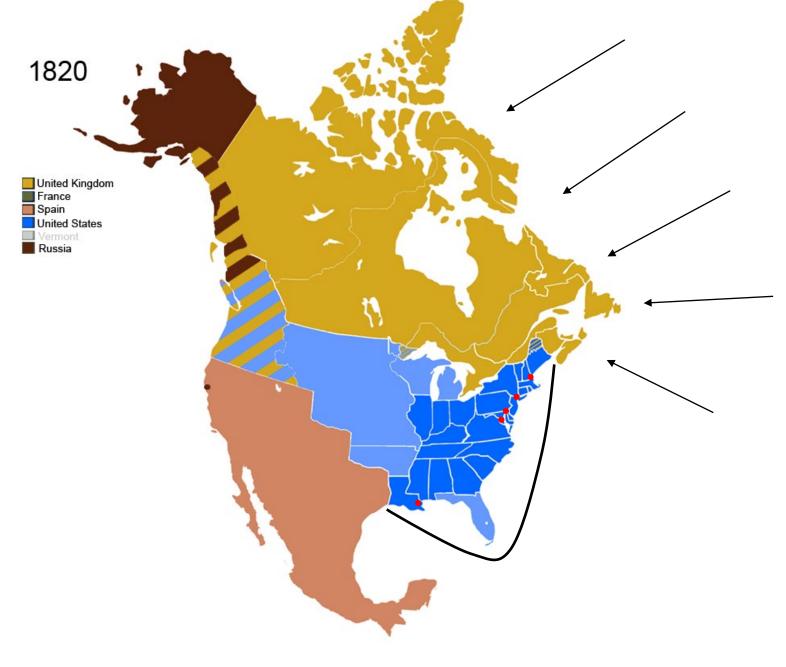
Janes Gillender	do solemnly, sincerely and tr	uly Stream	that the following List or Manif	est of Passengers, subscribe
name, and now delivered by me to the C	ollector of the Customs for the	District of New-York, co	entains to the best of my knowle	dge and belief a just and tru
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n	the & January 1820	the & January 1820	the & January 1820	January Islander do solemnly, sincerely and truly Stream that the following List or Maniferance, and now delivered by me to the Collector of the Customs for the District of New-York, contains to the best of my knowled all the Passengers received on board the Ship Sycotor whereof I am master from Signifered the Sannary 1820.  LIST OR MANIFEST of all the Passengers taken on board the Ship Sycotor Burthen 380

NAMES.	-	Months.	Sex.	Occupation.	The country to which they severally belong.	The country in which they intend to become inhabitants.	Died on the Voyage.
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Samuel Wright	25	8		Muchant	Qual Britain		
Thomas Lives _	31	0		Surant	France	D:	
John Lyman	19	0	~	Scuttom an	Uniten States	200	
Louis Popo Luge	26	5	•	Muchant	houf chatel	20	

#### 1820 United States Record

## The Steerage Act of 1819

- Only applied to ships arriving at United States ports
- Canada did not (yet) have similar requirements



Map Source:

Wikipedia - Territorial evolution of North America since 1763

## Additional Laws, Regulations and Events

#### 1825:

- Erie Canal opened (connecting the Hudson River to Lake Erie).
- New York surpassed Philadelphia as the busiest US port of entry.

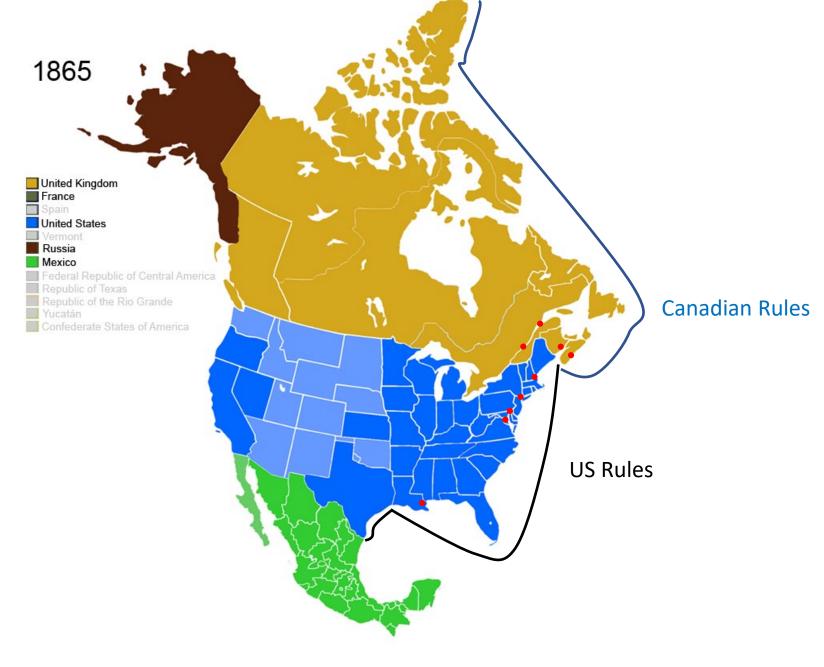
#### 1849:

 Changes in British law made Canadian ports much more desirable for shipping companies

## Additional Laws, Regulations and Events

- 1865: Canada began documenting immigrants (similar to US records)
  - Canadian Ports of entry:
    - Quebec and Montreal (Summer when the St. Laurence River was ice-free)
    - St. John and Halifax (Winter)
  - Schedule A Particulars Relative to the Vessel
    - Port of Embarkation (Departure)
    - Name
    - Age
    - Profession
    - County of Birth
    - Destination Port

Port of Embarkation.	Names of Passengers.	Adults Age.		Children between 1 and 14. Age.		of infants not		Nation or Country of Birth.	Port at which passengers have con- tracted to be landed.
		Hamburg.	Gramm. E. M.	13.					Leaman.
	Gramm. E. M.	28.				-1-1	farmer.		,
	Sughorn O.A.	26.				1	1	Germany	
•	. Sauline	0	24.			av .	wife	/	
	Maria.	0		-	-	Juft.	daughter.	•	
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	. Friderine.		32.			1 1 1 1	nife		



Map Source:

Wikipedia - Territorial evolution of North America since 1763

#### Additional Laws, Regulations and Events

- 1890's Control of immigration was passed to the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).
- Immigration Manifest Forms were required beginning in 1891.
- Contained substantial information about passengers

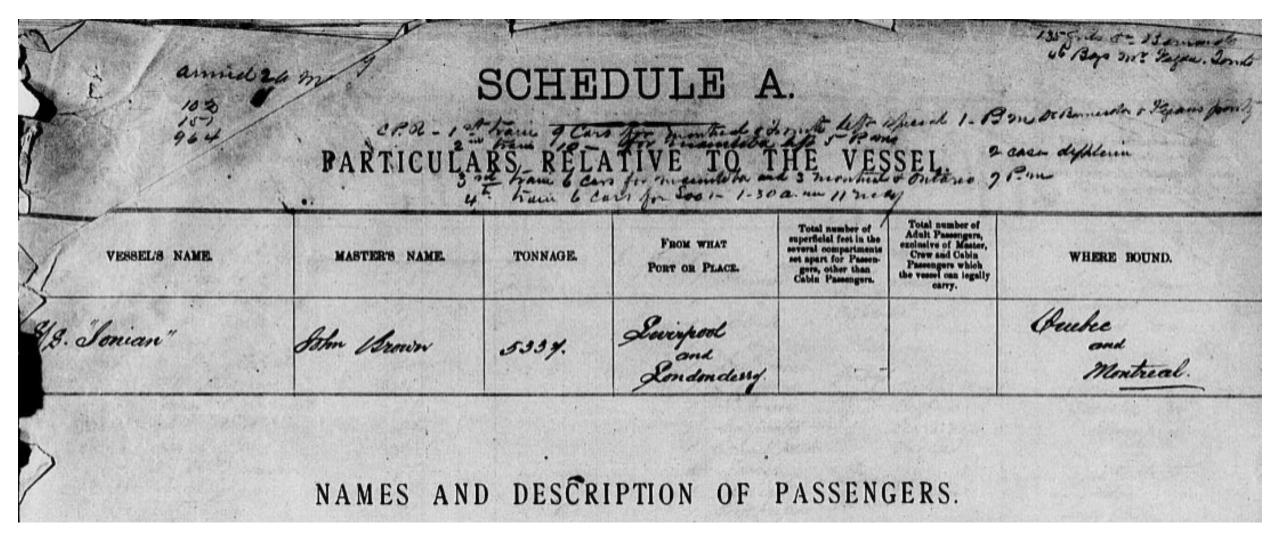
## Additional Laws, Regulations and Events

- 1891: Inspection and deportation of emigrants begins in the US
  - The 1<sup>st</sup> Immigration Inspection Station established at the US Canadian border
- 1892: Ellis Island opened
- 1893: Immigration Manifest Forms were standardized
  - Additional information was required (5 -> 21 columns)
  - **1903** Race was added
  - 1906 Six more items were added (personal description, place of birth)
  - 1907 Name and address of nearest living relative was added

# US Compliance for Canadian Ports of Entry

#### 1895:

- US laws and rules were applied to all US-bound passengers
- The US placed Immigration Service agents at Canadian seaports to collect the manifests and inspect US-bound passengers
- Tickets for transportation to the US were only provided to those who appeared to be admissible under US law



SS Ionian, Sailed from Liverpool to Quebec, arriving 30 April 1903

Canadian Manifest



## LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIEN PASSENGERS FOR THE COMMISSIONER OF IMMIGRATION.

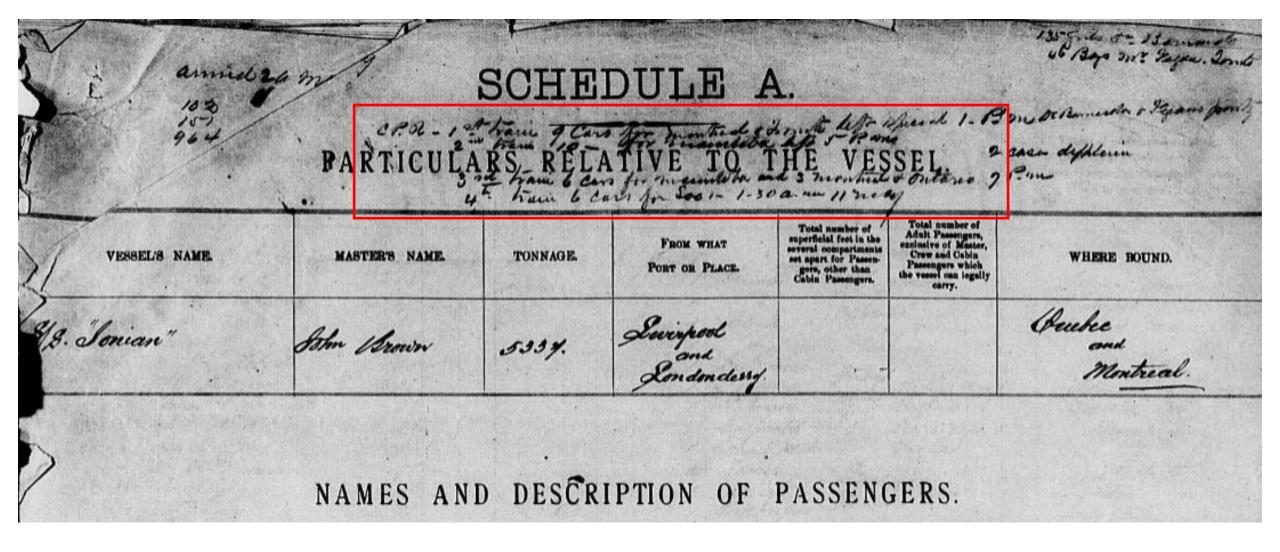
ulations of the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, under Act of Congress approved March 3, 1893, to be delivered to the Commissioner of Immigration
Officer of any vessel having such passengers on board upon arrival at a port in the United States.

3 4			•	7	•		•	10	11	12	13	14	15
Age.	Age.	Married	Calling	Able to	Nationality.		- Last Rosidence.	Final Destination.	Whether	By whom	Whether is possession of \$30 or upward,	Whether over before is the United States:	Whether going to join a relative; and if so, what relative.
Yrs. Nos.	Dex.	Single.	Occupation.	Read. Write.	Country.	* Race or People.	Last Residence.	City, or Town.)	Whether baring a ticked to mach final destination.	was passage paid?	and if less, how much?	and if so, when and where.	the name and address.

SS Ionian, Sailed from Liverpool to Quebec, arriving 30 April 1903

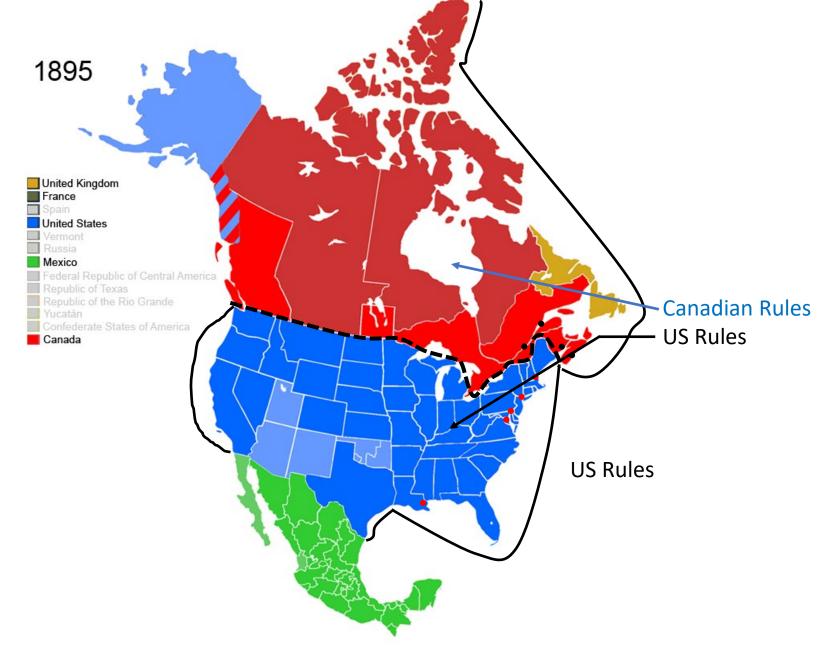
United States Manifest

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SS Ionian, Sailed from Liverpool to Quebec, arriving 30 April 1903

Canadian Manifest



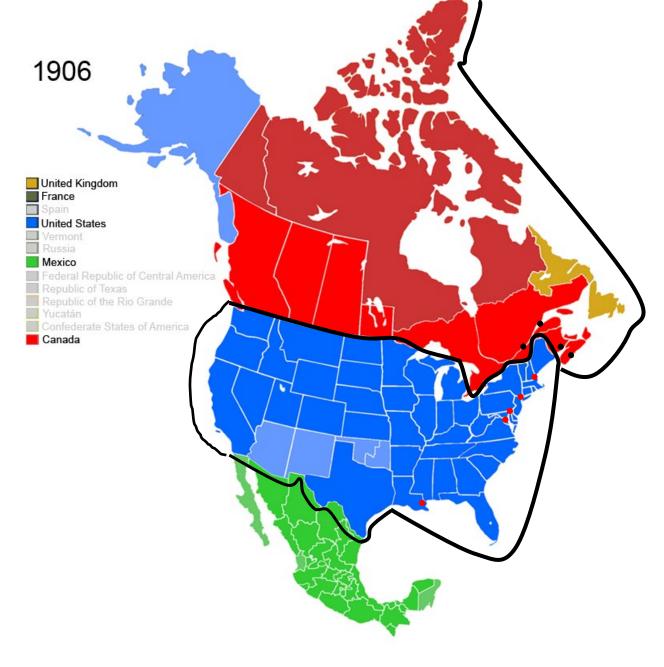
Map Source:

Wikipedia - Territorial evolution of North America since 1763

# US Compliance for Canadian Ports of Entry

#### 1906:

- Canada began to document immigration of Canadians to the US
  - Prior to this documentation was only required for those born outside of Canada
- US Began documenting immigrants from Mexico
  - Card Manifest was created for each person
  - Recorded the same information as the ship manifest



Map Source:

Wikipedia - Territorial evolution of North America since 1763

# Search Strategy

# Begin by Researching the Basics

- Name
- Birth
- Marriage
- Death
- Parents
- Siblings
- Spouse
- Occupation
- Children
- Burial

# Additional Immigration Facts (or Rumors!)

- Reason for immigration
- Port of Departure
- Name of the ship
- Traveling companions
- Route Traveled
- Port of Arrival
- Date of Arrival
- Age on arrival
- Final Destination

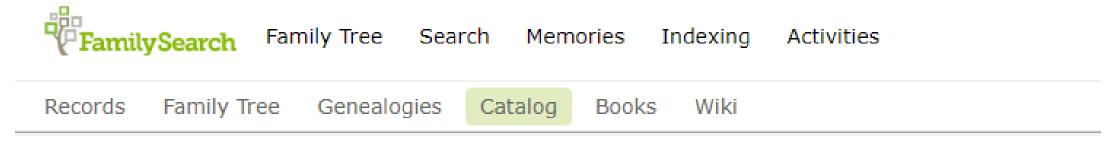
# Sources of Emigration Information

- US Census
  - 1900, 1910, 1920 or 1930 recorded year of entry and citizenship status
- Naturalization Applications
- Local histories
- Personal and family documentation
- Oral family traditions
- Church records
- Homestead application (act of 1862)

# Basic Information Required For Online Searching

- Full Original Name
  - Recorded at the point of embarkation
- Age at Arrival
- Date of Arrival

# Family Search Card Catalog





Search Results for FamilySearch Catalog
PRINT Catalog Print List (0)

No results found

- ▶ United States, New York, New York Emigration and immigration (16)
- ▼ United States, New York, New York Emigration and immigration Indexes (11



New York passenger arrival lists (Ellis Island), 1892-1924

Author: United States. Immigration and Naturalization Service; United

States. National Archives and Records Administration

New York passenger arrival lists (Ellis Island), 1892-1924

Author: United States, Immigration and Naturalization Service; United

States. National Archives and Records Administration

New York, New York passenger and crew lists, 1909, 1925-1957

Author: United States, National Archives and Records Administration

New York, New York, index to alien crewmen who were discharged or who deserted, 1917-1957

Author: Prechtel-Kluskens, Claire; United States. National Archives and

Records Administration (College Park, Maryland); United States.

National Archives and Records Administration (College Park,

Maryland)

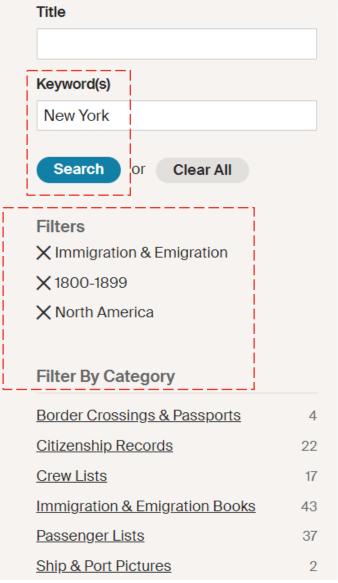
New York, New York, index to passenger lists, 1820-1846

Author: United States. Immigration and Naturalization Service; United

States. National Archives and Records Administration

# **Card Catalog**

Searchable listing of all record collections



Search entire "Immigration & Emigration" Category							
Title		Category	Records	Activity			
U.S., Mormon Mi	gration Records, 1840-1932	Immigration & Emigration	143,658				
Ireland, Irish Em	igration Lists, 1833-1839	Immigration & Emigration	3,421				
Salem and Beve Articles, 1797-193	rly, Massachusetts, U.S., Crew Lists and Shipping 34	Immigration & Emigration	215,124				
New Jersey, U.S.	, Naturalization Records, 1878-1945	Immigration & Emigration	548,383	UPDATED			
Connecticut, U.S	S., Federal Naturalization Records, 1790-1996	Immigration & Emigration	1,510,763				
U.S., German Im	migrants, 1712-1933	Immigration & Emigration	6,289				
Web: US, New Er 1796-1871	ngland Seamen's Protection Certificate Index,	Immigration & Emigration	29,384				
New Jersey, U.S.	, County Naturalization Records, 1749-1986	Immigration & Emigration	0				

# German Roots German Genealogy

formerly the "Wee-Monster" genealogy website

## Resources for German Genealogy on the Internet

#### **Research Information for Americans of German Descent**

<u>Search Online Genealogy Records - USA</u> death indexes, military records, more...

<u>German Genealogy Records & Indexes</u> places to search online...

<u>U.S. Census Records</u> online records, soundex info...

Online Death Records & Indexes - USA death certificates, obituaries, cemeteries...

<u>Emigration & Immigration Records</u> passenger lists, naturalizations...

<u>Finding People and Places</u> maps, phone books, town locators

German Genealogy Resources a directory of online resources

General Genealogy Resources
FamilySearch, vital records info, more...

Basic Research Guide for German Genealogy

for beginning and intermediate researchers includes records in Germany

## Emigration and Immigration Records and Resources

#### including Ship Passenger Lists and Naturalization Records

Emigration means to leave a country and settle in another. Immigration means to enter a new country and settle there.

Passenger Arrival Records | Passenger Departure Records | Naturalization Records

#### Passenger Arrival Records (USA)

Online Ship Passenger Lists and Records [on this website]

Links to websites that have transcribed passenger lists and indexes on the Internet.

Finding Passenger Lists from 1820 to the 1940s [on this website]

A list of indexes for finding your ancestors in ship passenger records for US ports. Includes online indexes, microfilm (with National Archives and Family History Library Catalog numbers), and books.

Finding Passenger Lists before 1820 [on this website]

A list of sources that can help you find passenger lists and immigration-related records prior to 1820.

# Finding Passenger Lists & Immigration Records 1820-1940s

## Arrivals at U.S. ports from Europe

by Joe Beine

**Introduction:** This is a list of indexes of passenger lists (also called immigration records or ship manifests) for ships that sailed to the United States from 1820 to the 1940s (and now into the 1950s), including microfilm (some rolls have now been digitized), books, and online indexes and databases.

Some of the online indexes or databases listed below include digitized images of the passenger lists from the National Archives microfilm, which can be viewed online at Ancestry (fee-based) and FamilySearch (free with registration).

# **Indexes for Passenger Lists by Port and Time Frame**

New York was the most commonly used port for immigrants in the 19th and early 20th Centuries. The list below begins with New York, followed by Baltimore, Boston, Philadelphia, New Orleans, Galveston, and smaller ports.

#### New York 1820-1957

Online Index: New York Passenger Lists, 1820-1957 (at Ancestry/requires payment) name index plus passenger list images from the National Archives microfilm - includes the Barge Office, Castle Garden and Ellis Island years

#### New York 1820-1846

MICROFILM (now digitized): <u>Index to Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York, 1820-1846 (NARA & FHL Microfilm Numbers)</u> (NARA Publication M261; 103 rolls)

#### Boston 1820-1963

A separate webpage has been set up for the port of Boston. This webpage lists Boston passenger records and indexes from 1820-1963, online and off. Included is information about how to find the "missing" Boston passenger records from 1855-1856 and 1874-1882.

Finding Passenger Records at the Port of Boston, Massachusetts 1820-1963

#### Galveston, Texas

A separate webpage has been set up for the port of Galveston...

• Finding Galveston, Texas Passenger Records

## Emigration and Immigration Records and Resources

#### including Ship Passenger Lists and Naturalization Records

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Finding Passenger Lists before 1820 [on this website]

A list of sources that can help you find passenger lists and immigration-related records prior to 1820.

# Finding Passenger Lists Before 1820

## **Arrivals at US Ports from Europe**

A Bibliography of Books and Online Databases - Compiled by Joe Beine

#### **Quick Webpage Directory:**



General | Boston and New England | the Carolinas | Georgia | Maryland | New Orleans

New York & New Jersey (includes Palatine Immigrants) | Philadelphia (includes Palatine Immigrants) | Virginia

England | Scotland | Ireland | Scotch-Irish | Germany | Switzerland

for German/Palatine Immigrants see the New York, Philadelphia, Georgia and Germany sections

# Resources for Finding Passenger Arrival Records at the Port of New Orleans, Louisiana

## Compiled by Joe Beine

#### New Orleans Passenger Lists - Immigration Records

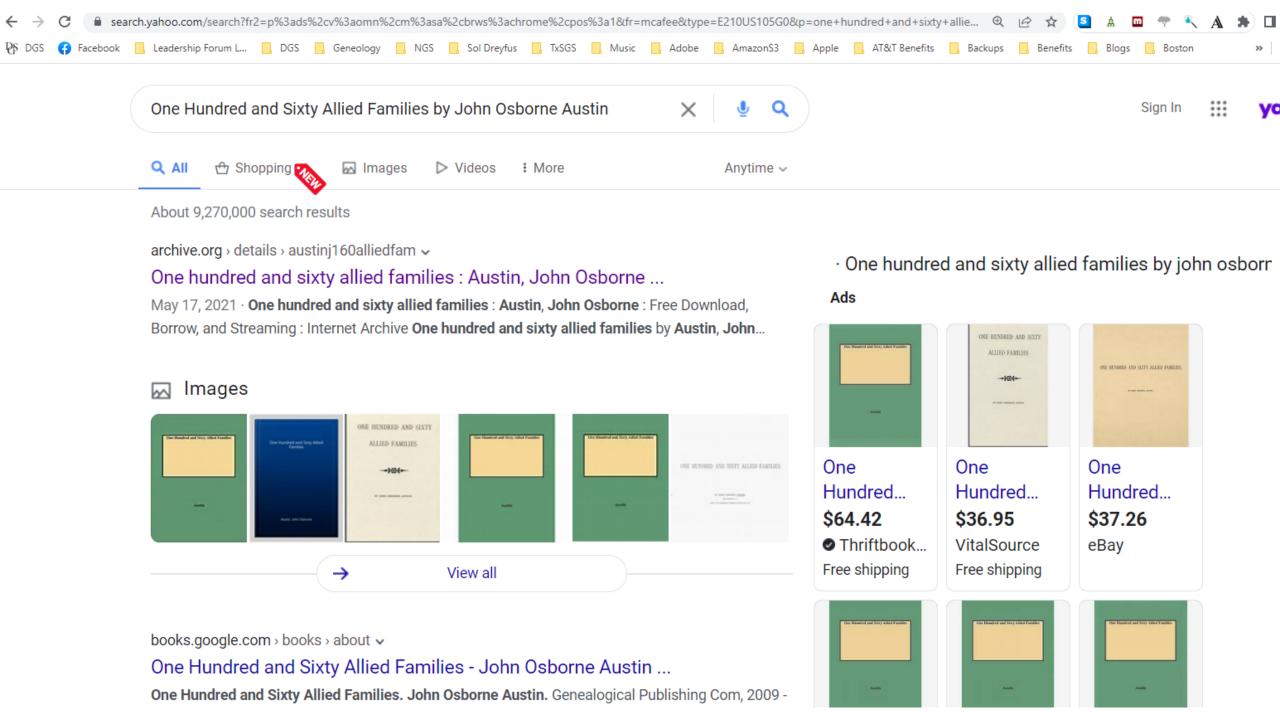
This is a listing of sources online and off for finding passenger lists for the port of New Orleans, Louisiana. It is divided into two categories: "Before 1820" and "1820-1952." Some of the items listed may overlap within the two time frames so be sure to look at both categories. NARA=National Archives & Records Administraion; FHL=Family History Library in Salt Lake City.

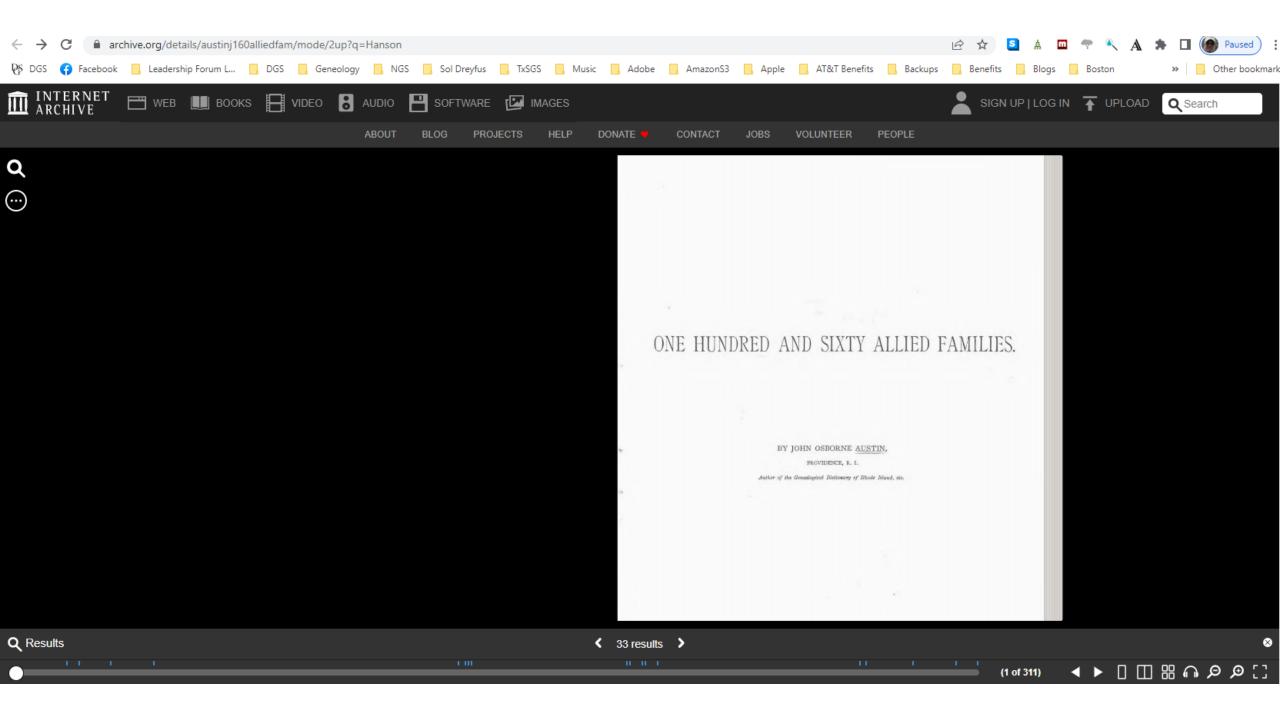
## New Orleans Passenger Arrivals Before 1820

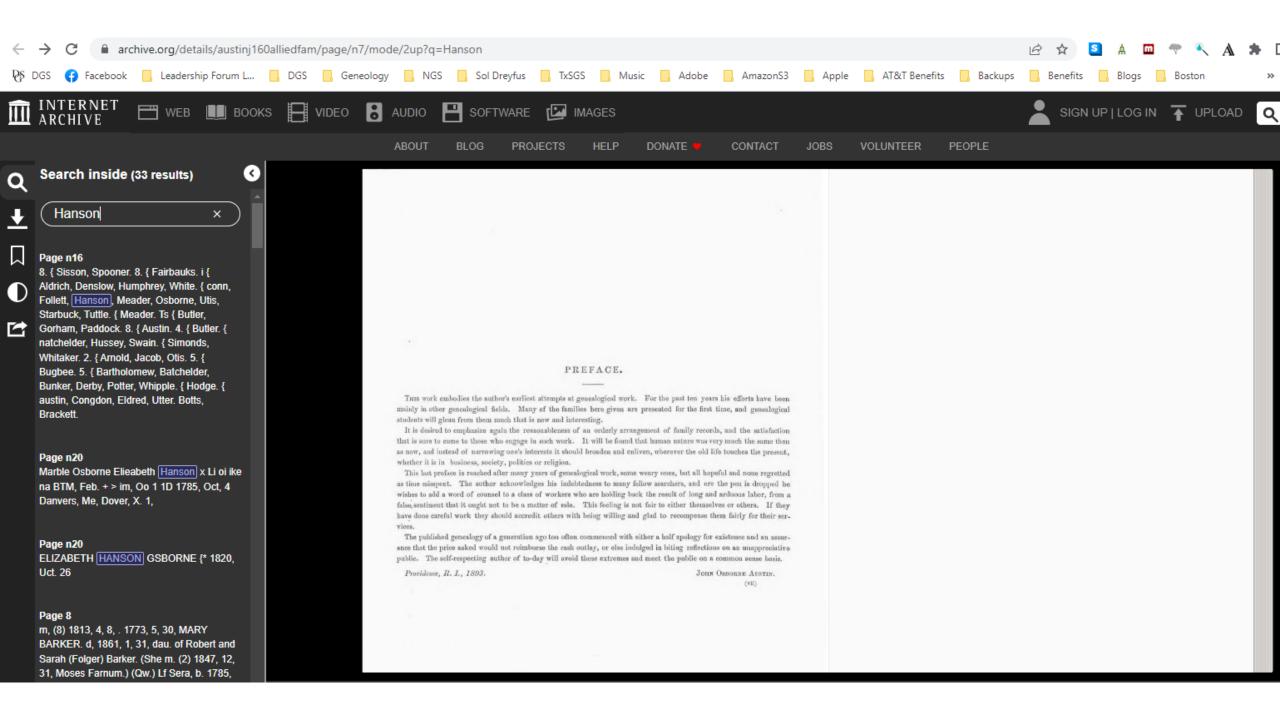
- General Index: Passenger and Immigration Lists Index Edited by P. William Filby.
   Although not specific to New Orleans, this index is the good source for finding immigration material for the pre-1820 time frame. It is available in a multi-volume book series or online. For more information see the first listing at the <u>Finding Passenger Lists Before 1820</u> webpage.
- Book: New World Immigrants a Consolidation of Ship Passenger Lists and Associated Data from Periodical Literature by Michael Tepper (Editor); GPC 1988. Includes "Ship Lists of Passengers Leaving France for Louisiana" (1718-1724) originally published in the Louisiana Historical Society Quarterly
- Website: New Orleans Passenger Arrival Lists 1813
- Website: Transcriptions of 5 known New Orleans Passenger Lists for the year 1815

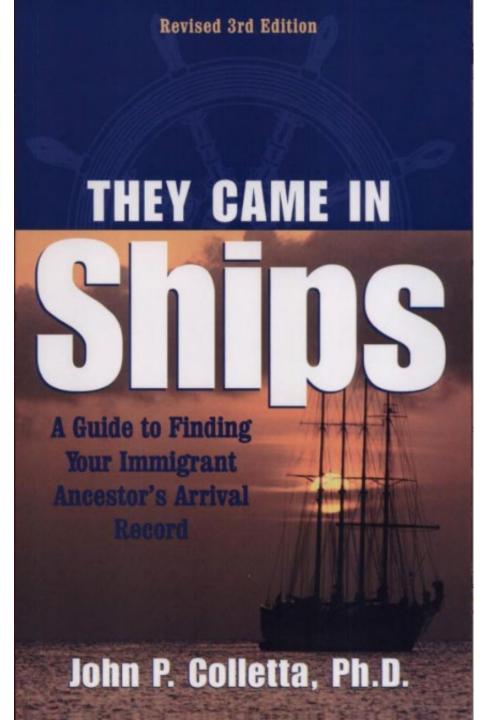
#### Books...

- One Hundred and Sixty Allied Families, by John Osborne Austin
- The English Ancestry and Homes of the Pilgrim Fathers, by Charles E. Banks
- The Planters of the Commonwealth...in Massachusetts, 1620-1640, by Charles E. Banks
- The Winthrop Fleet of 1630, by Charles E. Banks
- Topographical Dictionary of 2885 English Emigrants to New England, 1620-1650, by Banks
- Soldiers in King Philip's War 1675-1677, by George M. Bodge
- Marriage Notices, 1785-1794, by Charles K. Bolton
- The Real Founders of New England, by Charles K. Bolton
- Immigrants to New England, 1700-1775, by Ethel S. Bolton
- Result of Researches...Relative to the Founders of New England, by Samuel G. Drake
- Genealogical Register of the First Settlers of New-England, by John Farmer
- Genealogical Notes on the Founding of New England, by Ernest Flagg









- 1. 23-page Bibliography
- 2. Search Strategies

#### If All You Know Are the Three Basic Facts

Search for your ancestor's name in any index to published arrival records, such as this, the most extensive one available:

Filby, P. William, with Mary K. Meyer, eds. Passenger and Immigration Lists Index: A Guide to Published Arrival Records of More Than 3,806,000 Passengers Who Came to the New World between the Sixteenth and the Early Twentieth Centuries.

## If You Also Know Your Ancestor's Nationality

Search for your ancestor's name in indexes to published arrival records compiled by nationality, such as:

Yoder, Don, ed. Pennsylvania German Immigrants, 1709–1786: Lists Consolidated from Yearbooks of The Pennsylvania German Folklore Society.

Mitchell, Brian, ed. Irish Passenger Lists, 1803-1806.

They Came in Ships: A Guide to Finding Your Immigrant Ancestor's Arrival Record

John Philip Colletta

3<sup>rd</sup> Edition – Page 25

## If You Also Know Your Ancestor's "Group" or Place of Settlement

Search for your ancestor's name in indexes to published arrival records compiled by religious or otherwise identifiable group, or by geographic place of settlement, such as:

Tepper, Michael H., ed. Emigrants to Pennsylvania, 1641–1819: A Consolidation of Ship Passenger Lists from the Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography.

Johnson, Amandus. The Swedish Settlements on the Delaware, 1638– 1664. 2 vols.

They Came in Ships: A Guide to Finding Your Immigrant Ancestor's Arrival Record

John Philip Colletta

3<sup>rd</sup> Edition – Page 25

# Immigrants Ships Transcribers Guild



https://immigrantships.net

This was 18,000 in 2020....

26,000+ Passenger Manifests in 23 Volumes plus numerous other passengers listed in Special Projects.

[Volume 1] [Volume 2] [Volume 3] [Volume 4] [Volume 5] [Volume 6] [Volume 7]
[Volume 8] [Volume 9] [Volume 10] [Volume 11] [Volume 12] [Volume 13] [Volume 14]
[Volume 15] [Volume 16] [Volume 17] [Volume 18] [Volume 19]
[Volume 20] [Volume 21] [Volume 22] [Volume 23] [Volume 24]
[Latest Uploads]

~~~SPECIAL PROJECTS~~~~

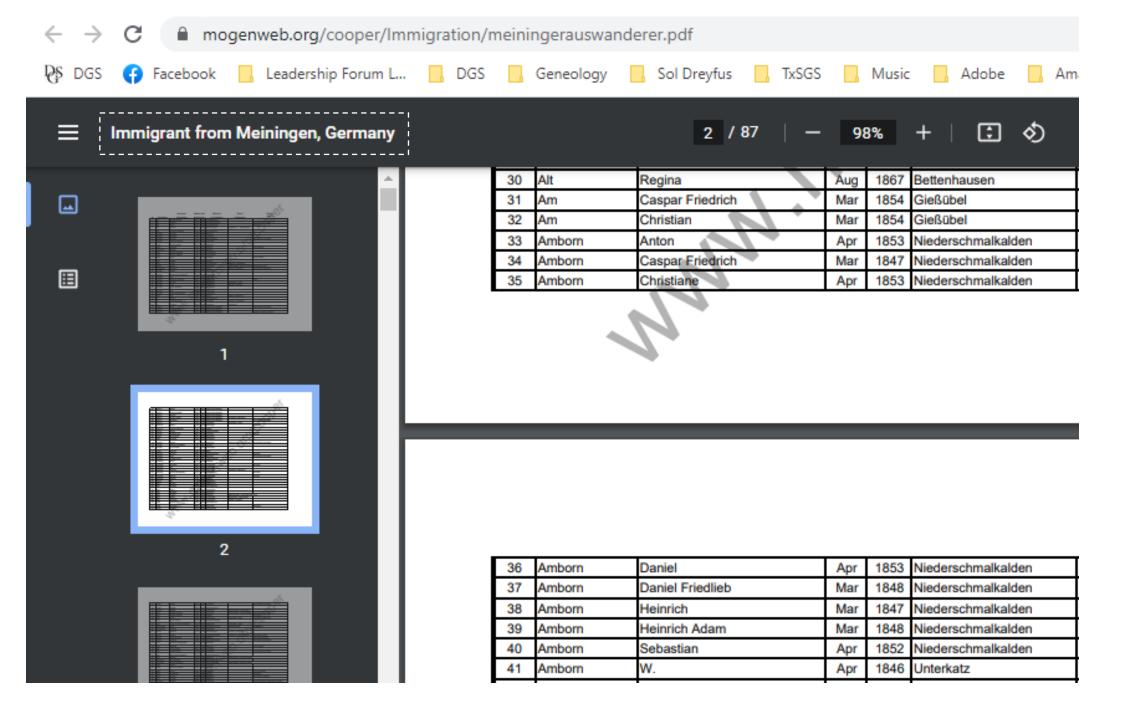
Emigration in the 19th Century from the municipalities of Borghorst and Burg Steinfurt,

City and County of Burghorst (by name), Passenger lists to the US including Port of Arrival, Brazil arrivals, Arrivals in countries other than the US and Brazil and Extracts of the baptism register for the Catholic parish of St. Nikomedes; Emigrants from Burg Steinfurt (by name), Passenger lists to the US Including Port of Arrival, Other emigration by name, Extracts of the baptism register for the Catholic parish of St. Joh. Nepomuk and Extracts of the birth register of the Jewish Parish.

# https://immigrantships.net



- Google searches sometimes produce useful results
- Try searching for variations of the name
- If you know where they came from, try searching for the town name



## Transmigration

- Immigrants did not always sail directly from their native country
  - Many traveled to Rotterdam, Antwerp, Le Havre, Bremen and Hamburg from other countries
- Many entered the United Stated via Canada
  - Sometimes it was the least expensive route
  - Some chose that route to avoid US regulations
- Many European emigrants passed through England on their way to North America

## Transmigration

- England dominated the Atlantic route (because of the number of British and Irish immigrants)
  - More ships
  - Better Service
  - Lower cost
- This dominance grew as they established feeder routes to England from the rest of Europe

# Hull, England

- The largest transmigration port in England
  - Between 1836 and 1915 about 2.2 Million emigrants from Denmark, Finland, Germany, Norway, Russia and Sweden passed through Hull
- They would remain on their ships until their train was ready
- Then they would travel directly to Liverpool, Glasgow, London or Southampton and immediately board their ship
  - The train station was usually immediately adjacent to the boat dock
- Grimsby was also a major transmigration port





# They All Sailed **From** England or Scotland

- Regardless of their county of origin
- Keep this in mind when searching for them

# Don't Make Assumptions About the Route

- April 1903 Great Grandfather Hans Isakson sails from Liverpool to Quebec
- February 1904 Sons sail from Liverpool to **Boston**
- March 1904 Wife and daughters sail from Liverpool to Boston
- February 1906 daughter sails from Liverpool to Halifax, Nova Scotia
- May 1908 Grandmother sails from Oslo directly to New York

# They Came – But Did They Stay?

- Some returned to visit their native country
- Some traveled back and forth several times
- Some returned to their native country permanently
- 44% of the homestead entries made in western Canada between
   1900 1910 were by immigrants from the United States\*
  - US Homestead Act became law in 1862

<sup>\* &</sup>quot;From Fjord to Frontier: A History of the Norwegians in Canada", Gulbrand Loken, 1980, Page 41

# Online Search Tips

## Quality of the Information Recorded

- It was created at the port of departure
- The informant and the recorder may not have spoken the same language
- The informant may not have been able to read or write
  - Or knew how, but used a different alphabet

# The Index May Have Incorrect Information

- The recorder's handwriting may be hard to read
- The condition of the document may have deteriorated prior to transcription, making accurate transcription difficult or impossible

## Age on Arrival and/or Year of Birth

- Most search engines are sensitive to the year of birth or age on arrival
  - They will restrict results to match what you specify
- If these are indexed incorrectly, they may cause your search to fail
  - You know they were 50, but it was indexed as 20
  - Possibly it was not indexed at all
- Possible solutions:
  - Specify a very wide date range
  - Don't specify the age on arrival in your search query
  - Don't specify the birth year on arrival in your search query

#### Names

- It is very common for names to be recorded incorrectly
- Some emigrants intentionally changed their names when they immigrated

### Solutions

- Only specify a first name
- Only specify a last name
- Take advantage of "Advanced Search Options"
  - Similar names
  - Soundex Match
  - Try using Wild Card characters

#### Wild Card Characters

- Special instructions to the search engine
- The most popular one is the asterisk (\*)
  - It means "look for zero or more characters in this position"
- A search for "Han\*" would match on these (and many more) names
  - Hans
  - Hanson
  - **Han**sen
  - Hanssen
  - **Han**sson
  - Hansdatter

You may need to specify an exact match to make this work

#### Wild Card Characters

The asterisk can be used anywhere in the string

\*born (to search for variations on Amborn)

Johansd\*ter (to search for variations of datter/daughter)

#### Wild Card Characters

- Another popular one is the question mark (?)
  - It means "look for any **single** character in this position"
- A search for "Hans?n" would match on these names
  - Hanson
  - Hansen

## Search For Travel Companions

- If you have names other people who were traveling with your emigrant, try searching for them instead
- If you can locate them, your emigrant may be listed nearby

# Looking for my Great Grandfather

- I knew was traveling with his nephew:
  - Otto Lorentsen who lived on the Handaa farm
  - I found him listed as Otto L Handa
- My Grandfather (Hans E Isakson) was listed on the next line



## Search Other Repositories

- If the images have been indexed by somebody else, try searching their database
  - Sometimes things get indexed differently
  - Family Search
  - Ancestry.com
  - MyHeritage

# Look For Records in the Country of Departure

 You may find something in that record that will help you find them in the US arrival records Emigration: 1908 >

#### Person: Inga Marie Dahl (Antons.)



PERMANENT ID: pe00000000590917



She changed her last name to 'Dahl' **before** she left Norway.

| Given name:         | Inga Marie     | Port of departure:       | Oslo          |  |
|---------------------|----------------|--------------------------|---------------|--|
| Last name:          | Dahl (Antons.) | Destination:             | N. Dakota     |  |
| Gender:             | k              | Date of arrival:         | -             |  |
| Date of birth:      | 01-31          | Ship:                    | C. F. Tietgen |  |
| Year of birth:      | 1886           | Line:                    | -             |  |
| Age:                | -              | Agent:                   | Kjerschow     |  |
| Birth place:        | -              | Reason for emigration:   | -             |  |
| Residence:          | Rakkestad      | New occupation:          | -             |  |
| Position:           | ug tj.         | Ticket:                  | Prp           |  |
| Family position:    | -              | Passport:                | -             |  |
| Date of emigration: | 1908-05-08     | Emigrating with family?: | -             |  |
| Registration date:  | -              | Remarks:                 | -             |  |
| Date of contract:   | -              |                          |               |  |

Regional Archives of Norway: Emigrants from Oslo 1867 – 1930

https://www.digitalarkivet.no/en/view/8/pe0000000590917

Puris Edo 11
Department of Commerce and Eabor IMMIGRATION SERVICE

Required by the

SALOON, CABIN, AND STEERAGE ALIENS MUST BE COMPLETELY MANIFESTED.

### LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIEN PASSENGERS FOR THE UNITED

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

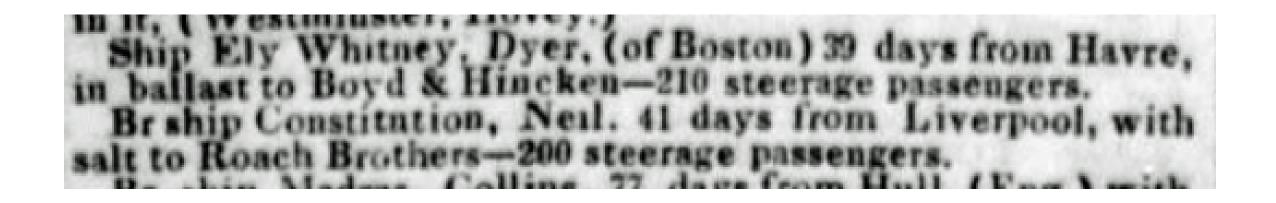
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| No.  |         |              | NAME IN FULL, | 0             | Age.    | *Calling          | Ablo to- | Nationality.                              |                  | Last Perma            | anent Residence. | The name and complete address of nearest relative or friend | Final Destination.   |
| List |         | Family Name. |               | Given Natioe. | Sex. So | or<br>Occupation- |          | (Country of which<br>citizen or subject.) | †Race or People. | Country.              | City or Town.    | in country whence alien came.                               | State. City or Town. |
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### Newspapers

- Ship departures and arrivals were reported in local newspapers
- If you know when and where your immigrant ancestors ship arrived,
   you may be able to find a notice in the paper
- This may tell you when the ship departed, where it sailed from and other information about the voyage



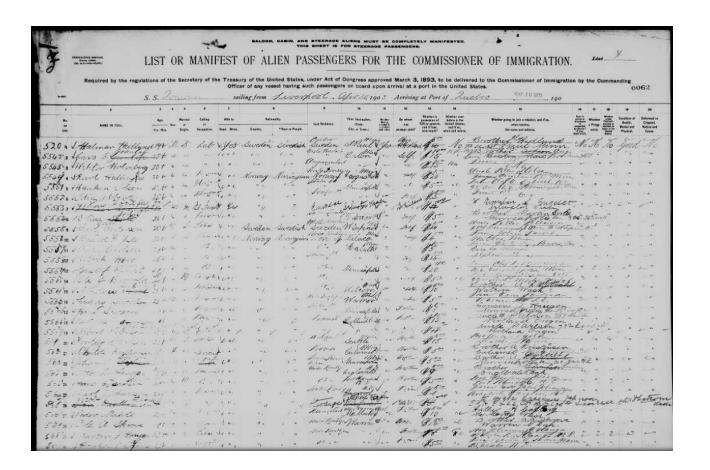
The New York herald. [volume] (New York [N.Y.]) 1840-1920, August 13, 1846, Image 4



Ship Ely Whitney, Dyer, (of Boston) 39 days from Havre, in ballast to Boyd & Hincken – 210 steerage passengers

# US-Bound Passengers Arriving in Canada

US-bound arrivals after 1894 were handled differently



| BOHAN                                                      | DAA                   | Given asmi          | 10                    | Accon                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | panied by        |            |
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## St. Albans Border Crossing Records

- All of the records created by the US Agents in Canada were sent to Montreal to be filed
- These records were later moved to the INS district office in St. Albans,
   Vermont in the United States
  - They were micro-filmed and then destroyed
  - Records are sorted by port and date of arrival
  - A Soundex index for the cards was created

Vermont, St. Albans Canadian Border Crossings, 1895-1954 (Canada to the U.S.)

Family Tree Genealogies Catalog

Books

Wiki

#### Vermont, St. Albans Canadian Border Crossings, 1895-1954

#### Description

This collection contains an index to Canadian border entries through the St. Albans, Vermont, District, 1895-1954 and corresponds with NARA collections M1461, M1463, M1464, M1465.

#### Learn more » Search Collection Deceased Ancestor's Information First Names Last Names Search with a Birth | Marriage View Images in this Collection Birthplace Browse through 4,140,062 images Search with a Spouse | Father Restrict recor\_\_\_\_... Location | Type | Batch Number | Film Number Country State or Province Match all terms exactly Reset Search View Images in this Collection Browse through 4,140,062 images









Records

Family Tree

Genealogies

Catalog

Books

Wiki

Vermont, St. Albans Canad…rder Crossings, 1895-1954 ▼

**Source** Box

Attach to Family Tre

NARA Publication Number and title

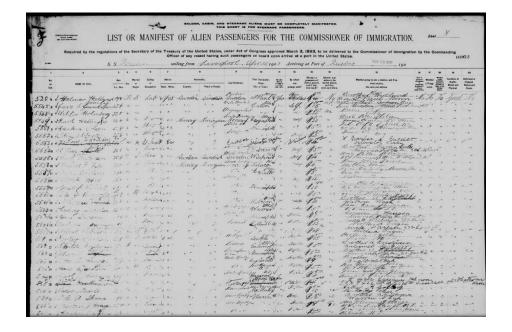
(M1461) Soundex Index to Canadian Border Entries through the St. Albans, Vermont, District, 1895-1924

(M1463) Soundex Index to Entries into the St. Albans, Vermont, District through Canadian Pacific and Atlantic Ports, 1924-1952

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(M1464) Manifests of Passengers Arriving in the St. Albans, VT, District through Canadian Pacific and Atlantic Ports, 1895-1954

(M1465) Manifest of Passengers Arriving in the St. Albans, Vermont, District through Canadian Pacific Ports, 1929-1949



| Roll 1, A000 Aarne-A130 Runges             | Roll 133, E131 Clara-E210 Ivar       | Roll 268, M360 Jane-M420 Pattie       |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Roll 1, A130 Ruth-A160 Ivy Mary            | Roll 134, E210 Jacob-E250 Johann     | Roll 269, M420 Paul-M450 Arsene       |
| Roll 2, A160 Herbert-A220 Teiji            | Roll 135, E250 John-E350 Louise      | Roll 270, M450 arthur-M460 Augoton    |
| Roll 3, A220 Teiji-A246 Golde              | Roll 136, E350 Mabel-E420 Hyman      | Roll 271, M460 August-M463 Sylvestro  |
| Roll 4, A246 Gregoire-A300 Maurice         | Roll 137, E420 I.WE452 Bertran       | Roll 272, M453 Thelma-M522 Anita      |
| Roll 5, A300 May-A350 Margaret             | Roll 138, E452 Carl-E525 Gustav      | Roll 273, M522 Anna-M532 Wildred      |
| Roll 6, A350 Margaret-A400 Joseph          | Roll 139, E525 Hans-E625 Eyvind      | Roll 274, M532 William-M563 Helen     |
| Roll 7, A400 Joseph Goodwin-A425 Catherine | Roll 140, E625 "F"-F146 Pietra       | Roll 275, M563 Hermance-M600 Joseph F |
| Roll 8, A425 Caustine-A450 Catherine       | Roll 141, F150 Alex-F220 Justyna     | Roll 276, M600 Joseph RM610 Theresa   |
| Roll 9, A450 Catherine-A453 Rebecca        | Roll 142, F220 "K"-F250 Otto         | Roll 277, M610 Thos-M620 Milroy       |
| Roll 10, A453 Robert-A524 Albert           | Roll 143, F250 Pacific-F320 Fredrich | Roll 278, M620 Milton-M624 Betty      |
| Roll 11, A524 Albert-A535 Luigi            | Roll 144, F320 Gaston-F400 Zacharia  | Roll 279, M624 Beulah-M625 Minerva    |
| Roll 12, A535 Luigi-A536 Elizabeth         | Roll 145, F410 Aaron-F430 Ewa        | Roll 280, M625 Minnie-M634 Paul       |
| Roll 13, A536 Elizabeth-A536 Juzef         | Roll 146, F430 Fannie-F450 Martin    | Roll 281, M634 Paul BM635 Rosalie     |
|                                            |                                      |                                       |

### Still no luck?

- Thoroughly document (add source) everything that is known
- Document all known sources of information
- Create a timeline of events
  - Determine earliest and latest possible dates of arrival
- Create a hypothesis (theory)
- Go through relevant image collections page by page
- Record every search & the results
- Consider hiring a professional researcher

## Summary

- Discover as much as you can about your ancestor
- Know what records existed at the time they immigrated
- Consider all possible routes of travel
- Take advantage of online records
- Be creative in searching

## Summary

- Knowing when your emigrant ancestor traveled is key
- Identify the records that exist for that period of time
- Anticipate inaccurate/incomplete indexing
- Search for traveling companions
- Don't make assumptions about the route traveled
- Document your research thoroughly
- Don't give up!

# Questions?

### Thank You!

#### **Tony Hanson**

aehanson@swbell.net

https://www.rayson.us/aehanson/presentations/current/atlantic-migration-to-america/