### THE AMERICAN FAMILY IMMIGRATION HISTORY CENTER®

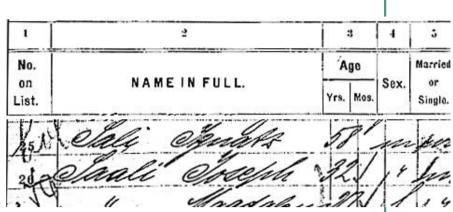
## PASSENGER SEARCH TIPS & TRICKS

## libertyellisfoundation.org

A guide to searching ship manifest records from Ellis Island, Castle Garden, and the Port of New York: 1820 - 1957.



## INTRODUCTION TO THE DATABASE



### THE AMERICAN FAMILY IMMIGRATION HISTORY CENTER® ON ELLIS ISLAND

In 2001, SOLEIF opened the American Family Immigration History Center® (AFIHC) in the National Museum of Immigration on Ellis Island. **A collection of 65 million Port of New York arrival records** from the Ellis Island Archives was compiled into a searchable database – made available to the public by visiting Ellis Island, or online at home via https://libertyellisfoundation.org/

### WHO CAME TO ELLIS ISLAND?

First and second class passengers went through a brief inspection and then disembarked at the piers in New York. **Third class (steerage) passengers were transported to Ellis Island**, where they underwent a thorough inspection process. **Only two percent of all immigrants were denied entrance into the U.S. and deported**. If you are searching for a passenger who traveled first or second class, there will still be a ship manifest record available for you to view.

### SEARCHABLE RECORDS

The SOLIEF database is comprised of ship manifests, records of detention, as well as images and information about passenger ships. **The database has ship manifest records from Castle Garden, Ellis Island, and Port of New York from 1820 to 1957.** There are also plane manifests for arrivals to New York City airports from the late 1930s through the 1950s. Our database contains only arrival records – no records of departure from the United States.

In 2018, AFIHC was able to upload Port of New York entry records from Castle Garden, the immigration processing center that served NYC prior to 1892. **Ellis Island was in full operation as an immigration processing facility from 1892 to 1924.** From 1924 to 1954, Ellis Island was used as a detention and hospitalization center for immigrants who were held for special inquiries. In 1954, Ellis Island was deemed unnecessary government property after immigration laws changed in the United States, and was closed. Our records continue to 1957 for Port of New York entries.

## TIPS & TRICKS FOR A SUCCESSFUL PASSENGER SEARCH

- Ship manifests are 1 page in length from 1820 - 1907. After 1907, manifests become 2 pages with additional information provided.
- On June 15, 1897, there was a fire on Ellis Island that resulted in the destruction of all manifests held on the island: Castle Garden and Ellis Island (1855-1897). Luckily, we **do** have records for all passengers who arrived prior to the fire. They are U.S. Customs Lists!
- When searching, the more you know about the passenger's arrival, the easier it

### 🏷 Wizard

will be for you to locate the record (i.e. date of arrival,

port of departure, age at arrival, ethnicity, U.S. destination, etc.). **All refinements can be entered using the "Wizard".** 

• Search for the passenger's "original" name! For example, "Frank" from Italy will likely be recorded as "Francesco"; from Germany, it could be "Franz", or from Poland, "Franciszek". Keep in mind that there is always room for spelling error in the handwriting/type on a manifest, or in the digital transcription.

### JANUARY 1, 1892:

ELLIS ISLAND OPENED ITS DOORS FOR IMMIGRATION PROCESSING.

### NOVEMBER 12, 1954:

ELLIS ISLAND CLOSED BY U.S. GOVT.

## **DURING WWII**:

IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICES IN THE UNITED STATES LAUNCHED AN EFFORT TO PRESERVE IMMIGRATION RECORDS. MANIFESTS WERE TRANSFERRED TO MICROFILM AND STORED IN THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES.

PHYSICAL RECORDS WERE THEN DESTROYED, THUS DEBUNKING THE MYTH OF "BOOKS" ON ELLIS ISLAND.

## **PRO TIP:**

To search without a name, enter all known information about the passenger and their arrival into the Wizard.

Then, in the Passenger ID field, enter the number '1' or '0'. Every passenger in our database is assigned an ID number, all of which contain '1' or '0'. This will give you every passenger to which the information you entered, applies.



#### **PASSENGER'S** NAME IN THE **SEARCH FIELD** LIST OF RESULTS WILL APPEAR BELOW PASSENGER SEARCH PASSENGER SEARCH Smith Adam Need more information? Click here. Narrow your Search 💐 Wizard 🛛 One page form 💰 Clear Sorting options Select view Search Results First Name Descending EXACT MATCHES 165 Place mouse over the 🤨 in order to view additional information for the record NAME ARRIVED LAST PLACE OF RESIDENCE / BIRTH PLACE SHIP NAME ACTION Smith, William Adam 1937 Scotland Caledonia <sup>€</sup> E È. Smith, William Adam Scotland 1928 Cameronia 0 Smith, William Adam 1929 Scotland Transylvania è. Smith Thaver Adams 1021 NL /A Emprose of India CLICK TO VIEW PASSENGER RECORD **CLICK TO VIEW** SHIP MANIFEST (A TRANSCRIPTION OF THE SHIP MANIFEST) 103 DASSENCER RECORD **CLICK TO VIEW** SHIP IMAGE & SHIP Got 08. 1 **INFORMATION** wet Dorige wet 27y Gender wet Yadorland sarbite: Antwer Marital Statut: A rp -0017 e Henber: LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIEN PASSENGERS FOR THE U.S. IMMIGRATION OFFICER AT PO Goluin Ballie 136, 190 6 æ The Determine Backer Back, a state to Object hand a sate field and a sate field System an Shi cort Hewith dell

**ENTER THE** 

THE WIZARD FEATURE IS AVAILABLE FOR YOU TO APPLY REFINEMENTS TO YOUR SEARCH! REFINEMENTS ARE IMPORTANT, AND MAKE SEARCHING EASIER, ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU KNOW THE DATE OF ARRIVAL. SHIP OF ARRIVAL, ETHNICITY, ETC.

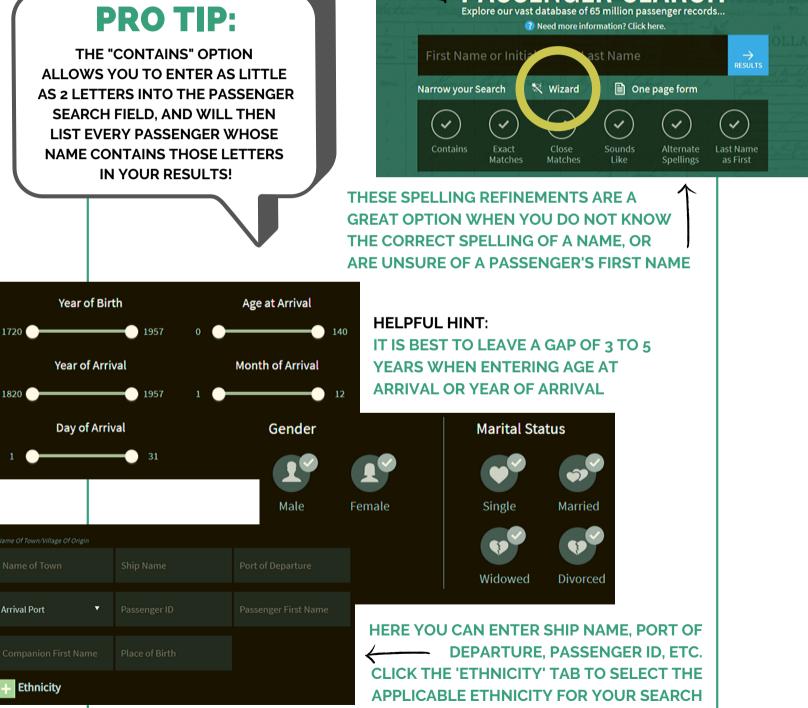
## REFINING **YOUR SEARCH & USING THE WIZARD**

ALLOWS YOU TO ENTER AS LITTLE **AS 2 LETTERS INTO THE PASSENGER** SEARCH FIELD, AND WILL THEN LIST EVERY PASSENGER WHOSE NAME CONTAINS THOSE LETTERS **IN YOUR RESULTS!** 

1720

1820

1



THE FRAME NUMBER REFRENCES THE FRAME ON WHICH YOU CAN FIND THE PASSENGER'S SHIP MANIFEST IN THE SCROLL OF MICROFILM

4

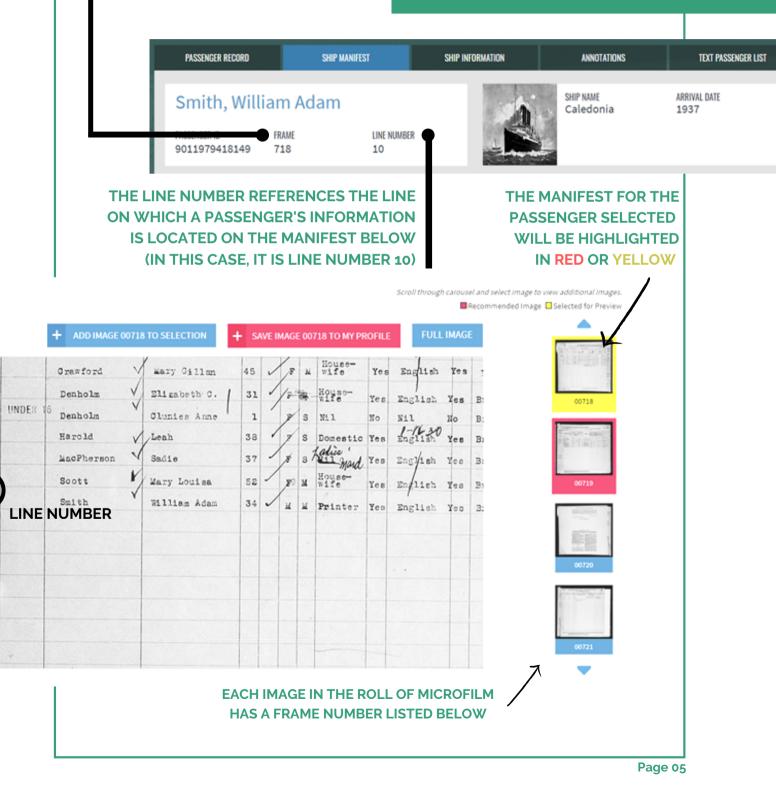
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7

8

# NAVIGATING A MANIFEST



## PAGE 1 BEGINS WITH A LIST OF PASSENGER NAMES

4		Grawford	V	Mary Cillan	45	1	F	ы	House- wife	Yes	Englis
5		Denholm	V	Elizabeth C.	31	1	12	-	House-	Yes	English
6	UNDER 16	Denholm	Y	Olunies Anne	1	/	Y	s	Ni l	No	Nil
7		Harold	V	Lean	38	1	1	s	Domestic	Yes	1-12 3
8		MacPherson	1	Sadie	37	/	*	si	Ladie mard	Yes	English
9		Scott	Y	Mary Louisa	52	/	F	м	House-	Yes	English
10		Smith	Y	William Adam	34	1	M	ы	Printer	Yes	English

4	Brotheri- Frestwick.	111.	Chicas	NY	See 23/	00	1	1930-	I
5	(Father:- David Riddell,	Cal.	Los Angele		Self A	175	Yes	1930-	
6	8 Wellington Street, Portobello.	Cal.	Los Angele	allY	Mother			1936	Ct
7	Mother: Mrs. Elizabeth Harold 73 Dunard Street, Glasgow, N.W.	N . Y.	New	NY	Self	100	-	1930-	7
8	Sisterii Mis Margaret	N.Y.	New York	TY	Self	1	/	1929-	N
9	Brother:- Thomas Kelly, Salabutnum Avenue, Wallsend-on-Tyne.		. Detroi	EY	Self	50	1	1925-	y
10	Mother-in-law:- Mrs.Elizabeth Colville, 73 Keptie Street, Arbrosth.	N.Y.	Brook-	NY	Self		/	1928-	2

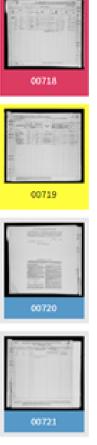
### PAGE 2 IS A CONTINUATION OF PAGE 1, AND WILL NOT LIST PASSENGER NAMES PAGE 2 WILL OFTEN APPEAR FIRST

## 1907:

THE STANDARD 1 PAGE SHIP MANIFEST EXPANDS TO 2 PAGES, WITH ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED PAGE 1 &2 WILL ALWAYS BE NEXT TO EACH OTHER IN THE SCROLL OF FRAMES (ABOVE OR BELOW) FOR EXAMPLE, IF MANIFEST PAGE 1 IS ON FRAME 333, PAGE 2 WILL BE ON FRAME 332 OR 334

## TWO-PAGE MANIFESTS 1907-1947

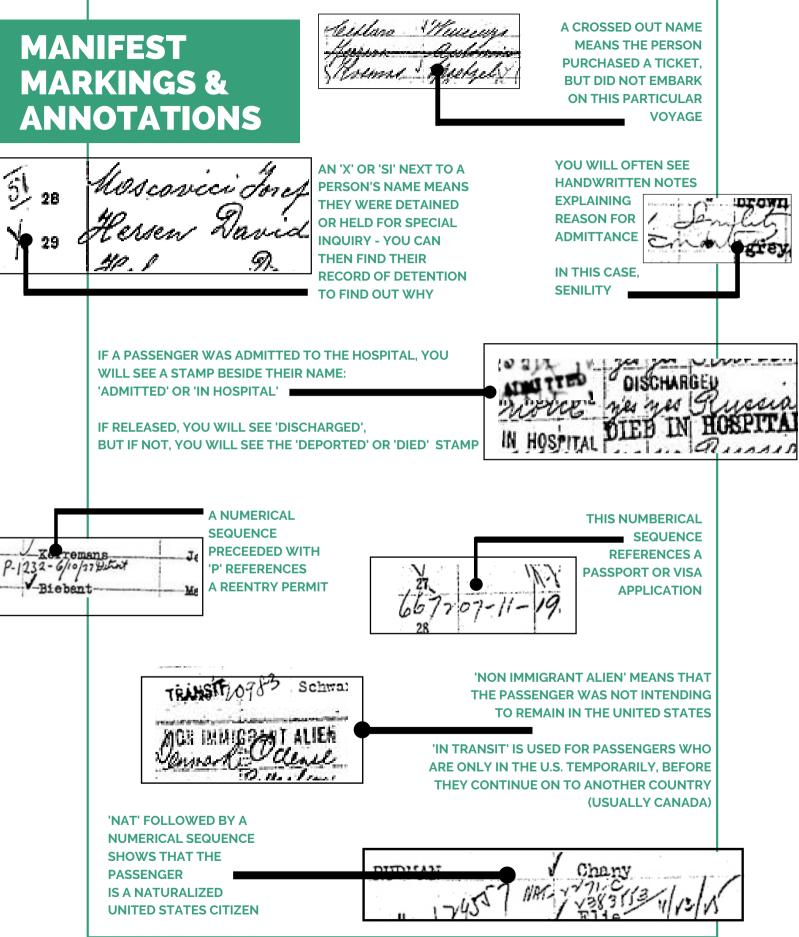
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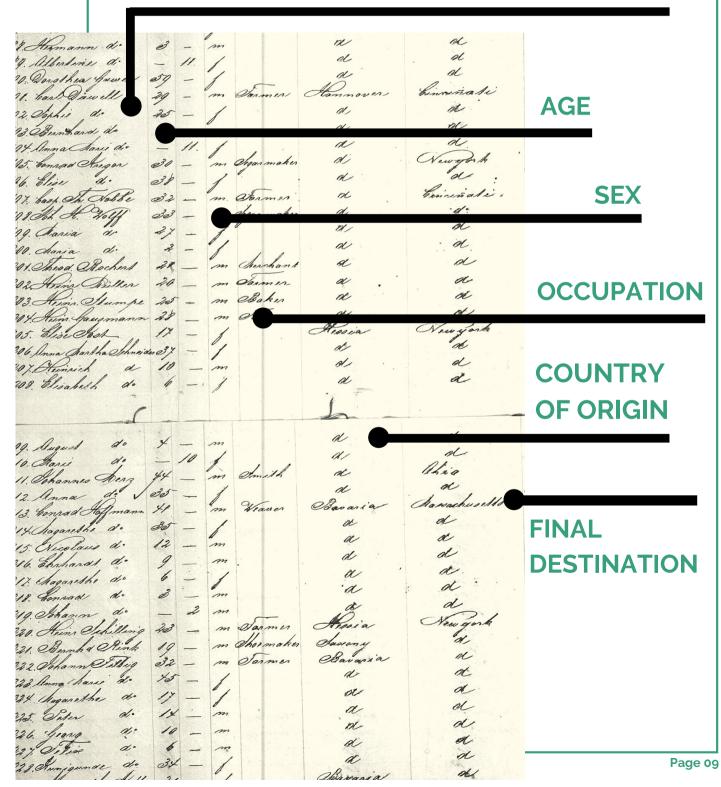
**HELPFUL HINT:** 

#### COLUMNS IN THE HEADING OF A SHIP MANIFEST WILL LIST THE QUESTIONS ASKED MANIFEST **OF PASSENGERS UPON DEPARTURE: READING ACROSS A PASSENGER'S** QUESTIONS LINE WILL GIVE YOU THEIR ANSWERS (COMPARABLE TO A SPREADSHEET)! 11 1 . 4 2 . ANT IN POLL Porents monrece the LIST OF QUESTIONS ASKED\*: • NAME IN FULL • HEAD-TAX STATUS - PAID OR UNPAID • AGE - YEARS & MONTHS • SEX • MARITAL STATUS OCCUPATION • WHETHER ABLE TO READ/WRITE - IF YES, IN WHAT LANGUAGE? NATIONALITY • RACE OR PEOPLE • LAST PLACE OF RESIDENCE - COUNTRY/CITY NAME & ADDRESS OF NEAREST RELATIVE/FRIEND IN COUNTRY WHENCE ALIEN CAME • FINAL DESTINATION - STATE/CITY • WHETHER HAVING A TICKET TO FINAL DESTINATION? • BY WHOM WAS PASSAGE PAID? • WHETHER IN POSSESSION OF \$50, AND IF LESS, HOW MUCH? • WHETHER EVER IN U.S. BEFORE - IF YES, WHEN AND WHERE? WHETHER GOING TO JOIN A RELATIVE OR FRIEND: IF SO, LIST NAME AND ADDRESS • EVER IN PRISON, ALMSHOUSE, INSTITUTION FOR CARE OF INSANE, ETC? • WHETHER A POLYGAMIST OR ANARCHIST? DOES PERSON BELIEVE IN OTHERTHROW OF U.S. GOVERNMENT OR LAWS? WHETHER COMING WITH AN OFFER, PROMISE, OR AGREEMENT OF LABOR? CONDITION OF HEALTH - MENTAL & PHYSICAL • DEFORMED OR CRIPPLED? • HEIGHT - FEET & INCHES COMPLEXTION COLOR • COLOR OF HAIR AND EYES MARKS OF IDENTIFICATION • PLACE OF BIRTH - COUNTRY/CITY PASSPORT/VISA/REENTRY PERMIT NUMBER AND DATE ISSUED (IF APPLICABLE) • HAS THE PASSENGER BEEN DEPORTED FROM THE U.S. BEFORE? NOTE THAT NOT ALL MANIFESTS PROVIDE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS. PLEASE SEE PAGES 6, 9, 10, 11 FOR FURTHER EXPLANATION.



## PRE-ELLIS RECORDS 1820 - 1891

### **FIRST & LAST NAME**



## U.S. CITIZEN MANIFESTS

SHIP MANIFESTS WERE REQUIRED FOR EVERYONE ABOARD A VESSEL ENTERING THE PORT OF NEW YORK -NOT JUST THOSE IMMIGRATING

Number ADDRESS IN

### YOU WILL KNOW YOU ARE VIEWING A LIST OF U.S. CITIZENS WHEN YOU SEE THIS HEADING AT THE TOP OF THE PAGE • CITIZEN MANIFESTS ARE 1 PAGE

LIST OF UNITED STATES CITIZENS

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NAME, AGE, SEX,	AT TOP OF MANIFEST
PERMANENT	APPROVED BY SYSTEM
ADDRESS,	A D. C. COMMITTEE (MEAN DAD) PASSENGER MANIFEST
<b>COUNTRY OF</b>	OWNER & OPERATOR PAN AMERICAN AIRWAYS, INC.
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PASSPORT	HAME IN FULL - AS SHOWN IN TRAVEL DOCUMENT YICKET 2, 3 4. COUNTRY OF NATIONAL 5. 294
<b>NUMBER &amp; PLANE</b>	BERMANENT ADDRESS (IF REQUIRED) NUMBER AGE SEX PASEPORT NO DATE OF 1550
TICKET NUMBER	Maraguez, P. R. 31-FURIFICACION, Jose A LL 22195915 Box 434 Vence Buerto Bico A M H.S.A. S. KAT 400127, P. Box 434 Vence Buerto Bico A M H.S.A.
*NOTE THAT SOME PLANE MANIFESTS LIST NAME ONLY	32-FURIFICANION, Josefa LL52X195915 32 F U.Sts. F YAUGO, Port

Page 11

## RECORDS OF DETENTION

THE "MANIFEST" COLUMN REFERENCES THE GROUP & LINE NUMBER OF THE SHIP MANIFEST ON WHICH THE DETAINEE IS LOCATED -THIS IS HELPFUL IF YOU FIND A PASSENGER'S DETENTION RECORD, BUT CANNOT LOCATE THEIR MANIFEST

### **COMMON DETENTION CAUSES:**

#### LIKELY PUBLIC CHARGE (LPC)

• Not in possession of enough money, no sponsor, anarchist, polygamist, stowaway, etc.

### **TELEGRAM FOR MONEY (TEL \$)**

 Passenger has no money and must telegram a family member. Usually to ensure a passenger can buy a railway ticket to their final destination.

### **MEDICAL (MED CERT)**

• Contagious disease, mental or physical ailment/defect, senility, etc.

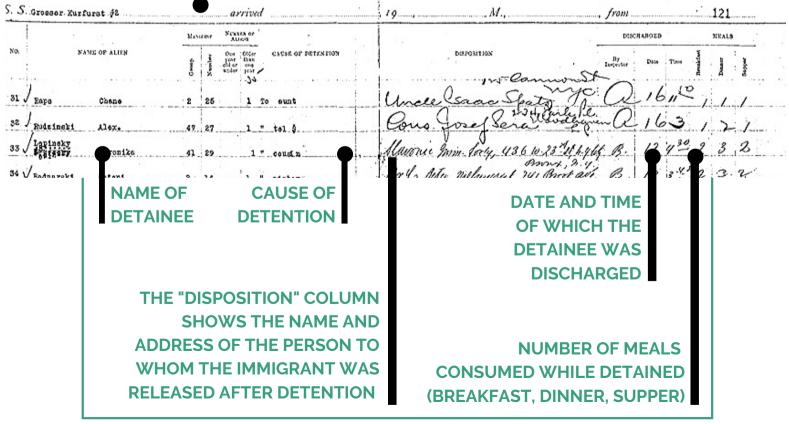
### ILLITERATE (ILL'T or P.D.)

 Passengers who could not read or write, or had mental and/or educational disgualifications.

#### UNDER 16

• Passengers under 16 traveling alone were held upon release to sponsor.

### RECORD OF DETAINED ALIENS



## SAVING & ORDERING DOCUMENTS

CLICK CART ICON TO VIEW ITEMS IN CART, OR TO COMPLETE YOUR ORDER

ALL SAVED DOCUMENTS WILL BE STORED IN YOUR PROFILE, ACCESSIBLE BY CLICKING 'MY PROFILE' IN THE UPPER RIGHT HAND CORNER OF THE WEBPAGE

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CLICK TO ADD THE FRAME YOU ARE VIEWING TO YOUR CART FOR PURCHASE WHEN YOU FIND A DOCUMENT THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SAVE TO YOUR PROFILE SELECT THE RED BUTTON: 'SAVE IMAGE TO MY PROFILE'

el and select image to vie

Recommended Image Selected for Preview

		+ ADD IMAGE 007	18 TO SELECTION	+ SAVE IMAGE 00718 TO MY PROFILE FULL IMAGE									
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5		Denholm V	Elizabeth C.	31	1	12	-	House-	Yes	English	Yes	B	
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