THE AMERICAN FAMILY IMMIGRATION HISTORY CENTER® **PASSENGER SEARCH TIPS & TRICKS**

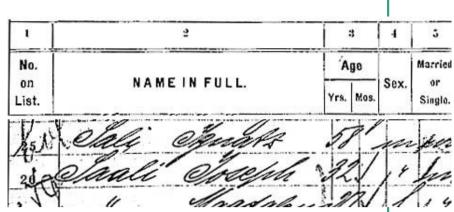
statueofliberty.org

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://statueofliberty.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 secondclass, 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.

1944:

SHIP MANIFESTS WERE TRANSPOSED ONTO MICROFILM BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT 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 SEARCH

statueofliberty.org

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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

PRO TIP:

THE "CONTAINS" OPTION 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!

Year of Birth

Year of Arrival

Day of Arrival

1957

1957

1720

1820

1 (

Arrival Port

Ethnicity

Explore our vast database of 65 million passenger records... Reed more information? Click here. **First Name or Initia** → RESULTS 💐 Wizard Narrow your Search One page form Matches Spellings as First THESE SPELLING REFINEMENTS ARE A GREAT **OPTION WHEN YOU DO NOT KNOW THE** CORRECT SPELLING OF A NAME. OR ARE **UNSURE OF A PASSENGER'S FIRST NAME** Age at Arrival IT IS BEST TO LEAVE A GAP OF ABOUT 140 **3 to 5 YEARS WHEN ENTERING YEAR OF** Month of Arrival ARRIVAL OR AGE AT ARRIVAL 12 Marital Status Gender Male Female Single Married Widowed Divorced HERE YOU CAN ENTER SHIP NAME, PORT OF DEPARTURE, PASSENGER ID, ETC. CLICK THE 'ETHNICITY' TAB TO SELECT THE APPLICABLE ETHNICITY FOR YOUR SEARCH

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

6

7

8

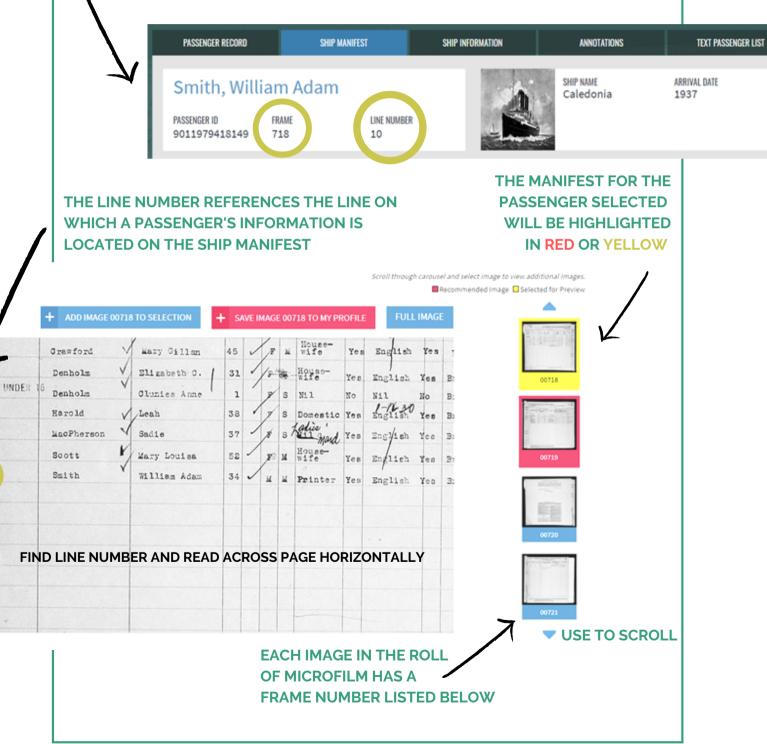
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10

11 12 13

14 15 16

NAVIGATING A MANIFEST



PAGE 1 BEGINS WITH A LIST OF PASSENGER NAMES

4		Oramford	V	Mary Cillan	45	1	F	ы	House- wife	Yes	Englis
5		Denholm	V	Elizabeth C.	31	1	12	-	House-	Yes	English
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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- wife	Yes	English
10		Smith	Y	William Adam	34	1	M	ы	Printer	Yes	English

4	Brotheri- Frestwick.	111.	Chicas	IY	See 33/	00	1	1930-	I
5	(Father:- David Riddell.	Cal.	Los Angele	1000	Self A	175	Yes	1930-	_
6	8 Wellington Street, Portobello.	Cal.	Los Angele	114	Mother			1936	Ct
7	Mother: 73 Dunard Street, Clasgow, N.W.	N . Y.	New York	NY		100	-	1930-	7
8	Glasgow, N. W. Statistic Tre Margaret Mitchell Glasgow therwood Brother:- Thomas Kelly.	N.Y.	New York	FY	Self		1	1929-	N
9	Brother:- Thomas Kelly, Se Laburnum Avenue, Wallsend-on-Tyne.	Mich	Detroi	EY t	Self	50	1	1925-	y
10	Mother-in-law:- Mrs. Elizabeth Colville, 73 Keptie Street, Arbrosth.	N.Y.	Brook-	IY	Self	60	/	1928-	2

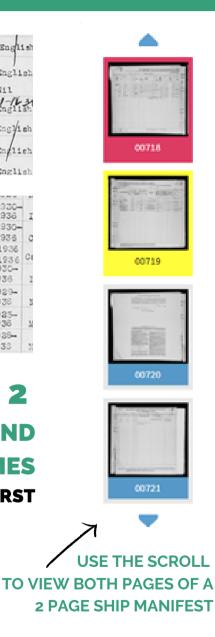
IS A CONTINUATION OF PAGE 1, AND

WILL NOT LIST PASSENGER NAMES

PAGE 2 WILL OFTEN APPEAR FIRST

PAGE 2

TWO-PAGE MANIFESTS 1907-1947



PAGE 1 &2 WILL ALWAYS BE NEXT TO EACH OTHER (ABOVE OR BELOW) FOR EXAMPLE, IF PAGE 1 IS ON FRAME 333, PAGE 2 WILL BE FRAME 332 OR 334

1907:

THE STANDARD 1 PAGE SHIP MANIFEST EXPANDS TO 2 PAGES, WITH ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

COLUMNS IN THE HEADING OF A SHIP MANIFESTS 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 . ٠ 2 . ANT IN POLL Parents manuel 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.

MANIFEST MARKINGS & ANNOTATIONS

THE PERSON PURCHASED A TICKET, BUT DID NOT EMBARK ON THIS PARTICULAR VOYAGE TRY SEARCHING FOR A DIFFERENT VOYAGE

Hoscovici Josep Hersen David Hersen David MP 1 9- To FIND OUT WHY

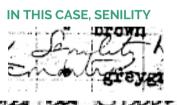
AN 'X' OR 'SI' NEXT TO A

PERSON'S NAME MEANS

HANDWRITTEN NOTES EXPLAINING THE REASON FOR ADMITTANCE

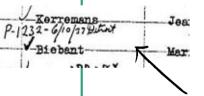
YOU WILL OFTEN SEE

A CROSSED OUT NAME MEANS



IF A PASSENGER WAS ADMITTED TO THE HOSPITAL, YOU WILL SEE A STAMP BESIDE THEIR NAME: 'ADMITTED' OR 'IN HOSPITAL'

IF RELEASED, YOU WILL SEE 'DISCHARGED' BUT IF NOT, YOU WILL SEE THE 'DEPORTED' OR 'DIED' STAMP



RUDMAN

(USUALLY CANADA)

A NUMERICAL SEQUENCE PRECEEDED WITH 'P' REFERENCES A REENTRY PERMIT

INTENDING TO REMAIN IN THE UNITED STATES

'NON IMMIGRANT ALIEN' MEANS THAT THE PASSENGER WAS NOT

'IN TRANSIT' IS USED FOR PASSENGERS WHO ARE ONLY IN THE U.S. TEMPORARILY. BEFORE THEY CONTINUE ON TO ANOTHER COUNTRY

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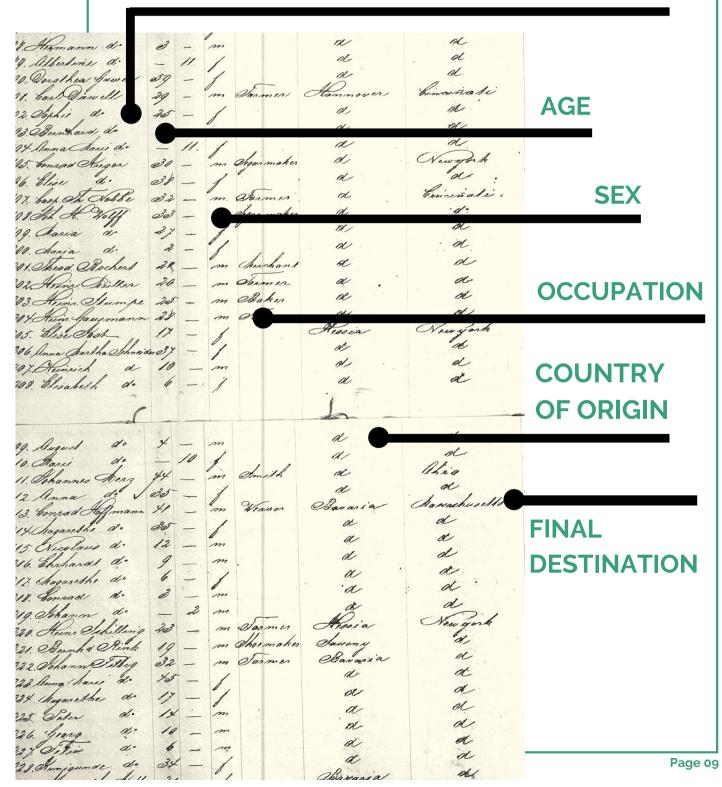
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'NAT' FOLLOWED BY A NUMERICAL SEQUENCE SHOWS THAT THE PASSENGER IS A NATURALIZED UNITED STATES CITIZEN

PRE-ELLIS RECORDS 1820 - 1891

FIRST & LAST NAME



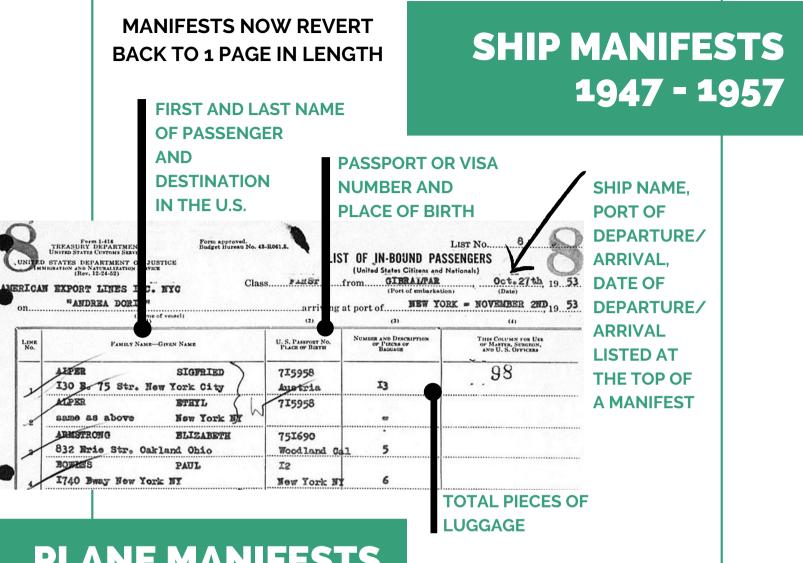
U.S. CITIZEN MANIFESTS

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

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				1		9	AU		



PLANE MANIFESTS

NEW YORK AIRPORT ARRIVALS THROUGH 1957

NAME, AGE, SEX,

AIRLINE, AIRCRAFT & FLIGHT NUMBER, DATE, AND POINT DISEMBARKATION LISTED AT **TOP OF MANIFEST**

PERMANENT	ARTRYS VE CAVORED
ADDRESS,	A.D.C. COMMITTEE (MCA. D.C) PASSENGER MANIFEST
COUNTRY OF	OWNER & OPERATOR PAN AMERICAN AIRWAYS, INC.
NATIONALITY,	AIRCRAFT NC- 1947 AND RADON U.S.A. POINT OF EMBALICATION SOF UBD. PICK 100
PASSPORT	HAME IN FULL - AS SHOWN IN TRAVEL DOCUMENT TICKET 2. 3. 4. COUNTRY OF RATIONAL 5. 291
NUMBER & PLANE	BO-AVILES, Miguel Angel SL212016496
TICKET NUMBER	Mayaguez, P. R. 31-FURIFICACION, Jose A LL S21195915 Box 434 Yango Buerto Bigo S A M H.S.A. S KAYAGUS, P. YANGO, F
*NOTE THAT SOME PLANE	32-PURIFICACION, Josefa 11521195915
MANIFESTS LIST NAME ONLY	same as above // 32 F U.SSS . F YAUGO, Pain

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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.

