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/

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.

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.
**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 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

Enter the passenger’s name in the search field.

List of results will appear below.

Click to view passenger record.
(A transcription of the ship manifest)

Click to view ship image & ship information.

Click to view ship manifest.
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.

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!

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.

IT IS BEST TO LEAVE A GAP OF ABOUT 3 to 5 YEARS WHEN ENTERING YEAR OF ARRIVAL OR AGE AT ARRIVAL.

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 REFERENCES THE FRAME ON WHICH YOU CAN FIND THE PASSENGER’S SHIP MANIFEST IN THE SCROLL OF MICROFILM

THE LINE NUMBER REFERENCES THE LINE ON WHICH A PASSENGER’S INFORMATION IS LOCATED ON THE SHIP MANIFEST

THE MANIFEST FOR THE PASSENGER SELECTED WILL BE HIGHLIGHTED IN RED OR YELLOW

FIND LINE NUMBER AND READ ACROSS PAGE HORIZONTALLY

EACH IMAGE IN THE ROLL OF MICROFILM HAS A FRAME NUMBER LISTED BELOW

USE TO SCROLL
**PAGE 1**
BEGINNS WITH A LIST OF PASSENGER NAMES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page 1</th>
<th>Page 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Cressorf, Mary Emma  
2. Denhals, Elizabeth O.  
3. Dinhals, Genevieve  
4. Harold, Leah  
5. Inner, Sadie  
6. Scott, Mary Louisa  
7. Smith, Millia Adam  
8. Father, A. Morrison  
9. Mother, Mrs. Elizabeth  
10. Brother-in-law, Thomas J.  
11. Mother-in-law, Mrs. Elizabeth  

**PAGE 2**
IS A CONTINUATION OF PAGE 1, AND WILL NOT LIST PASSENGER NAMES

1.使用滚动来查看两个页面的2页船名册

1907:
THE STANDARD 1 PAGE SHIP MANIFEST EXPANDS TO 2 PAGES, WITH ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

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 (ABOVE OR BELOW) FOR EXAMPLE, IF PAGE 1 IS ON FRAME 333, PAGE 2 WILL BE FRAME 332 OR 334
**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 overthrow 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
- Complexion 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.*
AN 'X' OR 'SI' NEXT TO A PERSON'S NAME MEANS THEY WERE DETAINED OR HELD FOR SPECIAL INQUIRY - YOU CAN THEN FIND THEIR RECORD OF DETENTION TO FIND OUT WHY

A CROSSED OUT NAME MEANS THE PERSON PURCHASED A TICKET, BUT DID NOT EMBARK ON THIS PARTICULAR VOYAGE

TRY SEARCHING FOR A DIFFERENT VOYAGE

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

YOU WILL OFTEN SEE HANDWRITTEN NOTES EXPLAINING THE REASON FOR ADMITTANCE

IN THIS CASE, SENILITY

‘NON IMMIGRANT ALIEN’ MEANS THAT THE PASSENGER WAS NOT INTENDING TO REMAIN IN THE UNITED STATES

‘IN TRANSIT’ IS USED FOR PASSENGERS WHO ARE ONLY IN THE U.S. TEMPORARILY, BEFORE THEY CONTINUE ON TO ANOTHER COUNTRY (USUALLY CANADA)

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

‘IN HOSPITAL’ STAMP

‘DISCHARGED’ STAMP

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

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

A NUMERICAL SEQUENCE REFERENCES A PASSPORT OR VISA APPLICATION
**U.S. CITIZEN MANIFESTS**

**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

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

**ADDRESS IN THE UNITED STATES**

- IF NOT NATIVE OF THE U.S., GIVE DATE/LOCATION OF COURT WHERE NATURALIZED

- IF NATIVE OF THE U.S., GIVE DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH

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**LIST OF UNITED STATES CITIZENS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Date of Arrival</th>
<th>Place of Arrival</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Napoli</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>15 May 1910</td>
<td>New York</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Date of Arrival</th>
<th>Place of Arrival</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Washington, D.C.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>20 February 1911</td>
<td>New York</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Date of Arrival</th>
<th>Place of Arrival</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sao Paulo</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10 May 1911</td>
<td>New York</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MANIFESTS NOW REVERT BACK TO 1 PAGE IN LENGTH

SHIP MANIFESTS 1947 - 1957

FIRST AND LAST NAME OF PASSENGER AND DESTINATION IN THE U.S.

PASSPORT ORVisA NUMBER AND PLACE OF BIRTH

TOTAL PIECES OF LUGGAGE

SHIP NAME, PORT OF DEPARTURE/ARRIVAL, DATE OF DEPARTURE/ARRIVAL LISTED AT THE TOP OF A MANIFEST

PLANE MANIFESTS
NEW YORK AIRPORT ARRIVALS THROUGH 1957

NAME, AGE, SEX, PERMANENT ADDRESS, COUNTRY OF NATIONALITY, PASSPORT NUMBER & PLANE TICKET NUMBER

*NOTE THAT SOME PLANE MANIFESTS LIST NAME ONLY

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>SEX</th>
<th>PERMANENT ADDRESS</th>
<th>COUNTRY OF NATIONALITY</th>
<th>PASSPORT NUMBER</th>
<th>PLANE TICKET NUMBER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALPER</td>
<td>28</td>
<td></td>
<td>130 8 75 Str. New York City</td>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>715958</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALPER</td>
<td>28</td>
<td></td>
<td>130 8 75 Str. New York City</td>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>715958</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARNOLD</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
<td>312 Erie St. Oakland Ohio</td>
<td>Woodland</td>
<td>751690</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROSS</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
<td>1740 E. 67 New York NY</td>
<td>New York</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*NOTE THAT SOME PLANE MANIFESTS LIST NAME ONLY

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.

## Records of Detained Aliens

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name of Alien</th>
<th>Cause of Detention</th>
<th>Date and Time of Which the Detainee was Discharged</th>
<th>Number of Meals Consumed While Detained (Breakfast, Dinner, Supper)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Epps</td>
<td>1 to suit</td>
<td>1912-03-30 16:00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Alonzi</td>
<td>1 to tel.</td>
<td>1912-03-30 16:00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Mathez</td>
<td>1 to rail.</td>
<td>1912-03-30 16:00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Zanev</td>
<td>1 to rail.</td>
<td>1912-03-30 16:00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## 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 disqualifications.
- **Under 16**: Passengers under 16 traveling alone were held upon release to sponsor.
SAVING & ORDERING DOCUMENTS

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

ALL DOCUMENTS ON STATUEOFLIBERTY.ORG ARE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AND WILL BE PRINTED ON ACID-FREE ARCHIVAL PAPER

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT