

THE AMERICAN FAMILY IMMIGRATION HISTORY CENTER AT ELLIS ISLAND

The American Family Immigration History Center (AFIHC/History Center) is home to the Ellis Island Passenger Database, which comprises nearly 65 million passenger arrival records for travelers entering the Port of New York from 1820 – 1957. This awe-inspiring resource enables visitors to examine immigration documents, find connections to their ancestry and heritage, and offer their own contributions to an ever-growing catalogue of family stories.

The database project took years to complete. In 1996, The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation and the National Park Service partnered with FamilySearch to digitize and index records that were originally preserved on microfilm and stored with the National Archives.

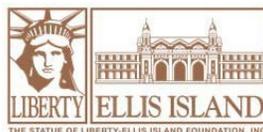
AFIHC was unveiled on April 17, 2001, making arrival records from Ellis Island and the Port of New York available to search both in-person at Ellis Island and online for the first time ever. This inspired millions to begin exploring their family history; within two days an unprecedented 26 million people visited the database.

Today, genealogy is one of the world's most popular hobbies. Each year at AFIHC, our expert researchers help tens of thousands of visitors discover their family's immigration stories. The database is also free to search on our website, which includes a library of educational resources and research tips. Replica passenger manifests, ship images, and other collectibles are available as archival-quality keepsakes.

With more than 30% of Americans tracing at least one ancestor through Ellis Island and the Port of New York, the American Family Immigration History Center is an essential experience on one's genealogical journey. To learn more, visit EllisIsland.org/Records.

ABOUT THE STATUE OF LIBERTY-ELLIS ISLAND FOUNDATION, INC.

The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation is a non-profit that collaborates with the National Park Service in one of America's most successful public-private partnerships. In 1982, President Ronald Reagan asked Lee Iacocca to raise private funds for the historic restoration of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. The Foundation has since created the Ellis Island National Museum of Immigration, developed the free 65-million-record Ellis Island Passenger Database, constructed the Statue of Liberty Museum, maintained museum exhibits, and funded over 300 additional projects on the islands. Follow the Foundation [@StatueEllisFdn](https://twitter.com/StatueEllisFdn).



Dedicated to the Restoration and Preservation of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island

17 Battery Place, Suite #232 | New York, NY 10004 | EllisIsland.org



Discover & Celebrate the Immigrant Experience

Plan Ahead for Your Visit to **THE AMERICAN FAMILY IMMIGRATION HISTORY CENTER**

AFIHC is located on the first floor of the Ellis Island National Museum of Immigration, easily accessible from the Baggage Room and Great Hall. Upon arrival, head to a check-in kiosk where you will create an account with your name and email and then be assigned to one of 26 research stations.

To make the most of your 30-minute session, the Foundation recommends gathering as many details as possible in advance of your visit. Refer to the below list of relevant data points. While it is not necessary to come equipped with all of these details, more information will maximize your search success.

Visitors conduct research independently, with AFIHC’s experts available to answer questions. You can continue your research at home using the Foundation’s free database (EllisIsland.org/Records).

For additional tips on researching your family history, visit the Foundation’s Education Resources (<https://www.statueofliberty.org/discover/educational-resources/>)

Family History Research Prep Sheet

Passenger’s Name:	
Alternate Names/Spellings (including Maiden Name)	
Passenger’s Year of Birth	
Ship they sailed on	
Ship’s Port of Departure	
Passenger’s Year of Arrival in the U.S.	
Name of Passenger’s Spouse	
Names of Passenger’s Children	
Location(s) Where Passenger Lived in U.S.	