

Find a Boatload of Passenger Lists on MyHeritage™

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Emigrants have been traveling the world for hundreds of years, especially when living conditions in their native country were deplorable. Governments were often in an upheaval and forced men to fight in ongoing wars. Those left at home had to deal with crop failures and scarcity of food. The chance for a better life, a promise of land, and the right to worship increased emigration from many parts of Europe to other countries.

The biggest stumbling block to emigration was the cost, especially for a whole family. Many times, one member of a family would travel to a new country, where they could work to earn enough money for the rest of the family's passage. Another option was Indentured Servitude. Both of these options required about 3 years of labor or more, but was considered worth the effort. Governments wanting to relinquish the responsibility of caring for prisoners and the mentally ill would pay to transport them to another country. The prisoners were laborers for the number of years sentenced, and the mentally ill were assigned to work according to their capabilities.

Emigration and Immigration

Two terms that are often confused – emigrant and immigrant – can be easily defined. An EMIGRANT is a person who departs from their native country and travels to another country, where they will seek permanent residence. The Passenger List for emigrants is known as a departure list.

Emigration Record Types are:

- Passenger Lists
- Passports and Applications
- Registers of Assistance
- Lists of Transported Prisoners
- Licenses to Pass Beyond the Seas
- Entry Book of Passes issued by the Secretary of State

Record types vary by country and by time period.

An IMMIGRANT is a foreign person who arrives in a new country, where they will settle. The Passenger List for immigrants is known as an arrival list.

Immigration Record Types Are:

- Passenger Lists
- Passports
- Alien Registration
- Entry Books
- Ship Registers
- Port of Arrival Manifests

Record types vary by country and by time period.

Major European Ports

Alsace; Antwerp; Belfast; Bremen; Copenhagen; Dublin; Glasgow; Hamburg; LeHavre; London; Rotterdam; Sicily; Stuttgart (Württemberg)

Major United States of America Ports

Baltimore, MD; Boston, MA; Charleston, SC; Castle Garden, NY; Ellis Island, NY; New Orleans, LA; Norfolk, VA; Philadelphia, PA

Passenger List Availability

- Online Databases
- Libraries
- Archives
- Government Repositories

The biggest drawback to searching Passenger Lists is that they are not all in one place or format. There are book series that are indexed by nationality or for one location or time period only. Some online lists have indexes, but no images of the original passenger lists. Other online lists have images, but no indexes. Earlier lists may show the name of the ship, the captain's name, and number of passengers, but don't have the passenger's names. Not knowing the exact name spelling that is listed in the passenger list record limits search results. Ancestors may have traveled a great distance to get to a port city. Their departure location may be unknown.

The Value of Passenger Lists

Even with the search issues noted, a Passenger List can become a treasure when it solves a relationship question, establishes a place of residence in a new country, shows an age that yields an approximate birthdate, identifies a previously unknown occupation, or is the only place a whole family is named in a record. The lists are viable sources of genealogical information and worth the effort it takes to find them.

To Search for Passenger Lists on MyHeritage

- From the home page, click RESEARCH
- COLLECTION CATALOG
- IMMIGRATION & TRAVEL
- Refine by location
- Choose the PASSENGER LIST you want to search

List descriptions are located at the top of the Search Box, and indicate the type of records contained in the collection. When conducting broad searches, disable *Match name exactly* in the drop down from *First and middle names* and *Last name* search boxes. *View Record* in the results will contain images or other details. Passenger List searches can be refined by years.

Search Tips

An Online Database is the best place to start a search for passenger lists. A broad search will yield the most results, especially when the place of departure is not known. Enter a surname of interest in the Search Box, leaving off the *First and middle names*, *Year of birth*, and *Place*. Look at the number of results for that surname. Try a variant spelling and search again. If the number of results is similar or the same, you can use what you consider to be the most accurate surname spelling in your search. Any result with that particular spelling will be at the top of the results list, and additional variant spellings will be in the results below it. Lengthy results can be narrowed by adding a *Year of birth* in the Search Box or a *Place*.

Searching for a passenger list using a full name, birth year, and place will often yield no results. In the search box, try using different name combinations –first name and surname; the middle name and surname; the first name, middle initial and surname; the first initial, middle name and surname; the first initial and surname; the middle initial and surname; both initials with a space between them, no periods after them and the surname.

After finding a person on a passenger list, search through other names on the same page, the page before and the page after. There are frequently other relatives traveling on the same ship.

MyHeritage Immigration & Travel Collection

Immigration & Travel records on MyHeritage are plentiful, with easy to search features. This collection contains: Passenger Lists; Citizenship, Passport and Naturalizations; Immigration & Emigration Records; and Immigration Documents. The Passenger Lists consist of 21 collections in Europe, Oceania, and the United States of America.

MyHeritage Passenger Lists Collections

Europe – Two Collections

British & Irish Passenger Lists, 1890

193,995 records

Germany, Bremen passenger Departure Lists, 1904-1914

44,312 records

Oceania – Three Collections

Australia, Inwards Unassisted Passengers to Victoria, 1852-1915

1,813,245 records

Australia, Outwards Passengers from Victoria, 1852-1915

1,753,445 records

Queensland, Australia Passenger and Crew Lists, 1852-1885

107,445 records

USA –Sixteen Collections

Atlantic and Gulf Ports, Passenger List Card Index, 1820-1870

1,023,457 records

Baltimore, Maryland Passenger List Card Index, 1820-1897

779,885 records

Baltimore, Maryland Passenger Lists, 1891-1943

1,626,159 records

Boston, Massachusetts Passenger Lists, 1820-1891

894,949 records

Boston, Massachusetts Passenger Lists, 1891-1943

4,815,663 records

California Passenger Lists, 1893-1957

2,903,755 records

Ellis Island and Other New York Passenger lists, 1820-1957

113,439,586 records

Honolulu, Hawaii Passenger Lists, 1900-1953

1,777,740 records

Immigrant Ships Transcribers Guild Passenger Lists

10,935 records

Passenger & Immigration Lists, 1500-1900

5,122,219 records

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Passenger List Card Index, 1883-1948

1,153,200 records

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Passenger Lists, 1800-1882

489,486 records

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Passenger Lists, 1883-1945

2,071,882 records

Port of New York, Index to Discharged or Deserted Crew, 1917-1957

1,268,993 records

Seattle, Washington Passenger Lists, 1890-1957

2,852,242 records

Transatlantic Migration, North America to Britain and Ireland, 1858-1870; 42,695 records