



Beyond the Passenger List

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Passenger lists can give you:

- Name
- Age
- Occupation
- Country of origin
- Family traveling together

May also give you:

- Captain's name
- Arrival date
- Port of departure
- Origin/registry of ship
- Total weight of ship (size indication)

Step 1: Find your ancestor/ family

Step 2: Does it match with what you already know?

Step 3: Go to the first page for ship information and category headings

Step 4: Transcribe the entire passengers list

Step 5: Analyze the information- What does it tell you about the people on the ship- social class, wealth, education, age range, families/singles? Any names found in later documents in the same location as your ancestors?

Passenger List Analysis:

- Age Groupings
- Occupations
- Origins
- Destinations- although may not be stated or may not be reliable
- Family Groups/Single Travelers
- Passenger Traveler Class (First Class, Second Class, etc.- later time frame)
- What questions do you have?

Search Strategies:

Think outside the box! Search logical and possible- then illogical and impossible.

Search using exact terms and any variation thereof

Use the sources of what you find to go further

Search Strategies: (continued)

Google or other search engines

Wikipedia- Look at the sources too!

Look for books on ships, shipping, ports, country histories

Look for diaries, journals of voyage experiences at the time

Look for newspaper accounts, ship arrivals/departures

Look for arrival and departure lists

Search on your ancestor's name as it was in the "old" country

Search on the ship, ship type, ship out of – (port)

Search on the captain's name, captain of the ship

Search on the port within the time frame of your ancestors

Search on the country/city history at the time

Search for emigrant/immigrant guides near the time of your ancestors

Helpful websites:

<https://familysearch.org> (free; search by location for original images)

www.ancestry.com (\$; original images)

<http://immigrantships.net> (free; transcriptions and other information)

www.theshipslist.com (free; transcriptions and other information)

<https://www.libertyellisfoundation.org/> (free to search; port New York City, Castle Garden 1820- 1892; Ellis Island 1892- 1957; register for free; \$ to access images)

www.cyndislist.com (free, resources)

<https://www.cyndislist.com/migration/wagon-trains/>

<http://www.sfgenealogy.org/californiabound/cbindex.htm> (wagon trains)

<http://www.over-land.com/emigrants.html> (wagon trains)

<http://www.oregonpioneers.com/ortrail.htm> (wagon trains)

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/California_Trail (wagon trains)

www.archives.gov (NARA) (free; copies of records can be obtained for a fee if not digitized)

Notes: