

# A New Look at Immigrant Passenger Manifests

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## Basic Information on New York Passenger Manifests

- 1820 – Name, age, sex, occupation, nationality, intent to become citizen, died at sea;
- 1860 – Name, age, sex, occupation, nationality, intent to become citizen, died at sea, part of ship occupied;
- 1890 – Name, age, sex, occupation, nationality, intent to become citizen, died at sea, part of ship occupied, number of pieces of baggage, length of sojourn, date of death;
- 1900 – Name, age, sex, marital status, occupation, read/write, nationality, last residence, seaport for landing, final destination, ticket to final destination, who paid passage, amount of money, in US before, staying with relative, felon, polygamist, under contract, health, cripple;
- 1910 – Name, age, sex, marital status, occupation, read/write, nationality, race, last residence, nearest relative in country of origin, final destination; ticket to final destination, who paid passage, in US before, staying with friend or relative, felon, polygamist, anarchist, under contract, health, cripple, height, complexion, color of hair/eyes, distinguishing marks, place of birth;
- 1920 – Head tax, name, age, sex, marital status, occupation, read/write/language, nationality, race, last residence, nearest relative in country of origin, final destination; ticket to final destination, who paid passage, amount of money, in US before, staying with friend or relative, purpose of trip, felon, polygamist, anarchist, overthrow government, under contract, deported, health, cripple, height, complexion, color of hair/eyes, distinguishing marks, place of birth;
- 1930 – Head tax, name, age, sex, marital status, occupation, read/write/language, nationality, race, place of birth, immigration visa, last residence, nearest relative in country of origin, final destination; ticket to final destination, who paid passage, amount of money, in US before, staying with friend or relative, purpose of trip, felon, polygamist, anarchist, overthrow government, under contract, deported, health, cripple, height, complexion, color of hair/eyes, distinguishing marks;
- 1940 – Head tax, name, age, sex, marital status, occupation, read/write/language, nationality, race, place of birth, immigration visa, verification of landing, last residence, nearest relative in country of origin, ticket to final destination, who paid passage, amount of money, in US before, staying with friend or relative, purpose of trip, felon, polygamist, anarchist, overthrow government, under contract, excluded and deported, arrested and deported, health, cripple, height, complexion, color of hair/eyes, distinguishing marks.

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## Annotations Made Prior to Arrival

1. A number in the left margin (typically 2 to 7 digits), especially on lists of ships that sailed from England is the contract ticket number and may be helpful in finding the individual in the British "Outbound Lists".
2. Rarely, a solitary number to the left of the passenger's name will indicate a Head Tax receipt number.
3. "Not Shipped", "NOB" (Not On Board), "Did Not Sail", or "Cancelled", often with the entire line crossed out indicate that, for some reason, the passenger listed did not sail with the ship.
4. Sometimes an entire line is crossed out, not because the passenger was not on board, but because they are officially listed on another page of the manifest.
5. An "X", "D", or "Held" at the left of the manifest, between columns 1 and 2 or in the name column, means that the passenger was temporarily detained or held for a Board of Special Inquiry.
6. The notation "S.I." or "B.S.I." at the left side of the manifest before the name means that the passenger was held for a Board of Special Inquiry hearing and the name may have been recorded with further information in a list at the end of the manifest.
7. If annotations indicate "X", "D", "Held", "S.I." or "B.S.I.", look at the end of the manifest for pages entitled "Record of Detained Alien Passengers" and "Record of Release of Aliens Held for Special Inquiry". More information on the passenger may be found in those pages, including the reason and the length of time the passenger was held.
8. The notation "USB" or "US Born" or "USC" (US Citizen) may have been made to indicate that the record is for a returning citizen of the United States.
9. The letter "C" followed by a string of numbers (C-#####), indicating the Naturalization certificate number, may have been made on the records of returning citizens.

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## Annotations Made After Arrival

1. A number similar to "435/621" with no date is the New York file number which indicates an early verification/record check. The actual file no longer exists.
2. A number similar to "432731/435765" indicates that the passenger was a permanent resident of the United States returning with a Re-entry Permit.
3. A number similar to "1X-151593" indicates that the arrival of the immigrant was verified prior to naturalization and typically indicates that the verification was made after 1926. The first number indicates the naturalization district, the "X", if present, indicates that no fee was required for the Certificate of Arrival, and the second part of the number is the Certificate of Arrival number or the Application number.
4. The date of the Certificate of Arrival or the date of Application may follow the Certificate of Arrival number or Application number.
5. "C/A" indicates a request for a Certificate of Arrival was made in connection with the filing of papers for Naturalization purposes.
6. "V/L" indicates a Verification of Landing was made.
7. "W/A" indicates that a Warrant of Arrest was made.
8. "404" or "405" is the Verification Form used to reply to a request for Passenger Manifest information to the INS.
9. If only the name is crossed out with a line or a series of X's and another name was written in, the name was officially amended.

## Additional Information in Manifests

The information on a particular passenger in a manifest may extend beyond what is written in the main in the single line documenting his or her arrival.

Examine the entire manifest to learn if the ship stopped at several ports along the way. Documenting these stops enables the researcher to document the voyage in more detail.