

Passenger Lists

National Archives

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Inwards

There are very few records relating to passengers entering the United Kingdom before 1878 at The National Archives. What remains is held under the following references:

- FO 83/21-22: lists of foreign nationals arriving at British ports between August 1810 and May 1811.
- HO 5/25-32: index to foreign national Certificates of Arrival 1826 to 1849 (original certificates pre-1836 have been destroyed).
- HO 2: original certificates of arrival for individual foreign nationals arranged under port of arrival 1836 to 1852.
- An alphabetical index of foreign national certificates of some German, Polish and Prussian persons, 1847 to 1852, compiled by the Anglo-German Family History Society is available in the research enquiries room.

Outwards

Most of the records of passengers leaving the United Kingdom are distributed among a variety of references at The National Archives. The majority of emigration passenger lists from 1776 to 1889 have not survived. The following are references for the records that are available:

- E 157: Exchequer: King's Remembrancer: Registers of Licences to pass beyond the seas. This contains several registers of passengers travelling from UK ports to New England, Barbados and other colonies for 1634-9 and one for 1677.

- CO 1: Privy Council and related bodies: America and West Indies, Colonial Papers (General Series).

- T 47/9-12: Treasury register kept by port customs officials showing emigrants going from England, Wales and Scotland to the New World between 1773 to 1776. A card index exists for the information from England and Wales and is available from the General Enquiries Room. The series also gives names of passengers to Europe.

- CO 208: New Zealand Company Original Correspondence, 1839 to 1858: registers of cabin passengers emigrating between 1839 and 1850 (CO 208/269-272); applications for free passage, 1839 to 1850 (CO 208/273-274, index CO 208/275).

Board of Trade passenger lists

These relate mainly to arrivals in and departures from UK seaports and were deposited by various passenger ships lines. Knowledge of the year, month and port of departure or arrival is essential to search some of these records. However, information on BT27 Outward Passenger Lists for longdistance voyages leaving the British Isles from 1960 to 1890 can now be searched online.

The database has been created by Findmypast.com, in association with The National Archives and it can be searched at:

www.ancestorsonboard.com/

The BT passenger lists are arranged in two series:

- BT 26: arrivals 1878 to 1960.
- BT 27: departures, 1890 to 1960.
- BT 32: Register of Passenger Lists, 1906 to 1951: contain names of ships for which passenger lists are available in BT 26 and BT 27. They are not complete.

In general, passenger lists do not exist for the following:

- Ships travelling between ports in Ireland, Scotland, Wales and England
- Ferries including those on the English Channel, North Sea and Irish Sea
- Feeder ships carrying passengers across the North Sea for onward passage by transatlantic steamers
- Ships sailing between Britain and all European ports, or those which lie on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea, including all islands in the Mediterranean such as Malta unless the ship's voyage started or ended outside that area
- Cruise ships
- Troop ships – although there are some 20th century records for civilian passengers on troop transports
- Ships bound for Britain but which sank before they reached their port. (This means there is no arrival list for the Lusitania's last voyage, not for any other ships which did not reach its British destination for whatever reason).(1)

Overseas archives

Information relating to emigrants may be found in the national archives of the destination country. Contact details for some useful sources follow:

The National Archives and Record Service

Constitution Avenue
General Services Administration
Washington DC 20408
USA

- Customs Passenger Lists, 1800-1890. Not all ports are covered for all of this period. Details given for each passenger (all travellers, not just emigrants) are: name, age, sex, occupation, country of origin, country of destination. Details also given of deaths on passage.
- Immigration Passenger Lists, dating from 1890.
- These give all the above information and also place of birth, last place of residence and sometimes the address of a relative in the country of origin.
- Records of Births, Marriages and Deaths before 1900.
- Census records for the years 1790-1877.
- Also hold microfilm copies for 1880 and 1900

Immigration and Naturalisation Service

New York
NY 10007
USA

- Passenger lists less than fifty years old.

The Department of State

Washington DC 20520
USA

- Information concerning births, marriages and deaths after 1900.

The British Library of Political and Economic Science

Grange Court, London WC2A 2HD ·

☎ 020 7955 7229

- Holds microfilm copies of the USA National Archives passenger lists for a number of years.

(1) Taken from Fenton, Briody and Macdonald (eds) *Maritime Information: A guide to libraries and sources of information in the United Kingdom* (Maritime Information Association, London: 2004).

The New York Public Library

The Research Libraries
5th Avenue and 42nd Street
New York
NY 10018

- See the 18 volume Dictionary Catalogue of Local History and Genealogy Division.

The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society Library

122 East 58th Street
New York
NY 10022

- Produces the New York Genealogical and Biographical Record, which publishes queries

The American Irish Historical Society Library

991 Fifth Avenue
New York
NY 10028

The Local History and Genealogy Section

Library of Congress
Washington DC 20540

US National Park Services Immigration Museum

Ellis Island
New York

The National Immigration Archives and the Balch Institute

185 Seventh Street
Philadelphia
PA 19106

Canada

Public Archives of Canada

395 Wellington Street
Ottawa
Ontario K1A 0N3

- Juvenile Emigrants to Canada:
- Often orphans and thus the subject of a special series of archives which are indexed for personal names. 1869-1900 sent out by emigration societies.
- 1889-1916 sent out by Boards of Guardians of the Poor.
- Other Emigrants:
- Passenger manifests contain similar information to the USA passenger lists. Details of major ports from 1865 or later till 1908.
- Census Records 1666-1881.
- Lists of voters prepared during the federal election years since 1935.

Records of Entry Unit

Canada Employment and Immigration Commission
10th Floor
140 Place du Portage
Phase IV
Ottawa K1A 0J9

- Information regarding emigrants to Canada after Spring 1908.

Archives Nationales de Quebec

PO Box 10450
Sainte-Foy
Quebec G1V 4N1

Provincial Archives of Alberta

8555 Roper Rd NW
Edmonton AB
T6E 5W1

Australia

New South Wales Record Office

161 O'Connell St,
Kingswood NSW 2747,
Australia

- Convicts Indents 1788-1842, 1849. From Botany Bay, NSW, which was appointed a convict colony in 1786.

- Passenger Lists (Free Passengers) July 1826-December 1922. Post 1923 see Federal Archives.
- Immigration Lists (Assisted Passengers) 1826-1896: Detailed records including men and women on early migrant ships, persons on Government ships and Bounty ships, lists of immigrants and wives and families of convicts.

Public Record Office of Victoria

99 Shiel Street
Melbourne
Victoria 3051

- Passenger Lists (unassisted) 1852-1923
- Passenger Lists (assisted) 1839-1871
- Index to Passenger Ships 1880-1924
- Card Index to Naturalisation Certificates 1851-1900

Battye Library of West Australian History and Archives

Perth Cultural Centre,
25 Francis Street,
Perth WA 6000

- Passenger and convict lists for Fremantle and Albany 1829-1932.

Queensland State Archives

435 Compton Road
Runcorn
Queensland 4113

- Immigration Department Records 1848 to date
- Passenger Lists 1848 to date
- Records of Immigration Agents 1848 to date often give details of where immigrants went after arrival
- Land Orders (mainly unassisted passengers) 1848 to date

South Australian Archives

State Library of South Australia
Northern Terrace
Adelaide
SA 5000

- Unofficial Passenger Lists 1836-1845 (very incomplete)
- Official Lists (Assisted immigrants) 1847-1886
- Passenger Lists (newspapers) 1888-1940
- Applications for assisted passage to Australia
- Lists of Ships' Arrivals 1836-1849

The Australian Archives Office

Federal Archives
(National Archives)

- Records of ships' passenger lists from 1924-1964.

New Zealand

New South Wales Record Office

10 Mulgrave Street
Wellington 6011

- New Zealand Company Register passenger lists for major ports from 1840-1850.
- Embarkation Registers (assisted passengers) 1871-1888
- Shipping lists - Auckland 1882-1887, Wellington 1857-1910.
(These give the name of crew and assisted and unassisted passengers.)

Archives Office of Tasmania

77 Murray Street,
Hobart Tasmania 7000

- Convicts lists 1803-1853
- Governors Despatches received by Colonial Office 1825-1855
- Board of Immigration Records 1840-1887. The major source for assisted passengers.
- Passenger lists of trade and customs departments 1903-1921, 1923-1938 & 1946-1951.

Suggested Reading

Roger Kershaw and Mark Pearsall *Immigrants and Aliens* (PRO Publications, 2000)

Roger Kershaw *Emigrants and Expats: A guide to sources on UK emigration and residents overseas* (Public Record Office, Surrey, ISBN: 1 903365 32 5)

Morton Allen *Directory of European Passenger Steamship Arrivals* (Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1979)

Marten A Syme *Shipping Arrivals and Departures: Victorian Ports Volume 2 1846-1855* (Roebuck, Melbourne: 1987)

J C Hotten *Original Lists of Persons Emigrating to America, 1600-1700* (London: 1874)

P.W. Filby & M.K. Meyer, *Passenger and Immigration Lists Index* (Gale Research Co.: Detroit, 1981)

V. Greenwood, *The Researchers Guide to American Genealogy* (Baltimore: General Publishing Co., 1973)

V. Greenwood, *Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives* (Washington DC, 1982)

A.S. Mountfield, *Western Gateway: A History of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board* (1965)

Researchers should check availability, accessibility and opening times with the repositories listed before making a personal visit.

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