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INDEX TO PASSENGER LISTS OF VESSELS
ARRIVING AT NEW YORK, 1820-1846

On the 103 rolls of this microfilm publication is reproduced an alphabetical card index to the names on passenger lists of vessels arriving at the port of New York during the years 1820-46 and some later years. The lists themselves for the years 1820-97 are reproduced on Microcopy 237. The index, which has some omissions, was prepared under the sponsorship of the Immigration and Naturalization Service by the Work Projects Administration between 1935 and 1937 and later transferred to the National Archives. The information on the cards was obtained from copies of the passenger lists that were in the custody of the Service.

The Index cards, about 519, 000, consist of printed forms that were filled in and blank cards on which information was entered. Although the entries vary somewhat, especially when the blank cards were used, most of them give information under the following headings: Name of passenger, accompanied by, age in years and months, sex, occupation, nationality, last permanent residence, destination, port of entry, name of vessel, and date of arrival. There are duplicate index cards that show different dates of arrival, and many cards contain information that was incorrectly copied. Names of "accompanying" passengers appearing on the reverse side of some index cards were not microfilmed, as there are separate cards for each passenger. Symbols such as A-814 or AB-1297 on some of the forms are of no significance to users of this microcopy. Symbols such as Mnfst. 2000 P 120 or M 3000/55 indicate that the related entry is in one of the bound volumes of transcripts of copies of the passenger lists described below.

An act of March 2, 1819 (3 Stat. 488), provided that the captain or master of a vessel arriving at a port in the United States or its territories from a foreign country was to submit a list of the passengers to the collector of customs in the district where the vessel arrived. Although January 1, 1820, was the effective date of the provision, a few lists were submitted for the quarter ending December 31, 1819. The act also provided that each quarter year every collector of customs should submit copies of the lists to the Secretary of State who, in turn, was to report on them at each session of Congress. The Secretary's reports, published in Congressional documents, indicate by port of arrival the number of passengers, nationality, and occupation. An act of May 7, 1874, provided that instead of sending copies of passenger lists to the Secretary of State, the collectors should submit such reports to the Secretary of the Treasury, as he should direct.

The lists of passengers arriving at the port of New York include unbound original lists, 1820-97; unbound copies of these lists, 1820-74; and eight bound volumes of transcripts of the copies, 1820-27. The original lists were transferred to the National Archives from the Bureau of Customs, Department of the Treasury. The copies of the lists and six of the bound volumes of transcripts were transferred from the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Justice; the other two bound volumes, from the Department of State.

The lists themselves and copies of them are arranged chronologically by date of arrival of the vessels. Each list or copy normally gives the name of the vessel, its master, port of embarkation, date of its arrival, and the following information about each passenger: Name, age, sex, occupation, the country to which he belongs, the country of which he intends to become an inhabitant, and, if he died en route, the date and circumstances of his death. The law required that the list be sworn to by the master in the presence of the collector.

The transcripts, originally consisting of nine bound volumes, presumably were prepared in the Office of the Secretary of State from copies of the passenger lists received from the collectors of customs. They contain information concerning passengers arriving at various ports during the years 1819-32 but at New York during 1820-27 only. Volume 2 (apparently from July 1, 1820, to September 30, 1821) is missing. The entries are arranged chronologically by quarter year of arrival, thereunder by name of district or port, thereunder by name of vessel, and finally by name of passenger. A typical entry also shows the name of the master of the vessel and, for each passenger, his name, age, sex, and occupation, country to which he belongs, and country that he intended to inhabit. The pages in volumes 5, 8, and 9 are numbered; those in the other volumes are unnumbered. Volumes 8 and 9 contain entries relating to manifest numbers 2000 and 3000 respectively.

All entries in volume 1 and some entries presumably in the missing volume 2 are in a U. S. Department of State report to Congress, *Letter from the Secretary of State With a Transcript of the List of Passengers Who Arrived in the United States from the 1st October, 1819, to the 30th September, 1820* (16th Cong., 2d sess., S. Doc. 118, serial 45). A copy of this publication, with a typescript index, is in the National Archives Library.

To find information on one of the passenger lists indexed by the cards filmed on this microcopy, it will be necessary to copy the following identifying data from the index card: Name of port of entry, name of vessel, date of arrival, and name of passenger if it appears on the index card a symbol such as Mnfst. 2000 P 120 or M 3000/55.

The index cards reproduced on this microcopy are a part of Record Group 36, Records of the Bureau of Customs. In the same record group are journals of vessel entrances, alphabetical indexes to them, and abstracts of tonnage duties paid at New York, 1820-97 (with gaps). These records serve as finding aids to names and dates of arrival of vessels during the period covered by this microfilm

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9	Boy-Bree
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