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# CREW LISTS OF VESSELS ARRIVING AT ASHLAND, KENOSHA, MARINETTE, SHEBOYGAN, STURGEON BAY, AND WASHBURN, WISCONSIN, 1926-1956

#### Introduction

On the single roll of this microfilm publication, M2044, are reproduced crew lists of vessels arriving at Ashland (1955-56), Kenosha (1937-40), Marinette (1929-40), Sheboygan (1929-56), Sturgeon Bay (1946-52), and Washburn (1925-28), WI. These lists were submitted to the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) by the captain or master of each vessel. These records are part of the Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Record Group (RG) 85.

#### Background

Early records relating to immigration originated in regional customhouses. The U.S. Customs Service conducted its business by designating collection districts. Each district had a headquarters port with a customhouse and a collector of customs, the chief officer of the district. An act of March 2, 1819 (3 Stat. 489), required the captain or master of a vessel arriving at a port in the United States or any of its territories from a foreign country to submit a list of passengers to the collector of customs. The act also required that the collector submit a quarterly report or abstract, consisting of copies of these passenger lists, to the Secretary of State, who was required to submit such information at each session of Congress. After 1874 collectors forwarded only statistical reports to the Treasury Department. The lists themselves were retained by the collector of customs. Customs records were maintained primarily for statistical purposes.

On August 3, 1882, Congress passed the first Federal law regulating immigration (22 Stat. 214-215); the Secretary of the Treasury had general supervision over it between 1882 and 1891. The Office of Superintendent of Immigration in the Department of the Treasury was established under an act of March 3, 1891 (26 Stat. 1085), and was later designated a bureau in 1895 with responsibility for administering the alien contract-labor laws. In 1900 administration of the Chinese-exclusion laws was added. Initially the Bureau retained the same administrative structure of ports of entry that the Customs Service had used. By the turn of the century it began to designate its own immigration districts, the numbers and boundaries of which changed over the years. In 1903 the Bureau became part of the Department of Commerce and Labor, and when functions relating to naturalization were added in 1906, its name was changed to the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization. In 1933 the functions were transferred to the Department of Labor and became the responsibility of the newly formed Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). Under President Franklin Roosevelt's Reorganization Plan V of 1940, the INS was moved to the Department of Justice.

**Records Description** 

## Forms Used

The crew lists were generally recorded on two INS forms.

**INS Form 680 (later known as Form I-480),** *List or Manifest of Aliens Employed on the Vessel as Members of Crew*, usually contains the names of vessels and shipmasters, ports of arrival and embarkation, dates of arrival, and the following information about each crew member: full name; position in ship's company; whether able to read; age; sex; race; nationality; height; weight; physical marks or peculiarities. The "race" column indicates the crew member's ethnic background, such as Irish, German, Polish, or other. It also indicates the date and place at which he was engaged for employment and whether he was to be paid off or discharged at the port of arrival. Although the primary purpose of this form was to record pertinent information about aliens, many U.S. citizen crew members are included on these lists. Masters of some vessels submitted Canadian Immigration Service Form 200, *Crew List or Manifest of Seamen and Other Persons Employed on the Vessel*, in lieu of INS Form I-480.

**INS Form 481,** *List or Manifest of all Persons Employed on a Great Lakes Vessel*, usually contains the names of vessels, shipmasters, ship owners, and local agents; ports of arrival and embarkation; dates of arrival; and the following information about each crew member: full name, citizenship, position in crew, whether to be discharged at the port of arrival, whether medically examined during the current season or year, and identification card number or alien registration number.

Both the I-480 and I-481 generally indicate whether the immigrant inspector admitted the crew member or detained him on board the vessel. If the alien had another identification document, such as a passport or declaration of intention to become a citizen ("first papers"), it may be noted in the "remarks" column.

**INS Form I-489**, *Statement of Changes in Crew*, sometimes accompanies Form I-481. This form indicates names and other information of any crewmen who (1) deserted, (2) were discharged, (3) were left in a hospital at the port of arrival, or (4) signed on at the port of arrival.

### General Remarks

These records were microfilmed by the INS on February 20, 1956, February 18, 1957, and May 22-23, 1957, and subsequently transferred to the National Archives on microfilm. Although some of this film may be difficult to read, it is impossible to correct the situation since the INS destroyed the original records.

These arrival records were generally filmed in chronological order, although a few were filmed out of place. The Contents section that follows contains a complete listing of the arrival records arranged by port, and thereunder in the order in which they were filmed. All ports of embarkation are in the province of Ontario, Canada, unless otherwise noted. Although many crew members were Canadian citizens, others were citizens of the United States, Norway, France, Great Britain (England and Scotland), Germany, Poland, Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Spain, Italy, Denmark, Belgium, Australia, and other nations.

### **Related Records**

Other crew lists of vessels arriving at Ashland, WI, have been reproduced on the two rolls of National

Archives Microfilm Publication M2005, Crew Lists of Vessels Arriving at Ashland, Wisconsin, August 1922-October 1954.

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