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

**CONTENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Roll</th>
<th>Port; Date of Arrival; Vessel; Port of Embarkation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ashland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>May 14, 1955; Gleneagles; Sault St. Marie</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>May 27, 1955; D.C. Everest; Port Arthur</td>
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<td>June 5, 1955; Charles A. Paul; Fort William</td>
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<tr>
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<td>June 27, 1955; Butterfield; Port Arthur</td>
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<td>July 25, 1955; Ashcroft; Sault St. Marie</td>
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<td>Aug. 18, 1955; W. Wayne Hancock; Fort William</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Aug. 29, 1955; Georgian Bay; Hamilton</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Sept. 12, 1955; Donnacoma; Sault St. Marie</td>
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<td>Oct. 12, 1955; Georgian Bay; Hamilton</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Nov. 10, 1955; Thunder Bay; Sault St. Marie</td>
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<td>Nov. 15, 1955; Coverdale; Sault St. Marie</td>
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<td>May 5, 1956; Frank Armstrong; Sault St. Marie</td>
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<td>May 9, 1956; Sir James Dunn; Montreal, Quebec</td>
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<td>May 24, 1956; Thunder Bay; Hamilton</td>
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<td>June 4, 1956; Sir James Dunn; Hamilton</td>
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Nov. 14, 1956; Thunder Bay; Hamilton
Nov. 19, 1956; Sir James Dunn; Hamilton

Kenosha

Oct. 18, 1937; Elgin; Hamilton
Nov. 2, 1937; Simcoe; Kingston
Sept. 17, 1938; Sioux; Sorel, Quebec
Sept. 28, 1939; Meaford; Toronto
Nov. 2, 1939; Norfolk; Hamilton
Aug. 28, 1940; Blue River; Montreal, Quebec

Marinette

June 15, 1929; Jan; Montreal, Quebec
Sept. 18, 1920; Weyburn; Montreal, Quebec
Oct. 29, 1929; Thordoc; Three Rivers
Dec. 3, 1929; Fulton; Three Rivers
May 29, 1930; Novadoc; Montreal, Quebec
June 15, 1931; Bill; Obbola, Sweden
June 23, 1931; Lawrendoc; Quebec, Quebec
July 2, 1931; Winona; Montreal, Quebec
July 2, 1931; Sherbrooke; Montreal, Quebec
Nov. 12, 1931; Calgarian; Montreal, Quebec
Nov. 7, 1932; Newbrundoc; Sorel, Quebec
July 10, 1933; Delaware; Montreal, Quebec
Sept. 30, 1933; Delaware; Montreal, Quebec
Oct. 5, 1933; Starmount; Gaspé, Quebec
Oct. 28, 1933; Fairmount; Chandler, Quebec
Nov. 24, 1933; Mayra; Toronto
Nov. 23, 1938; Mindemoya; Burnt Island
May 31, 1931; Maud Thorden; Kotka, Finland via Hålsingborg, Sweden
May 29, 1939; Hastings; Montreal, Quebec
May 29, 1939; Dundas; Montreal, Quebec
June 5, 1939; Lab; Norrsundet, Sweden
June 5, 1939; Shirley G. Taylor; Montreal, Quebec
Nov. 9, 1940; Mindemoya; Manistee, Michigan

Sheboygan

May 12, 1929; Hansa; Fowey, Great Britain
May 31, 1929; Magnar; Fowey, Great Britain
June 14, 1929; Octorara; Sault St. Marie
June 5, 1930; Farrandoc; Montreal, Quebec
June 8, 1930; Cartierdoc; Montreal, Quebec
Aug. 8, 1930; Ganandoc; Montreal, Quebec
Oct. 10, 1930; Cartierdoc; Montreal, Quebec
July 28, 1931; Farrandoc; Sorel, Quebec
Aug. 2, 1931; Lachinedoc; Sorel, Quebec
May 7, 1932; Trajan; Fowey, Great Britain
May 21, 1932; Rein; Fowey, Great Britain
June 24, 1933; Bornmestad [?]; Fowey, Great Britain
Oct. 18, 1933; Westtun; Fowey, Great Britain
Oct. 26, 1933; Tunni; Fowey, Great Britain
Oct. 15, 1935; Lab; Fowey via Falmouth, Great Britain
Sept. 12, 1935; Erling Lindoe; Fowey, Great Britain
Nov. 16, 1935; Komet; Fowey, Great Britain
May 19, 1936; Augusta L.; Fowey, Great Britain
May 21, 1936; Solor; Fowey, Great Britain
May 29, 1936; Komet; Fowey, Great Britain
Aug. 17, 1936; Korsfjord [?]; Fowey, Great Britain
Oct. 10, 1936; Vesla; Fowey, Great Britain
Oct. 4, 1936; Betta; Fowey, Great Britain
Oct. 11, 1936; Komet; Fowey, Great Britain
Aug. 3, 1937; Audun; Fowey, Great Britain
Aug. 5, 1937; Betta; Fowey, Great Britain
Aug. 16, 1937; Komet; Fowey, Great Britain
Oct. 28, 1937; Lachinedoc; Montreal, Quebec
Nov. 16, 1937; Newbrundoc; Montreal, Quebec
Sept. 20, 1938; Lab; Fowey, Great Britain
May 11, 1939; Hadrian; Fowey, Great Britain
July 18, 1939; Brott; Glasgow, Scotland, via Fowey, Great Britain, and Montreal, Quebec
Sept. 9, 1939; Hadrian; Fowey, Great Britain
Sept. 14, 1939; Dixie; Fowey, Great Britain
Oct. 24, 1939; Trajan; Fowey, Great Britain
May 26, 1940; Newbrundoc; Montreal, Quebec
May 30, 1940; Ganandoc; Montreal, Quebec
June 15, 1940 (also listed as August 20, 1940); Wellandoc; Port Stanley
July 31, 1940; Farrandoc; Montreal, Quebec
Aug. 17, 1940; Wellandoc; not stated
July 27, 1941; Troisdoc; Montreal, Quebec
Aug. 19, 1948; Dione; Montreal, Quebec
Oct. 21, 1948; Signeborg; Montreal, Quebec
Nov. 4, 1949; Erica; Fowey, Great Britain
May 21, 1950; Rutenfjell; Montreal, Quebec
May 27, 1950; Annik; Montreal, Quebec
June 15, 1950; Dido; Fowey, Great Britain
July 14, 1950; Lysaker IV; Fowey, Great Britain
Aug. 27, 1950; Dido; Fowey, Great Britain
May 26, 1951; Lysaker IV; Fowey, Great Britain, via Montreal, Quebec
June 19, 1951; Annik; Montreal, Quebec
July 8, 1951; Tungenes; Fowey, Great Britain
July 18, 1951; Lysaker V; Fowey, Great Britain
Sept. 5, 1951; Signeborg; Fowey, Great Britain
Sept. 15, 1951; Ole Bratt; Fowey, Great Britain, via Montreal, Quebec
May 16, 1952; Ravnefjell; Fowey, Great Britain
May 29, 1952; Lysaker V; Montreal, Quebec
June 21, 1952; Askepot; Fowey, Great Britain
Aug. 23, 1952; Lysaker IV; Fowey, Great Britain
Sept. 11, 1952; Askepot; Fowey, Great Britain
Oct. 8, 1952; Askot; Fowey, Great Britain
May 13, 1953; Springdale; Fowey via Falmouth, Great Britain
July 29, 1953; Reias; Montreal, Quebec
Aug. 6, 1953; Ringas; Fowey, Great Britain, via Montreal, Quebec
Oct. 12, 1953; Strindheim; Fowey, Great Britain, via Montreal, Quebec
Nov. 10, 1953; Dione; Fowey, Great Britain
May 25, 1954; Reili; Fowey, Great Britain,
June 12, 1954; Reiaas; Fowey, Great Britain via Montreal, Quebec
June 22, 1954; Fossum; Fowey, Great Britain
May 5, 1956; Fossum; Fowey, Great Britain
Aug. 18, 1956; Dixie; Fowey, Great Britain
Sept. 6, 1956; Fossum; Fowey, Great Britain
Sept. 22, 1956; Dione; Fowey, Great Britain
Sept. 27, 1956; Himing; Fowey, Great Britain

Sturgeon Bay
Oct. 25, 1946; John Roen III; Red Rock
Aug. 19, 1946; Alberta; Ft. McNicoll
Nov. 5, 1948; Hilda; Mijigon [?]
May 16, 1949; John Roen III; Port Arthur
June 3, 1950; John Roen IV; Port Arthur
Nov. 25, 1950; Yankcanuck; Blind River
Nov. 27, 1951; John Roen V; Blind River
Sept. 15, 1952; Lillian; Blind River

Washburn
July 28, 1928; A.E. McKristy; Sorel, Quebec
July 31, 1928; Winona; Sorel, Quebec
N.d., 1925; Canadian; Sorel, Quebec
Oct. 18, 1925; Hansa; Sorel, Quebec
Oct. 18, 1925; Terje; Sorel, Quebec
June 28, 1926; Nenora [?]; Sorel, Quebec
June 1926; Maplebranch; Sorel, Quebec
Sept. 29, 1926; John C. Howard; Sorel, Quebec
May 20, 1927; Maplehill; Sorel, Quebec
Oct. 6, 1927; Granby; Sorel, Quebec
Oct. 12, 1927; Sherbrooke; Sorel, Quebec
Aug. 20, 1928; Maplehill; Sorel, Quebec