



Immigration and Citizenship Resources

Passenger Lists/Ship Manifests

Passenger Lists Prior to 1865

Passenger lists of people arriving in Canada were not required to be kept prior to 1865 and many have not survived.

1) There are a few early resources available at Library and Archives Canada:

(www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/immigration/immigration-records/passenger-lists/Pages/introduction.aspx)

Provides information about passenger lists during the French Regime (1608-1760) and the British Regime (1760-1865) .

2) **Immigrants to Canada**

(www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/immigration/immigration-records/immigrants-before-1865/Pages/introduction.aspx)

Provides access to lists that have been indexed by name in a database formerly known as the “Miscellaneous Immigration Index”.

3) **Montreal Emigrant Society Passage Book**

(www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/mes/index-e.html)

Provides access to 1,945 references to people who received aid from the Montreal Emigrant Society between May 12 and November 5, 1832.

4) **Immigrants at Grosse-Ile**

(www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/grosse-ile-immigration/index-e.html)

Lists the names of 33,026 immigrants taken from records of the Grosse Ile Quarantine Station, 1832-1937.

Other Online Resources

1) **Immigrant Ships Transcribers Guild (ISTG)**

(www.immigrantships.net/)

Transcriptions of over 12,000 international passenger lists which are listed by date, ship’s name, port of departure, and port of arrival as far back as the 1600s.

2) **The ShipsList**

(www.theshipslist.com/)

Includes some passenger lists for early ships arrivals in Canada as well as international information.

3) **Olive Tree Genealogy**

(www.olivetreegenealogy.com/index.shtml)

A gateway to over 1,500 ships' passenger lists from various years and naturalization records.

4) **Genealogylinks.net**

(genealogylinks.net/)

Select a country and then choose the link to passenger list resources.

5) **What Passenger Lists Are Online?**

(www.germanroots.com/onlinelists.html)

The links to sites are divided into three sections: U.S. arrival records, international arrivals & departures, and general sites.

Passenger Lists 1865-1935

Information that may be provided: name, age, country of origin, occupation and intended destination (for earlier lists); relationship, gender, marital status, place of birth, nationality, name of person who paid the passage, destination with name of a person there, name and address of nearest relative in country of origin (for later lists).

These lists are arranged by the name of the port and then in chronological order by date of arrival (Note: between 1919 and 1924 the individual Form 30A was used). The list of ports, dates, and microfilm reel numbers are listed in the Genealogy and Family History section of the Library and Archives Canada website (www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/immigration/immigration-records/passenger-lists/Pages/list-ports-dates-microfilm-reel-numbers.aspx).

Official Ports

Quebec City became the first official port of entry in 1865 (also included people who disembarked at **Montreal** between 1865 and 1921). Arrivals from 1865 to 1900 have been indexed by name and can be searched online.

Halifax became an official port in 1881

Saint John, New Brunswick became an official port in 1900

Vancouver and Victoria became official ports in 1905

Sydney, Nova Scotia became an official port in 1906

The passenger lists for 1865-1922 have been digitized and are available at the Library and Archives Canada website. You can search the passenger lists by the name of the ship, port and date of departure and/or port and date of arrival.

These images were copied from the microfilm so the quality varies greatly (www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/immigration/immigration-records/passenger-lists/passenger-lists-1865-1922/Pages/introduction.aspx).

Other Online Resources

Nanaimo Family History Society-Passenger List Indexing Project

(nanaimofamilyhistory.ca/passenger-list-project/)

The Nanaimo Family History Society is indexing names of arrivals at the ports of Quebec (including Montreal) 1900 to circa 1921 when a new individual format (Form 30A) was adopted for immigrants. Keep checking this website for updates.

Immigration Records (1925-1935)

(www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/immigration-1925/index-e.html)

This database on the Library and Archives Canada website contains information from the passenger list indexes and is searchable by name.

Passenger Lists After 1935

Passenger lists after 1935 are still held by Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

Form 30A

From June 1, 1921 to December 31, 1924, Form 30A, an individual manifest, was filled in and submitted to immigration officers at the ports of arrival. Some offices used Form 30A as early as 1919 while others didn't start using it until 1922. In the earlier version of Form 30A used in 1919, the names of accompanying dependents were usually listed on the same form as the head-of-household. Later, one form was used for each person, including children (except for those in transit to the United States). Passengers who arrived between 1919 and 1922 may appear in the Form 30A series or in the regular passenger lists so both sets of microfilms may need to be checked. The government went back to an expanded version of the old sheet manifests in 1925.

Each form usually included: the name of the ship, date of sailing, port and date of arrival, name, age, occupation, birthplace, race, citizenship, religion, destination, and nearest relative in the country from which the immigrant came.

These records are in quasi-alphabetical order; for each letter of the alphabet surnames are arranged in groupings based on the initial letters of each name (e.g., surnames starting with Ada, Adc, Add are grouped together) and then sorted by given name.

Form 30A records were microfilmed in 1949 but the majority of the master microfilm reels are of poor quality and the original records have been destroyed. In most cases the back of the form was microfilmed first and then the front. A list of the microfilm reel numbers for the different surnames is available on the Library and Archives Canada website.

Note: Ancestry has a searchable database for: Canada, Ocean Arrivals (Form 30A), 1919-1924

Books

Passenger and Immigration Lists Index, William P. Filby (GenRef 929.373 PAS) - an index of names of people arriving in North America (Canadian ports as well as American ones) from overseas from the 16th century to the mid 20th century

Destination Canada: a guide to 20th century immigration records, David Obee (compiler) (GenRef 929.371 OBE) - provides information about and reel numbers for different types of immigration records

The Scottish pioneers of Upper Canada, 1784-1855: Glengarry and beyond, Lucille H. Campey (GenRef 929.20899 CAM) – includes all known passenger lists and provides details of the 550 ships that made over 900 crossings

Index of passengers who emigrated to Canada between 1817 and 1849, John C. Acton (GenRef 929.308921071 ACT) – compiled from some passenger lists found in the various records of the British Colonial Office

Canadian passengers inward bound 1856-1858, Mary Kearns Trace (GenRef 929.371 CAN) – information taken from a newspaper called the “Canadian News (& North American Intelligencer)” published in London, England

American Ports

Emigrants who eventually came to Ontario sometimes traveled first to an American port before coming to Canada. Records of American ports are available starting from 1820. The U.S. ports most likely to be used by European immigrants were: Baltimore, Boston, New York City, Philadelphia, Portland, Maine, and Providence, Rhode Island. Ellis Island (New York), the busiest port, was used as a processing centre from 1892 to 1954 and most of those records are available for research.

A microfilm index is available through the U.S. National Archives as well as the Family History Library branches. This index goes to 1948 (many more years than online) and is more accurate than the online index so both should be checked.

If you think that someone you are looking for landed in the United States you should also check Canadian border entry records.

Online Resources

Castle Garden.org

(www.castlegarden.org/)

This database provides access to information on 11 million immigrants from 1820-1892.

Ellis Island Database

(www.ellisland.org/)

This database provides information on immigrant arrivals at New York from 1892 to 1924.

Passenger Manifest (1848-1891)

(www.sec.state.ma.us/arc/arcsrch/PassengerManifestSearchContents.html)

This is an ongoing project where volunteers are entering information about arrivals at the Port of Boston from January 1848 to July 1891.

Books

Passenger and Immigration Lists Index, William P. Filby (GenRef 929.373 PAS) - an index of names of people arriving in North America (Canadian ports as well as American ones) from overseas from the 16th century to the mid 20th century

American passenger arrival records: a guide to the records of immigrants arriving at American ports by sail and steam, Michael Tepper (GenRef 929.1072073 TEP)

They came in ships: a guide to finding your immigrant ancestor's arrival record, John Philip Colletta (GenRef 929.1072073 COL)

Examples of International Passenger Lists Online

Immigrant Ancestors Project

(immigrants.byu.edu/DesktopDefault.aspx)

New South Wales – Immigration and Shipping Indexes, 1828-1896

(www.records.nsw.gov.au/state-archives/indexes-online/indexes-to-immigration-and-shipping-records)

Passenger Listings for Vessels Bound for New Zealand

(freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nzbound/lists.htm)

Queensland

(www.archives.qld.gov.au/Researchers/Indexes/Immigration/Pages/default.aspx)

Making Australia Home

(www.naa.gov.au/whats-on/records-releases/making-australia-home.aspx)

South African Passenger Lists

(www.eggasa.org/arrivals/eGGSA%20Passenger%20Project.html)

Norway Heritage

(www.norwayheritage.com/)

Danish Emigration Archives

(aemi.eu/the-danish-emigration-archives/)

Index to Unassisted Inward Passenger Lists to Victoria 1852-1923

(prov.vic.gov.au/index_search?searchid=23)

Border Crossings

Until 1894 there were no limitations or restrictions placed on those crossing the border in either direction. In April 1908 Canada started keeping records of people who entered the country. However, not everyone was registered – some people crossed when the ports were closed or where no port existed; many families were not registered because one or

both parents had been born in Canada or had previously resided here and were considered returning Canadians rather than immigrants.

From January 1919 to the end of 1924 individual forms (Form 30) were used. These records are in quasi-alphabetical order - for each letter of the alphabet, surnames are arranged in groupings based on the initial letters of each name (e.g., surnames starting with Ada, Adc, Add are grouped together) and then sorted by given name.

This form usually included: port and date of entry, name, age, occupation, birthplace, race, citizenship, religion, last permanent address, and destination.

In 1925 the government started using border entry lists again with many entries on one page (microfilmed by month). Additional details on these records included: immigrant's place of birth, name and address of the relative, friend or employer to whom they were destined, and name and address of the nearest relative in the country they came from. Nominal indexes cover the 1925-1935 arrivals. (Note: Entries for surnames starting with C were put into the Immigration Records (1925-1935) database.) However, since these indexes also include post-1935 entries access is restricted under the federal Privacy Act and the public cannot look at them. If the person has enough information, including year of entry, they could request a search by Library and Archives Canada staff (refer to the Canadian Genealogy Centre website for information and links to the application forms).

Note: The United States started keeping records of people who entered their country in 1895. These lists are known as "St. Albans Border Crossings" and include ports of entry across the country. The records are kept by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in the United States and microfilm copies of these records can be obtained through a local Family History Centre.

Home Children

Over 100,000 immigrant children who were orphaned, abandoned or paupers came to Canada from Great Britain from the 1860s to the late 1930s with the support of charitable and parish organizations. The names of Home Children are included on passenger lists but not much information except for name, age, sending agency, and destination is provided before 1925.

The British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa has created two databases covering the period 1869-1930 from different records which are held by Library and Archives Canada. They include government-held immigration records, **Home Children (1869-1930)** and **Boards of Guardians Search** (www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/home-children/index-e.html).

There is also a **Middlemore Homes Index** compiled by the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa to search for Middlemore children which includes name, age, sex, microfilm reel number, ship name, port and date of departure, port and date of arrival, name of the organization or home that sent the child, and destination. This organization sent children from the Birmingham area to the Maritimes and Ontario via

distributing homes in Halifax, Nova Scotia and London, Ontario. Library and Archives Canada has microfilm copies of these records.

Other possible resources include:

- 1) **Immigration Branch Central Registry Files** which contain correspondence from and to various sending organizations and often include: annual reports, information booklets, and some lists of names of children. These files cover the years 1892 to approximately 1946.
- 2) **Juvenile Inspection Reports** were report cards created by immigration officials when they carried out their regular inspections of the children brought to Canada by various organizations in the 1920s (there are a few records from as early as 1914 and as late as the 1930s). The following information may be provided: name, age or date of birth, year of arrival, name of ship, sending organization, and names and addresses of farmers with whom they were placed. This is the only known source for children sent by the British Immigration and Colonization Association. These reports are available from Library and Archives Canada on microfilm, arranged in approximate alphabetical order. Check the Library and Archives Canada website for the reel numbers.
- 3) The Archives of Ontario has information about arriving children in the registers of the provincial Emigration Office. Indexed in the **Hawke records (Toronto Emigration Office Records)** database ao.minisisinc.com/scripts/mwimain.dll/144/HAWKE?DIRECTSEARCH), the source registers have the child's name, age, place of birth, workhouse location if applicable, year arriving in Canada and with which group, the name and address of employer or placement home, etc.

Citizenship

Every person born in Canada from 1763 until the Canadian Citizenship Act came into force on January 1, 1947 was a British subject. Immigrants born in Great Britain and the Commonwealth were already British subjects so they didn't need to become naturalized. Prior to 1947 aliens could petition for naturalization and if they were successful they would swear allegiance to the British ruler and be granted the rights of a person born in the British Empire. In order to apply for citizenship, a person must have lived in Canada for a minimum number of years (e.g., From May 22, 1868 to May 4, 1910: 2 years). Citizenship indexes were published in the "Canada Gazette" until April 1951 (finding aid in **Destination Canada: a guide to 20th century immigration records** helps by specifying which issues contain the indexes).

Naturalization Registers

Naturalization registers were established in 1828 with aliens required to swear or affirm the oath of allegiance. Information recorded was: name, county of residence, date of registration and signature. Library and Archives Canada has the **Upper Canada and Canada West Naturalization Records (1828-1850)** website of the registers. It contains the names of 3,344 people who applied for naturalization in Upper Canada/Canada West during those years (www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/naturalization/index-e.html). **Upper Canada Naturalization Records, 1828-1850** by Donald A. McKenzie is available in print.

Citizenship Registration Records for the Montreal Circuit Court (1851-1945)

(www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/immigration/citizenship-naturalization-records/citizenship-montreal-1851-1945/Pages/introduction.aspx) is an index that contains 8,432 references and is searchable by surname. The majority of records were created between 1868 and 1916. A file will usually contain: the petition, the oath of residence, the oath of allegiance, and the certificate issued by a Justice of the Peace. It will provide the following information for each petitioner: name, age, residence, former residence, place of birth, length of residence in Canada, occupation, and date of naturalization.

Original naturalization records created and kept by the Department of the Secretary of State from 1854-1917 have been destroyed but there is still a card index, held by Citizenship and Immigration Canada, which provides information compiled at the time of naturalization, such as: present and former place of residence, former nationality, occupation, date of certification, and name and location of the responsible court. Records after 1917 provide: surname, given name, date and place of birth, date of entry into Canada, and names of spouse and children. Requests for searches of naturalization/citizenship indexes and records must be mailed to Citizenship and Immigration Canada. Files from 1917 on have been kept by Citizenship and Immigration Canada and can be requested only by Canadian citizens or residents. You have to apply using an Access to Information Request form and proof of death is required unless the age of the immigrant is more than 110 years (access is barred to records created within the past 20 years).

Canadian Naturalization 1915-1951

This database, created by the Jewish Genealogical Societies of Montreal and Ottawa, is available at the Canadian Genealogy Centre website for naturalizations from 1915-1932 (www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/immigration/citizenship-naturalization-records/naturalized-records-1915-1951/Pages/introduction.aspx). There are approximately 200,000 references to people who applied for and received status as naturalized Canadians. From 1915-1951 the Government of Canada published the list of names of naturalized subjects in the annual reports of the Secretary of State (Sessional Papers) and in the Canada Gazette. Since people were not required to become naturalized you may not find any information in this database. References from the database can be used to request copies of the original naturalization records held by Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

Immigration Branch Records Microfilms (Series RG 76)

These records contain information on arrivals as recent as the 1950s. The most comprehensive index to the lists included in this microfilm series is in **Destination Canada: a guide to 20th century immigration records** (RG 76 microfilms are available from Library and Archives Canada and can also be found in provincial archives). This microfilm also provides additional information about many people who arrived in Canada up to 1935. These records include a wide range of documents about the operation of the immigration branch so it may require a lot of searching to find specific information. Documents include deputy ministers' files, operational records of federal

government immigration agencies in Canada, the United States, Great Britain, and Continental Europe, extracts from passenger lists, and information on specific immigrants. The files are divided by topic or by group of people and coverage varies greatly. People could appear in many different files so all possible categories should be checked. Files contain a lot of information on Home Children, often including the names of the Canadians to whom the new arrival was assigned. There are files on overseas agents, a wide variety of ethnic groups from Europe and Asia as well as files created under the Empire Settlement Act, which encouraged settlement of Canada by people from the British Isles. There is a lot of information on postwar refugees. Copies of this set of microfilms were distributed to provincial archives across Canada in the 1980s.

LI-RA-MA

These records, named after the surnames of Russian consuls in Canada from approximately 1898 to 1918 (Likacheff-Ragosine-Mathers), consist of documents created by the Imperial Russian Consular offices in Canada from 1898 to 1922. The Passport/Identity Papers series contains about 11,400 files on Russian immigrants from the Imperial Russian Empire who settled in Canada, including Jews, Ukrainians, and Finns. The nominal card index to the Passport/Identity Papers series is available from Library and Archives Canada on microfilm.

Library and Archives Canada has a name index to over 11,000 files of this series which can be searched online (www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/immigration/immigration-records/immigrants-russian-empire/Pages/introduction.aspx) with digitized images available as well.

Forms in these files include: name, residence in Canada, place of birth, with variations on age, date of birth, religion, marital status, nearest kin or dependents in Russian territory, date of departure or arrival, etc. (basic forms were written in Russian; some forms and questionnaires were prepared in both Russian and English).

National Registration File

In 1940 the Canadian government passed legislation requiring the registration of all persons aged 16 or older and registration continued until 1946. This series of registration forms is available to researchers through Statistics Canada and may provide information to help determine when a person came to Canada. Forms include: name, address, age, date of birth, marital status, dependents, country of birth (persons registered and parents only), nationality, year of naturalization (if applicable), year of immigration (if applicable), racial origin, languages, education, general health, class of occupation, occupation or craft, employment status, work experience by type, mechanical or other abilities, latent skills, wartime circumstances, previous military service. These forms can only be searched by Statistics Canada staff. They are filed geographically by federal electoral district and polling division so a search will not be successful unless you have accurate information on where the person lived in 1940. Information cannot be disclosed until the subject has been dead for 20 years and Statistics Canada will require proof that the person has been dead at least that long (e.g., death certificate but an obituary notice would also be acceptable). See: Searches of the National Registration File

(www.statcan.gc.ca/bsolc/olc-cel/olc-cel?catno=93C0006&lang=eng) for more information.

Ancestry (some of the major databases)

Atlantic Ports Passenger Lists, 1820-1873 and 1893-1959

Baltimore Passenger Lists, 1820-1964

Border Crossings: From U.S. to Canada, 1908-1935

Border Crossings: From Canada to U.S., 1895-1960

Canada, Ocean Arrivals (Form 30A), 1919-1924

Canadian Immigrant Records, Part One

Canadian Immigrant Records, Part Two

Canadian Passenger Lists, 1865-1935

Detroit Border Crossings and Passenger and Crew Lists, 1905-1963

Irish Canadian Emigration Records, 1823-1849

Michigan Passenger and Crew Lists, 1903-1965

New South Wales, Australia, Unassisted Immigrant Passenger Lists, 1826-1922

New York Passenger and Crew Lists, 1820-1957

UK Incoming Passenger Lists, 1878-1960

U.S. Naturalization Records Indexes, 1794-1995