

# Mining the Manifest

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## Immigration Act of 1891

- As of 1812 the ship's captain was to provide a passenger list with name, age, sex, occupation, country of origin
- Under the 1891 Act, they now had to list name, nationality, *last residence* ( a city, not just country), and destination of every alien immigrant.
- Required that information be collected about immigrants entering the United States overland from Canada and Mexico.
- Forty percent of the foreign passengers arriving in Canada were actually going to the United States.
- This law allows us to capture many immigrants who were not previously documented in the US.

## Immigration Act of 1893

- Manifests were now to be made at the time & place of embarkation rather than at debarkation. Manifest included :
  - Name, age, sex, married or single
  - Occupation
  - Nationality
  - Seaport for landing in the US
  - Who paid for their passage to the United States
  - Last residence
- **New Information**
  - *Final destination if any, beyond the seaport of landing*
  - *Whether going to join a relative and his name and address*
  - *Whether ever before in the United States, and if so when and where*

## Immigration Act of 1906

- 1906 – Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization created (later the Immigration and Naturalization Service)
- Expanded to 2 pages
- Who they were going to in the United States
- Name, Age, Sex, Marital Status
- Occupation
- Last permanent residence
- **New Information**
  - *Town of birth and nationality*
  - *Nearest relative in Europe*
  - *Who picked them up if they were detained*

## Finding Records from the 1800s

- Work backwards to records from the late 1800s from later records
  - Census Records

- Passport Files
- Naturalization Records
- Derivative immigration filings (after death of spouse for wives prior to 1922)
- While many were naturalized within 7 years of arrival, some began the process, missed the deadline for the petition and filed again after 1906 with greater information
- Look for family groupings

#### **Adjusting for incorrect information or changes in later docs**

- Use Stevemorse.org ship lists to verify ship names, often misremembered
- Search broadly, using ship name as key word once verified, birthdate and immigration year with range of several years
- Use wildcard searches if unsure of name or spelling
- Identifying port of entry – search Canada and other ports also, may say NY even if they entered through Canada

#### **Using Information from Earlier Manifests**

- Search for paired individuals
- Make use of who they were going to
- Research person they were going to in NY vital records, using [Stevemorse.org](http://Stevemorse.org) as search engine to access NY vital records, selected the [FamilySearch](http://FamilySearch) database within stevemorse.org to locate death record with parents' names (NYC Death Records in One Step)
- Then searched on parents' names within stevemorse.org NYC Death Records in One Step to locate siblings
- Validate information through multiple sources
- Were they living with NY family after arrival- search for census
- Trace them from the ship to NY census and later into the Central US – link flow of events

#### **Case #1 Process – Locating Immigration Record prior to 1891-Derivative Citizenship**

- Census Records narrowed range of immigration
- Passport File told us a date range and ship
- Stevemorse.org [Ship Lists](http://Ship Lists) verified correct ship name
- Immigration record verified by cluster of family/ages
- Passport file, for derivative naturalization, provided dates of death and naturalization for late husband, located records

#### **Case #2 Process-Locating 1900 Immigration Record -traveling through Canada with name change**

- Found conflicting facts from public sources on immigration of a well-known person
- Located passport file which indicated arrival in NY with possible ship name
- Ship lists in NY through Stevemorse.org showed nothing matching ship's name coming to NY
- Looked for a Canadian ship at Canadian Archives at <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/en>
- Page down to database search – Topic: Genealogy, Subtopic: Immigration. Then go down to Passenger Lists 1865-1922. Do a search on given name, wild card search on unusual surname (s\*) and year of arrival, then use expected age to find passenger record which verifies correct ship name
- Within Ancestry: Did wild card searches for uncertain surname (S\* rather than spelling out the changed name) and used ship's name as keyword

- Located three records for the same event: UK-Ireland Outward Bound Passenger Lists, Canadian Passenger Lists and U.S. Border Crossing at St. Albans, Vermont
- Traced name variants through different records, immigration, census, child's birth, death records to identify point of name change
- Learned that an entry through Canada could still occur when passport says New York arrival
- **NY Barge Office history versus other points of entry**
  - August 3, 1855 - April 18, 1890 ... Castle Garden
  - April 19, 1890 - December 31, 1891 ... the Barge Office
  - January 1, 1892 - June 14, 1897 ... Ellis Island
  - June 14-15, 1897, the building on Ellis Island was destroyed in a fire so the Barge Office was again used for immigrants. Passenger lists were not destroyed
  - June 15, 1897 - December 16, 1900 ... the Barge Office
  - A new building on Ellis Island opened on December 17, 1900.
  - December 17, 1900 - late 1924 ... Ellis Island

### **Case #3 Process- Building out family from who they were going to in the US**

- Started with Katz and Jaffe, surnames of early family in Minnesota from Lithuania
- Searched [All Lithuania Database](#) for pairing of Katz and Jaffe, hoping for a marriage record
- Found a pairing in a birth record, but not the Katz and Jaffe of focus – possibly related
- Traced the name of the child and stumbled across two travelers of those surnames, one with the name in the birth record, going to the US. (not the same person, but related)
- Followed the shared uncle they were going to and identified his parents in the NY death records on Family Search (using [Stevemorse.org](#) to access)
- Using tombstones, matched father of uncle with that of Dora Jaffe of the original pair
- Expanded the scope to identify several additional siblings by searching NY Vital Records on Family Search using the parents' names
- We used FamilySearch NY records, Lithuanian Revision Lists and tombstones to identify parents in common.
- We verified family connections by census records, naturalization records, survivors in obituaries, parents in marriage and death records and father's names on tombstones.
- Used visual mapping to evaluate our data.

### **Case #4 Process-Tracing family from NY to the central US**

- We traced immigrants in their journey to central US using records from the Industrial Removal Office (IRO)
  - Purpose of IRO- to help Jewish immigrants assimilate into American society, relocate to other cities and find employment.
  - Records span 1899-1922
  - Include immigrant placement in jobs, removal records and correspondence
- Used the Center for Jewish History (<https://genealogy.cjh.org/familycollections.php>) to locate family name in the Industrial Removal Office Index
- Then used the card catalog at Ancestry, input [Industrial Removal Office](#) to pull up record set and went to Removal Records in dropdown to locate the original record
- Located immigration records, marriage records, census records and tombstones to follow their journey