



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Records for Passengers Who Arrived at the Port of New York During the Irish Famine

Collection: CIR

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1. What information is in these records?
2. Why were these records created?
3. Is there more than one file in this series on AAD?
4. What other series of passenger lists are available on AAD?
5. How are the series of passenger lists related and how do they differ?

1. What information is in these records?

These materials identify 604,596 persons who arrived in the Port of New York, 1846-1851, approximately 70 percent of whom identified Ireland as their native country. The records also identify the ships on which they arrived whether from Irish or non-Irish ports of embarkation.

2. Why were these records created?

The Center for Immigration Research (CIR) at the Balch Institute extracted the data from ship passenger lists in the records of the U.S. Customs Service (NARA Record Group 36) to promote access to information about immigrants from Ireland to the United States during the era of the Irish Potato Famine, 1846-1851.

3. Is there more than one file in this series on AAD?

Yes. There are two electronic files in this series in AAD. The primary file is the Famine Irish Passenger Record File (FIPAS). Its records may include personal names, age, town of last residence, destination, passenger arrival date, and codes for passenger's sex, occupation, literacy, native country, transit status, travel compartment, passenger port of embarkation (both Irish and non-Irish), and the ship manifest identifier.

The other file on AAD, the List of Ships that Arrived at the Port of New York During the Irish Famine contains Manifest Identifier Number, Ship Name, Code for Ship Port of Embarkation and Ship Arrival Date and the number of passengers.

4. What other series of passenger lists are available on AAD?

There are four series of passenger lists available on AAD:

- Data Files Relating to the Immigration of Germans to the United States, for the years 1850 – 1897

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- Data Files Relating to the Immigration of Italians to the United States, for the years 1855 – 1900
- Data Files Relating to the Immigration of Russians to the United States, for the years 1834 – 1897
- Records for Passengers Who Arrived at the Port of New York During the Irish Famine, for the period 1/12/1846 - 12/31/1851

5. How are the series of passenger lists related and how do they differ?

The Center for Immigration Research (CIR) created all four of the series of electronic (digital) passenger lists by extracting information from ship passenger lists (manifests). They donated the resulting data files and associated code lists to NARA.

Each of the four series has a file consisting of passenger records and a file containing information on the ships (manifest header records). The passenger records in all four series include mostly the same information. The manifest identification or identifier number links the passenger and manifest header records.

The Data Files Relating to the Immigration of Germans to the United States, Data Files Relating to the Immigration of Italians to the United States, and Data Files Relating to the Immigration of Russians to the United States have the same Manifest Header Data File in common. The Records for Passengers Who Arrived at the Port of New York During the Irish Famine has a separate file containing manifest header records. However, the manifest identification or identifier numbers and corresponding ship information found in the series Records for Passengers Who Arrived at the Port of New York During the Irish Famine seem to be included in the Manifest Header Data File used by the other three series.

The series primarily differ in the time period of the records and the “nationality” or countries of origin for the majority of the passenger records in each series. However, each series also includes records for passengers listing a variety of countries or places for country of origin. While the Records for Passengers Who Arrived at the Port of New York During the Irish Famine only has records of passengers who arrived at the Port of New York, the other three series of passenger records include records from the ports of Baltimore, Boston, New Orleans, New York, and Philadelphia.