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Passenger Lists  
of Vessels  
Arriving at Baltimore  
1820-1891



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The records reproduced in the microfilm publication

are from

*Records of the Bureau of Customs*

*Record Group 36*

in the National Archives Building

Note: This publication is a revision of the pamphlet  
issued in 1967.

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PASSENGER LISTS OF VESSELS ARRIVING  
AT BALTIMORE, 1820-1891

On the 50 rolls of this microfilm publication are reproduced unbound passenger lists of vessels arriving at the port of Baltimore from foreign ports, 1820-91. Most of the lists were submitted by masters of vessels to the collector of customs at Baltimore and were transferred later to the National Archives from the Baltimore Customhouse. Other lists were borrowed from the city of Baltimore to fill gaps during the period September 1833-October 1866; these are shown as "City Lists" in this publication. A few cargo manifests that were interfiled with the passenger lists in the Baltimore Customhouse have also been filmed.

The lists are arranged in chronological order by arrival date of vessel. When the documents were prepared for filming by the National Archives, they were numbered consecutively within each calendar year of arrival. This number is not a passenger-list or manifest number.

Most of the passenger lists reproduced in this microfilm publication were prepared in compliance with an act of March 2, 1819 (3 Stat. 488), which provided that effective January 1, 1820, the captain or master of a vessel arriving at a port in the United States or in any of its territories from a foreign country was to submit a list of the passengers to the collector of customs of the district in which the vessel arrived. The act also provided that every collector of customs submit quarterly returns consisting of copies of passenger lists to the Secretary of State, who was required to report on the returns at each session of Congress. The Secretary's reports were later published in the form of congressional documents. An act of May 7, 1874 (18 Stat. 42), repealed the provisions of the 1819 law and of later legislation that required collectors to send copies of passenger lists to the Secretary of State. Thereafter, collectors of customs were to send statistical reports on passenger arrivals to the Department of the Treasury only.

The lists normally give information about each passenger as to name, age, sex, occupation, the country to which he belonged, and the country of which he intended to become an inhabitant, with notations showing names of persons who were born or died on the voyage; sometimes the cause of death is shown. The law required that the lists be sworn to by the master of the vessel in the presence of the collector or his deputy.

Under a Maryland law of March 22, 1833, effective in September 1833 until October 1866, the masters of vessels were also required to submit lists of passengers arriving at Baltimore to the mayor of that city. The act required that these "City Lists" report the age and occupation of the passengers and that they were to be sworn to by the master of the vessel in the presence of the mayor.

The records reproduced in this microfilm publication are part of Records of the Bureau of Customs, Record Group 36.

In the same record group are quarterly abstracts of passenger vessels arriving at Baltimore, 1820-69 (reproduced as M596); a card index (Soundex system) to names of passengers arriving at Baltimore, 1820-97 (M327); a card index (Sound system) compiled from the "city" passenger lists submitted to the mayor of Baltimore, 1833-66 (M326); and an incomplete supplemental index to passenger lists of vessels arriving at Atlantic and gulf coast ports, 1820-74, including Baltimore up to 1870 (M334). There are also journals and alphabetical indexes to the names and arrival dates of vessels for most of the period 1820-91.

Also in this record group is a series of eight bound volumes of quarterly transcripts of lists of names of passengers arriving at most Atlantic and gulf coast ports, September 1819-December 1832, which includes names of passengers arriving at Baltimore, 1820-29 (with gaps). The volumes apparently were prepared in the Office of the Secretary of State from copies of lists or from abstracts submitted by the collectors of customs. Originally there were nine volumes, but volume 2 is missing.

Related records in General Records of the Department of the Treasury, Record Group 56, include letters received by the Secretary of the Treasury from the Baltimore collector of customs, 1833-69 (part of M174); copies of correspondence of the Secretary with the Baltimore collector, 1790-1833 (part of M178); and copies of the letters sent by the Secretary to the Baltimore collector, 1833-47 (part of M175), and during the period 1847-1909.

Among Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Record Group 85, is correspondence that contains some information relating to immigration through the port of Baltimore, 1882-1903. In the same record group are copies of passenger manifests from early December 1891 that were submitted to Federal immigration authorities in compliance with legislation enacted in 1882. The Customs Service passenger lists for December 1891 have been included in this microfilm publication to provide continuous immigration records for that month.

Related published sources of information are reports of passenger arrivals submitted by the Secretary of State to Congress, 1820-70. His reports, published as congressional documents, indicate by port of arrival the number of passengers, nationality, occupation, and sometimes age and sex. Only those for 1820 contain names of passengers. Some reports are based on calendar year; others are for report years ending September 30.

Comparable statements or reports prepared and published by the Treasury Department, Bureau of Statistics, begin in 1867 and extend through fiscal year 1894. Statements for 1867-69 are included in the annual report of the Treasury Department for fiscal

year 1869. These reports, also published as congressional documents, list by district of arrival summary statistics on age, sex, nationality, and occupation of passengers.

Statistics on immigration, 1820-1910, have been published in volume 3, Reports of the Immigration Commission (S. Doc. 756, 61st Cong., 3d sess., Serial No. 5878, Washington, 1911).

These introductory remarks were written by Joyce D. Ciarrocchi.



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7	Jan. 2, 1849-June 28, 1850
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