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Quarterly Abstracts of
Passenger Lists of
Vessels Arriving at
Baltimore
1820-1869



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are from
Record Group 36
Records of the Bureau of Customs
in the National Archives

QUARTERLY ABSTRACTS OF PASSENGER LISTS
OF VESSELS ARRIVING AT BALTIMORE
1820-1869

On the 6 rolls of this microfilm publication are reproduced unbound quarterly abstracts of lists of names of passengers arriving at the port of Baltimore from foreign ports, January 1820-June 1869. The unbound abstracts were received in the National Archives from the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

The abstracts are arranged chronologically by quarters. There are gaps in the series, with entire quarters or years missing. The abstracts and the passenger lists of vessels arriving at Baltimore, 1820-91 (Microcopy 255), are the only known Federal records of immigration through the port of Baltimore, with some exceptions noted later in the descriptions under record groups.

Normally, the abstracts 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. If his death occurred en route, a notation to that effect was included.

An act of March 2, 1819 (3 Stat. 489), 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 the district in which the vessel had arrived. The act also provided that every collector of customs submit quarterly reports, consisting of copies of passenger lists, to the Secretary of State, who was required to submit such information at each session of Congress. The information was later published in the form of Congressional documents. An act of May 7, 1874 (18 Stat. 42), repealed the provisions of the legislation requiring collectors to send copies of passenger lists to the Secretary of State. Thereafter, collectors of customs were to send statistical reports only on passenger arrivals to the Department of the Treasury.

The lists normally give information about each passenger as to age, sex, occupation, the country to which he belonged,

and the country of which he intended to become an inhabitant, with a notation as to the number and cause of deaths on board. The law required that the lists be sworn to by the master in the presence of the collector or his deputy.

Under a Maryland state law of March 22, 1833, effective from September 1833 to October 1866, the masters of vessels were 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 the lists were to be sworn to by the master of the vessel in the presence of the Mayor.

A finding aid to the abstracts reproduced in this microfilm publication consists of an incomplete supplemental card index to passenger lists of vessels arriving at Atlantic and Gulf coast ports, 1820-74, including Baltimore up to about 1870 (Microcopy 334).

The records reproduced in this microcopy and the index are part of Record Group 36, Records of the Bureau of Customs, in the National Archives.

In the same record group are a card index (Soundex system) to names of passengers arriving at Baltimore, 1820-97 (Microcopy 327), and a card index (Soundex system) compiled from the "city" passenger lists submitted to the Mayor of the city of Baltimore, 1833-66 (Microcopy 326). There are also some journals of and alphabetical indexes to vessel entrances that serve as finding aids to names and arrival dates of vessels for most of the period from 1820 to 1891.

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 Record Group 56, General Records of the Department of the Treasury, include letters received by the Secretary of the Treasury from the Baltimore Collector of

Customs, 1833-69 (part of Microcopy 174); copies of correspondence of the Secretary with the Baltimore Collector, 1790-1833 (part of Microcopy 173); and copies of letters sent by the Secretary to the Baltimore Collector, 1833-47 (part of Microcopy 175), and during the period 1847-1909.

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).

The records reproduced in this microcopy were prepared for filming by T. J. Stallans, who also wrote these introductory remarks and provided the other editorial material.

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5	July 1, 1848-Dec. 31, 1859
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