

Ellis Island Stories
Boulder Jewish Community Center
November 21, 2019

(U.S. Immigration Timeline and Genealogy Resources Compiled by Ellen Kowitt, www.EllenKowitt.com)

<u>YEARS</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>
18th and early 19th century	Very little U.S. immigration regulation.
1855-1891	Castle Garden open
1882	Immigration Act of 1882 imposed a head tax and blocked idiots, lunatics, convicts and those likely to be a public charge. This frequently applied to women traveling alone.
1892-1954	Ellis Island open
1906	1906 Naturalization Act federalized citizenship process. Needed to learn English first to become a citizen.
1907	No persons admitted with physical/mental defects, tuberculosis, or children not accompanied by a parent.
1917	Virtually all Asians banned, literacy requirements, and banned homosexuals (not rescinded until 1990).
1900-1920	Over 14 million new immigrants, 13% of population.
1900-1924	1.75 million Jews immigrated to the U.S.
Until 1922	Wives became naturalized through their husband's filing; could lose citizenship if married to an alien.
After 1922	Wives had to become naturalized on own
1924	1924 National Origins Act instituted a quota that tied immigration visas to 2% of each nationality that was present in the 1890 Federal U.S. Census. It focused on excluding Italians and East European Jews as well as banning Arabs and Asians. The national origins system remained in place until 1965? It advantaged German, British and Irish who got 70% of the quota prior to 1965.
1939	Refugee Bill defeated that would allow admittance of 20,000 children from Nazi Germany.
1945	Truman Directive assigned immigration quotas to displaced persons by executive order.
1945-1947	15,000 Jewish displaced persons entered the country.
1948	Congress passed legislation that would admit 200,000 displaced persons, of which 80,000 were Jewish. Later amended in 1950 to 400,000 with 137,000 Jewish refugees admitted to U.S. by 1952.

Backlash:

- Racial prejudice towards immigrants; Anti-Semitism restricted employment, education, and housing
- Eugenics Movement fueled anti-immigrant attitudes and racism
- 1919 recession and high unemployment
- Red Scare; according to American Jewish Committee, 21% of Americans believed "most Jews are Communists."
- Nativism and xenophobia

Becoming a Citizen:

- 1st Declaration of Intention must be filed 3 years before admission as a citizen.
- 2nd Petition to become naturalized after 5 years residency and within 7 years of Declaration of Intention.
- 3rd Certificate of Naturalization issued.

Records Pertaining to Immigration:

Passenger Manifests

- Parents' names and who they were joining
- Spouse and children's names
- Birth Year or Age
- Birth Place or Last Residence
- Who they were going to and nearest relative in Europe

Naturalization Papers (Intent, Petition, Certificate)

- Name changes
- Birth date and birth place
- Spouse/children with birth dates and places of birth
- Port, date of arrival and ship
- Witness signatures can be relatives or friends
- Photo

Where to Find Passenger Manifest Records:

<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>LIST TITLE</u>	<u>RECORDS</u>	<u>INDEX CREATED BY</u>	<u>"SHINDELMAN" SEARCH</u>
EllisIsland.org <i>free</i>	"Port of NY Passenger Records, 1820-1957"	65,000,000	LDS	7 , and no spelling variations.
Ancestry.com <i>subscription</i>	"New York, Passenger and Crew Lists 1820-1957 (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island)"	82,033,202	Private	6 , plus spelling variations inc. SCHINDELMAN, SHINDLMAN, SHANDELMAN, SHENDELMAN, SZINDELMAN, etc.
FamilySearch.org <i>free</i>	"New York Passenger Arrival Lists 1892-1924 (Ellis Island)"	25,000,000	LDS	10 , plus spelling variations inc. SZENDELA, SZANDULA, SCHYNDEL, SHENDEL, etc.
FindMyPast.com <i>subscription</i>	"New York City Passenger Lists, 1820-1957"	59,000,000	JFK Trust	12 , and no spelling variations.
MyHeritage.com <i>subscription</i>	"Ellis Island and Other New York Passenger Lists, 1820-1957"	113,439,605	Private	17 , plus spelling variations inc. SHINDELMANN, SHENDELMAN, SHANDELMAN, SCHINDELMANN, SCHEINDELMAN, etc. <i>Has language translator in 42 languages.</i>

www.Stevemorse.org allows easier searching for manifests

Bibliography:

Jewish Genealogy Society of Colorado, www.JGSCO.org – monthly lectures and mentoring

John P. Colletta, *They Came In Ships*, pub. 2002

Val D. Greenwood, *The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy, 3rd Edition*

Morton Allan, *Morton Allan Directory of European Passenger Steamship Arrivals* for the years 1890 to 1930 at the Port of New York and for the years 1904 to 1926 at the Ports of New York, Philadelphia, Boston, and Baltimore.