

A3405

**CREW LISTS OF VESSELS ARRIVING AT
ASHTABULA AND CONNEAUT, OHIO, 1952–1974**

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INTRODUCTION

On the 10 rolls of this microfilm publication, A3405, are reproduced crew lists of vessels arriving at Ashtabula, Ohio, March 29, 1952–October 14, 1974, and at Conneaut, Ohio, April 7, 1952–November 6, 1966. The crew lists include alien and U.S. citizen seamen as well as a few passengers. These records are part of the Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Record Group (RG) 85.

BACKGROUND

Early records relating to immigration originated in regional customhouses. The U.S. Customs Service conducted its business by designating collection districts. Each district had a headquarters port with a customhouse and a collector of customs, the chief officer of the district. An act of March 2, 1819 (3 Stat. 489), required the captain or master of a vessel arriving at a port in the United States or any of its territories from a foreign country to submit a list of passengers to the collector of customs. The act also required that the collector submit a quarterly report or abstract, consisting of copies of these passenger lists, to the Secretary of State, who was required to submit such information at each session of Congress. After 1874, collectors forwarded only statistical reports to the Treasury Department. The lists themselves were retained by the collector of customs. Customs records were maintained primarily for statistical purposes.

On August 3, 1882, Congress passed the first Federal law regulating immigration (22 Stat. 214–215); the Secretary of the Treasury had general supervision over it between 1882 and 1891. The Office of Superintendent of Immigration in the Department of the Treasury was established under an act of March 3, 1891 (26 Stat. 1085), and was later designated a bureau in 1895 with responsibility for administering the alien contract-labor laws. In 1900 administration of the Chinese exclusion laws was added. Initially the Bureau retained the same administrative structure of ports of entry that the Customs Service had used. By the turn of the century it began to designate its own immigration districts, the numbers and boundaries of which changed over the years. In 1903 the Bureau became part of the Department of Commerce and Labor; its name was changed to the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization when functions relating to naturalization were added in 1906. In 1933 the functions were transferred to the Department of Labor and became the responsibility of the newly formed Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). Under President Roosevelt's Reorganization Plan V of 1940, the INS was moved to the Department of Justice. The INS was abolished, and its immigration and naturalization recordkeeping functions were transferred to the new Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services within the new Department of Homeland Security, established January 24, 2003, by the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-296, § 471, 116 Stat. 2135, 2205).

RECORDS DESCRIPTION

The crew lists in this microfilm publication were submitted to the INS at Ashtabula and Conneaut, Ohio, by the captain or master of each vessel that had last departed from a Canadian or other foreign port. Vessels that had last departed from a U.S. port are **not** included. Crew members were citizens of the United States, Canada, or various other foreign countries. Foreign non-Canadian crew members predominated after 1957. Passengers may be occasionally reported, usually family members of seamen.

FORMS USED

The crew lists were generally recorded on three INS forms and one U.S. Customs Service form.

INS Form I-481, *List or Manifest of all Persons Employed on a Great Lakes Vessel*, usually contains the names of vessels, shipmasters, shipowners, and local agents; ports of arrival and embarkation; dates of arrival; and the following information about each crew member: full name, citizenship, position in crew, whether to be discharged at the port of arrival, whether medically examined during the current season or year, and identification card number or alien registration number. The I-481 generally indicates whether the immigrant inspector admitted the crew member or detained him on board the vessel. If the alien had another identification document, such as a passport or declaration of intention to become a citizen (“first papers”), it may be noted in the “remarks” column.

INS Form I-489, *Statement of Changes in Crew*, sometimes accompanies the Form I-481. This form indicates names and other information of any crewmen who (1) deserted, (2) were discharged, (3) were left in a hospital at the port of arrival, or (4) signed on at the port of arrival.

INS Form I-259, *Notice to Deliver, Detain on Board, or Remove Alien*, directs the master, who signs the form, to do one of those actions regarding a specific alien or aliens, as specified by the INS inspector. Usually the alien was detained on board the vessel, normally for lack of proper identification.

INS Form I-418, *Passenger List/Crew List (cross out one)*, includes the name of the ship, the port and date of embarkation, the port and date of arrival, and the following information about each person, if applicable: name, citizenship (“nationality”), passport number, crew position, and where the crewman was shipped or engaged. Other remarks or information may also be annotated on the form. Although I-418 is denominated in these records as a U.S. Customs Service, it was normally an INS form.

These records were generally filmed in chronological order, although a few were filmed out of place. The table of contents that follows contains a complete listing of the arrival records in the order in which they were filmed.

GENERAL REMARKS

The records were filmed by the INS in 1956–74 and transferred to the National Archives on microfilm. Although some of this film may be difficult to read, it is impossible to correct the situation since the INS destroyed the original records.

Rolls 1–5 and 9–10 are 35mm; rolls 6–8 are 16mm. Old Ashtabula INS rolls 6–13, Old Ashtabula INS rolls 14–18, and Old Conneaut INS rolls 4–7 were short rolls that the INS spliced together many years before their transfer to the National Archives.

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NEW ROLL No.	OLD INS ROLL No.	PORT	CONTENTS
1	C-1	Ashtabula	Mar. 29, 1952 – Apr. 13, 1953
2	C-2		Apr. 14 – Sept. 21, 1953
3	C-3		Sept. 22, 1953 – Nov. 27, 1954
4	1 2		Dec. 1, 1954 – Nov. 18, 1955 Nov. 20, 1955 – May 13, 1956
5	3 4 5		May 14 – Sept. 18, 1956 Sept. 19 – Nov. 20, 1956 Oct. 31, 1956 (“Delayed Documents” received after roll 4 was filmed) Nov. 25, 1956 – Aug. 24, 1957 (main section)
6	6 7 8 9 10 11 11 [<i>sic</i> , 12] 13		Apr. 17, 1958 – Oct. 15, 1959 Apr. 3 – Nov. 11, 1960 May 9 – Nov. 22, 1961 Apr. 26 – Oct. 1, 1962 Oct. 19 – Nov. 13, 1962 Apr. 26 – Aug. 22, 1963 Sept. 7, 1963 – Apr. 28, 1964 May 12 – Sept. 29, 1964
7	14 15 16 17 18		Oct. 13, 1964 – June 29, 1965 July 16, 1965 – Nov. 3, 1966 Nov. 11, 1966 – Nov. 21, 1967 Apr. 26, 1968 – June 29, 1969 May 6 – Nov. 27, 1971
8	19 Outbound 1 4 5 6 7	Ashtabula Conneaut	Aug. 1 – Nov. 9, 1971 (“Delayed Documents” received after roll 18 was filmed; these records were filmed as the leader to roll 19) Apr. 27, 1972 – Oct. 14, 1974 (main section) Outbound Passengers: 2 Greeks on <i>Efdeman</i> , Oct. 27, 1961 Apr. 17 – July 25, 1957 Oct. 9, 1960 Apr. 28 – Oct. 21, 1963 Apr. 18 – Nov. 6, 1966

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NEW ROLL NO.	OLD INS ROLL NO.	PORT	CONTENTS
8 (cont.)	Outbound 1	Conneaut	Outbound Passengers: 3 Italians on <i>Maria Fausta G</i> , Aug. 14, 1962
9	1	Conneaut	Apr. 7, 1952 – Nov. 30, 1954
10	1	Conneaut	Dec. 6, 1954 – Nov. 6, 1955
	2		Nov. 22, 1955 – July 23, 1956
	3		July 25 – Dec. 20, 1956