

A3397

CREW LISTS OF VESSELS ARRIVING AT
GREEN BAY, WISCONSIN,
OCTOBER 1925–NOVEMBER 1969

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INTRODUCTION

On the five rolls of this microfilm publication, A3397, are reproduced crew lists of vessels arriving at Green Bay, Wisconsin, October 4, 1925–November 1, 1969. A few aircraft arrivals are also included, as well as some passenger lists from arriving and departing vessels. 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 by the vessel captain or master to the INS at Green Bay, Wisconsin, upon arrival at that port, if the vessel's last port of embarkation was in Canada or another foreign port. Vessels that had last departed from a U.S. port are **not** included.

Most vessels included here were Canadian- or U.S.-flag vessels, and, therefore, the crew members were primarily citizens or residents of Canada or the United States. There are also some Scandinavian, Greek, Estonian, and other European-flag vessels. Some vessel passenger arrival and departure lists are included, as well as a few 1955 aircraft arrivals.

FORMS USED

The crew lists were recorded on a variety of INS forms, with the following being the most common:

INS Form 680 (later known as Form I-480), *List or Manifest of Aliens Employed on the Vessel as Members of Crew*, usually contains the names of vessels and shipmasters, ports of arrival and embarkation, dates of arrival, and the following information about each crew member: full name, position in ship's company, whether able to read, age, sex, race, nationality, height, weight, and physical marks or peculiarities. The "race" column indicates the crew member's ethnic background, such as Irish, German, Polish, etc. It also indicates the date and place at which he was engaged for employment and whether he was to be paid off or discharged at the port of arrival. Although the primary purpose of this form was to record pertinent information about aliens, U.S. citizen crew members are included on these lists.

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.

Both the I-480 and I-481 generally indicate 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.

The Form 680 was used until about September 1944, when the I-480 came into use. About April 1946, the Form I-481 began to be used instead of the I-480. The I-489 began to be used about October 1953 in conjunction with the Form I-481.

GENERAL REMARKS

The records were filmed by the INS in 1957-70 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.

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1	C-1	Oct. 4–26, 1925 none for 1926 Jan. 31, 1927–May 19, 1941
2	C-2	May 25, 1941–Oct. 8, 1946
3	C-3	Oct. 14, 1946–Oct. 18, 1951
4	C-4	Oct. 23, 1951–Nov. 23, 1954
5	1	Feb. 15–Oct. 5, 1955
	2	Oct. 14, 1955–Oct. 9, 1956
	3	Apr. 23, 1957–Nov. 19, 1958
	1	Sept. 7–12, 1958 (departing vessel passengers only)
	4	May 19–July 1, 1959
	5	Aug. 7, 1959–Nov. 1, 1969