

# Liverpool RECORD OFFICE

## LIVERPOOL RECORD OFFICE, LOCAL STUDIES AND FAMILY HISTORY SERVICE

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Appointments are advisable for viewing sources on microfilm and on microfiche. A reader's ticket is needed to request archives, books, maps, photographs and watercolours. Please bring proof of name and address. You will be asked to leave any bags in lockers before consulting original material.

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## EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION INFORMATION LEAFLET - 11



### INTRODUCTION

The movement of people into and out of Liverpool and Great Britain is an important area of study for family and community history and the history of the city of Liverpool. This leaflet outlines the sources of information available at Liverpool Record Office and where other sources may be found.

Liverpool was a major port for immigration and emigration throughout the 19th century. During this period of mass migration, the geographical location of Liverpool and its existing trade links put it at the centre of routes for transcontinental migration and the movement of people from Ireland.



The City of Liverpool



Attempting to trace the migration route of individuals is by no means easy. The authorities and businesses that managed the port of Liverpool recorded the movement of ships and goods, but did not keep records of the individuals that made up the mass of migrants. There was **no** requirement to record the details of people leaving the country. Records of migrants exist at their destination, for it was here that they were subjected to procedures that produced records.

### **SHIP PASSENGER LISTS**

LIVERPOOL RECORD OFFICE DOES NOT HOLD ANY ORIGINAL PASSENGER LISTS.

These are one of the main sources and are found at the **The National Archives (TNA)**, Kew (see below) or in the country of destination, usually held by the national or state archives (see addresses below). They are seldom indexed by name and therefore in order to find an individual the port of arrival, name of ship travelled on and approximate date of arrival is usually required. There is often a search fee. Some of the material has been transcribed and is available in a more user-friendly way. Liverpool Record Office holds, or can facilitate access to, some of these secondary sources.

A database has come online called [ancestorsonboard.com](http://ancestorsonboard.com) in association with The National Archives. This database covers the class BT 27 passenger lists outwards (see below) and will allow downloads of the original lists though there will be a charge.

### **THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES (TNA)**

The TNA holds a lot of useful material on emigration in a number of different classes. These are outlined in a number of information leaflets available in Liverpool Record Office's miscellaneous information folders and TNA leaflet folders or at the TNA's internet site

[[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)]

It is recommended that you read the information leaflets before contacting, or visiting, the National Archives.

The main classes of interest in the study of emigration and immigration are as follows:

- \* BT 26 Passenger Lists, Inwards, 1877 – 1888 and 1890 – 1960
- \* BT 27 Passenger Lists, Outward, 1890 – 1960

These classes contain the names of persons on ships leaving from or arriving at UK ports where the ship came from or was going to a final destination outside Europe and the Mediterranean. They include all passengers, not just those emigrating. There is no name index. To use them you need to know an approximate date of departure or arrival, the UK port and, if at all possible, the name of the ship.

- \* BT 32 Registers of Passenger Lists Received, 1906 – 60 acts as a finding aid for BT 26 and BT 27, if the name of the ship is known, but does not include passengers names.

Assize Records 1559 – 1972 (ASSI 1-80) can provide details on those transported. See TNA leaflets, Transportation to America and the West Indies, 1615 – 1776 and Australian Convicts.

### **MATERIAL RELATING TO EMIGRATION AT LIVERPOOL RECORD OFFICE**

Although Liverpool Record Office does not hold many de facto emigration records it does hold a great deal of contemporary and secondary material. This contains information about the reasons for migration, the ways and conditions in which it was undertaken, and the views of society on the subject.



# Liverpool RECORD OFFICE

Local Studies Collection – Contemporary and secondary material catalogued under *immigration* and *emigration* in the Local Studies Catalogue. This includes three transcripts of lists of emigrants. Please note that these lists cover only limited dates and destinations.

Elizabeth French, List of Emigrants to America from Liverpool 1697 – 1707 (Hq325.2 FRE) Taken from the Liverpool Town Books.

R. Sharpe France, List of Early Emigrants to America from Liverpool 1686 (H325.2 QUA) Taken from the quarter sessions at Lancashire Record Office.

Ian Hughes, Passengers to Port Philip [Victoria, Australia] from Liverpool 1839 – 1851. (Hq325.2 HUG) Taken from newspaper shipping columns.

A copy of the passenger list for the Titanic's final voyage is available for consultation, please ask Record Office staff.

## MICROFILM COLLECTION

British Emigrant Guides and Pamphlets 1819 – 1870 (microfilms 7/10, 7/11), copies of contemporary works that provided information to those planning to emigrate.

Archive collections – the case papers of the Liverpool Catholic Children's Emigration Society, 1880s – 1920s (362 CAT). Emigration from Great Britain has often been linked to the idea of sending individuals to the 'New World' to provide them with a better life and to free their home country from the cost of supporting them. Organisations were set up that encouraged or arranged emigration. Several of these organised the emigration of children, especially orphan or pauper children. Liverpool Record Office

holds the case papers of one such organisation, the Liverpool Catholic Children's Emigration Society, 1880s – 1920s (362 CAT), which arranged the emigration of children from Liverpool mainly to Canada.

A list of the children whose files are deposited at Liverpool Record Office is available, please ask Record Office staff. Because of their confidential nature access to these records is only with the permission of the Nugent Care Society, (Contact, The Archivist, Nugent Care Society, 99 Edge Lane, Liverpool, L7 2PT).

The National Archives of Canada have compiled a searchable database of children sent to Canada between 1869 – 1930s. The database can be accessed at through [www.collectionscanada.ca](http://www.collectionscanada.ca)

Humanities Reference, Picton Library, Second Floor, Liverpool Central Library – P. W. Filby and M. K. Meyer, Passenger and Immigration Lists Index, (Rq929.373)

Guide to published arrival records 1538 – 1940 to USA and Canada. Gives name, age, place and year of arrival, source of information, list of accompanying passengers.

## INTERNET SITES

A lot of information on emigration and immigration is available on the internet. Three sites of particular interest are:

Liverpool Libraries has taken out a subscription to the ancestry.com database accessible at any Liverpool Library computer. This contains information on some passenger lists and a collection of searchable US lists.

[www.ellislandrecords.org](http://www.ellislandrecords.org)

– an online database of 22 million passengers and crew members who passed through Ellis Island (New York), between 1892 – 1924.

[www.imigrantships.net](http://www.imigrantships.net)

– the Immigrant Ships Transcribers Guild site contains transcriptions of passenger lists.

[www.beavis.co.uk](http://www.beavis.co.uk)

– ongoing project to make databases of the passenger lists held at the National Archives.



## **MATERIAL RELATING TO EMIGRATION WITHIN LIVERPOOL**

University of Liverpool, Special Collections and Archives (<http://sca.lib.liv.ac.uk/collections>) – Copies of information sheets on emigration records held at University of Liverpool, Special Collections and Archives kept in Liverpool Record Office's miscellaneous information folders, please ask a member of staff. The Cunard Steamship Archive contains some passenger lists, but these are very limited in date and destination, see Liverpool University information sheets.

Merseyside Maritime Museum does not hold any official lists of passengers or emigrants, but has an extensive library on maritime subjects that includes information on emigration in general. A copy of the Guide to the Records of the Merseyside Maritime Museum, edited by Dawn Littler, is available at Liverpool Record Office, please ask a member of staff.

## **IMMIGRATION RECORDS**

Liverpool Record Office Local Studies Collection holds contemporary and secondary sources containing information on the history of immigrants and immigrant communities in the area. This material is catalogued in the Local Studies Catalogue by subject and includes, for example, Ray Costello's *Black Liverpool, the History of Britain's Oldest Black Community 1730 – 1918* (Hq942.753 COS).

We do not hold any archive material that deals specifically with immigration. However, references to immigration and ethnic minority communities can be found within the archival collections, for example information on Liverpool's Irish population within the Roman Catholic parish registers.

Government records on immigration are held at the TNA. A copy of the TNA readers' guide to sources on UK immigration and citizenship *Immigrants and Aliens* by Roger Kershaw and Mark Pearsall is available in the Local Studies Collection (H929.341KER). TNA information leaflets, including Grants of British Nationality and Refugees and Minorities, are also available to outline what records are available.

## **CONTACT ADDRESSES**

Please note, to avoid a fruitless inquiry it is recommended that any information leaflets or internet sites provided by the institutions listed below are consulted before you make contact.

The National Archives, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU  
Tel. 020 8392 5200, email, [enquiry@nationalarchives.gov.uk](mailto:enquiry@nationalarchives.gov.uk);  
[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)

Maritime Archivist Library, National Museums Liverpool, Merseyside Maritime Museum, Albert Dock, Liverpool, L3 4AQ.  
Tel. 0151 478 4499; [www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/maritime](http://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/maritime)

National Archives of Canada, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N3. [www.archives.ca](http://www.archives.ca), online genealogy enquiry form.

National Archives and Records Administration,  
USA – attn: NWCTB, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington DC, 20408-0001. [email@nara.gov](mailto:email@nara.gov) [www.nara.gov/genealogy](http://www.nara.gov/genealogy)

Australia – For 20th century immigration contact the National Archives, [www.naa.gov.au](http://www.naa.gov.au). For convict records, or records of colonial or 19th century migrants, contact State Government Archives, the National Library of Australia and State Libraries. Contact details are available in the miscellaneous information files at Liverpool Record Office, please ask a member of staff.

New Zealand National Archives, Head Office - 10 Mulgrave Street, Thorndon, Wellington, New Zealand PO Box 12-050 Wellington, New Zealand. Email, [enquiries@archives.govt.nz](mailto:enquiries@archives.govt.nz) ; [www.archives.govt.nz](http://www.archives.govt.nz)