THE AMERICAN FAMILY IMMIGRATION HISTORY CENTER AT ELLIS ISLAND

The American Family Immigration History Center (AFIHC/History Center) is home to the Ellis Island Passenger Database, which comprises nearly 65 million passenger arrival records for travelers entering the Port of New York from 1820 – 1957. This awe-inspiring resource enables visitors to examine immigration documents, find connections to their ancestry and heritage, and offer their own contributions to an ever-growing catalogue of family stories.

The database project took years to complete. In 1996, The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation and the National Park Service partnered with FamilySearch to digitize and index records that were originally preserved on microfilm and stored with the National Archives.

AFIHC was unveiled on April 17, 2001, making arrival records from Ellis Island and the Port of New York available to search both in-person at Ellis Island and online for the first time ever. This inspired millions to begin exploring their family history; within two days an unprecedented 26 million people visited the database.

Today, genealogy is one of the world's most popular hobbies. Each year at AFIHC, our expert researchers help tens of thousands of visitors discover their family's immigration stories. The database is also free to search on our website, which includes a library of educational resources and research tips. Replica passenger manifests and other collectibles are available as keepsakes.
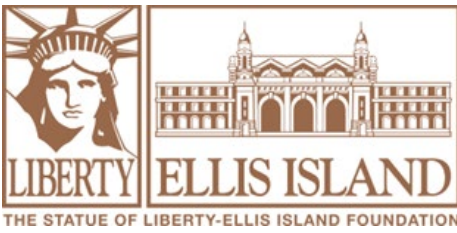
With more than 30% of Americans tracing at least one ancestor through Ellis Island and the Port of New York, the American Family Immigration History Center is an essential experience on one's genealogical journey. To learn more, visit EllisIsland.org/Records.

The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation is a non-profit that collaborates with the National Park Service in one of America's most successful public-private partnerships. In 1982, President Ronald Reagan asked Lee Iacocca to raise private funds for the historic restoration of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. The Foundation has since created the Ellis Island National Museum of Immigration, developed the free 65-million-record Ellis Island Passenger Database, constructed the Statue of Liberty Museum, maintained museum exhibits, and funded hundreds of additional projects on the islands. Follow the Foundation on social media *@StatueEllisFdn*.

Family History Research Prep Sheet

**To maximize your research success,
complete this form to the best of your ability before you visit Ellis Island.**

If you are already aware of an ancestor who entered the U.S. via Ellis Island, what was their name and approximate year of arrival?	
Parents (stepparents) • Name • Date and place of birth • Date and place of death	
If applicable, the date and place when your parents married.	
Grandparents • Name • Date and place of birth • Date and place of death	
Locations where the family/families lived? (US cities/states and/or city/country in the world)	