

M2018

LISTS OF ALIENS ARRIVING AT EAGLE, ALASKA,  
DECEMBER 1910-OCTOBER 1938

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National Archives and Records Administration  
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## INTRODUCTION

On the single roll of this microfilm publication, M2018, are reproduced lists of aliens arriving at Eagle, AK, from December 1910 to October 1938. Some lists of returning U.S. citizens are also included but contain no information other than each person's name and date of arrival. 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, and, when functions relating to naturalization were added in 1906, its name was changed to the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization. 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, INS was moved to the Department of Justice.

### Records Description

The lists reproduced in this microfilm publication are ship passenger manifests which include the names of foreign visitors, immigrants, and some U.S. citizens returning from abroad. They also usually indicate names of vessels, ports

of arrival and embarkation, and dates of arrival. The lists normally contain the following information about each passenger: full name; age; sex; marital status; occupation; last residence; port of arrival; final destination in the United States; if the passenger had been in the United States before (if so, when and where); and if the passenger was going to join a relative (if so, the relative's name, address, and relationship). Beginning in 1903, race was included; in 1906, personal description and birthplace; in 1907, the name and address of the alien's nearest relative in the country from which he or she came. The arrival lists consist of a two-page form. Due to the manner in which the records were filmed, the "right" side of the form is located to the left of the "left" side of the form.

These manifests were collected by the INS at the Port of Eagle, AK. Most were steamship arrivals of passengers who had departed from Dawson, Yukon Territory, Canada. The records were microfilmed by the INS on June 4, 1957, and the film was later transferred to the National Archives. Some of the records may be difficult to read, and some were microfilmed twice. Since the INS eventually destroyed the original records, errors in arrangement, microfilming, or omissions cannot be corrected.

### Related Records

This microfilm publication is indexed by M2016, *Alphabetical Index of Aliens Arriving at Eagle, Hyder, Ketchikan, Nome, and Skagway, Alaska, June 1906-August 1946*. Citizen arrivals are not indexed.

### Search Strategy

First, locate the person in the index (M2016), and copy the information provided. Then, locate that person in the arrival lists reproduced in this microfilm publication by using this three-step process:

- (1) Locate the manifests containing the date of arrival.
- (2) Find the correct "list number." This number is marked in the upper right hand corner of the "right" side of the two-page form.
- (3) Find the correct line number ("group number"). This number is printed to the left of the person's name.

It is often necessary to find the date of arrival before finding the "list number" because the "list numbers" do not run consecutively.