

M2115

LISTS OF PASSENGERS DEPARTING  
FROM  
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, 1867-1871

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NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION  
M I C R O F I L M   P U B L I C A T I O N S

## INTRODUCTION

On the single roll of this microfilm publication, M2115, are reproduced passenger lists of vessels departing from New Orleans, Louisiana, 1867–1871. These records are part of Records of the United States Customs Service, Record Group (RG) 36.

## BACKGROUND

Customs districts and customs offices (known collectively as the Customs Service) were established by an act of July 31, 1789 (1 Stat. 29). The administration of customs laws was placed in the Department of the Treasury by an act of September 2, 1789 (1 Stat. 65). The Customs Service and the Special Agency Service were consolidated to form the Bureau of Customs by an act of March 3, 1927 (44 Stat. 1381). It was renamed United States Customs Service on April 4, 1973.

The U.S. Customs Service conducted its business by designating collection districts. Each district had a headquarters port called the “port of entry” 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. Immigration control functions began to be separated from customs control functions after Congress passed the first Federal law regulating immigration (22 Stat. 214) on August 3, 1882. The Secretary of the Treasury had general supervision over immigration 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).

The Mississippi Collection District was established on March 2, 1799, to include all the waters of the Mississippi River and all the waters connected therewith south of Tennessee. Over the years, the boundaries were changed as additional collection districts were established and as the district was extended to include all the shores and waters of the Ohio River and all its branches. In 1844, the district was renamed New Orleans. In 1913, the New Orleans district was abolished and included in the Louisiana district.

## RECORDS DESCRIPTION

These records consist of lists of ship passengers departing from the New Orleans (Louisiana) collection district, specifically from the Port of New Orleans, November 11, 1867–May 19, 1871. The lists are in a single bound volume containing 314 numbered pages. The title page reads, “Customs House, New Orleans, November 1, 1867 to May 19, 1871.” Pages 248–249 were not filmed because they are blank.

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For each vessel, the following information is usually provided: name of vessel, name of master, intended destination(s), and date of departure. The passenger lists were recorded on forms intended to record passenger *arrivals*. Each page has preprinted *arrival* headings, "Report and List of the Passengers taken on board the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ whereof \_\_\_\_\_ is Master, burthen \_\_\_\_\_ tons, bound from the Port of \_\_\_\_\_ for New Orleans." These words were changed or crossed out with ink to indicate departure from New Orleans, the destination(s), and the date of departure. Each page has the passenger list of one or two vessels.

For each passenger, the following information is usually provided: name, age, gender, occupation, country of nativity or country to which he or she belongs, color, and whether traveling in cabin or steerage. Each page has eight preprinted columns for (1) name, (2) age in years and months, (3) sex, (4) occupation, trade, or profession, (5) country to which they severally belong, (6) country of which they intend to become inhabitants, (7) died on the voyage, and (8) part of vessel occupied during the voyage. The "died" and "country of which they intend to become inhabitants" columns are usually blank. From 1867 to March 21, 1870, the heading "country to which they severally belong" was changed with ink to read "Nativity," and the "country of which they intend to become inhabitants" column was used to indicate color (usually white).

The vessels' destinations reflected the global nature of trade between New Orleans and the rest of the world. The destinations include Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Havana, Cuba; Havre and Bordeaux, France; Hamburg and Bremen, Germany; Liverpool, South Hampton, London, and Londonderry, Great Britain; Belize, Honduras; Vera Cruz, Campeche, and Tampico, Mexico; Barcelona, Valencia, and Málaga, Spain; Ruatan, Jamaica; St. Petersburg, Russia; Puerto Cabello, Venezuela; and Grand Cayman Island. Some vessels were bound for U.S. ports, either directly or via Havana or another port. U.S. destinations included Baltimore, Key West, New York, and Philadelphia.

#### GENERAL REMARKS

The records reproduced in this microfilm publication were filmed in October 2000 by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), in Washington, DC, but are now (2007) at NARA's Southwest Region, 501 West Felix Street, Building 1, Fort Worth, Texas 76115.

## Note on M2115

These records are part of Record Group (RG) 36, Records of the United States Customs Service, originally described in Forrest R. Holdcamper, *Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the Bureau of Customs*, Unpublished Preliminary Inventory No. NC-154 (Washington, DC: National Archives and Records Service, 1968).

The Records of the New Orleans (Louisiana) District reproduced in this microfilm publication constitute **all** of "Entry" (or Series) 1635 titled by Holdcamper as follows:

1635. Record of Outgoing Passengers, 1867-71.