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A3371

PASSENGER LISTS OF VESSELS ARRIVING AT KNIGHTS KEY, FLORIDA FEBRUARY 1908 - JANUARY 1912

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INTRODUCTION

On the three rolls of this microfilm publication, A3371, are reproduced passenger lists of vessels arriving at Knights Key, Florida, February 6, 1908, to January 20, 1912. 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.

Records Description

The records in this microfilm publication are those for the Port of Knights Key, Florida. Knights Key (also known as Knight Key), an island, was located in the Florida Keys in Monroe County, Florida, at latitude 24°18′42″ N, longitude

8°13´10´´ W, just to the west of Marathon, Florida.[1] In 2001, it and adjacent Hog Key are no longer islands, but a contiguous part of Marathon, Florida.

All vessels departed from Havana, Cuba. The arriving aliens were primarily citizens of Canada, Cuba, Spain, Great Britain, Germany, Austria, and France; others were citizens of Sweden, Bulgaria, Portugal, Belgium, Jamaica, Japan, Italy, and Haiti. Many of the aliens were merchants or others travelling on business. There are also Central and South American diplomatic personnel. Some alien arrivals were of African descent.

Roll 3, target 2, consists solely of passenger lists of U.S. citizens. Wives of U.S. citizens are often simply listed as "Mrs. ___" in loopy handwriting that makes "Mrs." look like "Wes." Some U.S. citizens can also be found on the alien lists on rolls 1–3.

The records are in good chronological order, except for a few that are out of order. On roll 1, vessels arriving from January 7, 1909, to April 13, 1909, were filmed before vessels arriving February 7, 1908, to July 18, 1908. Each roll begins with an INS-prepared list of vessels and their dates of arrival. These lists contain some errors regarding name(s) and date(s) of arrival by some ships; for example, the list for roll 3 lists a ship *Maryat*, but that was a misreading of *Halifax*. For a more accurate list of ships and their dates of arrival, consult the Table of Contents that follows.

The records were filmed by the INS in 1946–1947 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.

[1] See *Rand McNally & Co.'s Commerical Atlas of America (Census Edition)* Chicago: Rand McNally & Co., 1911, p. 160.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

NEW ROLL NO.	OLD INS ROLL NO.	CONTENTS
1	1	**ALIENS: JAN. 4, 1909 – APR. 13, 1909**
		A. W. Perry: Jan. 5, 7, 9, 12, 14, 16, 19, 22, 26; Feb. 2, 4, 6, 9, 11, 13, 15, 16, 18, 20, 23, 24, 27; Mar. 2, 4, 6, 9, 11, 13, 16, 18, 20, 23, 25, 27, 30
		Halifax: Jan. 4, 6, 8, 11, 13, 15, 18, 21, 25, 27, 29; Feb. 1, 3, 5, 8, 10, 12, 17, 19, 22, 24, 26; Mar. 1, 3, 5, 8, 10, 12, 15, 17, 19, 22, 24, 26, 29, 31; Apr. 3, 6, 8, 10, 13
		ALIENS: FEB. 7, 1908 – JULY 18, 1908
		Halifax: Feb. 7, 11, 12, 15, 18, 20, 22, 25, 27, 29; Mar. 5, 7, 10, 12, 14, 17, 19, 21, 24, 26, 28, 31; Apr. 2, 4, 9, 11, 14, 18
		Mascatte: June 30; July 11, 18
		Miami: Apr. 21; May 2, 9, 19, 23, 26, 30; June 2, 16, 20, 23, 27
2	2	**ALIENS: JAN. 8, 1910 – MAY 16, 1910**
		Governor Cobb: Jan. 10, 12, 14, 17, 19, 26, 28, 31; Feb. 2, 4, 7, 9, 11, 14, 16, 18, 21, 23, 25, 28; Mar. 2, 4, 7, 9, 11, 14, 16, 18, 21, 23, 25, 28, 30; Apr. 1, 7
		Halifax: Jan. 8, 11, 13, 15, 18, 20, 22, 25, 27, 29; Feb. 1, 3, 5, 8, 10, 12, 15, 17, 19, 22, 24, 26; Mar. 1, 3, 5, 8, 10, 12, 15, 17, 19, 22, 24, 26, 29, 31; Apr. 2

NEW ROLL NO.	OLD INS ROLL NO.	CONTENTS
2 (con.)	2 (con.)	**ALIENS: JAN. 8, 1910 – MAY 16, 1910 (con.)**
		Karen May 16
		Mascotte Apr. 16, 19, 21
		Miami Apr. 9, 12, 14
3	3	**ALIENS: JAN. 10, 1911 – APR. 6, 1911**
		Governor Cobb: 1911: Jan. 10, 17, 19, 24, 26, 28, 31; Feb. 2, 4, 7, 9, 11, 14, 16, 18, 21, 23, 28; Mar. 2, 4, 7, 9, 11, 14, 16, 18, 21, 23, 25, 28, 30; Apr. 1, 6
		Halifax: 1911: Jan. 13, 16, 18, 20, 23, 25, 26, 30; Feb. 1, 3, 6, 8, 10, 13, 15, 17, 20, 22, 24, 27; Mar. 1, 3, 6, 10, 13, 15, 17, 20, 22, 24, 27, 29, 31
		ALIENS: JAN. 3, 1912 – JAN. 20, 1912
		Governor Cobb: 1912: Jan. 4, 6, 9, 11, 13, 16, 18, 20
		Halifax: 1912: Jan. 3, 5, 8, 10, 12, 15, 17, 19
		Mound (yacht): 1911: Feb. 13
	1	**CITIZENS: FEB. 6, 1908 – JAN. 23, 1911**
		Halifax: 1908: Feb. 6, 9, 11, 13, 15, 18, 20, 22, 25, 27, 29; 1911: Jan. 23
		Miami: 1909: May 4

ROLL NOTES

These records include some discharged seamen.

These records were originally microfilmed by the Immigration and Naturalization Service in the 1940s, and then the paper records were destroyed.

The quality of the microfilm varies.

Legibility may be poor.