

A Guide to “GERMANS TO AMERICA”

The books are located in the reference section of the Hedberg Public Library at REF 929.3
They were donated by the German Interest Group – Wisconsin

The 74 volume set references around 4 million records from 1840 to 1897

Series I published 1988: Volume 1 = June 1850 → Volume 67 = June 1897

Series II published 2002: Volume 1 = June 1840 → Volume 7 = December 1849

Ship manifests are listed chronologically by arrival date

Criteria of inclusion of a ship in the collection:

For some years, all passengers on ships with 80% Germans are listed (1850-1855)

For most years, any ship with German passengers lists only the German passengers

To find your ancestor in the hard copy books, you need to know the approximate arrival date

Look in the volume or volumes containing passenger lists for that time frame

At the end of each volume is an alphabetical index of all passengers in that volume

For each name in the index there is a page number given

That page number is the one containing that passenger's name

On that page you can find the name of the passenger and family members

Names on the manifest are in random order, but families are grouped:

Head (father if present), wife, children by descending age

Infant age is listed in decimal months: .01 = 1 month thru .11 = 11 months

For each person, data (potentially) shows:

age, sex, occupation, departure province/village, destination

To find ship data, scan back thru pages to the ship header, which shows

Ship name, departure port, arrival port, arrival date

Departure date is **not** shown, but may be estimated if a previous arrival
of the same ship can be found earlier in the book.

At the beginning of each volume is a list of the codes used in the passenger lists

Occupation codes (abbreviations for the most part)

Provinces (2 letter codes specific to that volume)

Village codes (3 or 4 letter codes for that volume)

Departure & destination codes are usually not much help

For almost all passengers, the province is either PR=Prussia or GR=Germany

Likewise, almost all villages are “unknown”

The destinations are most frequently USA or the arrival port, but many show a state

There are now online indices that will search for names in all volumes.

Try www.findmypast.com

or <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/211080>