

LOCATING IMMIGRANT PASSENGER RECORDS

GATHER INFORMATION FROM AVAILABLE SOURCES:

- First Intent papers often provide a month, year and port of arrival.
- Census reports for 1900, 1910, 1920 and 1930 show year of immigration
- The 1920 census lists a year of naturalization.
- Obituaries might state the year or age a person came to the U.S.
- Family stories or knowledge – i.e. did the person come alone or with others, what was the original destination in the US
- .
- Marriage and birthdates of children help determine the timeline
- Passport (1890-1920) and Finnish Steamship Company passenger (1892-1950) records from the Migration Institute

UNIVERSAL HINTS FOR USING ONLINE RESOURCES

- Spelling of names in indexes might be unusual or illegible
- First and last names might be transposed in indexes
- Surname or farm name might not have been used
- Destinations, when shown, might be different than expected
- Nationality might be Russian, Finnish or something else
- Age might be off a year or so based on birth month and month of arrival

TRY MULTIPLE ONLINE RESOURCES

- Ancestry.com
- Castlegarden.org – pre 1892 searches
- Ellislandrecords.org for arrivals 1892-1924
- One step search at <http://stevemorse.org/index.html>
- Migrationinstitute.fi
- Familysearch.org beta site

THREE EXAMPLES TO DEMONSTRATE USE OF STEVE MORSE WEBSITE

EXAMPLE 1

IDA AINALI

What's known:

Born November, 1881 in Raahe, Finland
Migration Institute - 1901 passport record for Iida Ainali born 1881 Raahe
1910 Census – immigration 1900; 1920 census - immigration 1901
Married in Ishpeming, Michigan in 1902
Her brother John and sisters Maria Hurnanen and Elizabeth Sofia Hemmi immigrated before 1894. By 1900, both John and Elizabeth lived in Minnesota; Maria lived in Ishpeming, Michigan.

Online research:

Used the "one step search" stevemorse.org website – Attachment 1
Used Ellis Island Gold search option
Input the following (Attachment 2):
 First name sounds like Ida
 Year of arrival between 1900 and 1902
 Year of birth between 1880 and 1882
 Ethnicity of Finnish

Results:

Attachment 3:
First Ida listed has a last name ending in "ala"close enough to check
Selecting the scanned manifest option takes you to the Ellis Island site
After logging in there, I learned this was the SS Campania arrival 6/8/1901.
Attachment 4 shows Ida's final destination is listed as Boston, Mass. – not a likely match BUT, the relative she's going to join is her sister Mrs. Hurnanen in Ishpeming, Mich.

Conclusion:

Despite the missing part of the last name and the Boston entry, I know this is the Ida Ainali I was searching for.

Next Steps:

To print a copy of the original manifest, first log in to ancestry.com
Return to the "one step" site and select \$ All NY Passengers (1820-1957)
Entries for Ida on this screen were: (Attachment 5)
 First name starts with Ida
 Year of birth 1881
 Ship Name starts with Camp
 Date of arrival June 8 1901
When you search, the results will appear at ancestry.com. where you can view and print the manifest..

If prefer a text version, select the "text manifest" link from the original search results screen

EXAMPLE 2

MARIA PITZEN

- What's known:** Born November 1863 in Temmes, Finland.
1900 & 1930 Census – 1889 immigration; 1910 census – 1890 immigration
Married 1891 in Ishpeming, Michigan
Immigrated before Ellis Island records
- Online Research:** In Steve Morse \$ All NY Passenters (1820 to 1957) form input:
First name is exactly Maria
Race/Nationality Fin
Date of Arrival 1890 +/- 1 year
- Results:** Attachment 6
A Maria Bissen is listed with a much earlier birth year but worth checking
Selecting View Record (Attachment 7) provides little more information
Viewing the passenger manifest itself reveals the possibility the name is not
Bissen, but Pitsen or something similar See Attachment 8
Searching the Castle Garden website for a Maria on the ship Bothnia arriving
in 1889 results in an entry for a Maria Bitsen
- Conclusions:** The birth year for the passenger found is off by 5-6 years
Bissen and Bitsen are not typical Finnish names
The passenger found is a unmarried
It's possible this is the Maria Pitzen I've been looking for

EXAMPLE 3

AAPO ALEXANDER AINALI

- What's known:** Born December 1872 in Raahe, Finland
Died 1901 St. Louis County, Minnesota
Single
Per 1900 Michigan census, living with sister Maria Hurnanen (aka Mattsson) in Ishpeming, Michigan
Census shows immigration date of 1892
- Online Research:** Using Steve Morse Ellis Gold Search form, input:
Last Name sounds like Ainali
Birth date between 1871 – 1873
Arrival date between 1891 – 1893
Ethnicity Finnish
- Results:** Attachment 9
4th person listed arrived in 1892 and birth date is close– first and last names don't match but still worth checking.
Selecting Scanned Manifest goes to Ellis Island site for login
Attachment 10 is a close-up of the entry for Axel Amali revealing the possibility the last name is something other than Amali and could be Ainali. More interesting.....the last name above his appears to be quite similar. Alexander had a sister Elizabeth Sofia. She married in Ishpeming in 1893. The 1920 census shows her immigration year as 1892 and she was born in 1875 making her 17 years old in 1892. The country of origin on the manifest is Sweden. Using the Ellis Island Gold search form for an Elizabeth born 1875, immigration year of 1892 with either Finnish or Swedish ethnicity results in only 4 surname hits: Airali, Forbes, Larson and Samuelson. Searching on first names alone with birth date and arrival windows, no other likely names appear in the results.
- Conclusions:** There is a decent possibility this manifest lists both Alexander Ainali and his sister, Elizabeth Sofia, despite the spelling and various data discrepancies.