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# **A Gateway to Canada: European Immigration to Ontario in the 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries**

Pier 21 presentation for the Ontario Genealogical Society: Durham Branch

## **Push factors for emigration from Europe:**

- Economic hardship
- Civil unrest
- War
- Famine
- Disease

## **Pull factors for immigration to Canada:**

- Propanda
- “Canadian lifestyle”
- Economic opportunities

## **Researching Canadian immigration records:**

### **Library and Archives Canada website:**

There are many research guides, finding aids, abbreviation guides, and search functions on their site. Some highlights:

### **Immigration records research guide:**

<https://www.canada.ca/en/library-archives/collection/research-help/genealogy-family-history/immigration.html>

### **Citizenship and Naturalization records research guide:**

<https://www.canada.ca/en/library-archives/collection/research-help/genealogy-family-history/immigration/citizenship-naturalization.html>

### **Collection search:**

The main search tool for the Library and Archives Canada collection:

<https://recherche-collection-search.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/home/index>

All Library and Archives Canada search tools “**A to Z research guides and tools**”:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/library-archives/collection/research-help/all-tools-guides.html>

### **Canada Incoming passenger list records 1865-1935:**

Library and Archives Canada: <https://www.canada.ca/en/library-archives/collection/research-help/genealogy-family-history/immigration/passenger-lists-1865-1935.html>

Also available on FamilySearch.org and Ancestry.ca (or .com)

### **Canada Ocean arrivals 1919-1924 (Form 30 A)**

Library and Archives Canada: <https://www.canada.ca/en/library-archives/collection/research-help/genealogy-family-history/immigration/form-30a-ocean-arrivals-1919-1924.html>

Also available on FamilySearch.org and Ancestry.ca (or .com)

These forms were used from 1919-1924. These forms were an entire page per passenger, if there are multiple passengers travelling together, there will be a separate form for each passenger. They may or may not be indexed sequentially.

If there is a form 30A for a passenger, this is usually the only document available. However, in some cases, there are sometimes both a form 30A and a passenger list in the 1865-1935 collection. But this is rare.

Don't forget to look at the "back side" of the page! This is most often by scrolling "left", rather than "right" due to the scanning order. However, it is best to check both "right" and "left" to confirm.

### **Arrivals to Canada prior to 1865:**

Unfortunately, there is no comprehensive collection of passenger lists for arrivals to Canada prior to 1865. Here is some further explanation, and context for the few collections that do exist:

<https://library-archives.canada.ca/eng/collection/research-help/genealogy-family-history/immigration/pages/immigrants-before-1865.aspx>

### **Canadiana – Héritage**

This is a digitization project: A number of Library and Archives Canada microfilm reels have been scanned and uploaded to this site. These are often not indexed yet, and these may or may not be searchable. It requires scrolling through the digital images, as the microfiche would require.

<https://heritage.canadiana.ca>

Search by reel number directly (ex: "C-5220". (though it is possible to use other search terms)

## **Access to Information and Privacy (ATIP) Online Request**

All Canadian immigration records after 1935 are held by Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). In order to access them, an ATIP request form must be submitted:

<https://atip-aiprp.tbs-sct.gc.ca/>

It is possible for the individual who immigrated to request a copy of **their own** post-1935 immigration record. Or, it is possible to request the record of a person who has been **deceased for over 20 years**. If the person has been deceased less than 20 years, information is only released to the executor of the estate, and only for the purpose of settling the estate.

There is no cost to request your own record; there is a \$5 fee for requesting the record of a deceased person. If requesting the document of a deceased person, proof of death is required (death certificate, funeral notice, obituary or photograph of gravestone). Please allow at least 3 months to receive a reply.

To request naturalization records specifically, make sure to include the **certificate number and series**, as well as the information found in the naturalization records index.

## **Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21**

Check out our website! <https://pier21.ca/>

Search our online collection for images, written stories and oral histories, and other artifacts. This collection includes some "souvenir passenger lists", it does NOT include Canadian incoming passenger lists. There are also select images of tickets, passports, and other related documents that have been donated to the Museum.

Collection search: <https://pier21.ca/collections>

Read our blog: <https://pier21.ca/research/immigration-history>

A blog article specifically about Pier 21: <https://pier21.ca/research/historic-pier-21>

Discover Culture Trunks (Italian, Hungarian, Netherlands):  
<https://pier21.ca/discoveries-everyone/culture-trunks>

### **Contact us:**

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