

The federal customs service collected identical information about foreign passengers arriving in Baltimore between 1820-1891. These "customs lists" contain the names of some persons not mentioned in the "city lists" and are available at the Maryland Historical Society and the National Archives.

Records Summary

The Passenger Arrival Records consist mostly of individual lists of names gathered by the captain of the transporting vessel (series 1). Provided for each passenger is name, age, sex, occupation, nationality, destination, last permanent residence, and name and date of entry of the vessel. The lists are incomplete for some periods, and available information is sometimes garbled or inaccurate. A name index to the lists is available, and it contains much of the same information as the lists. A separate volume provides general statistics for annual immigration activity (series 2).

Series

1. Passenger Arrival Lists. 1833-66. 15 cu. ft.
Index.
Arranged chronologically by date of vessel arrival.
2. Passenger Ships Arriving in Port of Baltimore, 1833-75.
2 lin. in. (1 vol.).
Arranged chronologically.

RG56 Civil War Records (1861-67)

History

During the Civil War, the municipal government offered a series of bounties (cash payments to recruits or their dependents) to encourage enlistment in the Union armed forces. A bounty board, composed of the comptroller (RG42) and two mayoral appointees, administered the program under the authority of the register (RG32). The municipality also apparently paid for some military supplies, equipment, and troop wages, most likely for soldiers recruited in the city. The heaviest period of municipal activity seems to have been between 1862 and 1865; after the war's end, it took several years to settle all accounts.

Records Summary

Financial materials make up the bulk of this record group. Most of the records relate to payments for bounties, supplies, death benefits, and troop wages. Record types include correspondence, checks, requisitions, muster rolls, uniform bonds, applications, and discharges. While much of this material relates directly to municipal involvement in the Union war effort, some items appear to have no connection with the city government. This is especially true for a number of muster rolls and bounty applications.