

Finding Presidents and their Ancestors in the Strangest Places

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A. INTRODUCTION

As genealogists, we are used to looking for our ancestors in ship manifests and in census records. We have mastered a variety of tricks for finding people in spite of name misspellings and incorrect birthdates. You might think that US presidents are a breed apart from our ancestors, but they are not. They also arrived on ships and have come face-to-face with the census taker.

In this paper I will show you how to search for presidential records, and you will see that it is no different than searching for ancestral records. We will encounter some of the same problems with both searches, and we'll see how these problems can be solved.

I am not claiming to have found all the relevant records, but rather just some of the obvious ones. I'm sure a professional genealogist (which I am not) can find many more. My goal is to present some of the techniques that I used to find the records so that you can apply those same techniques to finding your own ancestors.

B. PRESIDENTS' IMMIGRANT ANCESTORS

If you were born in this country, perhaps you can trace your line back to that ancestor who crossed the pond. And there is a record of that person's arrival on a manifest somewhere. If you yourself were the pond-hopper, there will be a manifest documenting your arrival. If that manifest exists, you'll certainly want to find it.

The presidents are no different with one exception -- none of them arrived as immigrants. But their ancestors did, so let's see if we can find their ancestors' arrivals. We will focus on their direct paternal ancestors.

Keep in mind that prior to 1820 there was no requirement that ships present a passenger manifest to US officials when entering the country. So don't bother looking for the manifest of your ancestors who came over on the Mayflower. Manifests for the port of New York (the major port for immigrant arrivals) have been microfilmed and indexed up to 1957, making it possible to search by name for anyone arriving between 1820 and 1957. We'll need to keep those two years in mind when deciding whether or not to do a search.

As an example, Ronald Reagan was born in 1911 in Illinois. His father, John Edward Reagan, was born in 1883, also in Illinois. So his father was born in the US and we won't find an immigrant arrival record for him. But his paternal grandfather, John Michael Reagan, was born in 1854 in England. That means that John Michael had to come as an immigrant from England to the US sometime between 1854 and 1883. Since those dates are between 1820 and 1957, there should be an arrival manifest for John.

The chart in Figures 1 and 2 lists every president and traces their paternal lines until the immigrant ancestor is found. In some cases it goes before 1820, in which case we stop tracing the line because there is no manifest to be found. Those rows end with a red cell. In other cases, such as Reagan, there is a possibility that a manifest can be found, and those rows end with a green cell.

Both Ford and Clinton were adopted by their step-fathers, which means they each have two distinct paternal lines -- one for their biological paternal ancestors and the other for their adoptive paternal ancestors. The chart shows both their biological lines and their adoptive lines.

Donald John Trump 6/14/1946 Queens NY	Fred Christ Trump 10/11/1905 Queens NY	Friedrich Trump 3/14/1869 Kallstadt, Germany	possibility			
Barack Hussein Obama Jr 8/14/1961 Honolulu HI	Barack Hussein Obama Sr 4/4/1936 Kenya	possibility				
George Walker Bush 7/6/1946 New Haven CT	George Herbert Walker Bush 6/12/1924 Milton MA	Prescott Bush 5/15/1895 Columbus OH	Samuel Prescott Bush 10/4/1863 Brick Church NJ	James Smith Bush 6/15/1825 Rochester NY	Obadiah Newcomb Bush 1/28/1797 Penfield NY	before 1820
William Jefferson Clinton 8/19/1946 Hope AR	Roger M Clinton 6/25/1909 Hot Springs AR	Allen Winfield Clinton 8/26/1880 Dardanelle AR	William Wester Clinton 10/19/1846 Benton AL	James McCully Clinton 7/29/1810 SC	before 1820	
birth name: William Jefferson Blyth III	William Jefferson Blyth Jr 2/27/1918 Sherman TX	William Jefferson Blyth Sr 1/21/1884 Ripley MS	Henry Patton Foote Blythe 9/18/1851 Tippah Co MS	Thomas Jefferson Blythe 8/1/1829 AL	Andrew Jackson Blythe 1801 SC	before 1820
George Herbert Walker Bush see George Walker Bush						
Ronald Reagan 2/6/1911 Tampico IL	John Edward Reagan 7/13/1883 Fulton IL	John Michael Reagan 5/29/1854 Peckham England	possibility			
James Earl Carter Jr 10/1/1924 Plains GA	James Earl Carter Sr 9/12/1894 Arlington GA	William Archibald Carter 11/12/1858 Warren GA	Littleberry Walker Carter 1832 Plains GA	Wiley Carter 1798 Columbia GA	before 1820	
Gerald Rudolph Ford Jr 7/14/1913 Omaha NE	Gerald Rudolph Ford Sr 12/9/1890 Grand Rapids MI	George R Ford 6/1853 MI	Trail goes cold here			
birth name: Leslie Lynch King Jr	Leslie Lynch King Sr 7/24/1884 Chadron NE	Charles Henry King 3/12/1853 Perry Twp PA	Lynch Rudolph King 8/11/1824 Franklin PA	Josiah King 12.18.1801 Laurel PA	before 1820	
Richard Milhous Nixon 1/9/1913 Yorba Linda CA	Francis Anthony Nixon 12/3/1878 La Habra CA	Samuel Brady Nixon 10/9/1847 Vinton OH	George Nixon 1821 Gettysburg PA	George Nixon 1784 Brandywine Hundred DE	before 1820	
Lyndon Baines Johnson 8/27/1908 Stonewall TX	Samuel Ealy Johnson Jr 10/11/1877 Budy TX	Samuel Ealy Johnson Sr 11/12/1838 Wedowee AL	Jesse Johnson 4/28/1795 Ogelthorpe GA	before 1820		
John Fitzgerald Kennedy 5/29/1917 Brookline MA	Joseph Patrick Kennedy 9/6/1888 Boston MA	Patrick Joseph Kennedy Jr 1/14/1858 East Boston MA	Patrick Joseph Kennedy Sr 1824 Dunganstown Ireland	possibility		
David Dwight Eisenhower 10/14/1890 Denison TX	David Jacob Eisenhower 9/23/1863 Elizabethville PA	Jacob Frederick Eisenhower 9/26/1826 Elizabethville PA	Frederick Eisenhower 7/15/1794 Linglestown PA	before 1820		
Harry S Truman 5/8/1884 Lamar MO	John Anderson Truman 12/5/1851 Jackson Co MO	Anderson Shipp Truman 2/16/1816 Shelby Co MO	before 1820			
Franklin Delano Roosevelt 1/30/1882 Hyde Park NY	James Roosevelt 7/16/1828 Hyde Park NY	Isaac Daniel Roosevelt 3/21/1790 Kings Co NY	before 1820			
Herbert Clark Hoover 8/10/1874 West Branch IA	Jesse Clark Hoover 9/2/1846 Stillwater OH	Eli Hoover 7/17/1820 Miami OH	John M Hoover ca 1790 Union Bridge MD	before 1820		
John Calvin Coolidge Jr 7/4/1872 Plymouth VT	John Calvin Coolidge Sr 3/31/1845 Plymouth VT	Calvin Galusha Coolidge 9/22/1815 Plymouth VT	before 1820			
Warren Gamaliel Harding 11/2/1865 Bloomington Grove OH	George Tyron Harding 6/12/1844 Bloomington Grove OH	Charles Alexander Harding 4/8/1820 Clifford PA	George Tyron Harding 6/15/1790 Pittston PA	before 1820		
Thomas Woodrow Wilson 12/28/1856 Staunton VA	Joseph Ruggles Wilson 2/28/1822 Steubenville OH	James Wilson 2/20/1787 Ireland	possibility			
William Howard Taft 9/15/1857 Cincinnati OH	Alphonso Taft 11/5/1810 Townshend VT	before 1820				
Theodore Roosevelt Jr 10/27/1858 New York NY	Theodore Roosevelt Sr 9/22/1831 New York NY	Cornelius Van Schaack Roosevelt 1/30/1794 New York NY	before 1820			

Figure 1: Paternal lines, Trump to T Roosevelt

William McKinley Jr 1/29/1843 Niles OH	William McKinley Sr 11/15/1807 Pine City PA	before 1820
Stephen Grover Cleveland 3/18/1837 Caldwell NJ	Richard Falley Cleveland 6/19/1804 Norwich CT	before 1820
Benjamin Harrison 8/20/1833 North Bend OH	John Scott Harrison 10/4/1804 Vincennes IN	before 1820
Chester Alan Arthur 10/5/1829 Fairfield VT	William Arthur/MacArthur 12/5/1796 Ireland	possibility
James Abram Garfield 11/19/1831 Orange OH	Abram Garfield 12/28/1799 Worcester NY	before 1820
Rutherford Birchard Hayes 10/4/1822 Delaware OH	Rutherford Hayes Jr 1/4/1787 Brattleboro VT	before 1820
Hiram Ulysses Grant 4/27/1822 Point Pleasant OH	Jesse Root Grant 1/23/1794 Greensburg PA	before 1820
Andrew Johnson 12/29/1808 Raleigh NC	before 1820	
Andrew Johnson 12/29/1808 Raleigh NC	before 1820	
Abraham Lincoln 2/12/1809 Sinking Spring Farm KY	before 1820	
James Buchanan 4/23/1791 Cove Gap PA	before 1820	
Franklin Pierce 11/23/1804 Hillsborough NH	before 1820	
Millard Fillmore 1/7/1800 Loke Township NY	before 1820	

Zachary Taylor 11/24/1784 Montebello VA	before 1820
James Knox Polk 11/2/1795 Pineville NC	before 1820
John Tyler 3/29/1790 Charles City VA	before 1820
William Henry Harrison 2/9/1773 Berkeley Plantation VA	before 1820
Martin Van Buren 12/5/1782 Kinderhook NY	before 1820
Andrew Jackson 3/15/1767 Waxhaw SC	before 1820
John Quincy Adams 7/11/1767 Braintree MA	before 1820
James Monroe 4/28/1758 Monroe's Creek VA	before 1820
James Madison 3/16/1751 Belle Grove Plantation VA	before 1820
Thomas Jefferson 4/13/1743 Shadwell Plantation VA	before 1820
John Adams 10/19/1735 Braintree MA	before 1820
George Washington 2/22/1732 Popes Creek VA	before 1820

Figure 2: Paternal lines, McKinley to Washington

We are left with only six presidents for whom we might find a paternal ancestor's manifests. They are:

1. Donald Trump
2. Barack Obama
3. Ronald Reagan
4. John Kennedy
5. Woodrow Wilson
6. Chester Arthur

Let's look at each of them.

1. Trump

Donald John Trump 6/14/1946 Queens NY	Fred Christ Trump 10/11/1905 Quens NY	Friedrich Trump 3/14/1869 Kallstadt, Germany	possibility
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A search for first-name-starts-with: Fried, last-name-starts-with: Trump, born 1869, turns up the following record:



Arrived: October 19, 1885 aboard the Eider from Bremen
Name: Friedrich Trumpf, age 16, male, no occupation, citizen of Germany

2. Obama

Barack Hussein Obama Jr 8/14/1961 Honolulu HI	Barack Hussein Obama Sr 4/4/1936 Kenya	possibility
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Barack Jr. (the president) was born in 1961 and his father Barack Sr. was born in Kenya in 1936. That means that his father must have immigrated to the US sometime between 1936 and 1961. If he came after 1957, we won't be able to search for him because the name indexes don't go beyond 1957.

Wikipedia for Barack Sr. states: "Due to his accomplishments, in 1959 Obama (Sr.) received a scholarship. The program offered education in the west to outstanding Kenyan students."

That means that he came in 1959 (or later) and he won't be in the name index. Searching for him would be futile.

3. Reagan

Ronald Reagan 2/6/1911 Tampico IL	John Edward Reagan 7/13/1883 Fulton IL	John Michael Reagan 5/29/1854 Peckham England	possibility
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As already mentioned, John Michael Reagan, b 1854 was the ancestor that immigrated. Searching for such gives the following:

A handwritten record on a document, likely a ship's passenger list. The name 'John Reagan' is written in cursive. To the right, 'age 17' and 'from Ireland' are also visible in cursive.

246 Joseph Hartford	19	M.	Coachman	Ireland
247 Pat. Magan	36	M.	labourer	do
248 Pat Finn	19	M.	Mason	do
249 James Sherry	46	M.	labourer	do
250 John Reagan	17	M.	do	do

Arrived: October 4, 1871 aboard the Emerald Isle from Liverpool
Name: John Reagan, age 17, male, occupation labourer, citizen of Ireland

4. Kennedy

John Fitzgerald Kennedy 5/29/1917 Brookline MA	Joseph Patrick Kennedy 9/6/1888 Boston MA	Patrick Joseph Kennedy Jr 1/14/1858 East Boston MA	Patrick Joseph Kennedy Sr 1824 Dunganstown Ireland	possibility
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Patrick Joseph Kennedy Sr. (b 1824) was JFK's paternal immigrant ancestor. But finding him is not that simple. From wikitree.com (which in turn quoted from The Patriarchs by David Nasaw): "Sometime in 1848 or 1849 ... Patrick emigrated from Dunganstown in County Wexford Ireland. There are several young Patricks, Pats, and P. Kennedys in the passenger list of ships arriving in Boston in the late 1840s from Liverpool or New Ross ... cannot be sure which was this Patrick."

The problem is that the early ship manifests contain very little information about the passenger, making it difficult to know if it is the right person.

5. Wilson

Thomas Woodrow Wilson 12/28/1856 Staunton VA	Joseph Ruggles Wilson 2/28/1822 Steubenville OH	James Wilson 2/20/1787 Ireland	possibility
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The paternal immigrant ancestor is James Wilson, b 1787. His son, Joseph, was born 1822. So James could have immigrated anytime between 1787 and 1822. The chances that he immigrated after 1820 are slight. An article in the March 2014 issue of NGS Quarterly states that there are conflicting dates for the immigration from different sources, but each date cited is well before 1820. So there is no manifest for James Wilson's arrival.

6. Arthur

Chester Alan Arthur 10/5/1829 Fairfield VT	William Arthur/MacArthur 12/5/1796 Ireland	possibility
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Chester's father William could have arrived any time between 1796 and 1829. Unless he arrived between 1820 and 1829, we won't find him. But to make matters worse, geni.com reports for William MacArthur "Father of US president Chester Arthur. Born in Ireland, he emigrated to Canada as a young man." Canadian records start way after 1829, so there is no manifest for William MacArthur.

Let's look at our scorecard for the six possible immigration manifests

1. Donald Trump -- *great great grandfather Friedrich found*
2. Barack Obama -- father Barack came after 1957, too late
3. Ronald Reagan -- *grandfather John found*
4. John Kennedy -- great grandfather Patrick not found
5. Woodrow Wilson -- grandfather James came before 1820, too early
6. Chester Arthur -- father William, Canadian entry, too early

2 found

1 not found

3 rejected

C. PRESIDENT ON BOARD

Every person entering the US since 1820 appears on a manifest. Even Neil Armstrong's 1969 return from the moon is listed on a manifest (see Figure 3).

GENERAL DECLARATION			
(Outward/Inward)			
AGRICULTURE, CUSTOMS, IMMIGRATION, AND PUBLIC HEALTH			
Owner or Operator		NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION	
Marks of Nationality and Registration	U.S.A.	Flight No. APOLLO 11	Date JULY 24, 1969
Departure from	MOON (Place and Country)	Arrival at	HONOLULU, HAWAII, U.S.A. (Place and Country)
FLIGHT ROUTING			
("Place" Column always to list origin, every en-route stop and destination)			
PLACE	TOTAL NUMBER OF CREW	NUMBER OF PASSENGERS ON THIS STAGE	CARGO
CAPE KENNEDY	COMMANDER NEIL A. ARMSTRONG	<u>Departure Place:</u> Embarking NIL Through on same flight NIL	MOON ROCK AND MOON DUST SAMPLES Cargo Manifests Attached
MOON	<i>[Signature: Neil A. Armstrong]</i>		
JULY 24, 1969 HONOLULU	COLONEL EDWIN E. ALDRIN, JR.		
	<i>[Signature: Edwin E. Aldrin, Jr.]</i>	<u>Arrival Place:</u> Disembarking NIL Through on same flight NIL	
	<i>[Signature: Michael Collins]</i>		
	LT. COLONEL MICHAEL COLLINS		

Figure 3: Manifest for Neil Armstrong's 1969 return from the moon

US presidents are no exception when they return from abroad, regardless of whether the trip was for business or pleasure. Sitting presidents, however, travel on Air Force 1, Coast Guard 1, or equivalent, and those manifests are hard to obtain. There have been attempts to obtain them under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) but they have been unsuccessful. What we can find are the manifests for presidential arrivals either before or after their terms in office.

For each president I will search by name and year of birth unless I specify otherwise. The name will consist of the last name, full first name (no nicknames), and no middle name. For the year of birth I will specify his known year of birth plus or minus 1. Recall that the manifests contain the age and not the year of birth, so any birth-year computed from the age could be off by one year.

Notice that for some presidents I will report that no manifests were found. That doesn't mean that no manifests exist, but rather that I was unable to find any. Also I don't claim that the manifests that I present for each president are the only ones, but rather they are the only ones that I was able to find. I anticipate that others might be able to find manifests that I couldn't locate.

1. Washington to Van Buren

George Washington, b 1732, d 1799, term 1789-1797

George died before 1820 so he couldn't have been on a manifest. All other presidents died after 1820

John Adams, b 1735, d 1826, term 1797-1801

Thomas Jefferson, b 1743, d 1826, term 1801-1809

James Madison, b 1751, d 1836, term 1809-1817

James Monroe, b 1758, d 1831, term 1817-1825

John Quincy Adams, b 1767, d 1848, term 1825-1829

Andrew Jackson, b 1767, d 1845, term 1829-1837

Martin Van Buren, b 1782, d 1862, term 1837-1841

The above could have been on manifests, but I was unable to find manifests for any of them.

2. Harrison: The first manifest found

William Henry Harrison, b 1773, d 1841, term 1841-1841

When I searched for William Harrison, born 1773 \pm 1, I found no records. But when I changed the birth year to 1773 \pm 2, I found a record.

This illustrates the importance of not expecting exact matches on birth years. If you don't get a match with the year range you specified, try casting a wider net. It doesn't matter if you know for certain that Harrison was born in 1773 -- the information in the record could be wrong.

The record indicates:

William Harrison, arrived June 28, 1831 on the ship Meridian from Liverpool.

Age: 60 (*should be 58*), male

Occupation: farmer (*unusual occupation for a president*)

Country to which they severally belong: Great Britain (*not acceptable for a president*)

Country to which they intend to become inhabitants: Ohio (*really?*)

Doesn't look good -- wrong age, wrong occupation, wrong nationality

Let's look at the age:

A close-up photograph of a handwritten document. On the left, the name 'William Harrison' is written in a cursive script. To the right of the name, the number '50-60' is written, with a vertical line separating the two digits. The ink is dark and the paper appears aged.

That could be a 60, as they transcribed it. But the first digit could also be a five if you look at it very carefully. And the second digit doesn't come up as high as the first one, implying that there might be an upper loop on that digit making it an eight instead of a zero. So the age could be 58, which is indeed how old Harrison would have been.

Let's look at the family members

William Harrison	30~
Judy Harrison	60~
William Harrison Jun~	28~
Elizabeth Harrison	25~

Harrison did have a son, William Jr., who would have been 28 in 1831. So that checks out. He also had a daughter Elizabeth, but she would have been 35 and not 25. And his wife's name was Anna and not Judy and she would have been 56 and not 60. Things are starting to look better but there are still problems.

Let's look at the occupation of "farmer" and the destination of "Ohio." From wikipedia we learn "in 1929 he (Harrison) settled on his farm in North Bend, Ohio." So farmer and Ohio make sense.

Discrepancies in ages could be errors on the manifest. In spite of those errors, I'm inclined to believe that this is the right William Harrison. But who is Judy???

3. Tyler to Taylor

John Tyler, b 1790, d 1862, 1841-1845

James Knox Polk, b 1795, d 1849, 1845-1849

Zachary Taylor, b 1784, d 1850, 1849-1850

No manifests found.

4. Fillmore

Millard Fillmore, b 1800, d 1874, term 1850-1853

Found the following manifest:

Hon Millward Fillmore, arrived: June 23, 1856, on the ship Atlantic from Liverpool

Age: 56, male, Occupation: Gentleman

Country to which they severally belong: United States

Country in which they intend to become inhabitants : US

NAMES	Age		SEX
	Years	Months	
Hon. Millward Fillmore	56	00	Male

OCCUPATION.	The country to which they severally belong.	The country in which they intend to become inhabitants.	Died on the voyage.	Part of the vessel occupied by each passenger during the voyage.
Gentleman	U. States			
		U.S.		Cabin

I'm pretty sure this is the right Millard Fillmore.

Note that the name was transcribed as Millward (and even appears as such on the manifest). But fortunately "Millard" was entered as an alternative by a user of the database, so the record was found when searching for Millard. Had a user not made that correction, my search would not have found this record.

5. Pierce

Franklin Pierce, b 1804, d 1869, term 1853-1857

No manifests found.

6. Buchanan

James Buchanan, b 1791, d 1868, term 1857-1861

Found the following manifest:

James Buchanan, arrived: April 23, 1856 on the ship Arago from England and France
 Age: 65 yrs 6 mos, male, Occupation: ... to England
 Country to which they severally belong: United States
 Country in which they intend to become inhabitants : United States

NAMES	Age		SEX	OCCUPATION
	Years	Months		
James Buchanan	65	6	Male	Minister to England

Wikipedia states " From 1853 to 1856, during the presidency of Franklin Pierce, Buchanan served as the United States Ambassador to the United Kingdom."

This is the right James Buchanan.

7. Lincoln to McKinley

Abraham Lincoln, b 1809, d 1865, term 1861-1865

Andrew Johnson, b 1808, d 1875, term 1865-1869

Hiram Ulysses Grant, b 1822, d 1885, term 1869-1877

Rutherford Birchard Hayes, b 1822, d 1893, term 1877-1881

James Abram Garfield, b 1831, d 1881, term 1881-1881

Chester Arthur, b 1829, d 1886, term 1881-1885

Stephen Grover Cleveland, b 1837, d 1908, term 1885-1889 and 1893-1897

Benjamin Harrison, b 1833, d 1901, term 1889-1893

William McKinley Jr, b 1843, d 1909, term 1897-1901

No manifests found.

8. T Roosevelt

Theodore Roosevelt Jr, b 1858, d 1919, term 1901-1909

Found four manifests for Theodore Roosevelt and one for Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt

June 1910 arrival

P(resident) Theodore Roosevelt

Arrived: June 18, 1910 on the ship Kaiserin Augusta Victoria from Cherbourg

Age: 51 yrs 4 mos, male, married

Occupation: Special Ambassador, able to read and write, American Citizen

Final Destination: Oyster Bay, NY

NAME IN FULL.		Age.	Sex.	* Calling or Occupation.	Able to— Read. Write.	Nationality. (Country of which citizen or subject.)	Final Destination.
Family Name.	Given Name.	Yrs. Mos.	Married or Single.				State. City or Town.
Roosevelt.	Theodore	51	Married	Special Ambassador		American Citizen	N.Y. Oyster Bay

From wikipedia: "In March 1909 Roosevelt left for a safari in east and central Africa. ... Roosevelt returned to the United States in June 1910." That confirms that this manifest is for the right Theodore Roosevelt.

May 1914 arrival

Theodore Roosevelt, arrived: May 20, 1914 on the ship Aiden from Paraguay, Brazil
 Age: 58, male, married
 Born 1856 in New York, address in US: Oyster Bay, NY

No. ON LIST	NAME IN FULL		AGE		SEX	MARRIED OR SINGLE	IF NATIVE OF UNITED STATES, GIVE DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH (CITY OR TOWN AND STATE).	ADDRESS IN UNITED STATES
	FAMILY NAME	GIVEN NAME	Yrs.	Mos.				
1	Roosevelt	Theodore	58	✓	M	✓	New York NY	Oyster Bay NY

Now Oyster Bay is the smoking gun that tells us that this is for the right Theodore Roosevelt.

June 1914 arrival

Theodore Roosevelt, arrived: June 25, 1914 on the ship Imperator from Southampton
 Age: 55, male, married
 Travelling with Theodore Roosevelt Jr, age 22
 Address in US: Oyster Bay, NY

11	Roosevelt	Theodore	55	✓	M	✓	New York	Oyster Bay
12		Th. Roosevelt Jr	22		M			

March 1916 arrival

Theodore Roosevelt
 Arrived: March 25, 1916 on the ship Matura from Port of Spain (Trinidad)
 Age: 58, male, married, travelling with: Edith Roosevelt age 54
 Address in US: Oyster Bay, NY

No. ON LIST	NAME IN FULL		AGE		SEX	MARRIED OR SINGLE	ADDRESS IN UNITED STATES
	FAMILY NAME	GIVEN NAME	Yrs.	Mos.			
1	Roosevelt	Theodore	58	✓	M	✓	Oyster Bay New York
2	Roosevelt	Edith	54	✓	F	✓	" " "

May 1925 arrival (Mrs)

Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt, arrived: May 11, 1925 on the ship Conte Verda from Naples
 Age: 64, female, widowed
 Born: Norwich Connecticut, August 6, 1861
 Address in US: Sagamore Hills, Oyster Bay, Long Island (NY)

15	Roosevelt	Mrs Theodore	64	✓	f	✓	Norwich Conn. Aug. 6th 1861
							Sagamore Hill, Oyster Bay L.I.

From wikipedia: "Edith Kermit Carow(August 6, 1861 – September 30, 1948) was the second wife of President Theodore Roosevelt and served as first lady during his presidency." So Edith's date of birth matches, confirming that this is for the right Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt.

9. Taft

William Howard Taft, b 1857, d 1930, term 1909-1913

Found the following manifest:

William H Taft, arrived: Jan 27, 1921 on the ship Fort Victoria from Hamilton Bermuda

Age: 63, male, married, born 1858 in New Haven, Conn (*should be Cincinnati*)

Travelling with: Helen H Taft age 59, born 1862 in Cincinnati, Ohio

Address in US: 70 Grove Street, New Haven, Conn

23	Taft	William H.	63	m	m
23	Taft	Helen H.	59	f	m
1858 New Haven, Conn.		70 Grove St, New Haven, Conn.			
1862 Cincinnati, Ohio.		70 Grove St, New Haven, Conn.			

Helen is indeed Taft's wife and she was indeed born in Cincinnati in 1862. So this record is correct. But Taft himself was born in Cincinnati in 1857 and not New Haven in 1858. Obviously Taft was not the person who supplied this information for the manifest.

10. Wilson

Thomas Woodrow Wilson, b 1856, d 1924, term 1913-1921

Found four manifests.

September 1896 arrival

Woodrow Wilson, arrived: September 8, 1896 on the ship: Anchora from Glasgow

Age: 36, male, Occupation: College Professor

350	Woodrow Wilson	36	College Prof.
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That's the right occupation for Wilson in 1896, but his age is off by three years. This manifest is probably for the right Woodrow Wilson but I can't say with absolute certainty.

October 15, 1906 arrival

Dr. Woodrow Wilson, arrived October 15, 1906 on the ship Caledonia from Glasgow

Age: 49, male, married, US citizen

Traveling with Mrs 46, Mgt 20, JW 19, Eleanor 16

17	Dr Woodrow Wilson	49	M.	M.	Mar.	Citizen
18	Mrs.	46	F.	M.	Mar.	Citizen
19	Miss Mgt.	20	F.	S.	Mar.	Citizen
20	Miss J. W.	19	F.	S.	Mar.	Citizen
21	Miss Eleanor	16	F.	S.	Mar.	Citizen

Wilson indeed did have a daughter Margaret who would have been 20 at the time, a daughter Jessie who would have been 19, and a daughter Eleanor who would have been 16. His wife, Ellen, would have been 46 at the time.

Also Wilson had a PhD (he was the only US president to have a doctorate).

So all the details match and this is the right person.

September 1908 arrival

Wilson, Dr. Woodrow, arrived September 13, 1908 on the ship Caledonia from Glasgow

Age: 51, male, married, US citizen

19	Wilson	Dr. Woodrow	51	M.	M.	Mar.
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Right age, right title, definitely the right person.

March 1910 arrival

Woodrow Wilson, arrived: Mar 7, 1910 on the ship Bermudian from Hamilton Bermuda

Age: 53, male, married, Occupation: doctor

Able to read and write, US citizen

10	Wilson	Woodrow	53	M.	M.	Mar.	YES	YES	U. S.	CITIZEN
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It's comforting to know that Dr Wilson was able to read and write. What's interesting is that his occupation is listed as "doctor." A PhD would never list his occupation as such. This information was probably filled in by somebody who knew that his name was Dr. Wilson and therefore assumed that he was a medical doctor.

December 1912 arrival

In addition to the four arrivals for Wilson listed above, I accidentally came across the following manifest when I did a search without specifying his full first name. Instead I searched for first-name-starts-with Wood.

Woodrew Wilson, arrived: Dec 16, 1912 on the ship Bermudian from Hamilton Bermuda

Age: 54, male, married, born 1858 Staunton Virginia

Address in United States: Princeton NJ

Traveling with wife Eleanor, daughters Jessie and Eleanor

3	Wilson	Woodrew	54	Jan 1858	Staunton, Vir	Princeton N.J.
4	Wilson	Eleanor	57	Jan 1861	Rome, Geo.	Princeton N.J.
5	Wilson	Jessie	19	Jan 1893	Princeton, N.J.	Princeton N.J.
6	Wilson	Eleanor	12	Jan 1895	Lyles, Conn.	Princeton N.J.

Wilson's wife's name was Ellen and not Eleanor (Eleanor was his daughter). But this is close enough.

This illustrates an important point. When doing searches, enter as little information as possible. Even though you are sure of a specific detail, the detail could be wrong in the record. And in that case your search will fail. If you get too many hits, you can then repeat the search with more information.

11. Harding to Coolidge

Warren Gamaliel Harding, b 1865, d 1923, term 1921-1923

John Calvin Coolidge Jr, b 1872, d 1933, term 1923-1929

No manifests found.

12. Hoover

Hebert Clark Hoover, b 1874, d 1964, term 1929-1933

Found numerous manifests for him and I suspect all of them are for the correct person. Here are the manifests I found:

May 10, 1905 from Southampton, ship: Kaiser Wilhelm II

Jan 2, 1909 from Liverpool, ship: Lusitania

Sep 21, 1909 from Southampton, ship: Kaiser Wilhelm II

Mar 7, 1911 from Southampton, ship: Kronprinz Wilhelm

Aug 24, 1912 from Liverpool, ship: Lusitania

Apr 18, 1913 from Liverpool, ship: Mauretania

Dec 12, 1913 from Liverpool, ship: Mauretania

Oct 9, 1914 from Liverpool, ship: Lusitania

Oct 25, 1915 from Liverpool, ship: St Paul

Jan 22, 1917 from Liverpool, ship: Philadelphia

Aug 23, 1918 from United Kingdom, ship: Mauretania

Mar 29, 1938 from Plymouth, England, ship: Normandie

Jun 29, 1946 from Ottawa, aircraft: 74-51 US Army

Rather than showing all of them here, I'll show just the final one

June 1946 arrival

Herbert Hoover, arrived June 29, 1946 on US Army Aircraft from Ottawa
Age 72, US Citizen, b 1874 in Iowa

Customs Form 7507
TREASURY DEPARTMENT
67, C. R. 1943
June 1946

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
ENTRY DECLARATION OF AIRCRAFT COMMANDER (Entry Immigration and Customs)

458

Ottawa June 29 1946 Aircraft 745
(Place of last departure from port or place outside the United States) (Date of stop departure) (Identification marks)
Owned by U.S. Army address W.F. D.C. whereof Col H.T. Hughes is commander.
Arrived at airport of entry of on 1946

IMMIGRATION LISTS (See instructions on back hereof)
ALIENS EMPLOYED ON THE AIRCRAFT AT THE TIME OF ARRIVAL FROM OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES
(Except employees arriving at a land border airport from Canada or Mexico)

NAME IN FULL		AGE	SEX	COUNTRY		RACE	NUMBER OF ARMY'S CERTIFICATE, IF ANY	EMPLOYMENT		POSITION ON AIRCRAFT	Whether to be Discharged in U. S.	Whether Ever Ordered Deported From U. S.	If so, Whether Permission to Reapply Obtained
Family Name	Given Name			Of Which Citizen or Subject	Of Birth			Place	Date				
Hughes	Herbert	28	M					U.S. Army					
Hughes	Charles	20	M										
Hughes	Frank	24	M										
Hughes	Frank	27	M										
Holtzman - Charles 25 Politician Army 30													

PASSENGERS (ALIENS AND CITIZENS) EMBARKED AT New York ARRIVING ON THE AIRCRAFT
(Except passengers arriving at a land border airport from Canada or Mexico or arriving in travel between the mainland and Alaska)

NAME IN FULL		AGE	SEX	IF U. S. CITIZEN, DESTINATION IN U. S. (Permanent residence)	IF U. S. CITIZEN WITH U. S. PASSPORT STATE DATE AND NUMBER THEREOF, IF NO PASSPORT STATE:			IN CASE OF CITIZEN BY NATURALIZATION		
Family Name	Given Name				Date of	State	City or Town	Date of	Name of Court	Place
Hoover	Herbert	72	M	U.S.	1874	Iowa				
Hoover	Frank	20	M	U.S.	1893	Iowa				
Hoover	Frank	24	M	U.S.		Iowa				
Hoover	Frank	27	M	U.S.		Iowa				

What's interesting is that this is the first manifest found for a president who arrived by plane instead of ship. It doesn't mean that Hoover was the first president to fly in, but rather he was the lowest-numbered president (president number 31) to do so. Shortly we will see that Kennedy (president number 35) arrived by plane in 1939, making him the first president to do so.

13. F. Roosevelt

Franklin Delano Roosevelt, b 1882, d 1945, term 1933-1945

Found three manifests.

September 1896 arrival

Roosevelt, Franklin, arrived Sep 11, 1896 on the ship Furst Bismarck from Hamburg
Age: 14, male, Occupation: child, US citizen
Traveling with father James 58, mother 54

194	Roosevelt, James	58		U. S. C.
195		54	wife	"
196	Franklin	14	child	"

September 1905 arrival

Franklin Roosevelt

Arrived: September 19, 1905 on the ship Kronprinz Wilhelm from Southampton

Age: 25, last address New York, traveling with Eleanor Roosevelt

11	Franklin Roosevelt.	25	U. S. C.	New York
12	Eleanor Roosevelt.		U. S. C.	do.

May 1931 arrival

Franklin Roosevelt, arrived: May 27, 1931 on the ship Bremen from Cherbourg France

Age: 49, male, married, born Jan 30, 1882 in Hyde Park

Address in US: Albany, Traveling with son Elliot age 20

22	ROOSEVELT	Franklin D.	49	✓	M	M	1.30.82
23	ROOSEVELT	Elliot	20	✓	M	S	9.23.10

HYDE PARK N Y	ALBANY N Y
NEW YORK CITY	49 E 65 st NEW YORK CITY

14. Truman

Harry S Truman, b 1884, d 1972, term 1945-1953

No manifests were found when searching with a birth year. But when I tried searching without a birth year (hoping there wouldn't be too many Harry Trumans), I found the following manifest.

Truman, Harry, arrived Jul 3, 1956 on the ship United States from Southampton, 1st class

Passport 7605, born in MO, address: 219 N Delaware, Indendence MO

Traveling with Bess

FORM 1-416
TREASURY DEPARTMENT
UNITED STATES CUSTOMS SERVICE

Form Approved,
Budget Bureau No. 43-R0613.

LIST No. 13

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE
(Rev. 12-24-52)

LIST OF IN-BOUND PASSENGERS
(United States Citizens and Nationals)

Typed by: W.B. Perkins JAP Class F I R S T from SOUTHAMPTON, ENGLAND 28 JUNE 1956
(Port of embarkation)

on S. S. UNITED STATES arriving at port of NEW YORK, N.Y. 3 JULY 1956
(Name of vessel)

11	TRUMAN, Harry 219 N. Delaware, Independence, Mo.	7605	10
12	TRUMAN, Bess	7605	-
	-do-	Mo.	

15. Eisenhower

David Dwight Eisenhower, b 1890, d 1969, term 1953-1961

Found two manifests.

September 1924 arrival

Maj. Dwight D Eisenhower

Arrived: September 27, 1924 on the ship: Cristobal from Canal Zone

Age: 34, male, married, born Tyler Texas Oct 14, 1890

Traveling with Mamie (27) and John (2)

2	Eisenhower, Maj. Dwight D	34	M	M	Tyler, Texas. Oct 14 1890	c/o Adj. General USA Wash DC
3	Eisenhower, Mrs Mamie	27	F	M	Boone Iowa Nov 14 1896	750 Lafayette St Denver Col.
4	Eisenhower John Sheldon	2	M	S	Hennen Col. Aug 3 1922	-----

What was Eisenhower doing in the Canal Zone in 1924? Here is a citation from the Eisenhower chronology at archives.gov.

January 1922–September 1924: Assigned as executive officer to General Fox Conner, Camp Gaillard, Panama Canal Zone.

September 1929 arrival

Dwight D Eisenhower

Arrived: September 23, 1929 on the ship Leviathan from Cherbourg France

Age: 38, male, married, born Oct 14, 1890 Tyler Texas

Traveling with Mamie (32) and son John (6)

14	EISENHOWER	Dwight D	38	M	M	Oct 14 1890 Tyler Texas	Room 274 State War & Navy Bldg
15	EISENHOWER	Mamie D	32	F	M	Nov 14 1896 Boone Iowa	do
16	EISENHOWER	John S D	6	M	S	Aug 3 1923 Denver Colo	do

And the archives.gov Eisenhower chronology tells us what Eisenhower was doing in France in 1929

July 1928-September 1929: In charge of guidebook revision and European office, Paris, France.

Since the name is not a common one, I tried searching with the name only (not the year of birth) and found one more record. This record doesn't have his age, so a search using year of birth will not find this record.

November 1951 arrival

G/A Dwight D Eisenhower

Arrived: November 3, 1951 on the aircraft Constellation 48614 from Orly, France

Traveling with Mamie (53)

U. S. ARMED FORCES PASSENGERS NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER	DESTINATION AIRPORT	STOWED BAGGAGE		PASSENGER WEIGHT PLUS CABIN BAGGAGE	BAGGAGE CHECK NOS.	PRIORITY IDENTIFICATION
U. S. CIVILIANS AND FOREIGN NATIONALS NAME, TITLE, NATIONALITY, AGE, SEX, PASSPORT NO.		PIECES	WEIGHT			
COL. 1	COL. 2	COL. 3	COL. 4	COL. 5	COL. 6	COL. 7
DR. 4444 0-3422 S/A DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER	18A	-	-	250	NONE	5A
DR. 4444 0-3422 S/A DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER	18A	-	-	250	NONE	5A
U.S. AIR FORCE SR 25370						181

16. Kennedy

John Fitzgerald Kennedy, b 1917, d 1963, term 1961-1963

I searched for John Kennedy, b 1917 ± 0, obtained 26 hits (John Kennedy is a common name)
 Eliminated wrong initial, wrong nationality
 Eliminated ship General Alexander M Patch since this passenger is a seaman and not him
 Manually eliminated a few others
 Left with 6 manifests, all of them his.

October 1935 arrival

John Kennedy, arrived: October 24, 1935 on the ship Bremen from Cherbourg France
 Age: 18, male, single, born May 29, 1917 in Brookline MA
 Address in US: 294 Pondfield Rd, Bronxville, NY

28	KENNEDY	JOHN	18	X	M	S	5.29.17,	BROOKLINE, MASS.	294 PONDFIELD RD. BRONXVILLE, N.Y.
----	---------	------	----	---	---	---	----------	------------------	---------------------------------------

That's Kennedy's birth date so this manifest is for the right person.

September 1938 arrival

John F. Kennedy, arrived September 8, 1938 on the ship Bremen from Southampton
 Age: 21, male, single, born May 29, 1917 in New York City (*should be Brookline*)
 Address in US: 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York City

28	KENNEDY	JOHN F.	21	X	M	S	MAY 29th 1917	NEW YORK CITY NY.	<i>Deputy</i>
CITY 30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA NEW YORK									

Again the birth date confirms that this is the right person.

September 1939 arrival

John F Kennedy
 Arrived: September 21, 1939 on aircraft Pan Am Dixie Clipper from Foynes (Ireland)
 Age: 22, male, single, address: 299 Pondfield Rd, Bronxville NY

Pan American Airways System				Atlantic Division		Date <u>Sept. 21</u> 1939 ✓				
				From Various <u>see below</u>		To <u>Port Washington,</u>				
				Trip No. # <u>22 N</u>		Aircraft <u>NC 18605</u> <u>Pipe Clapper</u>				
No.	NAME	ADDRESS	RESIDENTIAL Address	Sex	S or M	No. Bags	Age	U. S. Pass- port No.	Place of Embarkation	
U. S. Citizens										
11	<u>John F. Kennedy</u> ✓	<u>279 Pondfield Rd.</u>	<u>Bronxville, N.Y.</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>1876</u>	<u>Forbes</u> ✓	

There is no birth date to confirm this record, but there is an address on Pondfield Rd. That same address was on a previous manifest, so this is the right person.

Kennedy was the first president to arrive by aircraft

July 1941 arrival

John Kennedy, arrived: July 1, 1941 on the ship Santa Lucia from Valparaiso, Chile
 Age: 24, male, single, born May 27, 1917, Boston MA (*should be May 29*)
 Address in US: Palm Beach, Florida

6	KENNEDY	JOHN	24	M	S	MAY 27, 1917	BOSTON, MASS.	PALM BEACH, FLORIDA
---	---------	------	----	---	---	--------------	---------------	---------------------

October 1947 arrival

John F. Kennedy
 Arrived: October 16, 1947 on the ship Queen Elizabeth from Southampton
 Age: 29, male, single, born May 29, 1917, passport 2866
 Address in US: Hotel Bellevue, Boston

29	KENNEDY	JOHN F.	30	M	S	BROOKLINE, MASS.
		29 May, 1917.	P.P. 2866.			Hotel Bellevue, Boston.

October 1948 arrival

John Kennedy
 Arrived October 9, 1948 on the aircraft NC90922 from Bovingdon, England
 Age: 31, male, passport 2866, born in Brookline Mass, Occupation: Congressman
 Address in US: 122 Bowden St, Boston Mass

TRIP NO:	151/08	CARRIER:	AMERICAN OVERSEAS AIRLINES	DATE:	8th October, 1948
PLANE NO:	NC 90922	ORIGINATED AT:	BOVINGTON, ENGLAND.		
FLIGHT NO:		DESTINED TO:	NEW YORK, N.Y., US A	PAGE	2 OF 2 PAGES
EMBARKING AT:	Borington, England.	DATE:	8th October, 1948		
DESTINED TO:	New York, N.Y., USA.				

NAME IN FULL FAMILY NAME — GIVEN NAME FULL PERMANENT ADDRESS	TICKET NO.	AGE	SEX	REL	NAT. IDENTITY PASSPORT NO. & DATE IF NO PASSPORT SEE NOTE 2	OCCUPATION SEE NOTE 2	NO. BAGS	BAG WGT.
KENNEDY, John. 122 Bowden St., Boston, Mass., USA.	191/59046	31	M		USPP 2505 Brookline, Mass.	Congressman U.S.C. 72		

There is no smoking gun to confirm that this is the right person. So I confirmed it by looking at bostoncurbed.com regarding JFK -- they report that "122 Bowdoin St served as Kennedy's headquarters for his 1945 congressional run and remained his address for the rest of his life." Note that Bowdoin became Bowden on the manifest.

17. Johnson

Lyndon Baines Johnson, b 1908, d 1973, term 1963-1969

No manifests found.

18. Nixon

Richard Milhous Nixon, b 1913, d 1994, term 1969-1974

Found two manifests.

May 1947 arrival

Nixon, Richard, arrived: May 6, 1947 on the aircraft: 21751 from Montreal
 Age: 34, male, married, US citizen, born 1/9/1913 in Yorba Linda Cal
 Address in US: 528 House Office Building, Wash

1-467 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE Immigration and Naturalization Service 11-18-45		AIR PASSENGER MANIFEST	
Carrier: COLONIAL AIRLINES, INC.			
Trip No. 17	Originated at Montreal		
Plane No. 21751	Destined to New York	Date 5-6-47	
Passengers Embarking at Montreal		Date 5-6-47	
Passengers Destined to New York			

NAME IN FULL Family Name — Given Name Full Permanent Address	Ticket No.	Age	Sex	M. S.	Nationality Passport No. & Date If no passport See Note 1	Occupation See Note 2	226
NIXON RICHARD 6. 528. HOUSE OFFICE BLDG. WASH.		34	M	M	USA U.S. CH	1-9-13	YORBA LINDA CAL.

October 1947 arrival

Nixon, Richard M, arrived: October 9, 1947 on the ship Queen Mary from Southampton
Age: 34, male, married, US citizen, born 1/9/1913 Yorba Linda Cal
Address in US: 528 House Office Building, Washington DC

NIXON	RICHARD M.	34	M	M	Yorba, Linda, Cala.	Jan. 9, 1913	528, House Office Bldgs. Washington D.C.
-------	------------	----	---	---	---------------------	--------------	---

The next two manifests were found by searching for Richard Nixon with no date of birth

May 1951 arrival

Nixon, Richard, arrived May 21, 1951 on TWA flt 961 from London
address in US: 3??? G... Rd, Alexandria, Virginia, US Citizen
Special Passport 31761 California

PASSENGER MANIFEST			
TRANS WORLD AIRLINES, INC.			
OWNER OR OPERATOR			
AIRCRAFT	<u>N.6010-0</u>	FLIGHT NO.	<u>961/20</u>
REGISTRATION - MARK AND NATIONALITY		DATE	<u>May 20th 1951</u>
POINT OF EMBARKATION	<u>LONDON ENGLAND</u>	POINT OF DISEMBARKATION	<u>NEW YORK U.S.A.</u>

NIXON Richard	U.S. 31761(Special)
3334 GUNSTON Rd, Alexandria, Virginia	U.S. CIT. CALIFORNIA

We need to determine if this is the right Richard Nixon.

I used google to search for "Richard Nixon" Alexandria Virginia. That led to a page at loalkicks.com that said:
"Nicknamed the "cradle of presidents," Parkfairfax was home to Gerald Ford (resided there 1951-1955) and Richard Nixon (resided there 1943-1944 and 1947-1951) while both men served in Congress."

Next I used google to search for Nixon Parkfairfax. That lead to bigwigdigs.com which said: "Nixon lived in this townhouse, located at 3538 Gunston Road in Alexandria, Virginia, while serving as a US senator."

That matches the unreadable address, and now we know that this is the right person.

August 1956 arrival

Richard Nixon, arrived: August 28, 1956 on Lufthansa flt 402 from Hamburg
No other information given, impossible to tell if this is the correct Richard Nixon.

Passenger Manifest			
Owner or Operator: DEUTSCHE LUFTHANSA AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT			
Aircraft	<u>D. A L E C</u>	Flight No.	<u>LH 402/27</u>
(Registration Marks and Nationality)		Date	<u>AUG 27/56</u>
Point of Embarkation	<u>HAMBURG/GERMANY</u>	Point of Disembarkation	<u>NEW YORK/N.Y./U.S.A.</u>
(Place and Country)		(Place and Country)	

NIXON, Richard

19. Ford

Gerald Rudolph Ford Jr, b 1913, d 2006, term 1974-1977

Searched for Gerald Ford, born 1913 and didn't find any. Then I searched without the birth year and found 26. Was able to rule out all but one. The one remaining manifest is as follows:

Gerald R Ford, arrived Aug 18, 1955 aboard KLM flt 631 from Amsterdam.

Gerald R Ford, arrived Aug 18, 1955 aboard KLM flt 631 from Amsterdam

PASSENGER MANIFEST (ICAO ANNEX 9 APPENDIX 2)	
OWNER OR OPERATOR:	K.L.M.
FLIGHT No:	631
AIRCRAFT:	PII - 12A
DATE:	Aug 17th 1955
POINT OF EMBARKATION:	Amsterdam
POINT OF DISEMBARKATION:	New York

FORD Gerald R.

There was no other information on the manifest. The middle initial is correct, but I am unable to determine if this is the right Gerald R Ford.

20. Carter

James Earl Carter Jr, b 1924, term 1977-1981

February 1954 arrival

James E Carter, arrived February 12, 1954 aboard the ship McGraw
Age 24, US citizen, member of crew (wiper)

389 WIPER
25043 CARTER JAMES E USA 1018404 1002 24

It's unlikely that a president was a member of the crew, so this is probably the wrong record

March 1954 arrival

James E Carter, arrived March 18, 1954 aboard the ship McGraw
Age 24, US citizen, member of crew (wiper)

389 WIPER
25643 CARTER JAMES E USA 1018404 1002 24

Same person as in previous record, so again it must be the wrong record. But after careful scrutiny I realized that the cryptic numbers on the right, ending in 1002 24 were the date of birth (10/02/24). Indeed Jimmy Carter was born October 1, 1924. That's close enough, and these two records are for the correct person.

Furthermore, from biography.com I found "The navy assigned Jimmy Carter to work on a submarine. Carter was an electronics officer."

June 1948 arrival

James E Carter, arrived June 20, 1948 on the ship President Tyler from Cadiz Spain
Age 25, US citizen, member of crew (OS), 5'7", 145 pounds

19	No	Carter	James E.	08	25	American	USA	5/7	145
----	----	--------	----------	----	----	----------	-----	-----	-----

President Carter's height and weight are 5'9", 160 pounds and his middle name is Earl. And we already know that he worked as a crew member on ships. So everything matches and this record is appears to be correct.

October 1947 arrival

James Carter Jr., arrived October 26, 1947 on the ship Jackson from Port Alfred Quebec
Age 23, US citizen, member of crew (cook), 5'8", 145 pounds, **colored**

29	No	Scott	William M.	20 yrs.	Steward	8-16-47	46	"	Colored	"	5'11"	195
30	No	Carter	James, Jr.	3 yrs.	Ch. Cook	8-16-47	23	"	"	"	5'8"	145

Except for the "colored," everything looked good, including the Jr. But we now have to reject this record based on the race. And from the height and weight, this is obviously the same person as on the October 1948 arrival. So we have to reject that one too.

But too many things do match for us to so flippantly reject it -- the middle initial, the Jr., the member of crew, the age, the height and weight. So it is possible that the race entry on the manifest was in error. After all, "colored" was not written on Carter's line but rather on the line above his, and he had a ditto mark in the race column. Based on this argument, the above two arrivals are most likely for the right Jimmy Carter.

21 Reagan

Ronald Wilson Reagan, b 1911, d 2004, term 1981-1989

No manifests found.

22. Bush

George Herbert Walker Bush, b 1924, term 1989-1993

Found the following manifest:

George H Bush

Arrived March 27, 1937 on the ship Queen of Bermuda from Hamilton Bermuda

Age: 12, male, single, b 1925 in Milton Mass

Traveling with Prescott & Dorothy, US address Grove Lane, Greenwich Conn

19	Bush	Prescott	41	m	m	1896	Columbus, Ohio	Grove Lane, Greenwich, Conn.
20	Bush	Dorothy	35	f	m	1902	Kennebunkport, Me.	Grove Lane, Greenwich, Conn.
21	Bush Jr.	Prescott	14	m	s	1923	Kennebunkport, Me.	Grove Lane, Greenwich, Conn.
22	Bush	George H.	12	m	s	1925	Milton, Mass.	Grove Lane, Greenwich, Conn.

This manifest has the correct parents (Prescott and Dorothy) and the right birthplace (Milton Mass). The birth year is off by one (the president was born in 1924, not 1925) but we can ignore that slight error.

23 Clinton to Trump

William Jefferson Clinton, b 1946, term 1993-2001

George Walker Bush Jr, b 1946, term 2000-2009

Donald John Trump, b 1946, term 2017-

No manifests found.

Barack Hussein Obama Jr, b 1961, term 2009-2017

Obama was born after 1957, so he's too young to be found on a manifest.

D. PRESIDENTS IN THE CENSUS

Every ten years, starting with 1790, the census takers go out in force and collect data on every person living in the United States. And that includes sitting presidents as well as former presidents. Unlike manifest records, the census records for sitting presidents are public information and can be found by doing the same sort of census searches that are used to find ordinary residents.

But before we begin our search for presidential census records, we need to know which census years to look at for each president. The charts in Figures 4 through 6 show which census years are spanned by the life of each president. A checkmark indicates that a president was alive in a particular census year. And if the president was the sitting president in that year, the checkmark is enclosed in a box.

Note that the charts end with 1940. That's because the censuses post 1940 are still sealed, and will remain sealed until 72 years has passed from the time the particular census was taken. So Clinton, Bush-43, Obama, and Trump are all too young to appear in any unsealed census. Three of them will first appear in the 1950 census, but Obama will have to wait for the 1970 census (to be unsealed in 2042).

	1790	1800	1810	1820	1830	1840	1850	1860	1870	1880	1890	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940
Donald John Trump 6/14/1946																
Barack Hussein Obama Jr 8/14/1961																
George Walker Bush 7/6/1946																
William Jefferson Clinton 8/19/1946																
George Herbert Walker Bush 6/12/1924															✓	✓
Ronald Reagan 2/6/1911 6/5/2004													✓	✓	✓	
James Earl Carter Jr 10/1/1924															✓	✓
Gerald Rudolph Ford Jr 7/14/1913 12/26/2006													✓	✓	✓	
Richard Milhous Nixon 1/9/1913 4/22/1994													✓	✓	✓	
Lyndon Baines Johnson 8/27/1908 1/22/1973												✓	✓	✓	✓	
John Fitzgerald Kennedy 5/29/1917 11/22/1963													✓	✓	✓	
David Dwight Eisenhower 10/14/1890 3/28/1969												✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Harry S Truman 5/8/1884 12/26/1972											✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Franklin Delano Roosevelt 1/30/1882 4/12/1945											✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	☑
Herbert Clark Hoover 8/10/1874 10/20/1964										✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	☑	✓

Figure 4: President timelines, Trump to Hoover

	1790	1800	1810	1820	1830	1840	1850	1860	1870	1880	1890	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940
John Calvin Coolidge Jr 7/4/1872 1/5/1933										✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Warren Gamaliel Harding 11/2/1865 8/2/1923									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓✓		
Thomas Woodrow Wilson 12/28/1856 2/3/1924								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	☑		
William Howard Taft 9/15/1857 3/8/1930								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	☑	✓		
Theodore Roosevelt Jr 10/27/1858 1/6/1919								✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓			
William McKinley Jr 1/29/1843 9/14/1901							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	☑✓				
Benjamin Harrison 8/20/1833 3/13/1901					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	☑	✓				
Stephen Grover Cleveland 3/18/1837 6/24/1908						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Chester Alan Arthur 10/5/1829 11/18/1886					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
James Abram Garfield 11/19/1831 9/19/1881						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓✓						
Rutherford Birchard Hayes Jr 10/4/1822 1/17/1893					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	☑✓	✓					
Hiram Ulysses Grant 4/27/1822 7/23/1885					✓	✓	✓	✓	☑	✓						
Andrew Johnson 12/29/1808 7/1/1875			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
Abraham Lincoln 2/12/1809 4/15/1865			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								
James Buchanan 4/23/1791 6/1/1868		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	☑✓								

Figure 5: President timelines, Coolidge to Buchanan

	1790	1800	1810	1820	1830	1840	1850	1860	1870	1880	1890	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940
Franklin Pierce 11/23/1804 10/8/1869			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								
Millard Fillmore 1/7/1800 3/8/1874		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
Zachary Taylor 11/24/1784 7/9/1850	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	☑									
James Knox Polk 11/2/1795 6/15/1849		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓										
John Tyler 3/29/1790 1/18/1862	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								
William Henry Harrison 2/9/1773 4/4/1841	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓										
Martin Van Buren 12/5/1782 7/24/1862	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	☑	✓	✓								
Andrew Jackson 3/15/1767 6/8/1845	✓	✓	✓	✓	☑	✓										
John Quincy Adams 7/11/1767 2/23/1848	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓										
James Monroe 4/28/1758 7/4/1831	✓	✓	✓	☑	✓											
James Madison 3/16/1751 6/28/1836	✓	✓	☑	✓	✓											
Thomas Jefferson 4/13/1743 7/4/1826	✓	✓	✓	✓												
John Adams 10/19/1735 7/4/1826	✓	☑	✓	✓												
George Washington 2/22/1732 12/14/1799	☑															

Figure 6: President timelines, Pierce to Washington

I initially thought I would search for each record but then discovered that the folks at NARA had already done this work. And the census records that they found are shown on their site at <https://www.archives.gov/research/census/presidents>. It's interesting to note that they actually have more records than I would have been able to find if I had done the work myself. In particular, they have the Washington DC census page for sitting president James Buchanan in the 1860 census. When I tried to find that same page using a popular commercial website (ancestry.com), I arrived at an index page that said "No image available." I don't know why the commercial website has a problem finding that particular image. The NARA researchers obviously didn't use the commercial website and there was no reason for them to do so -- they have the source material from which all the other websites generated their online digital images.

Just because a president was alive in a census year doesn't mean that his census record is findable. I noticed that the NARA website is missing some of the presidents in some of the census years. And I tried doing my own search for a few of the missing ones, and was unable to find any of them. The records that they were able to find are shown in green on my charts. The missing ones are mainly in the earlier years. Note that the 1790 census record for George Washington is missing, and that's unfortunate because it was the only census that he could have been in (he died in 1799). With the exception of Rutherford Hayes, no president was found in the 1890 census -- the bulk of that census was destroyed as a result of a fire in 1921. And the document found for Hayes was not in the Population Schedule (the "normal" census pages) but rather in the Veterans Schedule.

Note that some boxes in my charts have two checkmarks. The indicates that the president was enumerated twice that year. No person is supposed to be counted more than once because that will affect the accuracy of the total count. If a person has two residences, he is supposed to be enumerated at only one of them. But mistakes did happen and some people (presidents among them) were over-counted.

E. INTERESTING RESPONSES FROM SITTING PRESIDENTS

It would be too time consuming (and too uninteresting) to look at the responses of each president in each census year. So instead I'll focus just on the sitting presidents. Here is a synopsis of some of the more interesting responses from the commanders-in-chief.

- All were able to read and write, and all could speak English

It's certainly comforting to know that.

- 1940 Roosevelt was employed for pay, had an income of over \$50,000, and worked all 52 weeks in the preceding year.
- 1940 Roosevelt lived in the "same house" in 1935.

This question was asked so the census bureau could get a handle on the migratory patterns of Americans during the great depression. If a person lived in the same residence in 1935 and 1940, the response would be "same house." In this case the answer takes on an added meaning since "house" refers to White House.

- 1930 Hoover lived on "White House" street and no house number.

The left margin is supposed to contain the name of the street (Pennsylvania Ave.) and the first column the house number (1600). But when the census taker came to Hoover's residence, he decided that this was not 1600 Pennsylvania but rather was the White House, and he entered it as such.

- 1930 Hoover household had a page to themselves.

The census taker is supposed to keep adding people to a census page until the page is filled up. He wasn't supposed to start a new page when he came to a new household, even if it means splitting a family over two pages. But the 1930 census taker apparently felt that the residents at the White House were too important to be mingled with other households. None of the other census takers in the other census years gave the president this special treatment.

- 1930 Hoover had a radio.

We can speculate that he used it to follow the stock market crash during the great depression.

- 1930 Hoover and 1920 Wilson listed their occupation as president and industry as United States.

That's certainly an odd response for industry, but let's think about it. The census taker probably didn't ask formal questions like "what is your occupation" and "what is your industry" because that might confuse some people. So instead he probably said something like "what do you do and where do you do it." Now the response makes more sense.

- 1930 Hoover didn't know if he "owned" or "rented" the White House.

The question was whether you owned or rented your residence and the expected answers are O or R. For Hoover, the response was UNK.

- 1920 Wilson and 1910 Taft thought they "rented" the White House.
- 1900 McKinley punted on the owned/rented questions and answered with "Presidential Mansion."
- 1900 McKinley, 1880 Hayes, and 1860 Buchanan were enumerated twice.

Each was enumerated once in Washington DC and once at their residence in their home state.

- 1900 McKinley, when enumerated in DC his occupation was "lawyer" and when enumerated in Ohio his occupation was "President of United States."

If you are going to be enumerated twice, you should at least give consistent answers.

- 1900 McKinley, when enumerated in DC his wife never had any children and when enumerated in Ohio she had two children who were deceased. The Ohio response was the correct one.
- 1860 Buchanan, when enumerated in DC his age was 67 and when enumerated in Pennsylvania his age was 68. The correct answer was 69.
- 1880 Hayes was not sick or maimed.
- 1880 Hayes, 1870 Grant, 1860 Buchanan, and 1850 Taylor were not deaf, dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic.

Yes, they really were asked those questions.

- 1860 Buchanan and 1850 Taylor were not paupers or convicts.
- 1840 Van Buren, 1830 Jackson, 1820 Monroe, and 1800 Adams supplied no information other than numbers of people in various age groups in their households, because that's all that was asked in those census years. Adams did add the fact that he was the president.
- 1810 Madison and 1790 Washington: no census records were found.

So why was Washington missing in the 1790 census -- the only census that he could have been in? After all, it was Washington who presided as president when the census act was passed in March 1790. There are several George Washington's in that first census, but with the limited information given it's hard to know if any of them are the right person. The one piece of information that is given is the city and state of residence. So we need to know exactly where Washington was living on census day, August 2, in 1790. We know that he wasn't living in the White House because that wasn't ready for occupancy until November 1800, just in time for the second president. In fact, Washington was the only president who didn't live in the White House. When Washington became president, he took up residence in Philadelphia, the nation's temporary capital. But he didn't move to Philadelphia until November 27, 1790, which was almost four months after census day. Prior to that he was probably still living in his family residence in Mount Vernon Virginia. But, unfortunately, the original census returns for Virginia in 1790 were destroyed when the British occupied Washington DC in 1814.

Similarly, the original 1810 census records for the District of Columbia were lost or destroyed over the years. That explains why we are unable to find James Madison in the 1810 census.

F. CONCLUSION

Presidents are no different than ordinary people in that they are listed on ship or flight manifests and they are enumerated in the census. Finding presidents in these documents is a good exercise for finding our ancestors -- they both utilize the same techniques. These presidential searches can give us ideas of things to try when searching for our ancestors.

Of course I'd be remiss if I didn't tell you which websites I used to do the presidential searches. For the most part I used the search tools on my own One-Step website, <http://stevemorse.org>. Many of my tools fetch data from other sites (ancestry, com, ellisland.org, etc.), but do so in more versatile ways than the search tools provided by those websites.