

The Dynamics of the Finnish Migration to America and the Development of Emigration Databases

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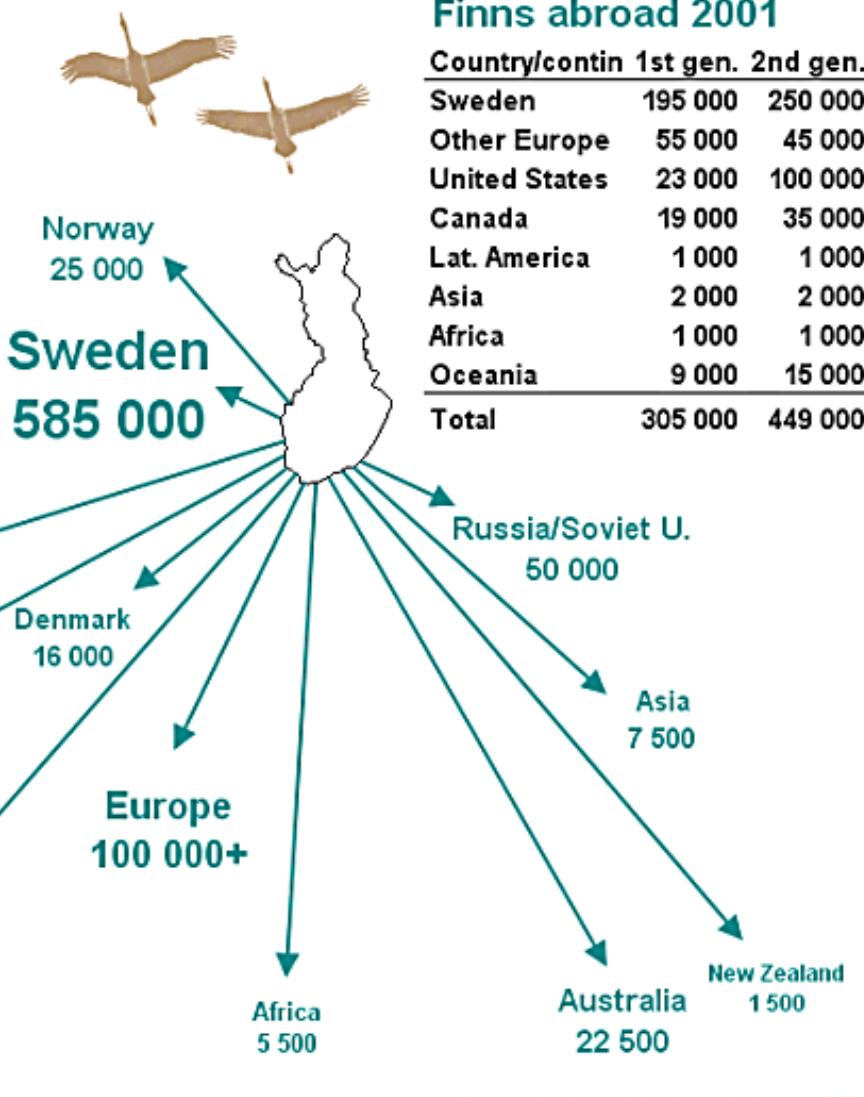
FinnFest 2011, August 10-14, 2011, San Diego, California, USA

- Finland has traditionally been a country of emigration, but nowadays the country has positive international migration balance. During the past one hundred years over 1 million people have moved to other countries. Depending on the time and country, 20-40 % of the emigrants returned to Finland. Without any emigration there would be 6-7 million inhabitants in Finland (now 5.3 million).

Emigration from Finland 1860-2001 and Finns abroad 2001

Emigration 1860-2001

| Destination | 1860-1944 | 1945-01 |
|---------------|-----------|---------|
| Sweden | (45 000) | 540 000 |
| Other Europe | (55 000) | 135 000 |
| United States | 300 000 | 19 000 |
| Canada | 70 000 | 23 500 |
| Lat. America | 1 000 | 5 500 |
| Asia | 500 | 7 000 |
| Africa | 1 000 | 4 500 |
| Oceania | 3 500 | 20 500 |
| Total | 476 000 | 755 000 |



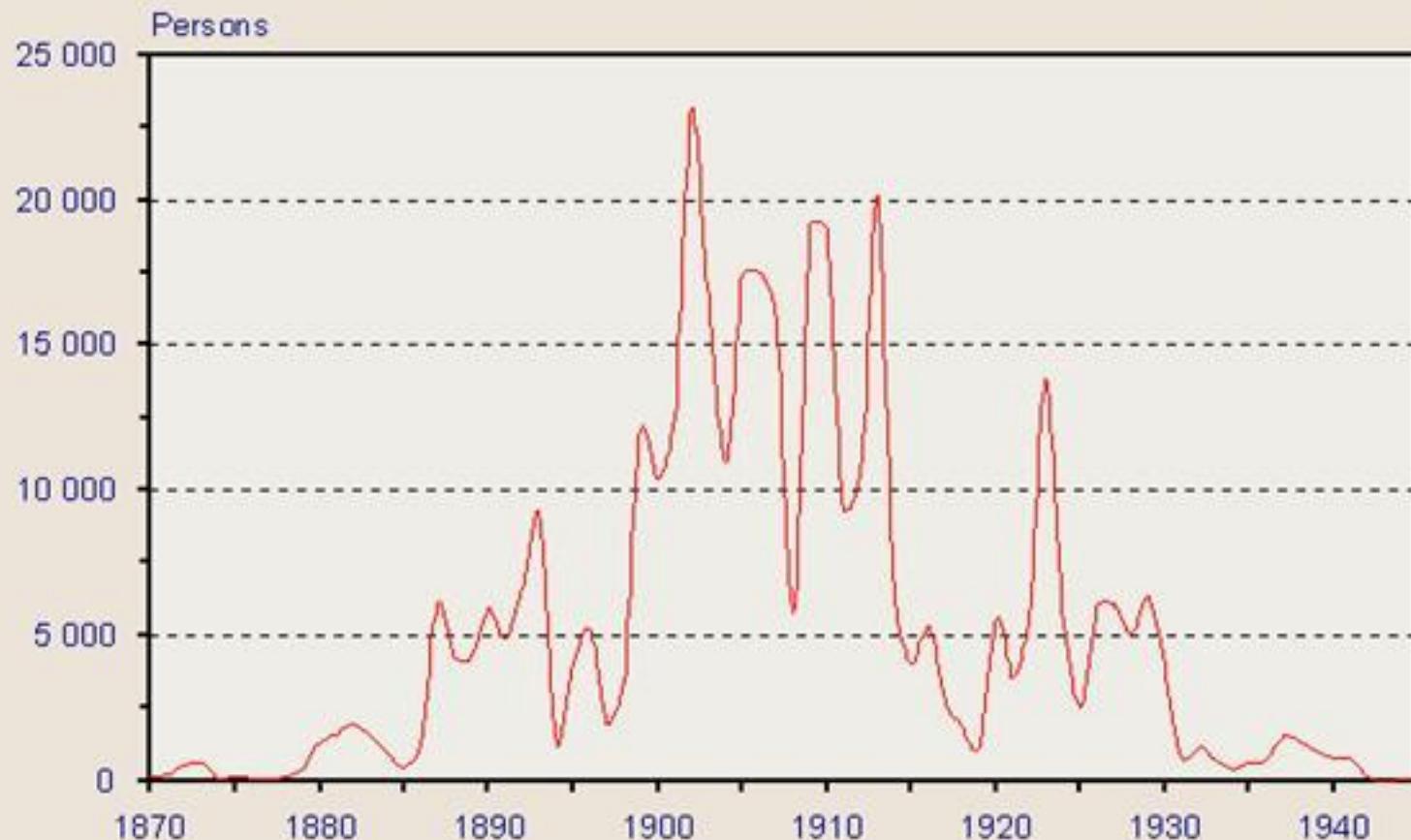
The Extent of Finnish Migration to America

- The first Finns and Swedes came to America in the 1600s when Finland was still a province of the Swedish Empire. The first Swedish expedition landed at the mouth of the Delaware River in 1638, in 1640 a few Finns arrived. About 500-600 Finns moved to New Sweden, Delaware's Swedish colony. Some came from the Finnish forest areas of Sweden and some came from Vaasa and Korsholm in Ostrobothnia. In the beginning of the 19th century a few hundred moved to Alaska.
- European emigration to America has been divided, mainly on the basis of the emigrants' land of departure and of the timing of the emigration, into old and new. Finland is usually considered to be one of the new immigration countries. This new immigration didn't occur in force until the end of the 19th century.
- Emigration from Norway started already in the 1820s, Sweden got along strongly in the 1840s and Finland 20-30 years after Sweden (Kero 1996: 55).

- The lure of migration to America spread to Finland partly from northern Norway, partly from Sweden, and partly by means of Finnish sailors who had begun migrating to California at the time of the Gold Rush or shortly thereafter.
- During the period of 1870-1929 around 350 000 persons emigrated to the countries across the sea and the largest emigration was during the period 1899-1913 with over 20 000 emigrants during the peak years. Emigration decreased after 1923, when authorities started to regulate immigration. About 38 million people emigrated from Europe to the United States during the years 1821-1929 (Kero 1974: 16; Kero 1996: 54-56).

Transatlantic emigration from Finland 1870-1945

Emigration 1870–1945 (transatlantic)

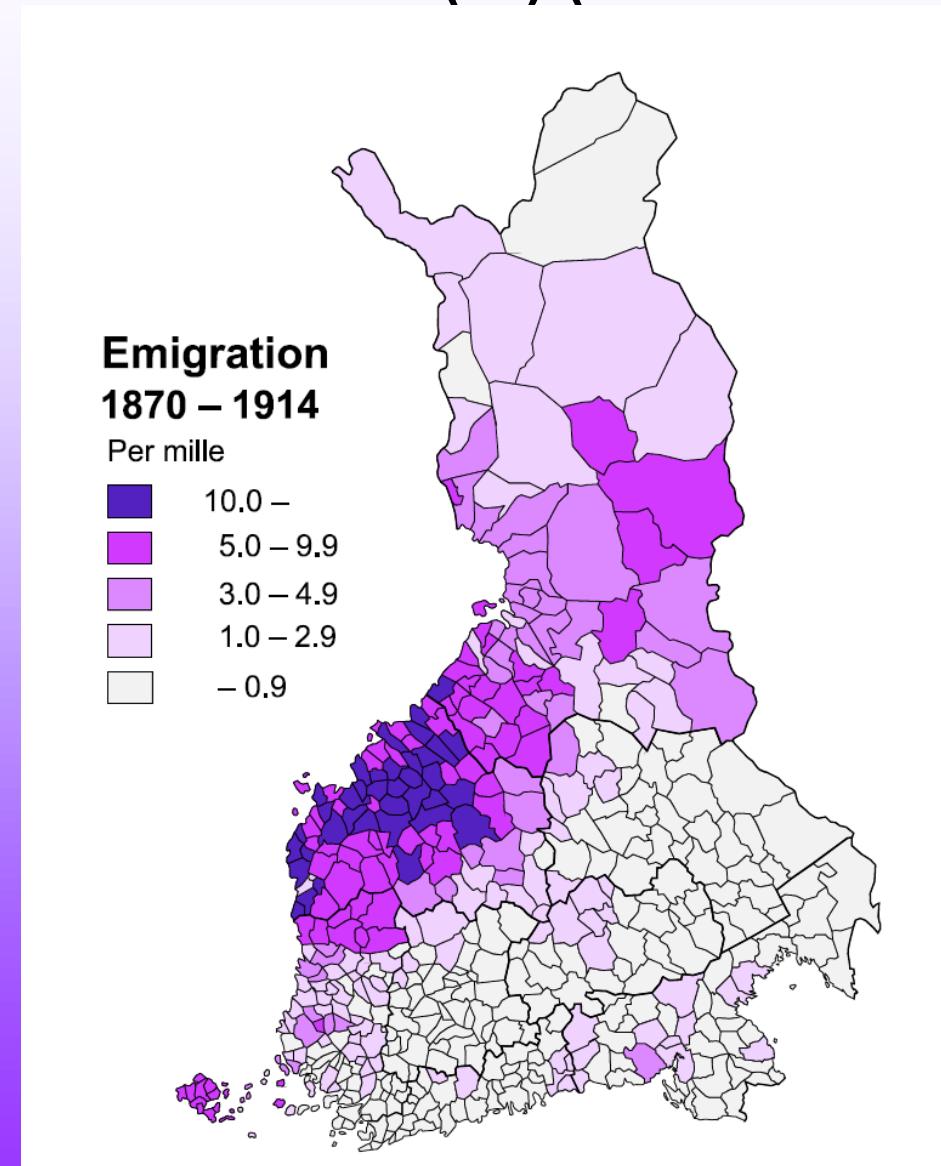


Source: Passport records (Statistics Finland)

Figure: Jouni Korkiasaari (Institute of Migration)

- The emigration to North America has been characterized as an Ostrobothnian phenomenon – e.g. during the period 1870-1914 52 per cent of the emigrants came from Vaasa province and a third from Southern Ostrobothnia. Other remarkable provinces have been Oulu (15.8 %), Turku-Pori (14.5 %) and Viipuri (5 %) (Kero 1996: 56, 58).

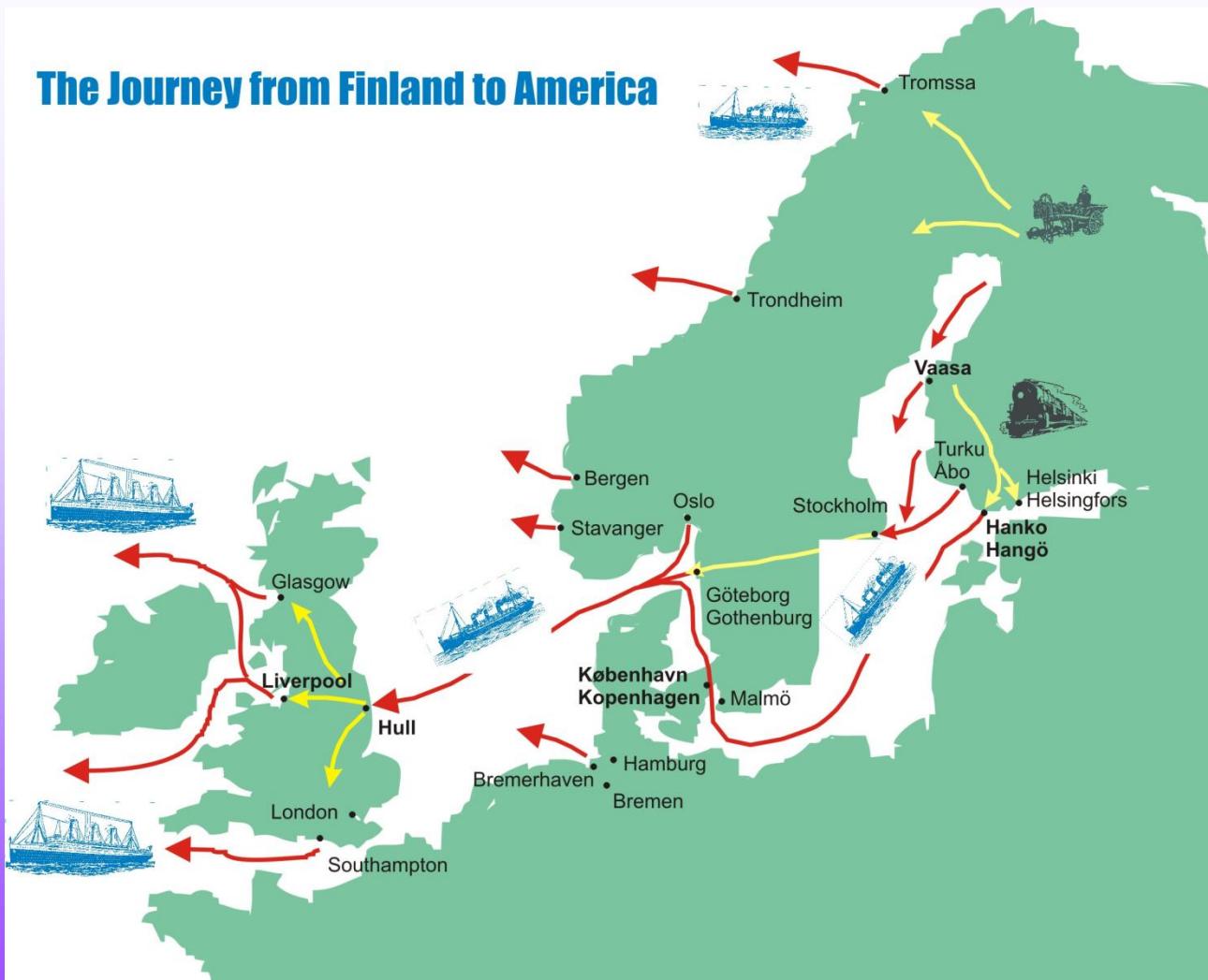
The volume of emigration from Finland by municipality, 1870-1914 (%) (Kero 1974: 51)



The Journey from Finland to America

- Two-thirds of the emigrants had to borrow ticket money from Finland or from someone who had emigrated before them. If they couldn't scrape up the money, they couldn't emigrate.
- Once they had the money, it was necessary to get a passport. They needed a church-issued birth certificate and a certificate of non-objection from the police authority.
- After 1903 men of conscription age had to submit proof of military service. When they had the required documents they went to the port of departure.
- Some steamship companies checked the health of the passengers because the United States refused to admit sick immigrants, and the ship companies had to return them to their home country at no charge. Four percent were rejected at point of departure.

The Journey from Finland to America



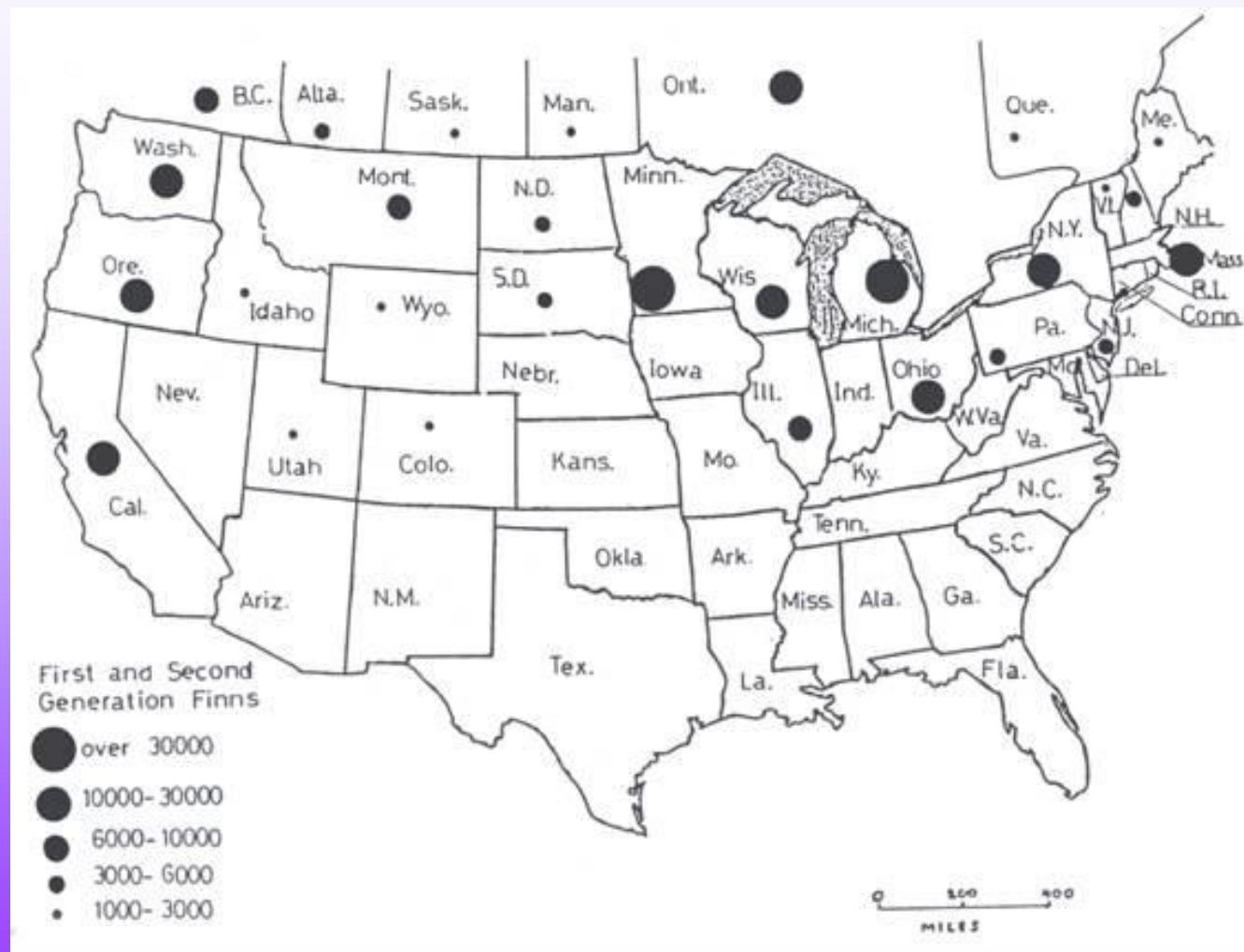
- The travel route changed substantially at the end of the 1880s when the German shipbrokers Norddeutscher Loyd and HAPAG started transportation from Hanko, the southernmost harbor in Finland, to Stockholm, Copenhagen and Lübeck and further to Hull in England. In the autumn of 1891 the Finnish Steamship Company started regular traffic between Hanko and Hull.
- One of the most long-lived passenger steamers at the Hanko-Copenhagen-Hull route was the Arcturus.
- Totally the journey from Finland to North America usually lasted an average of two weeks.

The Arcturus passenger steamer



- In England, the Finns arrived in Hull and continued by train to Liverpool, Southampton or Glasgow. They continued their journey with ocean liners to North America, arriving in New York, Boston, Baltimore, Philadelphia or Portland. In Canada the arrival ports were Halifax, Quebec, Montreal and St. John.
- They settled in the states of New York and Massachusetts, and in the Midwest near the Great Lakes states of Michigan and Minnesota. In Canada, they followed the same pattern as in the United States: close to the border between the two countries and from east to west
- Usually people from the large emigration areas in Finland tried to settle together in the same areas in the United States
- For example, migrants from Ilmajoki, Nurmo and Jurva settled in Worcester (Massachusetts), from Isokyrö in Ashtabula (Ohio), and from Evijärvi in Crystal Falls (Minnesota).
- The Finnish great emigration (1870-1929) affected especially young uneducated men, who went across the sea to earn their living
- The majority of them went to North America to earn money for a house or farm and then planned to return to Finland

The location of the first and second generation Finns in the United States and Canada during the early 1900s.



Finnish Emigration Database

- The Emigrant Register of the Institute of Migration in Finland was established in 1989 as a service for genealogists and the descendants of the Finnish emigrants. The foundation of a computerized register was a part of the Delaware 350 Anniversary, to commemorate the beginning of the Finnish emigration to North America.
- The databases of the main sources of information are: official passport registers, passenger lists of the Finland Steamship Company and references to books and newspapers.
- There are nowadays stored 318 000 data records from the passenger list, 229 000 data records from passport list and 19 000 literature and newspaper references

AMERIKAN SUOMALAISIA

MUOTOKUVIA JA LYHYITÄ
ELÄMÄKERRALLISIA TIETOJA

KOKOILLUT
WERNER NIKANDER

I

vv. 1922--1927



HANCOCK, MICH. 1927
SUOMALAIS-LUT. KUSTANNUSLIIKKEEN KIRJAPAINO.

Passenger Lists of the Finland Steamship Company

- The lists are available from 1892-1896, 1899-1914 and 1920-1939, 1940-1960
- Passenger lists mainly contain the following types of information: name of the passenger, gender and age of the passenger, date of departure from Finland, name of the ship leaving Finland, ticket price, Ocean Liner Company, destination in North America and companions. The port of call in England and port of arrival in America is also listed
- Birth dates and domicile were not recorded

~~SALOON, BARBERS, AND OTHER TRADES ALIENS MUST BE COMPLETELY MANIFESTED
THIS SHEET IS FOR CYCLOPScope MANIFESTATION.~~

88

86

LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIEN PASSENGERS FOR THE COMMISSIONER OF IMMIGRATION.

FOR THE COMMISSIONER OF IMMIGRATION.

Required by the regulations of the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, under Act of Congress approved March 3, 1893, to be delivered to the Commissioner of Immigration by the Commanding Officer of any vessel having such passengers on board upon arrival at a port in the United States.

S. S. *Cymric* sailing from Liverpool, 5th, 1903. Arriving at Port of

Passenger data record of Miina Laukkanen in the Emigrant Register

Passenger records of Finland Steamship Company

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Passenger's name: | Miina Laukkanen |
| Last name as stated: | Laukkonen |
| Age or age group: | Adult woman |
| Gender: | Female |
| Where from: | Hanko |
| Where to: | New York, New York, U.S.A. |
| Price: | 32 Dollars |
| Ship from Finland: | Arcturus, 13 May 1903 |
| Ship from England: | Cymric, 22 May 1903 |
| Ship company: | White Star Line |
| Port in England: | Not stated |
| Destination port: | Not stated |
| Catalogue and page: | 33/26 |
| Remarks: | * |

69487 / 317879

PASSENGER RECORD

American Family Immigration History Center® at Ellis Island

First Name: *Miina*
Last Name: *Laukkonen*
Ethnicity: *Finland, Finnish*
Last Place of Residence: *Hango*
Date of Arrival: *Jun 01, 1903*
Age at Arrival: 28y Gender: F Marital Status: S
Ship of Travel: *Cymric*
Port of Departure: *Liverpool*
Manifest Line Number: *0022*



The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, Inc.

Passport Lists

- According to a regulation from 1862, all Finns needed a passport to travel abroad. Passports were issued by county government boards, borough administrators in towns, sheriff of the Åland Islands, sheriff of Lapland and the Finnish passport bureau in St. Petersburg.
- Since 1888 the same passport could be used for unlimited travel
- The most accurate lists include the name of the person who received the passport, occupation, civil status, religion, date of birth, home district, date of passport issue, period of validity, destination and price of the passport and also dependent family members left behind
- The most important passport information for the genealogist is the home parish. It is not necessary the same as place of birth, but it helps to find the home parish of the family in Finland. Passports also give the original name of the emigrant; especially difficult Finnish last names were often changed abroad

Passport data record of Miina Laukkanen in the Emigrant Register. According to the remarks she left in Finland 2 children

Passport records

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Emigrant's name: | Miina Laukkanen |
| Additional names: | Not stated |
| Occupation: | Dependent lodger |
| Birth date: | 2 April 1875 (28 years) |
| Parish and province: | Rural parish of Iisalmi, Kuopio Province |
| Gender: | Female |
| Social status: | Not stated |
| Marital status: | Widowed |
| Religion: | Evangelical Lutheran |
| Passport issued by: | Kuopio Province |
| Passport date: | 12 May 1903 |
| Passport number: | 346 |
| Destination, years: | America, for 5 years |
| Microfilm number: | PL 61 |
| Remarks: | Suomeen jai 2 lasta. |



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ANDERSON, WILHELMINA, o. s. Laukanen, Mrs.
Babylon, L. I., N. Y.

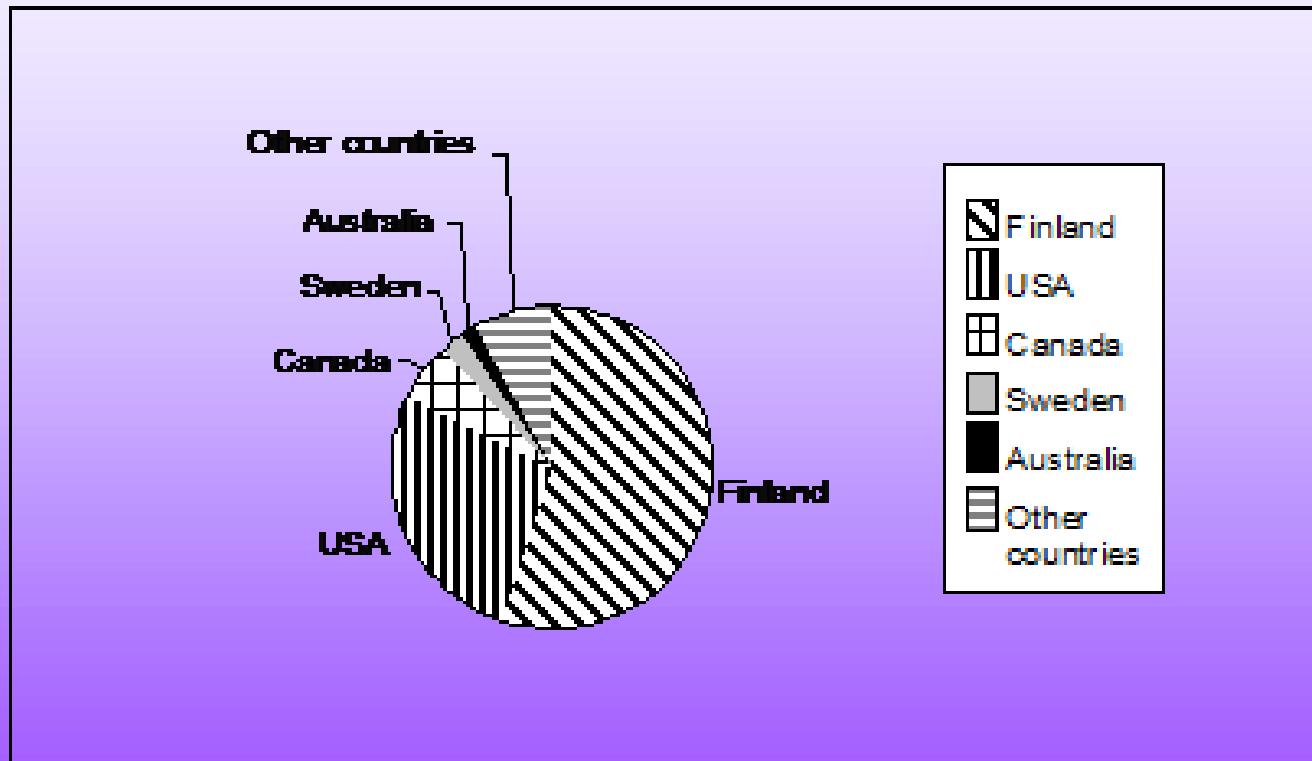
Synt. v. 1875 Iisalmella, Suomessa.
Siirt. Amerikkaan v. 1903.
K. Naisien jäsen.

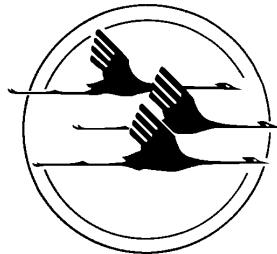
Mennyt avoliittoon Karl Aug. Andersonin kanssa
New Yorkissa v. 1906. Ollut Imatra kansallis-
seuran, Harlemin Lut. Nuorisoseuran, K. Naisien, Pu-
naisen Ristin y. m. yhd:ien toimivana jäsenenä.

— Wilhelmiina Anderson, os.
Laukkanen, 856 43 katu, Brooklyn, N. Y., kuoli aikaisin läuantainaamuna 22 p. huhtik. 1950 Kings Countyn sairaalassa halvaukseen. Vainaja oli syntynyt Iisalmessa huhtik. 2 p. 1875, täyttäen 75 vuotta Palmusun-

nuntaina. Ollut Yhdysvalloissa noin 50 vuotta. Haudataan Halvorsenin kappelista, 5310 8th Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y., tiistaina, huhtik. 25 p. klo 2 ip. Mrs. Anderson kuului N. Y. Pyrkijän ja Kalevan Naisten Annikin Tuapaan noin 25 vuotta. Lähinnä jäivät suremaan miehensä Carl Anderson ja tytär Anna Kaisa Anderson ja sisko Suomessa.

The inquiries to the emigrant register in 2010 according to country





Thank you!

More information:

www.migrationinstitute.fi

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