

McManus Family Adventures in Coming to America
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I've always known that my dad's relatives came to the United States from Scotland. When we kids were growing up, we received Christmas gifts from our mysterious cousins in Selkirk, Scotland. I also remember writing thank you notes for those presents on that old airmail stationery.

When I was first started out in genealogy, my dad's side of the family was the hardest to find any information about. I recall my delight when I found my dad's grandfather, John McManus, and his entire family's records at Ellis Island. The McManus family landed at New York City on 5 September 1916. Later, when I located the family on the ship's passenger list, I took this information as confirmation of what I already knew. As a result, I didn't pay that much attention to the information on the ship's passenger list itself. That's partly because I thought I already knew everything. And because I didn't know what some of the notations on the ship's passenger list meant.

Within the past several years, I found a card that indicated that Bella McManus, one of John McManus's children, had been held for special inquiry at Ellis Island. The card didn't indicate what the inquiry was about. Although I found this information curious because it appeared that she was the only one of the family of seven who was detained, I let it go because I knew she had been admitted to the United States, married, and had seven children.

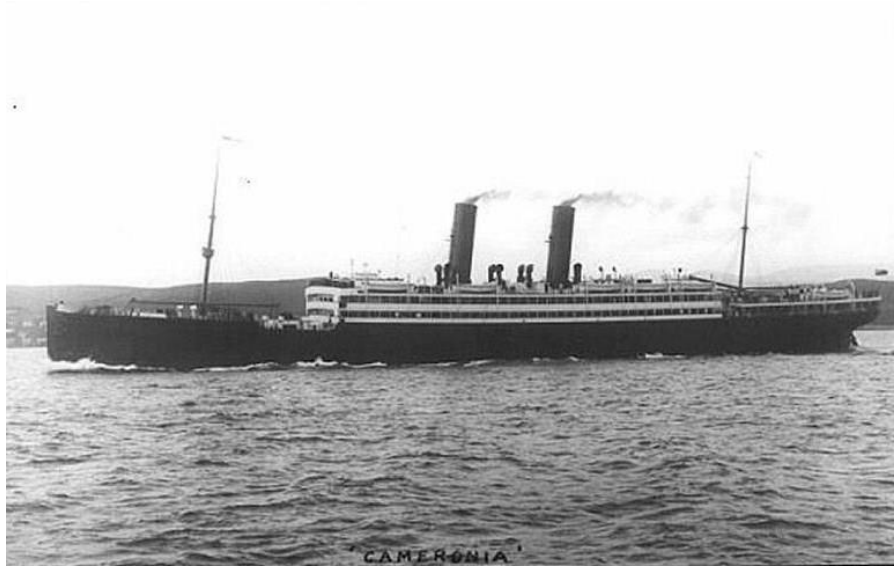
Then a couple of weeks ago, I attended one of Foothills Genealogical Society's meetings. The speaker's topic was "Unlocking Notation Codes on Alien Passenger Lists." As a result of this class, I now have a clearer understanding of these forms.

The McManus family left Selkirk, Scotland and probably traveled by train to Glasgow.



This is a photo of the Selkirk railway station. Although the photo was taken well after the family left Scotland, I doubt that it changed much. I presume that the Selkirk train station was the first stop on the way to the port of Glasgow, Scotland.

Here they boarded the S. S. Cameronia on 25 August 1916.



The paper trail starts here. They are listed on the Outgoing Passenger Form as British Passengers who embarked at the Port of Glasgow. This form collected basic information including their names, ages, occupations, the country they left and the country they plan to reside in. Attached is a portion of that outgoing passenger form.

MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT, 1906, and ALIENS ACT, 1905.

OUT-GOING PASSENGERS.

Returns of Passengers leaving the United Kingdom in ships bound for places out of Europe, and not within the Mediterranean Sea.

NOTE.—All Passengers carried by such ships are to be included, whether proceeding to European or non-European Ports. 1st Class, 2nd Class, and 3rd Class Passengers are to be entered in separate groups. Children born of alien parents in the United Kingdom should be entered in the alien portion of the Return, and the fact that they were so born should be stated in the nationality column.



Ship's Name.	Official Number.	Steamship Line.	Master's Name.	Registered Tonnage.	Aggregate Number of superficial feet in the several compartments set apart for Passengers, other than Cabin Passengers.	Total Number of Statute Adults, exclusive of Master, Crew, and Cabin Passengers, which the Ship can legally carry.	Port.
Cameronia	129599	ANCHOR.	D. W. Bone	5936	6221	414	NEW YORK.

I hereby Certify that the Provisions actually laden on board this Ship are sufficient, according to the requirements of the Merchant Shipping Acts, for 120 Statute Adults for a voyage of 21 days.

Date of Departure, 25th August 1916 (Signature) David W. Bone Master. Date, 25th August 1916

NAMES AND DESCRIPTIONS OF **BRITISH** PASSENGERS EMBARKED AT THE PORT OF Glasgow

Contract Ticket Number.	NAMES OF PASSENGERS.	CLASS (Whether 1st, 2nd or 3rd.)	Port at which Passengers have contracted to land.	Profession, Occupation or Calling of Passengers. In the case of First Class Passengers this column need not be filled up.	AGES OF PASSENGERS. Except for First Class Passengers state the sex and birthday.						Country of last Permanent Residence.†					Country of Intended Future Permanent Residence.‡	
					Adults of 12 years and upwards.		Children between 7 and 12.		Infants.		England.	Wales.	Scotland.	Ireland.	British Possessions.		Foreign Countries.
					Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.							
	Third Class		NEW YORK.														
47	Jean Lightheart	3	Do.	Shoe-maker				23									Canada
48	Robina Hutchison	-	Do.	Dom. Serv.				18									U.S.A.
49	Sarah Butler	-	Do.	Dom. Serv.				19									Canada
100	Robert McDougall	-	Do.	Mechanic				29									U.S.A.
107	John McManus	-	Do.	Coal Merchant	68												
	Jane	-	Do.	nil				47									
	Walter	-	Do.					14									
	David	-	Do.					12									
	Bella	-	Do.														
	Agnes	-	Do.					7									
	Geo	-	Do.					5									

Note that John McManus is 68 years old. That raises a question. What would entice a 68-year-old man to leave his birth country and take his entire family across the dangerous waters of the Atlantic to the United States?

Remember that WWI was going on in Europe. Britain had declared war on Germany on 28 July 1914. Scotland was part of the British Empire. So, young Scots were expected to enlist in the British military. At that time, the United States was neutral. By the time the family left Scotland, World War I had been going on in Europe for almost two years with no end in sight. Perhaps the family was trying to protect their young boys ages 14 and 12 from being drafted into the war effort.

But this voyage had its own dangers. The Germans considered the waters between England and the United States to be a war zone. In fact, the Germans had sunk the RMS Lusitania, which was carrying civilian passengers, on 7 May 1915, a little over a year before the McManus family left Scotland for the United States.

Then again, their timing for making this voyage on the S S Cameronia was good. The year before on 21 Jun 1915, the Cameronia had been attacked by a German submarine near Liverpool.

When the Captain of the *Cameronia* turned the boat to ram the submarine, the attack was aborted. And in 1917, the year after their voyage to America, the *Cameronia* was converted to a British troop transport ship. It was again attacked by a German U-boat on 15 April 1917. This time the ship was sunk in the Mediterranean near the island of Malta.

Besides all the potential dangers the McManus family faced, there were a few bright spots for this family. Once they were in the States, they weren't totally on their own.

Thomas McManus, John's son from a previous marriage, had immigrated to the US around 1907. He was working for the Chicago and Alton railroad and living near Jacksonville IL.

Also, Helen McManus Hill, John's daughter from a previous marriage immigrated to the states in 1914 and was living with her husband and family in Jacksonville IL.

Although the family spoke English, their thick Scots brogue would be difficult for most Americans to understand. It's also nice to have a trusted guide in a new country to help with the adjustment to the culture shock.

Back to the McManus voyage to the United States. The *Cameronia*'s route included one stop before beginning the Atlantic crossing. The next day, 26 August 1916, the ship stopped at Liverpool, England and picked up more passengers for the trip across the Atlantic to New York City.

On 5 September 1916, 12 days after its departure from Glasgow, the *Cameronia* docked at New York City. I'll bet the McManus family was delighted to be on solid ground after being at sea for that long. I wonder what the family thought when they first caught sight of the Statue of Liberty?

The foreign passengers went through customs at Ellis Island and these generated additional forms including the *List or Manifest of Alien Passengers for the United States Immigration Officer at Port of Arrival*. This is a 2-page form containing a wealth of genealogical information. A portion of the first page of this form is attached. Note that the McManus family is recorded on lines 6 through 13.

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LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIEN PASSENGERS FOR THE UNITED STATES

ALL ALIENS, in whatsoever class they travel, MUST be fully listed and the master or commanding officer of each vessel carrying such passengers

S. S. *Cameronia* sailing from *Glasgow* on *26th* August, 1916.

No. on List.	HEAD TAX EXEMPTIONS.		NAME IN FULL	Age.	Sex.	Calling or Occupation.	Able to Read.	Able to Write.	Nationality.	Race or People.	* Last Permanent Residence.		The name and complete address of nearest relative or friend in country whence alien came
	U. S. Citizen.	Exempt.									Country.	City or Town.	
1			Anderson Matilda	39	f	milkmaid	yes	yes	British	Scotch	Scotland	Dunfermline	father Jas Anderson 139 Blackness Road Dunfermline Scotland
2			Anderson Jacob	7	m	nil	no	no	american born	Scotch	Scotland	Dunfermline	grandfather James Anderson 139 Blackness Road Dunfermline Scotland
3			Butler Sarah	20	f	Dom. Serv.	yes	yes	British	Irish	Scotland	Uddingston	father John Butler 8-6 Waverley St. Uddingston Scotl
4			Campbell John Gregory	28	m	Bookmaker	yes	yes	British	Scotch	U. S. A.	Shenectady	mother Mrs John Butler 8-6 Waverley St. Uddingston Scotl
5			Hutchinson Robina Patricia	18	f	Investig.	yes	yes	British	Scotch	Scotland	Dunfermline	father John Hutchinson 130 York St. Dunfermline Scotl
6			Leishman Henry	36	m	engineer	yes	yes	British	Scotch	Scotland	Dunfermline	father James Leishman 190 York St. Dunfermline Scotl
7	ADMITTED		McManus John	70	m	retired	yes	yes	British	Irish	Scotland	Scot Kirk	Daughter Jane McManus 190 York St. Dunfermline Scotl
8	ADMITTED		McManus Jane	47	f	milkmaid	yes	yes	British	Scotch	Scotland	Scot Kirk	Daughter Jane McManus 190 York St. Dunfermline Scotl
9	ADMITTED		McManus Walter	14	m	nil	yes	yes	British	Irish	Scotland	Scot Kirk	Daughter Jane McManus 190 York St. Dunfermline Scotl
10	ADMITTED		McManus David	13	m	nil	yes	yes	British	Irish	Scotland	Scot Kirk	Daughter Jane McManus 190 York St. Dunfermline Scotl
11	ADMITTED		McManus Bella	11	f	nil	yes	yes	British	Irish	Scotland	Scot Kirk	Daughter Jane McManus 190 York St. Dunfermline Scotl
12	ADMITTED		McManus James	7	m	nil	no	no	British	Irish	Scotland	Scot Kirk	Daughter Jane McManus 190 York St. Dunfermline Scotl
13	ADMITTED		McManus George	5	m	nil	no	no	British	Irish	Scotland	Scot Kirk	Daughter Jane McManus 190 York St. Dunfermline Scotl

It seems that John McManus aged 2 years since the beginning of the voyage. He was 68 years old when he left Scotland and is now 70 years old.

The stamp in the far left hand column says that the family was admitted on the same day that they arrived. This should have been a clue that there were other records for this group. Most of the passengers do not have this stamp.

The following image is the second page of that form.

List 2

STATES IMMIGRATION OFFICER AT PORT OF ARRIVAL.

must upon arrival deliver lists thereof to the immigration officer. This (white) sheet is for the listing of STEERAGE PASSENGERS ONLY.

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Arriving at Port of *New York* on *26* SEPT. 1916, 1916.

No. on List.	Final Destination.		By whom was passage paid?	Whether ever before in the United States, and if so, when and where?	Whether going to join a relative or friend, and if so, what relative or friend, and his name and complete address?	Whether a Polygamist.	Whether an Anarchist.	Condition of Health, Mental and Physical.	Deformed or Crippled.	Height.	Color of—		Marks of Identification.	Place of Birth.
	State.	City or Town.									Feet.	Inches.		
1	Mass	Ludlow	self	no	brother James Ludlow 1409 Columbus Livingston, Illinois	no	no	good	no	5 4	dark	dark brown	none	Scotland Dunfermline
2	Mass	Ludlow	mother	no	brother James Ludlow 1409 Columbus Livingston, Illinois	no	no	good	no	5 2	fair	brn	none	U. S. A. Auburn
3	Ill.	Livingston	brother	no	brother James Ludlow 1409 Columbus Livingston, Illinois	no	no	good	no	5 9	fair	brn	none	Scotland Uddingston
4	Ill.	Shenectady	self	no	brother James Ludlow 1409 Columbus Livingston, Illinois	no	no	good	no	5 6	fair	brn	none	Scotland Glasgow
5	Mass	Dunfermline	brother	no	brother James Ludlow 1409 Columbus Livingston, Illinois	no	no	good	no	5 6	fair	brn	none	Scotland Dunfermline
6	Mich.	Detroit	brother	no	brother James Ludlow 1409 Columbus Livingston, Illinois	no	no	good	no	5 7	fair	brn	none	Scotland Dunfermline
7	Ill.	Dunfermline	self	no	brother James Ludlow 1409 Columbus Livingston, Illinois	no	no	good	no	5 7	fair	brn	none	Scotland Dunfermline
8	Ill.	Dunfermline	with husband	no	brother James Ludlow 1409 Columbus Livingston, Illinois	no	no	good	no	5 7	fair	brn	none	Scotland Dunfermline
9	Ill.	Dunfermline	with father	no	brother James Ludlow 1409 Columbus Livingston, Illinois	no	no	good	no	5 7	fair	brn	none	Scotland Dunfermline
10	Ill.	Dunfermline	with father	no	brother James Ludlow 1409 Columbus Livingston, Illinois	no	no	good	no	5 7	fair	brn	none	Scotland Dunfermline
11	Ill.	Dunfermline	with father	no	brother James Ludlow 1409 Columbus Livingston, Illinois	no	no	good	no	5 7	fair	brn	none	Scotland Dunfermline
12	Ill.	Dunfermline	with father	no	brother James Ludlow 1409 Columbus Livingston, Illinois	no	no	good	no	5 7	fair	brn	none	Scotland Dunfermline
13	Ill.	Dunfermline	with father	no	brother James Ludlow 1409 Columbus Livingston, Illinois	no	no	good	no	5 7	fair	brn	none	Scotland Dunfermline

BIG RUSH OF IMMIGRANTS.

Arrivals on Five Liners Overtax Ellis Island Accommodations.

Five transatlantic liners arrived yesterday from European ports bringing a total of 4,175 passengers of all classes. This was the biggest day's total since the beginning of 1915. The Italian liner Giuseppe Verdi, from Genoa, headed the list with 2,000. The America, from Naples, brought over 800, the American liner Philadelphia, from Liverpool, 554; the Anchor liner Cameronia, from Glasgow and Liverpool, 396, and the Scandinavian-America liner United States, from Copenhagen, 425.

The Immigration Bureau at Ellis Island, under war conditions, accommodates only 2000 steerage passengers and was able to receive the immigrants from the United States, the Cameronia and America only. Those on the Giuseppe Verdi and the Philadelphia had to remain on board for the night and will go to the island today.

When the Verdi arrived in quarantine the Captain sent a wireless message for a police boat, and when the Patrol arrived alongside, the officers handed over ten hostlers who had been kept in irons since Aug. 28 for stabbing some of their fellow workmen. They were sent to the Tombs. Passengers said that during the riot among the 300 horsemen, six men were shot and stabbed and they were fighting the whole voyage. Four of the injured men were able to leave the ship's hospital and go ashore, but John Meehan of Canal and Greenwich Streets, Manhattan, had been so severely stabbed in the left side that he was taken to the City Hospital.