

Searching Ship Passenger Lists
Ann Ramage
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As part of my current project which is a deep dive into my father's McManus line, I am collecting as many documents as possible for these recent immigrants from Scotland. To complete my collection of documents for this family, I found that I needed the ship's passenger list for my Aunt Jean McManus.

From previous research, I knew she had boarded the ship *S. S. Columbia* in Glasgow, Scotland and arrived in New York City at the end of August 1919. With all this information about her arrival in the United States, you would think that it would be easy to find the ship's passenger list for her. It wasn't.

Turning to ancestry.com, I used their database entitled *New York, Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820-1957*. I first looked for her by surname only, McManus. I also entered the ship's name into the search form and marked the arrival date as exact. No luck.

That's when I knew I had to try something different to find this elusive lady. So, finally, I looked for her by her first name, Jean, only. No surname. I kept the information about the ships' name and arrival date the same.

Success at last! There she was. The first one in the list of potential matches.

Why did I have such a problem finding her? Her surname was listed on the *S. S. Columbia's* passenger list as M'manus. Ancestry's search engine did not interpret that as McManus.

To help future researchers, I added an alternative spelling of her surname to ancestry's database.