



Our Family Immigration History

Our ancestors came to the United States through Boston, New York and Québec.

Our ancestors emigrated to the United States from the United Kingdom, Canada, Germany and Norway. Many of them arrived at New York Harbor, although only one is specifically known to have passed through the immigration station on Ellis Island. A handful came to the United States through Québec, most passing through Canada's Grosse Île Quarantine Station.

For some, I found ship logs that provided specific departure and arrival dates and locations. In some cases, I also found drawings, paintings or photos of the ships.

I have only found limited information on the naturalization of our immigrant ancestors, but I have included that information when I found it.

John and Jane Lambie Wasson

John and Jane Lambie Wasson came to the United States from Dailly Parish, Ayrshire, Scotland in 1834 through New York. They settled in Amboy Township, Oswego County, New York. Their daughter Agnes and her husband Robert Robertson also came to the United States in 1834 through New York. It is not known whether they settled in New York when they first arrived; the earliest available record for them after their arrival shows that they were living in the Detroit, Michigan area by 1837.



John and Jane Lambie Wasson and their son Hugh appear on the passenger list for the Brig Hero, which sailed from Greenock, Scotland, and arrived in New York on July 23, 1834.



Drawing of the Schooner Providence and the Brig Hero, dated 1846



Robert and Agnes Wasson Robertson appear on the passenger list for the Camillus, which sailed from Greenock, Scotland and arrived in New York on May 8, 1834.

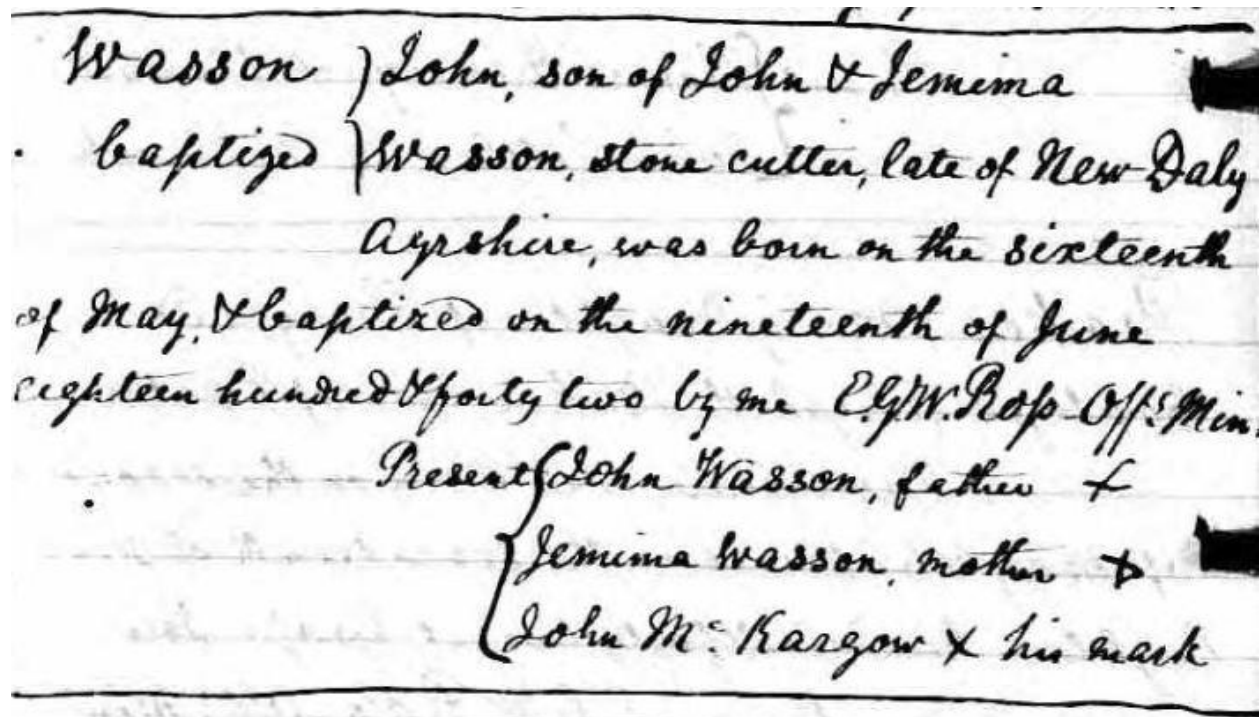
John and Jemima Russell Wasson

One account of John (Jemima) Wasson's life is that he first came to New York in 1832. According to one of his obituaries, John first came to New York with his parents, John and Jane, which was in 1834. However, he was not listed as a passenger on the ships that either parents John and Jane or sister Agnes traveled on, and I have not yet found a record for him on a different ship.

John did not remain in the United States. He returned to Scotland, apparently before the 1840 U.S. Census, and was living in the village of Hurlford, Ayrshire at the time of the 1841 U.K. Census. While living there, John met and married Jemima Russell.

John and Jemima emigrated to the United States the following year, arriving at the Grosse Île Quarantine Station in Québec, eastern Canada's primary immigration entrance station at the time, on or before June 19, 1842, before continuing on to his parents' farm in Amboy Township, Oswego County, New York. The name of ship they arrived on is unknown.

John and Jemima's firstborn, son John, was born at sea on May 16, 1842. At the time, Grosse Île was within the parish of the Anglican Church in Rivière-du-Loup, Québec, located almost 100 miles downstream from Grosse Île. This church handled baby John's baptism on Grosse Île, the record of which was the first I found that connected our Wasson ancestors to Dailly Parish, Ayrshire.



Wasson } John, son of John & Jemima
baptized } Wasson, stone cutter, late of New-Daly
Ayrshire, was born on the sixteenth
of May, & baptizd on the nineteenth of June
eighteen hundred & forty two by me E. W. Prop. Off. Min.
Present } John Wasson, father &
Jemima Wasson, mother &
John M. Kargow & his mark

Baby John Wasson's baptism record



The Rivière-du-Loup Anglican Church, now the St. Bartholomew's Anglican Church, in Rivière-du-Loup, Québec, was built in 1841, just a year before baby John Wasson's baptism. Although John and Jemima passed within sight of it as they sailed upstream towards Grosse Île, there's no reason to believe that they ever set foot inside this church.

The Prescott, Sawyer and Lewis Families

The Sawyer line of our ancestry is our oldest line in what is now the United States, settling in Massachusetts not long after the arrival of the Mayflower.

John and Mary Prescott were Puritans who emigrated from England to the Boston area in about 1637, bringing their children, including daughter Mary, with them. They settled in Watertown, Massachusetts, before co-founding and becoming some of the early settlers of Lancaster, Massachusetts, possibly named for John Prescott's native county in England.

Thomas Sawyer, also a Puritan, was the first Sawyer in our Sawyer line to come here. Thomas along with possible brothers Edward and William emigrated from Lincolnshire, England to Boston possibly aboard a ship commanded by a Captain Park, but the name of the ship is unknown. Thomas initially settled in Ipswich and then Rowley in Massachusetts. Likely after Thomas moved to Lancaster in 1647, he married John and Mary Prescott's daughter Mary in 1648. Our Sawyer line descends through them.

Their grandson Moses Sawyer married Ruth Lewis. Her possible great grandparents George and Mary Lewis with their son Thomas emigrated from Kent, England to Boston, Massachusetts in 1634. This may make George, Mary and Thomas Lewis our earliest known direct ancestors to immigrate into what is now the United States.

Around 1690, the Sawyer line of our ancestors moved to Connecticut, where generations of our Sawyer ancestors lived until the end of the American Revolution. A later Moses Sawyer, his wife Elizabeth and their family moved to Kingsbury, Washington County, New York by 1783. In 1784, Moses was unwilling to pledge an oath of allegiance to the now independent United States, so he and his family moved with their three children, including oldest son John, to Sorel, Québec. They joined a number of New England Loyalists who made this move, populating what would become the English-dominated region of Québec known as the Eastern Townships.

Samuel Sawyer

Moses and Elizabeth Sawyer's son John and his wife Hannah had several children while living in the Eastern Townships. Their son Samuel Sawyer was born in Stanbridge, Missisquoi, Québec in 1829. He and some of his siblings emigrated to the United States over land, settling in and around Fort Edward, Washington County, New York and elsewhere, starting by 1850, more than 60 years after his grandparents left that area for Québec.

There were other Sawyers living in Washington County, New York, both when Moses and Elizabeth Sawyer left for Canada and when Samuel Sawyer and some of his siblings moved there, but it is not clear whether they were related to our Sawyers.

Jane and Ellen McNeil

Jane McNeil and her children John, Jane, James, Duncan and Helen (Ellen) emigrated from Glasgow to Québec in the early 1840s after Jane's husband Duncan died in 1840 and after the 1841 U.K. Census. They passed through the Grosse Île Quarantine Station before settling in the Eastern Townships area of Québec.

Jane remarried, but after the birth of their daughter Anna Sanders in Canada in 1845, her second husband died. In about 1853, when he was 18-20 years old, James McNeil emigrated over land to the United States, finding employment in the lumber industry in Fort Edward, New York. Once he was established there, he arranged for his mother and siblings to join him in New York.

Jane McNeil's son John did not join them in New York. He would have been well into his 20s by this point, living and on his own or with his own family, assuming of course that he was still alive.

Samuel Sawyer and Ellen McNeil married in 1855-1858. Their daughter Carrie Sawyer married the son of John and Jemima Wasson, Joseph Wasson, in 1879.

Christian and Elisabeth Hartwig Gensicke

Johann Christian and Anna Elisabeth Hartwig Gensicke emigrated from Reetz (bei Belzig), Brandenburg, Prussia to the United States in 1853. After brief stays in New York City, Buffalo and Chicago, they headed to Iowa, initially to Buffalo Rock, Scott County before settling in Wilton Junction, Muscatine County.

Gensicke, Christ.	Reetz			
Elisabeth	Hamburg			

Christian and Elisabeth Gensicke appear on the Hamburg emigrant passenger list for the Rastede, which sailed from Hamburg, Germany on October 15, 1853, and arrived in New York near the end of that month.



Painting of the Rastede

Christian Gensicke became a naturalized citizen of the United States on October 12, 1863. An 1855 revision of U.S. naturalization law automatically granted citizenship to the alien wives of U.S. citizens. Thus, when Christian Gensicke was granted citizenship, his wife Elisabeth automatically became a U.S. citizen, and therefore she did not have to apply for citizenship separately.

Research Notes

There is a second village in Brandenburg also named Reetz. Several Gensickes living near that Reetz also emigrated to the United States around 1853, but I have not yet found a connection between those Gensickes and Christian Gensicke.

Friedrich Krueger

I found little specific immigration information for Friedrich Krueger and his second wife Auguste. Based on other records, they apparently emigrated from Posen Schneidemühl, Prussia (present day Piła, Poland) to the United States in 1854, and initially settled in Wisconsin. He and his family later moved to Luzerne, Iowa.

Christian, Barbara and Caroline Hoffman

I have been unable to find much in the way of specific immigration information for Christian and Barbara Hoffman and their daughter Caroline. Based on other records, they apparently emigrated from Uttenreuth, Bavaria in the 1840s to the United States, and settled in Wisconsin.

Carolina (Caroline) Hoffman may have arrived aboard the Maria and Adriana in 1840, but I have not been able to confirm this.

Christian Hoffman pledged his intent to become a U.S. citizen on February 25, 1847. His citizenship was granted April 29, 1856.

After the deaths of their spouses, Friedrich Krueger and Caroline Hoffman Sauertieg were married in 1862.

The granddaughter of Christian and Elisabeth Gensicke and Friedrich and Caroline Krueger, Esther Gensicke, married the grandson of John and Jemima Wasson and Samuel and Ellen Sawyer, Duncan Wasson, in 1921.

Oscar Mikkelsen (Oas)

Oscar Mikkelsen (Oas) emigrated from Tangen, Stange, Hedmark, Norway to the United States in 1903. He passed through the immigration station on Ellis Island en route to Rothsay, Minnesota, where he worked on the farm of his uncle, Johannes Mikkelsen. Johannes returned to the United States on the same ship. Two family friends from Tangen also made the same trip en route to jobs on the Mikkelsen farm in Rothsay.

Handwritten passenger list snippet showing names and details in cursive script.

Oscar Mikkelsen (Oas) appears on the passenger list for the R.M.S. Celtic, which sailed from Liverpool, England on March 18, 1903, and arrived at Ellis Island on March 28.



Postcard of the R.M.S. Celtic

Oscar Oas became a naturalized United States citizen between 1910 and 1920.

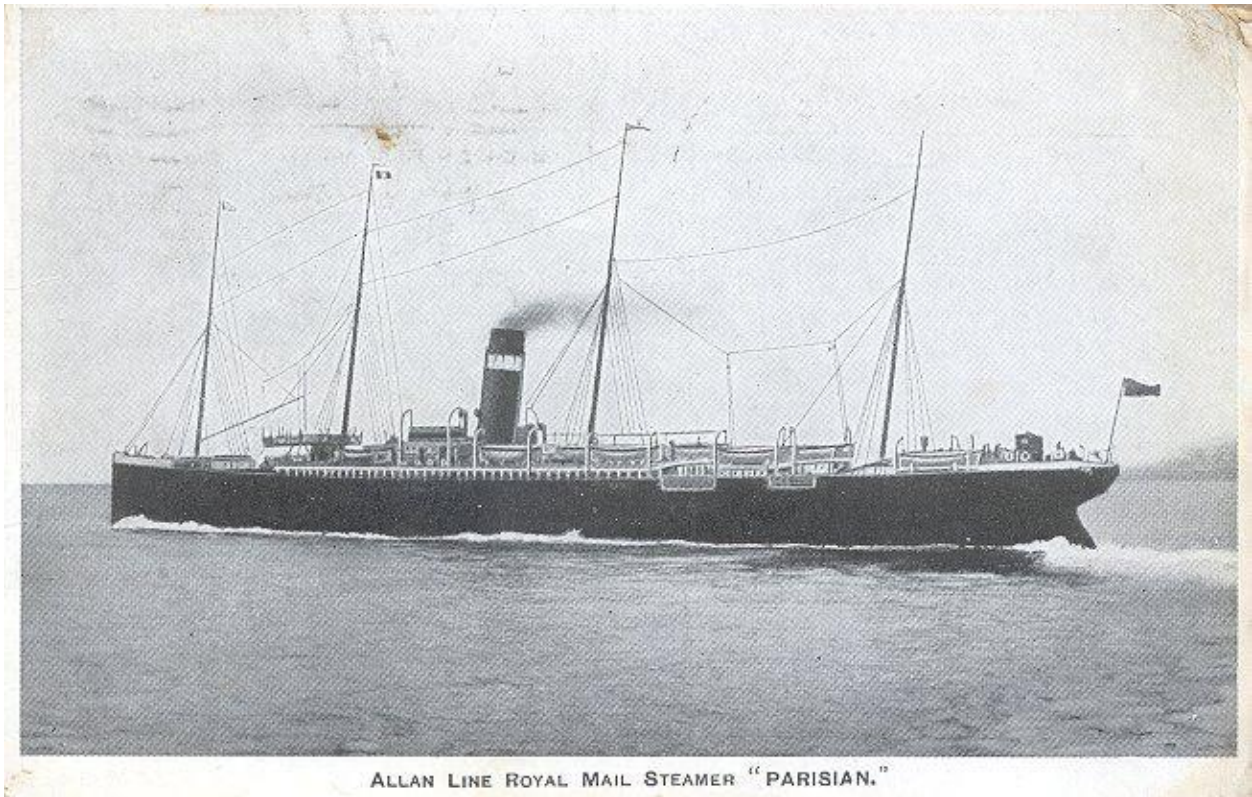


Photo of the S.S. Parisian. The S.S. Parisian was rebuilt in 1899 with only one smokestack. In 1912, it participated in the search for survivors of the sinking of the Titanic, although it returned to port without finding any.

Emma Bakke became a naturalized United States citizen between 1920 and 1930.

Oscar Oas and Emma Bakke were married in 1907.

Iver Sondrol

Iver Sondrol emigrated from Vang, Oppland, Norway to the United States, arriving on March 10, 1926. He settled in Milaca, Minnesota, where he initially worked plowing farms owned by his uncle Knut Ellingbøe.

The Immigration Act of 1924 had transformed the country's immigration process. Immigrants could be processed at American embassies in their country of origin. Ellis Island was no longer a general immigrant processing station. Rather, it was mainly used to detain immigrants who had problems with their paperwork, to process war refugees and others who could not be processed at the embassies, and to detain candidate immigrants for deportation.

Iver reported that he arrived in the United States through Ellis Island. As this was in 1926, if this is true, then there was likely a problem with his paperwork when he arrived. I have not yet found any variants of his name in searches of passengers who arrived through Ellis Island.

LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIEN PASSENGERS FOR THE UNITED STATES

ALL ALIENS arriving at a port of continental United States from a foreign port or a port of the insular possessions of the United States, and all aliens arriving at a port of said insular possessions from a foreign port, a port of continental United States (This white sheet is for the listing of)

S. S. "BERGENSFJORD" Passengers sailing from OSLO, Norway February 26th, 1926.

1 No. on List.	2 HEAD-TAX STATUS (No column for use of Government officials only)	3 NAME IN FULL		4 Age Yrs. Mos.	5 Sex	6 Married or single	7 Calling or occupation	8 Able to—		9 Nationality (Country of which citizen or subject)	10 Race or people		11 *Last permanent residence.		12 The same and complete address of nearest relative or friend in country whence alien came.	13 Final destination. (Place of future permanent residence)	
		Family Name.	Given name.					Read	Write		Country.	City or town.	State.	City or town.			
1	✓	Christensen	Bjorne	24	m	u	Sailor	yes	Norwegian	yes	Norway	Scand.	Norway	Tjms	Wife: Caroline Christensen, Glenside, Tjms.	Ill.	Chicago
2	✓	Myklebust	Olise J.	23	f	w	H.wife	do	do	do	do	do	do	Eze	Father: Kristian Møgaard, Pottemfjorden pr. Kristiansund N.	Minn.	Minneapolis
3	UNDER 10	do	Svanhild	1	f	s	Child	no	Too young	no	do	do	do	do	Grandfather: do	do	do
4	✓	Norhagen	Asbjorn	25	m	s	Farmland	yes	Norwegian	yes	do	do	do	Vaaler	Brother: Otter Nordhagen, Brakervikof St.	N.D.	Holla
5	✓	Odden	Einar	24	m	s	Fireman	do	do	do	do	do	do	Holla	Father: Ole Halvorsen, Holden, Ulsoe.	Wis.	Madison
6	✓	Olsen	Anne K.	24	f	w	H.wife	do	do	do	do	do	do	Modum	Father: Erik Hennick, Gumpesfjod, Sogn.	do	Superior
7	UNDER 10	do	Margit	1	f	s	Child	no	Too young	no	do	do	do	do	Grandfather: do	do	do
8	✓	Ondal	Tollef Olsen	47	m	m	Farmer	yes	Norwegian	yes	do	do	do	Solum	Wife: Anne Ondal, Ojens pr. Skien.	do	Reidenville
9	✓	Rakstad	Alfred	26	m	s	Dentist	do	do	do	do	do	do	Otta	Father: Iver Rakstad, Otta, N.way	N.Y.	New York
10	✓	Ratll	Odd	19	m	s	Gen. Lab.	do	do	do	do	do	do	Kristiansund	Father: Edward Ratll, Kristiansund N.	Ill.	Chicago
11	✓	Sandvold	Mihel	29	m	s	Agriculturist	do	do	do	do	do	do	Hamar	Mother: Karen Sandvold, Furvets Cafe, Hamar.	S.D.	Canton
12	✓	Sannes	Valberg	42	f	w	Domestic	do	do	do	do	do	do	Kristiansund	Father: Feder Sannes, Sre pr. Kristiansund N.	Ill.	Chicago
13	✓	Søther	Halvard	33	m	s	Farmland	do	do	do	do	do	do	Aure	Sister: Lisabeth Søther, Inarv Fikfjorden, Aure.	S.D.	Vermillion
14	✓	Søndrol	Ivar O.	17	m	s	do	do	do	do	do	do	do	Vang	Father: Ole Søndrol, Vang, Valdres.	Minn.	Milaca
15	✓	Tasleem	Theodor	34	m	m	Carpenter	do	do	do	do	do	U.S.A.	Flushing, N.Y.	Father-in-law: Olaf Homb, Brobakken, Brummandalen.	N.Y.	Flushing
16	✓	Vinjerul	Svein	43	m	m	Smith	do	do	do	do	do	Norway	Laerdal	Wife: Nora Vinjerul, Halen, Telemarken.	do	Brooklyn
17	✓	Wingersen	Ruth E.	27	f	w	Domestic	do	do	do	do	do	do	Oulo	Stepfather: Martin Jensen, Sarpeborgst. 14, Oulo.	N.Y.	do
18	✓	Angell	Agnar	22	m	s	Sailor	do	do	do	do	do	do	Sørreisa	Father: Olaf Angell, Serretes, pr. Tromsø.	Wash.	Seattle
19	✓	Andresen	Einar	24	m	m	Iron-worker	do	do	do	do	do	do	Larvik	Wife: Hansine Andresen, Torrenskjoldsgate 39, Larvik.	N.Y.	New York
20	✓	Mathiesen	Eine	18	f	w	Domestic	do	do	do	do	do	do	Hedrum	Father: Magnus Robert, Mathiesen, Nasset, Hedrum.	Ill.	Chicago
21	✓	Evenrud	Peter	27	m	s	Farmland	do	do	do	do	do	do	S.Toten	Brother: Gustav Evenrud, Lena St., Norway	Minn.	Minneapolis
22	✓	Johansen	Ivar W.	26	m	s	Massour	do	do	do	do	do	do	Rjukan	Father: Magnus Johansen, Neranes, Rjukan.	Mich.	Battle Creek
23	✓	Jørgensen	Marie	35	f	w	H.wife	do	do	do	do	do	U.S.A.	New York, N.Y.	Brother: Arthur Severlind, Honstengate 10, Oslo.	N.Y.	New York
24	✓	Pettersen	Petter M.	18	m	s	Gen. Lab.	do	do	do	do	do	Norway	Elvarum	Father: Marius Pettersen, Solbakken, Elvarum.	Wis.	Clinton
25	✓	Rudningen	Steingrim	32	m	s	Barber	do	do	do	do	do	U.S.A.	Detroit, Mich.	Father: Ole Rudningen, Gel, Hallingdal.	Mich.	Detroit
26	✓	Wold	Balthasar	23	m	s	Mechanic	do	do	do	do	do	Norway	Brevik	Father: Thorvald Wold, Jen, Brevik.	N.D.	Hemberg

Total passengers 27
U.S. citizens 2
Aliens 25

11-13 Søther, Halvard not onboard
11-148 [unclear] [unclear]

* Permanent residence within the meaning of this manifest shall be actual or intended residence of one year or more.
† List of races will be found on the back of this sheet.

Iver Sondrol appears on the passenger list for the S.S. Bergensfjord, line 14, which sailed from Oslo, Norway on February 26th, 1926, and arrived in New York on March 10.

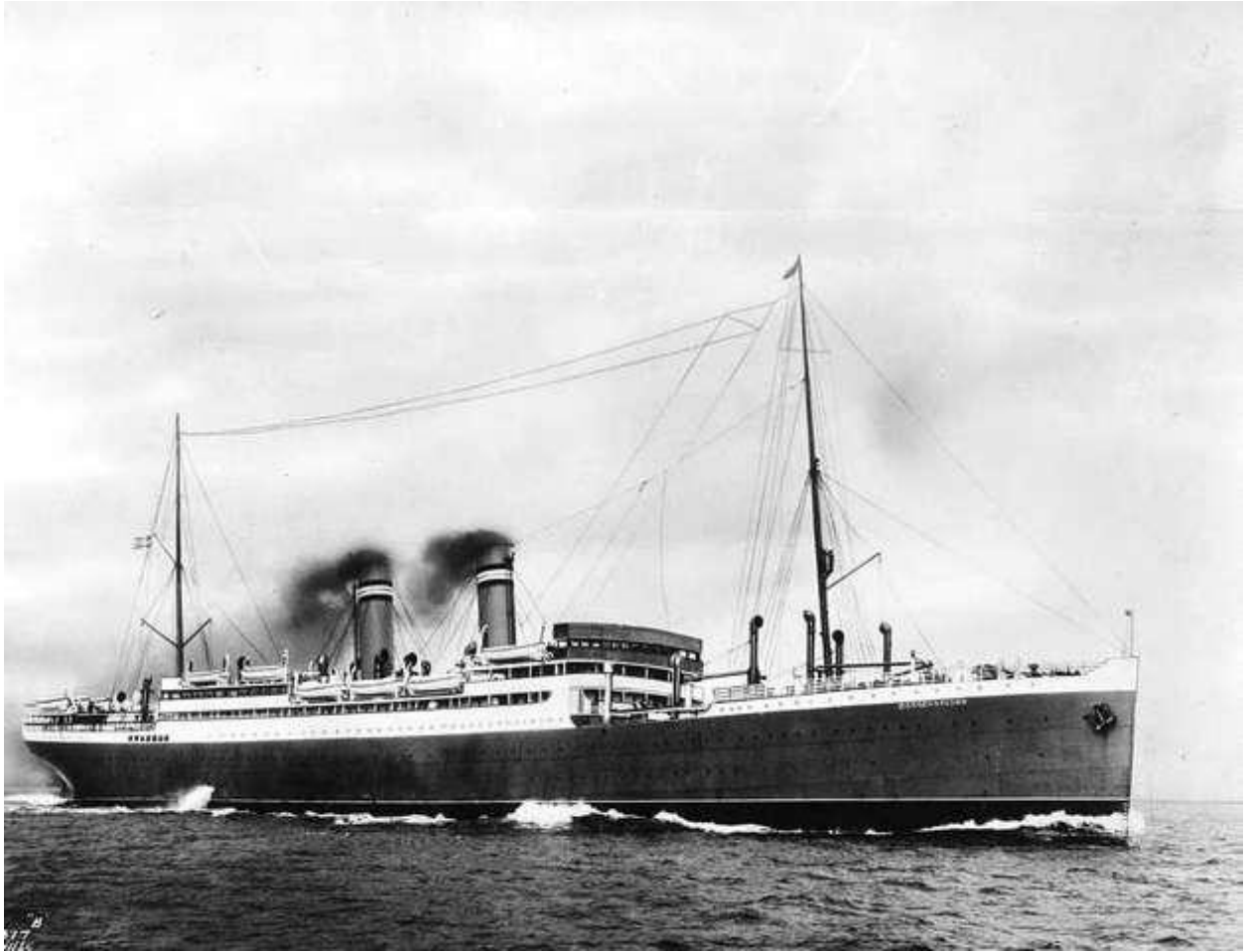
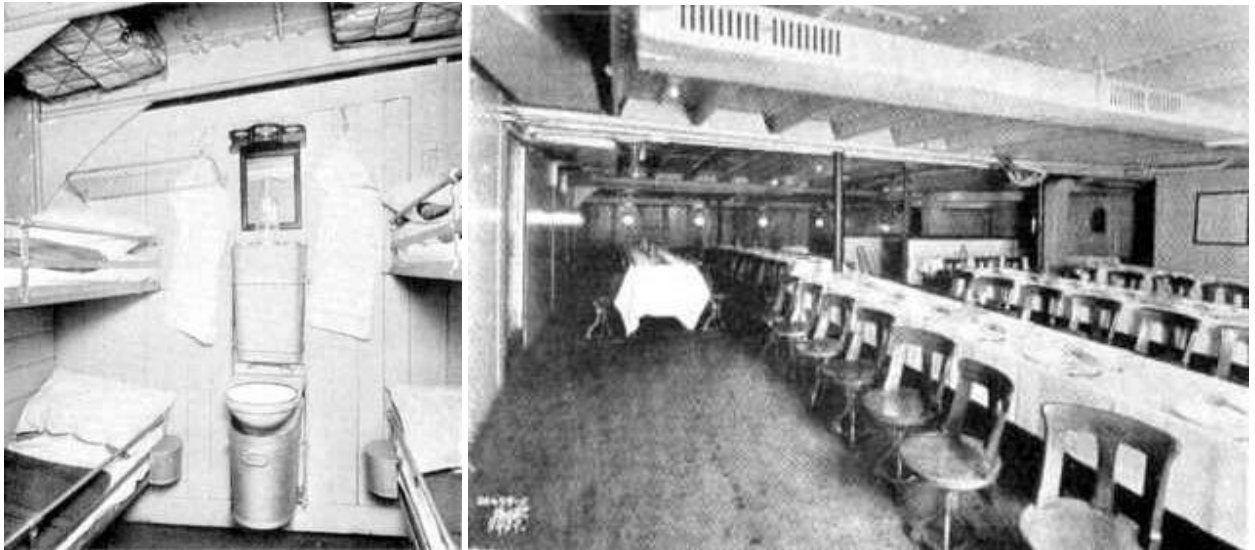


Photo of the S.S. Bergensfjord in 1927



3rd Class sleeping berths aboard the S.S. Bergensfjord (left); 3rd Class dining aboard the S.S. Bergensfjord (right)

No. 3608400

Name SONDROL, IVER OLSEN

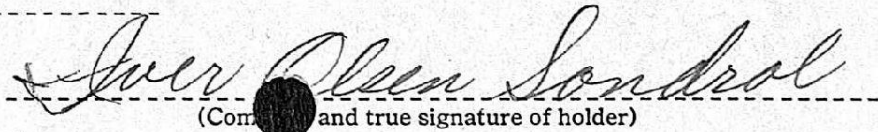
residing at 3744-21st Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minnesota

Age 24 years. Date of order of admission February 8, 1933

Date certificate issued February 8th, 1933 by the

U. S. District Court at Minneapolis, Minnesota

Petition No. 4487


(Completed and true signature of holder)

Iver Sondrol became a naturalized citizen of the United States on February 8, 1933. The timing allowed Iver to get his U.S. passport for a return trip to Norway later that year.

Iver's father, Ole Torsteinsson Sondrol, emigrated to the United States twice, staying for about seven years each time. But by 1905, he had returned to Norway for good, where he started his family and lived the rest of his life. I have not yet found immigration records for him for either of these stays.

Iver Sondrol married the daughter of Oscar and Emma Oas, Evelyn Oas, in 1934.

The daughter of Iver Sondrol and granddaughter of Oscar and Emma Oas, Trudy Sondrol, married the great grandson of John and Jemima Wasson, Samuel and Ellen Sawyer, Christian and Elisabeth Gensicke and Fredrich and Caroline Krueger, Boyd Wasson, in 1959.

Prepared by Mark David Wasson
Last updated December 10, 2021