

St. Louis Voyage

Background

On May 13, 1939, the German transatlantic liner St. Louis sailed from Hamburg, Germany, for Havana, Cuba. On the voyage were 937 passengers. Almost all were Jews fleeing from the Third Reich. Most were German citizens, some were from eastern Europe, and a few were officially "stateless."

The majority of the Jewish passengers had applied for US visas, and had planned to stay in Cuba only until they could enter the United States. But by the time the St. Louis sailed, there were signs that political conditions in Cuba might keep the passengers from landing there. The US State Department in Washington, the US consulate in Havana, some Jewish organizations, and refugee agencies were all aware of the situation. The passengers themselves were not informed; most were compelled to return to Europe and were denied entry.

The passengers did not return to Germany, however. Jewish organizations (particularly the Jewish Joint Distribution Committee) negotiated with four European governments to secure entry visas for the passengers: Great Britain took 288 passengers; the Netherlands admitted 181 passengers, Belgium took in 214 passengers; and 224 passengers found at least temporary refuge in France. Of the 288 passengers admitted by Great Britain, all survived World War II save one, who was killed during an air raid in 1940. Of the 620 passengers who returned to continent, 87 (14%) managed to emigrate before the German invasion of Western Europe in May 1940. 532 St. Louis passengers were trapped when Germany conquered Western Europe. Just over half, 278 survived the Holocaust. 254 died: 84 who had been in Belgium; 84 who had found refuge in Holland, and 86 who had been admitted to France.

Using archival records, the United States Holocaust Museum extracted data and recorded over 6000 events indicating the fate and location of each passenger. The data was originally stored in Microsoft Access; however, the organization would like another repository.

Objectives

Utilizing digital curation tools, the St. Louis Voyage project aims to use data analytics to visualize the people, places, and events associated with all 937 passengers. Furthermore, the St. Louis Voyage team will build a repository to store and query the records.

Theme

Refugee Narratives

Stakeholders

USHMM - Michael Haley Goldman – Future Projects

Megan Lewis – Reference Librarian

Data

Archival Documents

Excel Sheets

Educational Resources

Final Product

Graph Database

Data visualization

Bubble Map with Data Population

Skills

Database Design/Transformation

Data Analytics / Data Management

Computational Archives

Archival Outreach / Website Development

Software

Neo4J

R

Tableau

SQL Workbench

Plotly

Bubble

Git/Git Hub

Wordpress

Professional Development

Meet with Stakeholders at US Holocaust Museum

Feature interactive map on Holocaust Museum Website exhibit page

Publish articles to LinkedIn/Medium.com

Deadlines

Data analytic visualization – Mid October

Graph Database/Interactive Map - Mid November

Additional Resources

<http://www.ushmm.org/online/st-louis/>

<https://sils.unc.edu/events/2016/shneiderman-interactive-viz>