

Ylönens Immigrated to America

(Published in the Ylönen Family letter in 2021)

Today's immigration or emigration is by no means anything new. People have always moved from place to place and from country to country at any time for many reasons, usually in the hope of a better life, as they do today.

Just over a year ago, I started investigating the Ylönens migrating to America. Ships passenger lists include the name of the person travelling but often also the name of the father or mother and the person you are going to meet in America. Finnish travel information and passport lists can be found on the Migration Institute's website, which has a small annual fee. You can browse the ships' passenger lists, for example, on the Family Search website for free, just register there.

The journey usually started from the port of Hanko in Finland and headed to Hull in England, then continued by train to either Liverpool or Southampton, from where the journey continued to New York and Boston in the USA or Halifax or Quebec in Canada. Sometimes people traveled to Stockholm and then continued from Gothenburg to Hull or directly to New York.

The immigrants left for America, inspired by another relative or acquaintance who had been there before. A good example of this is **Rikhard Ylönen**, who was born in 1882 in Heikkolankangas, Pieksämäki as Eeva Ylönen's third child (information in the Ylönen Family Book by Jarmo Ahlstrand).

In 1905, the Caronia ship's passenger list from Liverpool to New York has 10 young men in their twenties from the Pieksämäki region. The list included Otto Kauppinen, Rikhard and Vilhelm Ylönen, Topias Tissari, Otto Teittinen and Petter Sutinen, he was 32 years old, all from Pieksämäki. From Kangasniemi were Asarias Kääriäinen and Henrik Nojonen as well as Abel and Vilhelm Laitinen. Adam Turku came from Kotka.

First timers were Rikhard Ylönen, Henrik Nojonen, Asarias Kääriäinen, Adam Turku, Abel Laitinen and Otto Teittinen. Topias Tissari had earlier been to the industrial city of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. A lot of Finns lived in Gardner, Massachusetts and Otto Kauppinen, Vilhelm Ylönen ja Vilhelm Laitinen had been there before.

Rikhard travelled several times to America: in 1909, 1919 and 1930, the latest time with his wife Erika Salmen. He had informed that Adam Ylönen was his father and Mikko Ylönen as his brother, so there was a connection to the Ylönen Family Book that was published in 1994.

What happened to these immigrants afterwards? Curiosity increases, so I'll keep looking for more info.

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