

Background Information:

Madame D'Orcy was born Georgia Evelina Gaillard on 15 May 1878 in Bordeaux, France. Heir to a long line of circus performers, she traveled as a lion tamer with the Bostock Circus. Georgia married Benjamin Collibeaux in Paris in 1896, and they performed together with the Bostock Menagerie until he died in 1913. With the onset of WW1, the Anglo-American Exposition Grounds in London were closed, and the Bostock animals were put up for sale. While Georgia's career in Europe was over, she continued her work in the United States. In 1916, the *Washington Herald* reported on one of her performances at the Bostock Animal Arena in Coney Island, New York.

Research Question:

When did Georgia Evelina Gaillard Collibeaux, aka Madame D'Orcy, born 15 May 1878 in Bordeaux, France, emigrate to the United States?

Sources:

- 1914 Immigration Document
- 1916 Washington Herald Newspaper Article
- 1920 United States Census Record

1914 Immigration Document

Citation:

"New York Passenger Arrival Lists (Ellis Island), 1892-1924", database with images, FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:JJS1-LXS> : accessed 15 September 2022), entry for Georgia Collibeaux, 36, aboard S.S. *New York* (Liverpool to New York) arriving 15 November 1914; National Archives microfilm publication T715, Roll 2385, Image 453-454, Line 21. Name incorrectly indexed as Collebeaux.

Source: New York Passenger Arrival Lists (Ellis Island)

Source Analysis

Purpose

The source contains the index and images of passengers arriving in the United States through the port of New York. The images contained in this source are from films of **original documents**; the index entries are **derivative**.

Legal requirements

Passenger Lists of travelers entering the US were legally required. The master of the ship created the passenger list at the place of embarkation. The passenger gave this information verbally; until 1918, no documentation was required as proof. The law required that the shipmaster record the following information: Full name, sex, married/single, occupation, ability to read/write, nationality, last residence, seaport for landing in the US, final destination, who paid for passage, whether in possession of money, whether joining a relative and name and address, plus any facts that may cause the passenger to be excluded. Ship manifests were delivered to the immigration inspector. During the examination of passengers, the immigration inspector could, at their discretion, ask questions regarding any of the information contained on the manifest. Ellis Island employed interpreters for all major languages to

ensure that the information was understood. The manifest was reviewed for completeness, but since no documentation was required, there is no guarantee of accuracy.

Setting:

The ship captain created the manifest at the point of embarkation. Two copies of the passenger manifest were kept; one by the collector at point of departure and the second was kept aboard the ship. This second list had to be presented to the immigration officer in the port of arrival before the passengers could disembark.

Provenance:

The passenger list was created by the ship captain at point of embarkation prior to sailing. A copy of this list was carried on board the ship. This copy was provided to the immigration officer (in this case A. English) on arrival and validated by the officer via interviews with the passengers. The records were then stored at the port of arrival – in this case Ellis Island. Images and indexes between 1820-1982 (with gaps) were filmed and are stored in the National Archives.

Time Lapse:

The list would have been created prior to sailing on 7 November 1914 and was reviewed on arrival 15 November 1914.

External Consistency:

Information is consistent with other documents. Page numbering in sequence.

Internal Consistency :

There are two different handwritings on the form; it appears that the recorder might have changed. The information is consistent with other entries and fully completed for the research subject.

Macroenvironmental Factors:

Between 1900-1914 immigration was at a peak with 900K immigrants in each year. After 1914 this sharply declined due to the outbreak of WW1 which began on 28 July 1914. In August 1914, the Germans invaded France through Belgium, just a few months before Georgia and her family emigrated to the United States.

Financial Implications:

Georgia was employed by the Bostock Menagerie on the Anglo-American Exposition Grounds in London. At the outbreak of WW 1, the British Army took over the exposition grounds and the Menagerie closed. The animals were sold to Brooklyn as part of the Prospect Park expansion. Georgia's passage was paid by W.H. Tudor.

Creation and Recording Professionalism

Fields are completely filled out and additional checks are identified on the age, possession of money, whether in U.S before, criminal check fields. The possession of money field also included an amount, in this case 800 (likely pounds) for Georgia. The record is contained on film 5485 which includes ships arriving in New York from 13 November 1914 and 17 November 1914. The records are in sequence.

Format/Image/Medium

The document was accessed as an image in Family Search. These images were created from microfilm publication M237 stored in the National Archives.

The images in the collection are microfilmed from the original passenger lists submitted by the masters of vessels in the Collections of Customs in New York. They are arranged in chronological order by the arrival date of the vessel and are numbered serially. The specific passenger list was located on roll 2484, volume 5485, 13 November 1914-17 November 1914.

Image of a microfilm copy of original passenger list manifest.

Physical condition/Legibility

While the document is frayed at the edges, all columns and fields are visible. The handwriting is legible.

Information Item	Informant	Information Type
Ship Name	Thomas Gusner, Chief officer	Primary
Name - Georgia Collibeaux (name indexed incorrectly as Collebeaux)	Georgia	Primary
Event Date- 15 November 1914	Thomas Gusner, Chief officer	Primary
Event Place - Ellis Island, New York	Thomas Gusner, Chief officer	Primary
Age - 36 (Birth Year 1878)	Georgia	Primary
Birthplace - Bordeaux France	Georgia	Primary
Occupation - Animal Trainer	Georgia	Primary
Name and Address of Person in U.S - Mrs. Bostock	Georgia was likely informed by her employer, Frank Bostock.	Secondary

Evidence - Direct/Indirect/Negative and describe

The document provides direct evidence of Georgia's arrival in New York on 15 November 1914. It does not however prove that Georgia stayed in the U.S. Additional evidence (i.e. residency, naturalization) is needed to determine that she stayed.

Analysis

The source is an original document, and the immigration/passenger names are informed and signed by the Ship's Chief Officer Thomas Gusner. The document is also signed by the immigration officer A. English. The contents of the document are required by law and validated by the immigration officer. In general, as an original document with contents required by law, it is a reliable source but the as information was provided by the passenger w/o supporting documentation, supporting evidence should be considered.

1916 Newspaper Article

Citation:

"Lioness at Show Leaps on Trainer," *The Washington Herald* (Washington, D.C.), 12 June 1916, page 2, col. 5; imaged in *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/76018225> : accessed 15 September 2022).

Source: Washington Herald Newspaper Article accessed through Newspapers.com

Source Analysis

Purpose

The Washington Herald was a daily newspaper in Washington, D.C., from 8 October 1906 to 31 January 1939. The purpose of a newspaper is to educate and inform the audience on current affairs. As a Newspaper article, this source is an **Authored Work**, and the author is not identified.

Legal requirement - None

Setting and Time Lapse:

The newspaper article was published on June 12 and appears towards the bottom of page 2 (of a twelve-page paper). The byline includes the location: New York, and the date: June 11. The article describes an event that occurred the day before – June 10. As the Herald was located in Washington and the event occurred in New York, this was likely a syndicated article.

There was a two-day lapse between the event and when it was reported in the Washington Herald.

Provenance

The article was reported by a local reporter in New York – possibly an eyewitness to the event. It was published in New York and then likely syndicated via telegraph.

External Consistency

The newspaper and article are consistent with other papers.

Internal Consistency

The article is consistent with others in the paper.

Macroenvironmental Factors

The establishment of Bostock Circus in Coney Island had its roots in WW1. With the onset of the war, the Bostock circus grounds in London closed, and the Bostock Animal Collection was sold to the Brooklyn Parks Department to expand the zoo at Prospect Park. With the urgency of war, the animals were offered for little more than the cost of the shipment, and the parks department embarked on a fund-raising campaign for the animals. The campaign was sponsored by the Brooklyn Daily Eagle Newspaper and focused on children. The animals arrived in 1914 and the zoo opened in 1916. The animals were used for Bostock's circus performances.¹

Creation and Recording Professionalism

The article was created as part of a newspaper publication. The Washington Herald's motto was "A paper of Quality" and was considered a serious newspaper for the time.

¹ Daniel A Sullivan, "The Comprehensive History of Coney Island," *Heart of Coney Island*, 2015 (<https://www.heartofconeyisland.com> : accessed 15 September 2022).

Andrew Gustafson, "The Great War and NYC: Prospect Park," *Turnstile Tours*, 6 April 2017(<https://turnstiletours.com/the-great-war-and-nyc-prospect-park/> : accessed 15 September 2022).

"Do You Want Lions Like This for Brooklyn?," *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*(Brooklyn), 14 October 1914, page 65; imaged in *Newspapers.com*(<https://www.newspapers.com/image/legacy/55595685> : accessed 15 September 2022).

Format/Image/Medium

- **The newspaper images were viewed on Newspapers.com. They are also available issued on microfilm from the Library of Congress, Photoduplication Service.**
- Archived issues are available in digital format as part of the Library of Congress Chronicling America online collection.

Physical condition/Legibility

As a newspaper, the writing is in text and therefore legible. The text is slightly faded but it can still be read. The paper is slightly torn at the edges, but this does not impact viewing of text.

Information Item	Informant	Information Type
Name Mme. Georgia D'Orcy	Unknown	Undetermined
Original Reporting Date - 11 June 1916 Event Date - 10 June 1916	Unknown (likely the reporter)	Undetermined - It's likely that the reporter was an eyewitness to the event, but we cannot say for certain.
Occupation - Animal Tamer	Unknown	Undetermined
Location - Bostock Animal Arena, Luna Park, Coney Island	Unknown	Undetermined
Employer - Bostock Circus	Unknown	Undetermined
Years Employed - 12 (1904)	Unknown	Undetermined
Years in Occupation - 20 (1896)	Unknown	Undetermined

Evidence - Direct/Indirect/Negative and describe

The article provides indirect evidence to answer the research question. It shows that Georgia was in New York working at Coney Island in 1916. This could be combined with other evidence to answer the research question. Still, on its own, the evidence is weak - at best, it could be used in combination with other evidence to provide a date range - i.e., Georgia immigrated before 1916.

Analysis

The Washington Herald was a respected newspaper which aimed to uphold serious journalism. It's likely that their syndicated articles were taken from respectable sources as well, but we do not know the source of this document. Both the author of the article and the original reporter are unknown, and we do not know who provided the information about Georgia. As evidence it is weak; we only know Georgia was in New York in 1916, we do not know when she immigrated or whether she even stayed. This should only be considered when combined with other evidence.

1920 United States Federal Census

Citation:

1920 U.S. Census, Kings County, New York, population schedule, Brooklyn, Enumeration District(E.D.) 522, sheet 20-A, p. 20 (stamped), dwelling 189, family 408, line 43, Georgette E. Collibeaux; database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MJ5V-VQC> : 15 September 2022); citing NARA microfilm publication T625, roll 565 National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC.

Source: 1920 United States Census

Source Analysis

Purpose

The purpose of the population census is to count every person in the United States. The census results determine representation (number of seats in the House of Representatives) and allocate funding to local communities. Census records on Family Search are **original records** – index entries are derivative.

Legal requirement

The census is mandated by Article I, Section 2 of the United States Constitution and takes place every ten years.

Setting and Time Lapse:

The census is collected from respondents directly through censuses/surveys. Enumerators visited homes to take the census.

The census date for the 1920 Census was January 1, 1920. This particular census record was enumerated on 20 January 1920.

Provenance

Record copies are kept at the U.S. Census Bureau. Records older than 72 years are publicly available through National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). Family search provides both image copies and index listings for the 1920 census.

External Consistency

Pages are in sequence – Two physical pages constitute a single page number. Handwriting is consistent over several pages – taken by the same enumerator. Data collected is consistent across documents.

Internal Consistency

The handwriting is generally consistent, however, in some entries, it seems to have been gone over with a different pen. For example, details for Benjamin Collibeaux are fully taken but then it is crossed out in a darker pen with the comment “deceased” (he was deceased). Names also are clarified in a darker pen. Its unclear if this was done at the same time or later.

Entries were made in an enumeration book which was then copied and sent to the Census Bureau. were sent to the National Archives after 72 years and scanned.

Macroenvironmental Factors

With the end of WW1, the U.S. experienced a mini depression (1920-21) with reduced spending and increased unemployment. Due to high immigration prior to the war, foreign born nationals accounted for 13.2 percent of the population. This is evident in the census where almost all entries on page 20 (the page for research subject) include foreign born residents.

Creation and Recording Professionalism

Pages are in sequence and consistently numbered. There are some cross outs and corrections in a darker pen. Over the hundred entries on page 20, resident birthplaces include France, Austria, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Ireland, UK. It is possible that communication issues led to entry corrections.

Format/Image/Medium

The image was accessed via Family Search. The images are taken from microfilms of census records in the National Archives.

Physical condition/Legibility

There are no physical issues with the scanned copy (i.e., no rips/tears/blotches). In general, the handwriting is legible however the cross-outs are a little difficult to read (i.e., Yvonne’s name on line 47). These corrections do not affect the overall legibility of the document.

Information Item	Informant	Information Type
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Name - Georgette E. Collibeaux	Likely Georgia	If Georgia, this information is primary, however, we do not know for sure that she provided this information, so it is undetermined. Georgia is not referred to Georgette in any other documents - however this could be the enumerators interpretation given Georgia's French accent.
Relation to Head of Household - Head	Likely Georgia	If Georgia, this information is primary, however, we do not know for sure that she provided this information so it is undetermined.
Age - 40 (Birth Year 1880)	Likely Georgia	If Georgia, this information is primary, however, we do not know for sure that she provided this information, so it is undetermined. This is inconsistent with previous documents as Georgia was born in May 1878 (she would have been 41 at the time of enumeration).
Marital Status - Widowed	Likely Georgia	If Georgia, this information is primary, however, we do not know for sure that she provided this information, so it is undetermined.
Birthplace - France	Likely Georgia	If Georgia, this information is primary, however, we do not know for sure that she provided this information, so it is undetermined.
Naturalization Status - Alien	Likely Georgia	If Georgia, this information is primary, however, we do not know for sure that she provided this information, so it is undetermined.
Immigration Date - 1914	Likely Georgia	If Georgia, this information is primary, however, we do not know for sure that she provided this information, so it is undetermined.

Evidence - Direct/Indirect/Negative and describe

The census provides direct evidence of Georgia's immigration date. There are some inconsistencies in the information - ie Georgette versus Georgia and the birthdate. However, the As head of household, Georgia likely provided the immigration date making primary information.

Analysis

The direct evidence provided in the census is likely reliable. The census is an original document - while copies have been made, it is unlikely the fields were altered as they were required by law. We do not know for sure that Georgia was the informant on the document, but as head of household, she likely was. Georgia was a homemaker, and therefore the most likely to have been home when the enumerator visited (the adult children were employed outside the home).