

Roger Miller

Found an advertisement listing the price of Christian Gerig's fare for the steam powered ship **Bellona** that he and his family used in 1864. He likely paid \$50 USD per person for passage from Le Havre, France to New York City for second class tickets. That would total \$200 USD for his whole family. Oddly enough the fare was \$5 cheaper for those traveling the opposite direction from the New York City to London/Havre (\$45).

Benjamin's ship he sailed on 4 years earlier was not steam powered and took 6 weeks to cross the Atlantic - 3 weeks longer than Christian. It cost him the equivalent of \$40 USD (210 francs) for his 2nd class ticket according to an online calculator converter for currency (based on the value of currency in 1860).

Did Christian's choice of travel by steamship reflect his financial means because of his age (44 years old) as compared to Benjamin who was only 17 years old? Benjamin had only 40 cents remaining when he arrived in New York City and had to borrow money from a friend to continue his travel to Ohio. Steamships traveling across the Atlantic began service in 1838.

THE LONDON AND NEW YORK STEAMSHIP CO.
intend despatching their new and first class British iron steamships for London direct on about the following dates, to call at Havre on the return trips:—

BELLONA	Oct. 8	CELLA	Nov. 5
IOWA			Oct. 25

Rates of passage payable in gold, or its equivalent.

FROM NEW YORK.		FROM LONDON OR HAVRE.	
First cabin	\$65	First cabin	\$70
Second cabin.....	45	Second cabin.....	50
Steerage	20	Steerage	35

For passage apply to
CHAS. A. WHITNEY, 26 Broadway.
For freight apply at 51 South street. Advances made on merchandise consigned to the friends in London of the undersigned. These steamers connect at London with steamers of the same company for the Channel ports, Rotterdam, Amsterdam, St. Petersburg, Copenhagen, Bordeaux, Oporto, Gibraltar, Alexandria, Smyrna, Constantinople and Odessa.
HOWLAND & ASPINWALL, Agents.