

In the summer of 1870, Amelia Long Newman and her husband, John, left Liverpool on the ship Idaho with a group of 180 religious minorities escaping sectarian discrimination. Two days into the voyage, Amelia gave birth to a baby boy—a memorable event on a challenging ocean journey.

That same day, a passenger [noted in a journal](#), “The engine broke and caused a delay of eight hours. ... I began to be sick today. The vessel rocked terribly.” [The ship’s engine failed](#) eight times over the two-week voyage. Mountain-high waves forced passengers to stay below deck much of the time. One night, a storm ripped railings off the stern and damaged a hatchway, letting water leak below deck. When the passengers finally disembarked in New York, [one passenger wrote](#) that the luggage “was so terribly mixed up that I was all day straightening it out.”