

**CITY DOCUMENT, NO. 6:  
CENSUS OF THE  
CITY OF PROVIDENCE,  
TAKEN IN JULY, 1855**

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City Document, No. 6: Census of the City of Providence, Taken in July, 1855 by Edwin M. Snow

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**EDWIN M. SNOW**

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## P R E F A C E .

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In preparing a second edition of this pamphlet, in accordance with the vote of the City Council of March 10th, 1856, I have taken advantage of the opportunity to make such changes, and additions as seemed to me to be calculated to render it more valuable to the community.

In the portion relating to the census of the population, the changes made have been limited, for the most part, to the correction of a few verbal and typographical errors. To that portion relating to the manufactures and business of the city, commencing on page 41, much new matter has been added, and it is believed that this portion of the pamphlet presents a much more complete view of the subject, than that contained in the first edition.

My grateful acknowledgements are due to numerous citizens who have contributed interesting statistics, and valuable suggestions, by means of which the work has been rendered much more complete than it would otherwise have been.

EDWIN M. SNOW.

PROVIDENCE, April 4th, 1856.

## REPORT OF THE CENSUS COMMITTEE.

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MAYOR'S OFFICE, }  
PROVIDENCE, Jan. 11, 1856. }

The Committee appointed by the City Council to cause a census of the city to be taken, report;

The census has been taken, and the returns are being copied. The information obtained is very full and minute, and the volumes when completed, will give the names, and other information relating to all the inhabitants of the city.

An abstract of the information obtained, has been prepared by Dr. Edwin M. Snow, with great care, and comprising the most important statistics of the population of the city, arranged in suitable tables, with explanatory remarks. The committee would present this abstract as their report, and would recommend that one thousand copies of the same be printed in pamphlet form.

The causes of the delay in presenting this report, and other information will be found in the report of Dr. Snow, which accompanies this.

For the Census Committee,

J. Y. SMITH, *Chairman.*

COMMITTEE OF THE CITY COUNCIL,

PRESENTING THE REPORT GIVEN ON THE PRECEDING PAGE.

—  
HIS HONOR THE MAYOR, *Chairman.*

ALDERMAN RATHBONE,

MESSRS. ANGELL,

GRINNELL,

ALLEN,

R. GREENE,

ANTHONY,

TUCKER,

STONE.

} Appointed by  
the  
Common Council.

PROVIDENCE, February, 25, 1856.

TO THE HON. JAMES Y. SMITH,

Chairman of the Census Committee.

I herewith submit an abstract of the returns of the census of Providence, in 1855, which will indicate the character, extent and variety of the information which this census has brought together. So far as relates to the population of the city, this information is more full than that contained in any previous census of Providence, and in some respects more full than that contained in any census which I have had an opportunity to examine.

Of the several tables which are given, many will be found of practical utility and some of them have been prepared with special reference to their use in connection with the subject of the registration of births, marriages and deaths, and in other questions relating to the sanitary interests of the city.

Some account is also given of the manufactures, trade, commerce, and other statistics of Providence which will undoubtedly be found interesting and useful. This does not profess to be a complete account of these subjects; but only to be correct so far as given, and in nearly all cases, I am satisfied that the statements made are below rather than above the actual truth.

An Appendix has been added giving some account of sixteen previous censuses of Providence, commencing in 1730. These accounts have been mostly obtained from the original documents, and will be useful for future reference.

In consequence of the long and unavoidable delay which occurred in completing the census, the preparation of the preliminary tables from the original returns was not finished until January 3d, of the present year, since which time this abstract has been wholly prepared, and its publication hastened forward as rapidly as was compatible with the performance of my other duties.

This I deem it proper to state, by way of apology for the indications of haste which may appear in every part of this Pamphlet. Permit me to say, however, that great care has been taken in the preparation of the tables, and they are believed to be entirely correct. Hoping that the results which are here presented may be of some utility in making known to our citizens the condition of the city, and in thus promoting its best interests,

I remain, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

EDWIN M. SNOW.



CITY OF PROVIDENCE.

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*Resolved*, That the report of the Committee to cause a census of the city to be taken, be received, and that said Committee be authorized to print one thousand copies of the same, in pamphlet form, for the use of the City Council.

In Common Council, January 14, 1856.

Read and passed,

ALBERT G. GREENE, *Clerk*.

In Board of Aldermen, same day,

Read and concurred,

ALBERT PABODIE, *City Clerk*.

Approved,

JAMES Y. SMITH, *Mayor*.

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In Common Council; March 10, 1856: *Resolved*, That the Clerk of the Council be, and he is hereby directed to have one thousand additional copies of the "Census of the city of Providence, in 1855," printed for the use of the City Council.

Read and passed,

ALBERT G. GREENE, *Clerk*.

In Board of Aldermen, March 11, 1856,

Read and concurred,

ALBERT PABODIE, *City Clerk*.

Approved,

JAMES Y. SMITH, *Mayor*.

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#### NOTE.

My attention has been called to an apparent error in table XXIII. That table is an inaccurate calculation of the ratios of the figures given in the aggregate of table XXII, including those of unknown age; but, for the purpose of showing the true ratios of each sex at different periods of life, those of unknown age should have been omitted, and the ratios of table XXIII. should have been calculated from the number whose ages are given.