

**SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE STATE OF
MICHIGAN, RELATING TO THE REGISTRY
AND RETURN OF BIRTHS, MARRIAGES
AND DEATHS FROM APRIL 5TH TO
DECEMBER 31ST, 1868, INCLUSIVE**

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Second Annual Report of the Secretary of State of the State of Michigan, Relating to the Registry and Return of Births, Marriages and Deaths from April 5th to December 31st, 1868, Inclusive by Various

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P R E F A C E .

STATE DEPARTMENT, MICHIGAN.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE, }
Lansing, December 31, 1869. }

To His Excellency HENRY P. BALDWIN,
Governor of Michigan:

SIR—I have the honor herewith to submit the second Annual Report from this Department, of Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

This report is for only a fractional part of the year 1868—from April 5th to December 31st—in accordance with the amended law of last winter.

Hereafter, the year included in these reports, will end December 31st, instead of the first Monday of April, as under the former law.

The value of these returns, if correctly made, and the statistics compiled from them, can hardly be over-estimated, and no labor has been spared by this Department to attain the end contemplated by the law.

It is gratifying to be able to compliment most of the officials whose duty it is to collect and return the required information, upon the accuracy and promptness with which their work has been done.

It would be still more gratifying to be able to report that all had performed their duty in this respect.

The cases of delinquency are exceptional, however, and doubtless are rather the result of a misapprehension of a new law than an intention to disregard it. Occasional errors are unavoidable; but as the several officers become familiar with this new duty, we may expect more accurate returns. I regret to report that in a few instances the returns of Marriages are very imperfect; whether the result of ignorance of the law or an impression on the part of the person solemnizing the marriage that its requirements are unworthy of attention, I am unable to say. A failure to make the proper certificate and return, on the part of the person solemnizing the marriage, may work great injury, not only to the parties married, but to their posterity; and it is to be regretted that any one should presume to disregard so important a provision of the law.

Full instructions, and the necessary blanks are furnished to County Clerks for distribution to Clergymen and Justices of the Peace, and to them direct from this office, on their requisition, and it would seem that no reasonable excuse could be urged for this neglect of duty.

I am indebted to Dr. George E. Ranney, representing the State Medical Society, for assistance in preparing the report of Deaths, and for the introductory remarks upon diseases.

Very respectfully,

O. L. SPAULDING,

Secretary of State.

SECOND REGISTRATION REPORT.

FROM APRIL 5, TO DECEMBER 31, 1868, INCLUSIVE.

The present Report, comprising less than three-fourths of a year, cannot be made a full basis of comparison with the returns of the previous year, yet it presents many items of interest, showing that Michigan possesses a salubrious climate, an active and hardy population, and that these facts are appreciated by constantly increasing immigration.

The items contained in the following tables are gathered from a large area of territory by the numerous officers designated by the law to perform the duty, and the collection and return of the numerous facts called for, is a work that experience and the utmost care can alone render perfect. The frequent change of supervisors, assessors and county clerks will always, doubtless, be a hindering cause in the desired perfection and reliability of these reports. This can be overcome, in a measure, by an earnest effort and willing cooperation of those who are called upon to execute the law.

The careful collection and transcription of all the material facts is of cardinal importance; without this the aggregate results will be materially defective and uncertain. As years intervene, and the experience of the past furnishes a guide to greater excellence, we trust this Report may become a compendium of valuable information, useful to the whole country, and especially so to the Peninsular State.

The whole number of names returned by the several County Clerks, as registered for the period from April 5, to December

31, 1868, inclusive, was thirty-six thousand three hundred and seventy-seven (36,377), viz:

Nineteen thousand one hundred and seventy-one (19,171) children were born, (excluding still-births,) of which ten thousand one hundred and thirty-three (10,133) were males, nine thousand and three (9,003) were females, and thirty-five (35) sex not given, showing nearly as many for a period less than nine months as were returned for the entire previous year.

Ten thousand nine hundred and seventy (10,970) persons, or five thousand four hundred and eighty-five (5,485) couples were married.

The whole number of deaths returned was six thousand three hundred and twenty-six (6,326.)

The excess of births over deaths was 12,845.

DELINQUENT.

No returns have been received from Chippewa, Delta, Keeweenaw, Mackinaw and Manitowish counties. The township of Pontwater, in Oceana county; Ossineke, in Alpena; and Isabella and Broomfield, in Isabella, were not included in the returns from their respective counties. The third and fourth wards of the city of Ann Arbor were received too late for compilation in this Report. The counties of Alcona, Benzie, Charlevoix, Osceola and Wexford were organized under the acts of the last legislative session. Their returns are included with those of the counties to which they had formerly been attached.

The period of time comprised in the present report being a fractional part of the year 1868, the returns to this office embraced the statistics of births, marriages, and deaths which occurred both prior and subsequent to the time specified by law. The work of compilation and classification was thus largely increased: 19,171 births were compiled, and 570 rejected; 5,485 marriages were compiled, and 1,420 rejected; 6,326 deaths were compiled, and 197 rejected, for the reason above stated.

BIRTHS.

Of the 19,171 children born alive, 10,133 were males, 9,003 were females, and 35 sex not given. The parents of 10,010 children were born in the United States; the parents of 6,527 children were born in foreign countries; 848 children were born of American fathers and foreign mothers; 1,394 children were born of foreign fathers and American mothers; and the nativity of the parents of 392 children was not returned.

African and Indian.—One hundred and fifty-two children (82 males and 70 females) were born of African parents, and 85 children (45 males and 40 females) were born of Indian parents.

Twins.—There were born 210 pairs of twins—420 children—of which 219 were males, and 201 were females.

Triplets.—Three sets of triplets were born, 1 in Clinton county, and 2 in Wayne county—9 children—4 boys and 5 girls.

Illegitimate.—One hundred and four children—63 males and 41 females—were returned as illegitimate.

Still-born.—Forty-six still-births are reported—27 males, 17 females, and 2 sex not given. They are not used in the tables of this report, except for classification. But 27 still-births were returned for the first report, being a gain of 19 for this. But it is evident that the return of still-births is incomplete. Massachusetts, in 1867, returned 1,007 still-births to 35,062 living births.