

HISTORY OF IMMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES: EXHIBITING THE NUMBER, SEX, AGE, OCCUPATION, AND COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF PASSENGERS ARRIVING IN THE UNITED STATES BY SEA FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES, FROM SEPTEMBER 30, 1819 TO DECEMBER 31, 1855

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History of immigration to the United States: exhibiting the number, sex, age, occupation, and country of birth of passengers arriving in the United States by sea from foreign countries, from September 30, 1819 to December 31, 1855 by William J. Bromwell

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WILLIAM J. BROMWELL

HISTORY OF IMMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES: EXHIBITING THE NUMBER, SEX, AGE, OCCUPATION, AND COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF PASSENGERS ARRIVING IN THE UNITED STATES BY SEA FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES, FROM SEPTEMBER 30, 1819 TO DECEMBER 31, 1855



HISTORY OF IMMIGRATION

TO THE

UNITED STATES,

EXHIBITING THE

NUMBER, SEX, AGE, OCCUPATION, AND COUNTRY OF BIRTH,

OF

PASSENGERS ARRIVING IN THE UNITED STATES

BY SEA FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES, FROM SEPTEMBER 30, 1819, TO
DECEMBER 31, 1855;

COMPILED ENTIRELY FROM OFFICIAL DATA:

WITH

AN INTRODUCTORY REVIEW OF THE PROGRESS AND EXTENT OF
IMMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES PRIOR TO 1819.

AND AN APPENDIX CONTAINING THE

NATURALIZATION AND PASSENGER LAWS

OF THE UNITED STATES, AND EXTRACTS FROM THE LAWS OF THE
SEVERAL STATES RELATIVE TO IMMIGRANTS, THE IMPORTATION
OF PAUPERS, CONVICTS, LUNATICS, ETC.

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REDFIELD,

34 BEEKMAN STREET, NEW YORK.

1856.

P R E F A C E.

To the citizens of the United States the following History of Immigration is respectfully submitted, in the belief that it will prove to them an acceptable offering, since, by the aid of the facts contained therein, they may accurately determine the elements which have contributed to the unexampled growth of the American Republic.

As to the question of the good or bad effect resulting to this country from immigration, the author earnestly disclaims the desire to promulgate any opinion which he may entertain; he has, in the compilation of this history, embodied *facts only*: and, he leaves it to the enlightened understanding of the people of the United States to arrive at just conclusions from the premises therein presented.

The Statements contained in it have been compiled, entirely, from official documents:—

First, and chiefly, from the Annual Reports on Immigration prepared at the Department of State, and by the Secretary communicated to Congress in compliance with a requirement of the Passenger Act of March 2, 1819.

Secondly, from Passenger Abstracts transmitted to the Secretary of State by Collectors of the Customs, and on file in the Department, yet not embraced in the Annual Reports on Immigration, because not received until those Reports had been completed and laid before Congress.

Thirdly, from such custom-house records as furnished immigration statistics never communicated to the Secretary, or which, if ever communicated, are now missing from the files of the Department.

The facts thus accumulated, and exhibited in the tables which follow, contain all the available official information of importance in possession of the country relative to its immigration.

Fifteen months have elapsed since the compilation of this work was begun, and almost every hour not employed in the discharge of official duties has been devoted to the task. Even a cursory examination of the published Reports on Immigration, to be found in the Executive Documents of Congress, will show the extent and intricacy of the author's labors. The first Report, embracing returns for the year ending September 30, 1820, consists of literal copies of passenger manifests containing over ten thousand names, to each of which are affixed the corresponding age, sex, occupation, and country of birth; thus presenting in detail, and without classification, more than fifty thousand items, forming a book of about three hundred pages. In the present work, recapitulations of that Report are given, occupying only four pages.

The subsequent Reports, although more condensed than the one mentioned, are quite voluminous. Many of them are without method, have no recapitulations appended to them, and, as published, contain numerous typographical as well as clerical errors. Even the Reports for the last three years, which have been prepared with great care, and which are much more perfect than those preceding, have been recapitulated anew in order to embrace additional information, and to secure a systematic classification.

In conclusion, the author remarks, that, from the commencement of this work to the completion of it, he has been mindful of the fact, that, to the general reader it can not prove attractive; and the only encouragement he has received to prosecute the task and to finish it, has been derived from the consideration that a history of Immigration, exhibiting the *number and sex, age, occupation, and country of birth*, of passengers arriving in the United States, so far as the same is officially known, would, if presented to the public in the present form, never become obsolete, nor be supplanted by another work of a similar kind, but would exist as a book of reference so long as the American People shall feel an interest in a subject which so vitally concerns them.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

PROGRESS AND EXTENT OF IMMIGRATION PRIOR TO 1819.

WE will first consider very briefly the progress and extent of immigration to the United States of America prior to 1819, the year in which the present official history begins. As, on this point, no authentic information exists, it must be determined by such evidence as statisticians of that period possessed, and by the relations then existing between the United States and the countries from which persons emigrated.

The current of migration commenced its flow from England, Ireland, and Scotland, and from Germany through the French and British ports. It was subject to many fluctuations during a part of this time, but continued with considerable uniformity, it is believed, until 1806.

Mr. Samuel Blodget, a statistician of more than ordinary research and accuracy, wrote in 1806, while every fact in regard to immigration was fresh in the minds of the people, that from "the best records and estimates at present attainable," the immigrants arriving in this country did not average, for the ten years from 1784 to 1794, more than 4,000 per annum.*

During 1794, 10,000 persons were estimated to have arrived in the United States from foreign countries.†

In 1818, Dr. Adam Seybert, member of the House of Represen

* Blodget's Statistical Manual, page 75.

† Cooper's Information respecting America. London, 1795.

tatives from Pennsylvania, in his exceedingly valuable "Statistical Annals" of the United States, wrote to the following effect:—

"Though we admit that ten thousand foreigners may have arrived in the United States in 1794, we can not allow that they did so, in an equal number, in any preceding or subsequent year, until 1817;" and he assumes that 6,000 persons arrived in the United States from foreign countries in each year from 1790 to 1810:* to him, and to the authorities he consulted, this average seemed a generous one.

During the ten years from 1806 to 1816, extensive immigration to the United States was precluded by the unfriendly relations at that time existing between Great Britain, France, and the United States.

England maintained the doctrine, and for a while enforced it with success, that "a man, once a subject, was always a subject." This deterred many from emigrating to this country from the British empire. Numbers had previously come for the purpose of entering the American merchant-service, and numbers still might have come which the fear of British impressment frightened from carrying out their design.

Another influence retarded immigration: in 1806, Great Britain issued a decree declaring the coasts of France in a state of blockade. A retaliatory decree was, in November of the same year, issued by France, declaring the British isles in a state of blockade.

To these restrictions on commerce—and, consequently, on the unobstructed passage from Europe—succeeded the British orders in council, and the Milan decree of Napoleon.

In March, 1809, the United States law was passed prohibiting for one year intercourse with Great Britain and France.

In 1810, the Napoleonic decrees were annulled; and the commerce of the United States had, in 1811, fairly commenced with France, but only to have their vessels fall into the hands of the British.

Preparations were now making for active hostilities, and on the

* Seybert's Annals, pp. 28 and 29.

18th of June, 1812, war was formally declared by the United States to exist with Great Britain.

The German emigration sensibly felt this unfavorable condition of affairs, inasmuch as the Germans embarked principally at the ports of Liverpool and Havre; facilities for migrating thence to this country being more numerous, and the expence of the voyage less onerous. Thus, from 1806, was the stream of emigration pent up at its fountain.

In February, 1815, peace was concluded between the United States and Great Britain; and, after several months requisite to restore tranquillity and to secure the confidence of those desiring to leave the Old World, the tide resumed its flow,* and with a speed greatly accelerated: as, from authentic information, collected principally at the several customhouses, it appears that, during the year 1817, not less than 22,240 persons arrived at ports of the United States from foreign countries. This number included American citizens returning from abroad.†

In no year previous to that had one half so many foreign passengers reached our shores. Many sufferings were incident to a voyage across the Atlantic in a crowded emigrant-vessel; and there were no laws of the United States either limiting the number of persons which a passenger ship or vessel should be entitled to carry, or providing any measures for the health or accommodation of the passengers. The subject seemed to deserve the immediate attention of Congress. In 1818 (March 10), Louis M'Lane, of Delaware, reported to the House of Representatives a bill "regulating passenger ships and vessels," which was read twice and referred.‡

In December of the following session it was called up by Thomas Newton, of Virginia, who explained the necessity of its passage. It was read a third time and passed by the House.

* Even in 1816 emigration was to some extent impeded. An act of the British Parliament allowed vessels to carry from Great Britain and Ireland to the United States only one passenger for every five tons, while it allowed vessels to carry to other foreign countries one passenger for every two tons.

† Seybert, p. 29.

‡ See Annals of Congress, 1818 and 1819.

After receiving amendments from both the Senate and House, it was finally passed, and approved March 2, 1819.*

In compliance with a requirement of this act, collectors of the customs have reported quarter-yearly to the Secretary of State the number of passengers arriving in their collection-districts by sea from foreign countries; also the sex, age, and occupation, of such passengers, and the country in which they were born. Annual reports, embracing that information, have, in conformity with the same act, been communicated to Congress by the Secretary of State; and, as before indicated, from these reports, chiefly, this history has been compiled.

The following statement† exhibits the

PROGRESS AND EXTENT OF IMMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES, FROM SEPTEMBER 30, 1819, TO DECEMBER 31, 1855.

PERIOD OF YEARS.	Total Number of Passengers arriving.	Of Foreign Birth.
During the 10 years ending Sept. 30, 1829	151,636	128,502
“ “ 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ “ “ Dec. 31, 1839	572,716	538,381
“ “ 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ “ “ Sept. 30, 1849	1,479,478	1,427,337
“ “ 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ “ “ Dec. 31, 1855	2,279,007	2,118,404
“ “ 36 $\frac{1}{4}$ “ “ “ “ “	4,482,897	4,212,624

Of the 4,212,624 passengers of foreign birth arriving in the United States during the above-mentioned period of 36 $\frac{1}{4}$ years—

207,492 were born in England;

747,930 “ “ “ Ireland;

34,559 “ “ “ Scotland;

4,782 “ “ “ Wales; and—

1,348,682 others were born in Great Britain and Ireland,
the division not designated.

2,343,445 total number born in the United Kingdom.

* For this and all other passenger-acts of the United States, see APPENDIX.

† Instead of this, any other combination of years may readily be adopted, the comparative statements (pp. 174 and 175) having been so prepared as to afford every facility for that purpose.