

POPULUS ROCESTRIENSIS

An Introduction to the
Demography of Rochester, N. Y.

KNOW YOUR CITY

What has been the comparative growth of our City?
Where are the densest sections of Rochester?
Ought we to restrict our immigration?
How does foreign illiteracy compare with ours?
How does foreign crime compare with American?
How many of our homes are rented and mortgaged?
What is the voting character of our population?
Under what flag were most of our children born?
Why were 20,000 Italians not counted in the census?
What is the comparative desirability of foreigners?
In what part of the U.S. were our natives born?
In what part of the world were our immigrants born?

By Edwin Alfred Rumball



3 9077 03660 8530

POPULUS ROCESTRIENSIS

An Introduction to the Demography of Rochester, N. Y.

by

Edwin A. Rumball

Author of "The Fourth Ward Survey," "The Working Girls and Women of Rochester," Etc.

It has been said by one student of the general subject that "population concerns everything: morals and politics, domestic and national economy." To study the population of the City of Rochester necessarily gives us the boundary of a community, but we must define this boundary more closely and limit our study to the numerical and racial development of our population, contenting ourselves with an application of our facts to but one social problem, namely, that of density.

In a democracy such as we are trying to build in this country, it is absolutely essential that we have a social science that will accurately acquaint us with the influences which are moulding us, just what racial factors are unconsciously shaping our civic and national destiny. A large proportion of the present population of our cities must be viewed from the standpoint which comprehends the significance of its origin, not in New England, but across the sea, in northern, southern and eastern Europe.

So little are we prepared for this point of view that many of us constantly admit opinions full of fallacy. For example, we continually view their numbers from the wrong angle. A news item telling of so many hundred thousand immigrants landing in New York in one year obsesses us with fear, and we argue for greater restriction. But Robert Watchorn, the former Commissioner of Immigration at the Port of New York, states in a letter to the writer, that there were more foreigners in the United States, when Lincoln called out the troops, in proportion to the rest of the population, than there are today. This is an interesting fact which we have verified by a comparison of Census reports. At the beginning of the twentieth century a little less than sixty-five per cent of the people who came in during the previous decade remained. We may all quiet our fears concerning the numerical strength of these newcomers by the fact that at this time only about thirteen per cent of the population of this country is foreign born. This is a figure which each decade reduces. Perhaps if we were citizens of some other state than New York, we should be less impressed with this

fear. But great as is the amount of immigration to this state, nearly seventy per cent of the people are natives.

Another instance illustrating our carelessness in entertaining wrong impressions of our immigrants can be cited from the figures regarding illiteracy. The "ignorant" foreigner must not be spoken of as if he were the only inhabitant of this land that was illiterate. The illiteracy of the children of white native born parents in the United States is 5.7%, while the illiteracy of the children of the immigrants of the first generation is only 1.6%. It is true that forty-five per cent of our native illiterates are negroes, but what shall we say to the fact that twenty-eight per cent of our illiterates are native born whites, and not all southern whites at that? What shall we say to the forty thousand native born whites in Illinois, the forty-seven thousand in Ohio, the nearly sixty thousand in Pennsylvania and the thirty-six thousand in our own state? The over four hundred thousand illiterates of all kinds in this state are divided as follows: 13.7% among foreign born whites, 5% among negroes and 0.8% among native whites. In our own county 4.5% of our male voting population is illiterate, or in other figures 224 are native whites and 3,824 are foreign born whites. The complacency of our references to the illiteracy of the new comers ought always to be shaken by the wonderful intellectual energy which they show as soon as the opportunity is offered to get an education.

In general, our estimate of the physical and moral character of the immigrant of recent years should be just and kindly. We find that the native population still furnishes the larger proportion of the prisoners in our cells, and in spite of wide impressions to the contrary, the immigration from southern and eastern Europe makes a better showing in regard to alcoholism, insanity and hospital costs than did the men and women who came a quarter of a century ago. This is, of course, partly due to the higher physical standard which they must now match at the port of entry. The southern Italians show a slightly higher rate of crime, when taken by themselves than do the native born Americans, but it is so slight that we have nothing to boast of in being only the second most criminal class in the country. If what follows in this study can in any degree correct false impressions or bring about a more sympathetic as well as fair and just understanding of our new citizens, this introduction to the study of the wealth of life and character which they bring us will fulfil its purpose.

"The suddenness of its rise, the energy of its population, the excellence of its institutions and the character of its prosperity, render Rochester prominent among the cities that have recently sprung into existence throughout the land, notable for extraordinary intellectual and physical development." So, O'Reilly wrote in the first history of our City in the year 1838. It can be said with equal truth of Rochester today.

Important and fascinating as the subject may be for the historian, the student of population can have no practical interest in the first inhabitants of this region. Except for some two dozen men who have come to work in our midst with stranger tools than bows and arrows, the roving bands of Senecas and Hurons who wandered into this country from the Niagara Frontier, add little

significance to our modern population. Rochester, like so many of the middle west cities had its roots in New England. For the first twenty years of its history it was a Massachusetts and a Vermont colony. And proud as we may one day become of the many European bloods running in our veins, Rochester will never rue the day, that gave it the fibre of the Puritan and made the soul of an ancient past the essence of its noblest future.

The records of Rochesterville begin about the year 1815; at that time there could be counted here, 331 men, women and children. At the first, the population did not grow very fast, hampered somewhat by the war with Great Britain. But the complaint could not have lasted long, for between 1820 and 1830 the rate of increase was as high as 517%. In 1817 the village was dropped from the name of the town and three years later the count was 1,502. The census returns and rates of increase for the last ninety years can be best shown by table and graph.

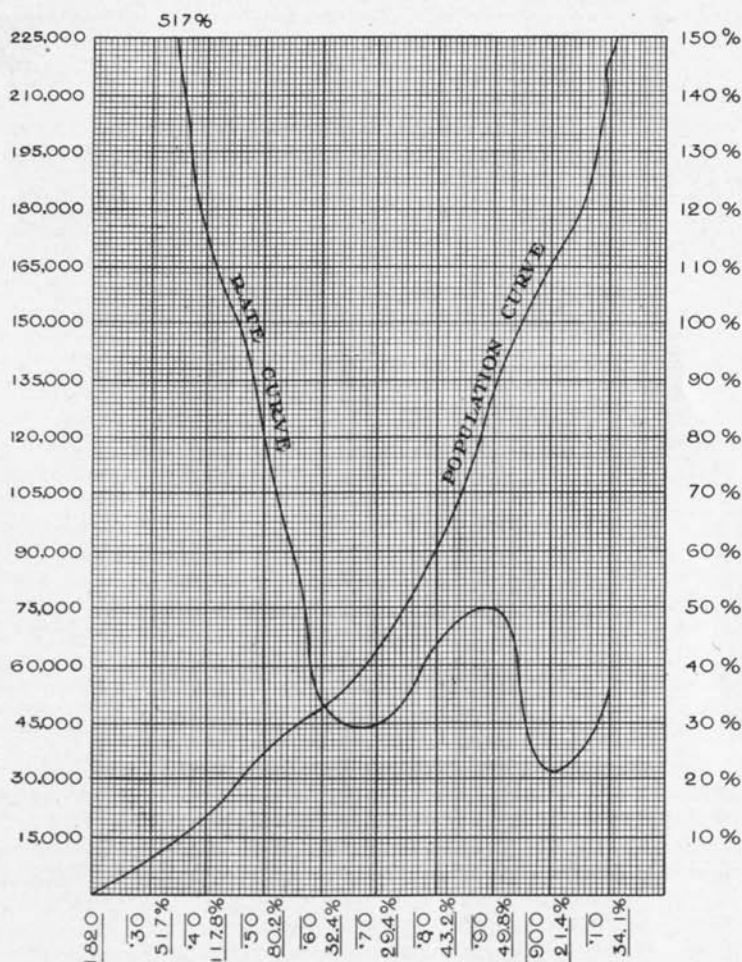


TABLE 1.

Year	Population	Rate of Increase
1820	1,502	.....
1830	9,269	517 %
1840	20,191	117.8%
1850	36,403	80.2%
1860	48,204	32.4%
1870	62,386	29.4%
1880	89,363	43.2%
1890	133,896	49.8%
1900	162,608	21.4%
1910	218,149	34.1%

1920 will probably show an increase to about 310,000.

The significance of these figures will be best seen when we compare them with other rates of increase:

TABLE 2.

Year	New York	Buffalo	Syracuse	Rochester	N. Y. State
1820	28.4%	.....	.....	.....	43.1%
1830	63.8%	313 %	.....	517 %	39.8%
1840	54.4%	110 %	.....	117.8%	26.6%
1850	64.9%	132 %	.....	80.2%	27.5%
1860	57.8%	92 %	26.3%	32.4%	25.3%
1870	15.8%	45.1%	53.1%	29.4%	12 %
1880	28 %	31.8%	20.3%	43.2%	16 %
1890	25.6%	64.8%	70.2%	49.8%	18 %
1900	126.8%	37.8%	23 %	21.4%	21 %
1910	38.7%	20.2%	26.6%	34.1%	25.4%

The only cities which surpassed Rochester in population in 1830 were New York, Baltimore, New Orleans, Cincinnati, Washington, Providence, Richmond, Portland, Louisville, Hartford, Philadelphia, Boston, Charlestown, Albany, Newark, Pittsburg, Salem, Newhaven, Norfolk and Troy. In other words, it ranked twenty-first in population, whereas today it holds the twenty-fifth place.

Rochester has grown more rapidly than the United States as a whole, except for a short period at the time of the war. It has had a higher rate than New York state at all times since 1830. The rate of the state is below that of the country between the years 1830 and 1900, but evidently because of the phenomenal increase in New York city during the last twenty years, the relative positions are reversed. The depression of the decade ending 1870 is seen in most cities, but not in Syracuse, which presents an interesting maximum.—Could the discovery of the salt have anything to do with this?—Good times are apparent again in the decade ending 1890 when a number of maximums are seen. The 517% increase must have caused quite a little comment at the time, yet it was a common thing in cities just beginning. We find O'Reilly saying in 1838, when the population was about 20,000 that, "probably not ten persons of manly age" were born within the city limits.

According to the last United States census—1910,—Rochester had a population of 218,149; many of the western cities which have arisen since Rochester was born have surpassed it in population, but when we consider the rate of increase in our own city and compare it with that of cities of similar size, we have a creditable showing. Between 1900 and 1910, the rate of increase was 32.4%, which is 13% greater than the increase of the previous decade. Only

thirteen other cities of the fifty having more than one hundred thousand population could show a better increase. When in addition to this we look for the ability of the city to increase its percentage of gain, it stands in the twentieth rank instead of in the forty-first where it ranked in 1900. If we compare the growth of Rochester with the seven cities which approximate it in size we have a result somewhat as follows:

TABLE 3.

City and Population	1910 Increase	1900 Comparison
Rochester, 218,149	34.2%	A 13% Gain
Kansas City, 248,381	51.7%	A 28% Gain
Seattle, 237,194	194 %	A 106% Gain
St. Paul, 214,744	31.7%	A 9% Gain
Denver, 213,381	59.4%	A 34% Gain
Indianapolis, 233,650	38.1%	A 22% Loss
Providence, 224,326	27.8%	A 5% Loss
Louisville, 223,928	9.4%	An 18% Loss

By this table we see that only five cities approximating the size of Rochester, show a greater percentage of increase, and only three show a better result when compared with the previous ten years. In comparing the cities of over 100,000 in the state, we find that outside of New York city, Rochester stands first for percentage of increase, and that including New York it has the best showing for any of the cities of this size in the state in its comparison with the previous census. Our neighbor city of Buffalo gained only at the rate of 20.2%, which is a loss of rate of about 17% when compared with 1900.

Another numerical aspect of the development of our population is open to us in the study of densities. The total area of Rochester is about 13,350 acres, though recent additions near some of the city lines must make this a clear under-estimate. Excluding all park, water and other uninhabitable areas, we have left about 17 square miles. To place our population on this area means 12,480 to the square mile or about 19 to the acre. Some idea of the position of Rochester compared with other cities of different sizes may be seen from the following table:

TABLE 4.

City	Population to the Acre
Syracuse	13
The Bronx	16
Buffalo	17
Rochester	19*
Greater New York	22
Manhattan	161

*As we have hinted in the paragraph preceding this table, the recent acquisition of new territory in the city would probably reduce this figure to something like that of Buffalo, which city includes a great deal of outlying territory in its limits.

Buffalo and Rochester make two very good cities to compare but the city unit is very inadequate for comparison; only from wards and enumeration districts can we obtain fair density data. The most congested ward in Buffalo is the seventh which has a population of 65 to the acre. Probably its most dense section is that which is bounded by Broadway, Back, Stanislaus and Sweet avenues, where can be found as many as 132 to the acre. The densest ward in Rochester is also the seventh, which has 55 to the

acre, and our most congested section is that which is bounded by Vose, Edward, Gilmore, Hudson, Rhine, Hanover and Thomas streets, where our people live at the rate of 77 to the acre. The most congested ward in Syracuse has only 43 to the acre. The most congested sections of Rochester, except for a small part of the 4th ward, are all on the north side of the city. The district bounded by the New York Central Railroad, Scio, Woodward and North streets, has a population of 2,537, or as many as 74 to the acre. The district bounded by Court, Chestnut, George, William, Monroe and Clinton Avenue South has in it over 700 persons at the rate of 63 to the acre. The congestion in this down-town section is mostly due to the rise of apartment houses which do not call for the same criticism which we should give to the other districts. The above are the only large sections of Rochester that have a density above the ward averages. It is held by sociologists that 25 to the acre is the maximum density that a community should permit. The following table will partly indicate which are the least congested wards that we have:

TABLE 5.

Ward	Population	Inhabitable area	Density
1	2,760	80 acres	34 per acre
2	4,583	116 "	39 " "
3	7,626	202 "	37 " "
4	5,821	129 "	45 " "
5	10,188	264 "	*38 " "
6	8,300	429 "	19 " "
7	8,240	149 "	55 " "
8	15,291	297 "	51 " "
9	7,261	217 "	33 " "
10	12,054	1,191 "	10 " "
11	12,346	275 "	44 " "
12	15,566	803 "	19 " "
13	5,516	175 "	31 " "
14	14,444	1,000 "	14 " "
15	8,339	351 "	23 " "
16	10,691	222 "	48 " "
17	15,701	1,712 "	*9 " "
18	17,781	1,117 "	15 " "
19	17,546	1,174 "	15 " "
20	10,319	503 "	20 " "
21	1,582	720 "	2 " "
22	6,184	*.... "	*.. " "

*Because of recent changes in ward limits, it was impossible to make each of these estimates accurate. The asterisks denote those wards where such inaccuracy can be found.

It will be noticed that half of the wards are above the normal healthy condition of density, that the only wards having less than 25 to the acre are the 6th, 10th, 12th, 14th, 15th, 18th, 19th, 20th and the country ward, the 21st. The four most congested wards in the city are the 4th, 7th, 8th and 16th; the 11th ward follows very closely on the 4th.

It is part of the question of density to determine the amount of crowding which exists in the houses of the people. In 1910 we had 46,787 families in the city dwelling in 38,860 dwellings, which is 1.2% to a dwelling. This is an increase of a point on the previous ten years. Buffalo shows a similar increase for the same period, from 1.4% to 1.5%. The wards which show the greatest

inadequacy for the housing of the families which report as living there are as follows:

TABLE 6.

Ward	No. Dwellings	No. Families
2	509	904
3	1,286	1,753
4	904	1,269
6	1,513	1,926
7	1,100	1,630
8	2,374	3,010
9	1,167	1,468
11	2,200	2,724
12	3,027	3,620
16	1,525	2,318
18	3,443	3,981

We have been unable to obtain recent figures for the number of families in dwellings, but at the beginning of the century 88.6% were in one-family houses; 9.1% were in two-family houses. The number of families living in houses containing two, three, four and more families was at that time on the increase, and we suspect that recent figures would not show any great difference to these percentages on the good side.

The ownership of these homes can be best stated in another table:

TABLE 7.

Ward	Owned				
	Free	Encumbered	Unknown	Rented	Unknown
1	10	18	1	392	38
2	42	61	3	766	32
3	223	176	33	1,223	98
4	99	111	4	1,004	51
5	430	355	3	1,247	41
6	377	249	3	1,209	88
7	141	243	..	1,189	57
8	567	678	4	1,707	54
9	210	259	..	985	14
10	465	860	24	1,360	32
11	481	442	3	1,771	27
12	752	879	7	1,878	104
13	215	197	1	922	34
14	486	858	8	1,380	24
15	341	497	1	952	13
16	341	423	2	1,511	41
17	669	1,086	2	1,364	31
18	558	1,395	3	1,973	52
19	674	1,342	3	1,984	62
20	548	573	1	1,048	35
21	83	95	1	180	4
22	164	509	32	480	9

Of course, a mortgaged home does not necessarily mean bad times or conditions, it frequently stands for enterprize and success, this is especially true where the owners are young. At the beginning of this century, a survey taken of the ages of our householders showed the following results, which will suggest conditions of today with some approximation:

TABLE 8.

Age of Householder	Owued Free	Mortgaged	Rented
Under 25 years	19	90	736
Between 25 and 34	394	816	6,118
Between 35 and 44	1,285	2,126	6,260
Between 45 and 54	1,553	1,775	3,939
Between 55 and 64	1,365	990	2,168
Above 65 years	1,369	599	1,217

In round figures, at that time, out of 33,964 homes in this city only 6,001 were owned free of mortgage, while 20,481 were rented. When we look to other cities for comparison, we find that Rochester holds a good position, though nothing to be proud of in the absolute sense. In the Borough of Manhattan, only 6% of the houses are owned by the people who live in them. In Philadelphia, which has many very small homes, 22% are free owners. The figures for Syracuse and Buffalo are much the same as ours. When we consider the social importance of one-family houses owned by those who live in them, it is an evil tendency which we have begun, fraught with great harm to the moral and economic ideals of the community, that fewer and fewer of the population manage to possess them.

Before leaving this part of our study we may include tables of the age and sex characters of the population of the city, which for some will prove useful social science data.

TABLE 9.

Males, 15 Years of Age and Over.

	Total	Single		Married		Widowed	Divorced
		No.	%	No.	%		
Total	81,719	33,314	40.8	44,537	54.5	3,466	247
15 to 24 years	21,934	19,677	89.7	2,170	9.9	13	3
25 to 44 years	38,049	11,557	30.4	25,620	67.3	685	142
45 years and over..	21,668	2,050	9.5	16,730	77.2	2,765	102
Age unknown	68	30	....	17	....	3	...
Native white—							
Native parentage ..	25,079	11,259	44.9	12,709	50.7	948	98
Native white—							
For. or mixed par.	26,876	12,948	48.2	12,984	48.3	797	92
Foreign-born white.	29,375	8,943	30.4	18,641	63.5	1,701	55
Negro	346	138	39.9	187	54.0	19	2

Females, 15 Years of Age and Over.

	Total	Single		Married		Widows	Divorced
		No.	%	No.	%		
Total	83,461	30,252	36.2	43,427	52.0	9,332	320
15 to 24 years	22,025	17,177	78.0	4,699	21.3	65	22
25 to 44 years	36,868	9,866	26.8	25,243	68.5	1,520	194
45 and over	24,500	3,182	13.0	13,467	55.0	7,727	104
Age unknown	68	27	....	18	....	20	...
Native white—							
Native parentage ..	26,308	10,754	40.9	12,634	48.0	2,720	164
Native white—							
For. or native par..	30,887	13,774	44.6	14,534	47.1	2,428	89
Foreign-born white.	25,880	5,591	21.6	16,054	62.0	4,140	65
Negro	366	124	33.9	198	54.1	40	2

We must now definitely turn to the racial character of our city. Our fellow citizens have come from the ends of the earth and for many the most interesting and romantic part of this introduction to the population of our city will begin at this point. Table 10 will set forth for us where our foreign white stock comes from:

TABLE 10.

Foreign Country in which born, or, if native, in which parents were born	White population of Foreign Birth or Foreign Parentage: 1910						Foreign- born white population: 1900
	Total		Foreign birth		Native		
	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent	Both par- ents for- eign born	One par- ent for- eign born	
All countries	142,680	100.0	58,993	100.0	56,732	26,955	40,718
Austria	2,328	1.6	1,688	2.9	549	91	218
Canada—French	1,493	1.0	569	1.0	380	544	552
Canada—Other	16,280	11.4	9,112	15.4	1,948	5,220	7,733
Denmark	266	0.2	135	0.2	56	75	51
England	11,214	7.9	4,939	8.4	2,711	3,564	3,909
France	1,011	0.7	326	0.6	315	370	307
Germany	49,573	34.7	14,624	24.8	24,851	10,098	16,261
Greece	191	0.1	176	0.3	12	3	18
Holland	3,094	2.2	1,220	2.1	1,191	683	927
Hungary	556	0.4	415	0.7	114	27	32
Ireland	19,026	13.3	5,230	8.9	9,353	4,443	5,599
Italy	14,816	10.4	10,638	18.0	3,936	242	1,278
Norway	131	0.1	88	0.1	25	18	32
Roumania	121	0.1	90	0.2	27	4	2
Russia	11,595	8.1	7,148	12.1	4,151	296	2,221
Scotland	2,140	1.5	949	1.6	493	698	663
Sweden	615	0.4	384	0.7	170	61	109
Switzerland	1,083	0.8	498	0.8	322	263	478
Turkey in Asia	142	0.1	118	0.2	18	6	4
Turkey in Europe	169	0.1	155	0.3	13	1	4
Wales	264	0.2	89	0.2	68	107	59
All other	6,572	4.6	402	0.7	6,029	141	265

The above table describes our 142,680 citizens who come directly within foreign influences. Most of our native citizens had their origin in New York state. Pennsylvania has sent us about two thousand, Ohio about a thousand and the same number have come from Michigan and Massachusetts.

If we list our citizens in the terms of politics we have about seventy thousand males of voting age. White native parentage gives us 20,467 or 29.4%; Foreign or mixed parentage, 21,683 or 31.2%; and foreign-born whites of voting age can be numbered at 27,067 or 38.9%. This last figure should be divided as follows: Naturalized citizens: 13,003; number who have taken out their first papers: 2,947; Aliens: 8,361 and 2,756 unknown.

If we classify our population by age as well as race we have a summary like the following:

TABLE 11.

	Total		Native White		Foreign White		Negro	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Total	108,352	109,797	76,643	81,569	31,241	27,752	424	455
Under 5 years...	9,552	9,514	9,266	9,166	262	314	24	34
Under 1 year...	2,058	1,974	2,039	1,953	12	17	7	4
5 to 9 years....	8,485	8,318	7,682	7,525	774	770	29	23
10 to 14 years...	8,596	8,504	7,740	7,683	830	788	25	32
15 to 19 years...	9,973	10,149	8,247	8,619	1,692	1,498	34	26
20 to 24 years...	11,961	11,876	8,206	8,882	3,702	2,921	49	70
25 to 34 years...	21,827	20,849	13,762	14,717	7,931	6,004	114	125
35 to 44 years...	16,222	16,019	10,010	10,724	6,133	5,227	68	63
45 to 64 years...	17,631	19,074	9,999	11,717	7,547	7,283	78	73
65 years and over	4,037	5,426	1,690	2,495	2,343	2,920	3	9
Age unknown ..	68	68	41	41	27	27	...	...

Most of the foreigners of our city are in the 5th, 7th, 8th, 11th, 14th, 17th, 18th and 19th wards. Most of the negroes are in the

3rd ward. It is a decided gain to our community that most of these newcomers from over the sea, come to us in their youth. Most of their children are born under the American flag and to more or less extent under American ideals, which makes the process of assimilation very much easier. It is significant in this respect that while about one-fifth of our population is foreign born, nearly ninety-two per cent of the children in our schools, both public and parochial, are American born.

The relative desirability of the foreign speaking men and women who come to us, can be partly gauged from the percentage of those who in a given year are returned by the government. The amount of cash that they bring into the country on the average may also guide us. Table 12 can summarize this for us:

TABLE 12.

Country	Percentage Refused		Average Amt. of
	Admission	Cash per Head	
Scandinavia .....	.18%	\$17.00	
Ireland .....	.39%	15.00	
Portugal .....	.46%	11.00	
North Italy .....	.59%	23.00	
Germany .....	.63%	30.00	
Hebrew .....	.84%	9.00	
South Italy	1.34%	9.00	

To the consciousness of most Rochesterians, the Italian is our chief immigrant, and his significance in our midst might well occupy our thought first. The first member of this race to come to our city came as much as fifty years ago. He was a laborer and stayed here about three years before moving to Chicago. He returned in 1864 and discovered that in his absence, two other Italian families had settled here, whose business was the making of plaster images. According to the last United States Census, taken in 1910, we had only 10,638 Italians in Rochester. This will surprise many who believe themselves acquainted with the Italian sections of the city, for it is a very general impression, and we believe a fairly correct one, that we have a very much larger number with us. Leading Italians unhesitatingly say that we have at least 20,000; the Consul placed the number as high as 30,000, some state it even higher. We feel that we are conservative in stating that it is our belief that Rochester has 25,000 Italians. Just why the Census should so under-estimate the number is not easy to explain, but it is not without precedent. The same situation was found in Boston which was there explained as due to the large number of resident Italians who were absent from the city working on the state roads and railroads when the Census was taken. This may help explain our problem. The Italian Consul also suggested that it was always impossible to make an accurate estimate of the immigrants in a city unless the investigator went at night. The women found at home during the day are frequently afraid to state how many boarders they have, for fear that the law will find some fault. Further than this, there seems to be an ingrained suspicion of all such enquirers, based on the feeling that all such information will be made the basis of taxation or some other interference with their far sought freedom.

Perhaps we should try to understand the Italian far more than we have previously understood any other immigrant. It is important to keep clear in our minds that Italian geography seems to make some difference to the character of the race. We cannot class as a unit the northern and southern Italians. In Italy the distinction is a real one. For example, the economic conditions of the two sections are very different. There is only about half as much private property in the south as in the north. While in the north about 17% of the land is reported as unfertile, in the south this is figured at 21% and in Sicily it is 27%. Another index of the distinction is said to be discoverable in the amount of meat which the two sections eat. In the north there is 17.9 kilograms consumed per person, while in the south there is only seven. Illiteracy is found in the south eight times more than in the north, but expenditure for education in the north is three times as large as that spent on the south. All these necessarily bring about a different standard of living and consequently different characteristics. Three-fourths of our Italian immigrants come from the south and if Italy is to leave its mark deep upon America it will be left more by the children of the provinces of the Abruzzi, Campania, Basilicata, Calabria and Sicily than by the children of the north. The north may excell them in some external features but it is our experience that the southern Italians have warm and kindly hearts, full of desire for every true improvement and excelling when the chance comes in many things which will add glory to the spirit of America.

In Rochester they are found in the 2nd, 9th and 16th wards. Most of the down-town wards have a sprinkling of them. In our minds we mostly associate the following streets with them: Hartford, Lewis, Ontario, Davis, Central Park, Philander, Hebard, Ritz, Massena, State and West avenue. A small colony off Monroe avenue can claim to live in the twelfth or best residential ward of the city. These are mostly Sicilian. Many of our Italian citizens are illiterate, easy to slip into a place where the language of the hand is all that is required. A very large number of them look to Italy as a home-country, a place to return to, one of these days. The fact that the Italian has a little property is no absolute guarantee that he is rooted to our soil. He may also have a little property in Italy, bought with his American dollars, and it may be his fairest dream to end his days upon it. The annual emigration from this country to Italy is very large, and the population of Rochester so far as this race is concerned is changing all the time. Less than half of our Rochester Italians have their families with them. About fifty per cent of these will earn enough money to go home to their families and probably remain there, except for occasional later trips, and the remainder will bring their families out to them. The chief reason for this feature of Italian immigration is that it is not wholly a natural exodus. The Italian does not leave his country for any extraordinary love for American freedom or dislike of Italian conditions. His journey is simply a good business trip. We have to thank the agents of the steamship companies and the glorified reports of the first comers, that so large a number have come to us in the last few years. As early as 1891 Commissioner Schulters found a system in operation there, which included nearly four thousand immigration agents and sub-agents, in 1900 this number

had increased to over seven thousand. Because the wages here are larger than in the home country, about three-fourths of the passage money is sent from friends on this side. Most of them are single men who find it possible to crowd into small rooms and maintain a standard of life which permits of considerable saving. The Italians of New York city are said to have about sixty millions of property with about fifteen millions of this in the saving banks. The same report can be made with even larger savings for the Italians of St. Louis, Chicago, Boston and San Francisco. It cannot be denied that this saving is made at considerable sacrifice, both personally and socially. Health and comfort and a low standard of living is far too great a price to pay for such savings. Thrift is good so long as the community does not have to suffer for it. On the other hand much of the poverty and misery of their manner of living is not forced upon them by thrift, as every social worker well knows. Low wages and evil housing conditions and the anti-social attitude of some who think that anything will do for Italians, all combine to degrade their life with us.

Another class of Italians in our city,—a class also to be found among our Russians and Poles,—is a shifting throng of rather educated young men and women, who are unable to get the employment for which their education has fitted them, because of their ignorance of the language and the prejudice which the average American feels for the average foreigner. They are ready to do anything. Lonely, intellectually starved, disillusioned concerning the wonderful country to which their dreams had brought them, they constitute, as one Italian of this group said, a more dangerous social element in their hopelessness than the most illiterate. A small percentage of them after they have learned the language become professional men among their own people and many of the others add their lives to the tragedy of the ideal and pass into a state of "homesickness for the land which they have never seen;" others again with the spirit of an Arturo Giovanetti fling out their arrows into the gale to be driven by wild winds to their destination.

So much prejudice is shown to our local Italians by persons who do not know them, that we are strongly tempted to lengthen our description of their character. If we are human ourselves we ought to remember their humanity. Hath not an Italian hands, organs, dimensions, senses, affections, passions? fed with the same food, hurt with the same weapons, subject to the same diseases, healed by the same means, warmed and cooled by the same summer and winter as ourselves? If you pinch them, do they not cry? If you tickle them, do they not laugh? If you poison them, do they not die? If you wrong them, shall they not revenge? It will probably be sufficient to recall the fact that all who have learned to know them, love them. More and more acquaintance will place them in the estimation of all on perfect equality with every one, as it has done the immigrants who came before them. We believe that Rochester at the end of the twentieth century, if not many years before, will be proud of the fact that in these years so many of the sunny children of Italy came to live by the Genesee. We who are the first hosts of these people have committed some terrible mistakes in our ignorance and prejudice. Not long ago an Italian who has since become an Italian sculptor of much promise was seen

working in a street gang. He had come to our land unfriended, and finding no opening to work at his art, he fell back on common unskilled labor. This is social waste. Some day we shall awaken to the knowledge that we are drafting for common labor, people from some of the most variously gifted races of Europe. Dvorak was a butcher's son, and in this land he might have spent his life in the Chicago stock-yards, and he is typical of many a genius of the older lands. The new world has much to offer the immigrant, but it has yet to give him a full opportunity for his soul. Men do not live by dollars alone, and from the compatriots of Chopin, Dante, Socrates and the Christ, it would be strange if here and there the old spirit did not re-appear again and again.

A detailed account of the German population of Rochester would almost be an account of the city itself. Their history with the city goes back to the earliest days, and all along the years their presence with us has been one of Rochester's most constant assets. Although as early as 1792, the Germans first came into the Genesee country, it was not until 1814 that the first of their people settled in Rochesterville. The first family was John Hau's, and he had a bakery; then came the Klem's. A Klem tradition tells of one of their early mothers walking to New York that the priest might baptize her baby. By the year 1830 there were six German families here and ten years later they had increased to six hundred.

The story of the Germans of Rochester has been well written by one of our most honorable German citizens, Dr. Pfaefflin, that we have depended considerably upon his words for much that we have to tell of the years previous to the last decade. The earliest German immigrants came to this country to better their condition and were mostly laborers. Like the Italians of today, they had great difficulties in overcoming the language. The real inrush of German life into Rochester, as into all America, was in the forties. This came through the failure of the revolution and the failure of the crops. Another factor doubtless being the greater comfort of marine transportation which began about this time. The chief contingents to this city from Germany came from Alsace, Baden, Bavaria and the Palatinate. They did not colonize like the Italians upon their arrival, but definite sections of the city soon came to be dominated by them. At the intersection of Jay and Child streets, there was a large settlement of Alsations, and the place was often called in those days, "the Strassburg four-corners." The section near South Clinton avenue and Gregory street was settled largely by Hessians. The great German wards of the city were and to a smaller extent still are the 5th, 7th, 14th and 16th. As early as 1832 they had formed a militia and when the war came thirty years later, they did their full share. The old 13th regiment which left in May, 1861, had in it about two hundred Germans, large representations also going with the 108th, 140th, 151st, the batteries of Bricknell and Mack and the 8th and 22nd cavalry.

But the city has received a greater contribution from the Germans than the courage which they displayed in the Civil War. Our largest and most prosperous industries owe a great debt to their industry and skill. The nursery which Dean Bailey called "the most famous in the country" was founded in this city by George Elwanger, a native of Wurtemberg. He also introduced dwarf

apple and pear trees, revolutionized the methods of pruning and gave to the world the "Northern Spy." He was one of the earliest financial backers of the Kodak, but ploughed his name most of all into the hearts of the people by his gift of beautiful Highland Park to the city. We cannot take up space to tell of all the leading Germans of the city, from Bausch and Lomb in the world of industry to Rauschenbusch in the world of religion, the German contribution can never be forgotten. To begin to tell what America owes to the Germans is to tell of nearly all the joys and toils which have made America what it is. Think of what the common folk have given! If we only think of the husking frolics, the quilting bees, apple-butter cookings, fruit preserving parties, turner-fests and sanger-fests, it is a joyful social center which they have made of all their neighborhoods. Christmas which the Puritans nearly abolished from America, was restored to us by the Germans. They have given us the children's toys and Santa Claus, to them we owe the Christmas cards and the Picture Post cards and even the Teddy Bear is a German immigrant. Away back in 1831, Mrs. Trollope wrote in her "Domestic Manners of America,"—"I have never seen a people so totally divested of gaiety; there is no trace of it from one end of the union to the other. They have no fetes, no fairs, no merry-makings, no music in the street, no Punch and Judy, no puppet shows, and a distinguished publisher in Philadelphia assured me that no comic publication had ever been known to succeed in America." It this were only half true of Rochester, we have to thank the Germans that times have greatly changed. Dr. Faust, the able German-American historian well says that "German culture has shaken the young American giant out of his stupor of self-absorption, and has awakened in him a soul capable of thinking the thoughts and thrilling to the emotions of all humanity."

The flood of German immigration to this city began to cease about 1875. Today we have only a little over two hundred children in our schools who were born in Germany, which is a fair index of the fewness of Germans who have come to us in recent years. Between 1900 and 1910 the number of born Germans in the city was reduced by about two thousand, so that today we have only about fourteen thousand. Aside from the Italians they form the largest foreign element in the city. At the beginning of this century, out of nearly fifty thousand workmen at work in about a hundred and thirty selected Rochester industries it was found that over fifteen thousand of them were of German birth. Eighty-six per cent of the workers in our breweries are Germans, fifty per cent of the tailors, fifty per cent of the bakers, thirty-three per cent of the printers, thirty per cent of the machinists and twenty per cent of the maids in our homes come from this race. Our policeman and firemen are all German where they are not Irish. While sixty per cent of our women musicians are natives, over fifty per cent of our male musicians are German. Our delightful symphony concerts form no small contribution of the Germans to our city.

As a people they are usually religious and thoughtful in their religion. Both extremes can be found with them: the dogmatism of old faiths and the free-thinking of new idealisms. They are as independent in their politics as they are in their religion. From the time when Benjamin Franklin despaired of them politically,

until today, they cannot be relied upon to be very partisan, unless we think with Franklin that "measures of great temper" will make a difference. Be this as it may, Andrew D. White says without hesitancy that "in the improvement of political methods our country must acknowledge a debt to our fellow citizens of German descent." The German character is steady and industrious. He is not given to display, but he sets a high value on physical comforts. Unlike some immigrants, he will not save money by living below the social standards. With the conscience of a Scotchman, the emotion of an Irishman and the stick-to-it-tive-ness of an Englishman, they have always contributed and will continue to contribute some of the best features to our city and to all American life.

Many of the Germans of our city have been adherents of the Jewish religion and though the official Census of the country does not include the Jews as a race, we cannot do justice to the racial features of Rochester without some word concerning the men and women of that race who have made this city their home. They live mostly in the 5th and 8th wards. The reason for their presence with us is the old reason of persecution first of all. Economic disturbance in the agricultural conditions of the lands that they have left and the partial industrializing of the towns have also been factors. Our Russian citizens are nearly all Jewish, while Germany, Poland and Austria and other countries send us large contingents. In round numbers we probably have about ten thousand Jews in the city.

In the Directory for Rochester in 1844 we find mention of five Jews in the city, who like the pioneers of this race in other places were peddlers. Mire Greentree, called the father of the clothing industry of Rochester, came here in that year. Six years later the five had increased to seventy. Throughout their history with us they seemed to have been among the most progressive of the country. The Temple Berith Kodesh was the first congregation in America, perhaps in the world, to hold its services in English; this was as early as 1884. The Chamber of Commerce of Rochester was the first Chamber to elect a Jew as its President. Politically they have never been very important in this city, though they have usually succeeded in controlling the seventh ward. More perhaps than any other race that we have with us they prize education and seek it through tremendous difficulties. In this they are like their people all over the world, for no people of the earth have in their ranks so many scholars, minds of genius and power. He suffers from a more varied sort of prejudice than the Italian but as his fellows in other religions come to know the wonderful history of his people,—a history far more remarkable during the last two thousand years than in Bible days,—he is welcomed and honored and made to feel how necessary he is with his energy and social idealism to the best interests of the land.

Next in numerical strength, we have with us the brothers and sisters of Chopin and Kosciusko—the children of Poland. Mostly dwelling near the northern line of the city, with the far end of Hudson avenue as their main avenue of approach to the down-town sections, the members of this race are only just beginning to make their presence felt in our midst, though they have been with us for more than twenty years. According to the last census, we only had

56 born Poles in the city, though ten years earlier they numbered 1,051. As all students of the race know, they have carried for many decades the tragedy of a lost land, and it is one of the pities that America should emphasize in any way their loss. We count the Irish a nation equally with the English, but we do not count the Poles equally with the Germans or the Russians; at least there is a carelessness creeps in somewhere in their registration. A local survey made in 1911 counted about eight thousand Poles in Rochester, most of whom doubtless were put down in the census papers as Austrians, Germans or Russians. They work on our roads and in our factories like other immigrants and judging from the Rochester men and women of this race that we know and from the sight of the streets and houses where they live, they form one of the most desirable of the new comers that we have. In cities like Buffalo where they have long been residential, they have made a valuable place for themselves in the community and their members hold places in all the professions and positions of esteem in the city. This is undoubtedly what Rochester can expect from the few thousand who have come to us to help us realize in America a land of freedom and light.

Last, but far from least, yea, last because so very important, the Irish contribution to our common life must receive some attention from us. If space permitted we might tell something of all the races that have come to live with us in Rochester, especially the English and the Scotch, who are as numerically strong as the Irish, but in all our communities, the Irish influence is apt to be more distinctive and thus more easily traced. In every American community, they have been important from the beginning, the first two coming over in the Mayflower.

According to the last census we had in the city 5,230 persons who were born in Ireland, and 9,353 whose parents were born there. Like the Germans, they were among the first to come to Rochester and many of the pioneer names in our history begin with an "O" or a "Mc" and end with a "y." Patrick Barry shares with George Elwanger the fame of the great nursery and O'Reilly was our first journalist and historian. James C. Cochrane is said to have been our finest lawyer and Patrick Cox and John Kelly were among the fathers of the shoe industry of the city. Conway built Main street bridge under thrilling circumstances and Patrick O'Rourke, so famous in the Civil War was born on Front street when that street was referred to with more unconsciousness than it is today.

The large immigration of the Irish to Rochester began about the same time as that from Germany and for much the same reasons. The failure of the rebellion and the loss of the crops in 1848 brought many to our town. Some of our finest citizens came for the first of these reasons both from Germany and Ireland; America has always owed much to the men who have had the thrill of revolutionary blood in their veins. It has not been possible to collect very much data of the Irish in this city, for unlike the Germans, the Jews and the Italians they have not made any decided attempt to preserve their records. They seem to be content to leave their footprints on the sands of time, counting all other record superfluous. In proportion to their numbers more Irishmen vote at our elections than any other race; they believe in the ballot. For this

they are often blamed but if only those who find fault with the political activity of the Irish were as active in the politics of their city and country, most of the evils they complain of would disappear.

In the matter of religion, the large majority are Catholic. The Catholic churches of our city were nearly all built by them. The old Frankfort District and Dublin District on the north were almost wholly Irish sixty years ago. They are still found in large numbers in the first and second wards. The northeast and southwestern sections of the city were invaded by Orangemen who came by way of Canada from Cork and its vicinity in the famine times. Their descendents may still be found in the 11th and in what used to be called the 8th, now the 7th and 18th wards. The town of Greece was almost wholly Irish—who does not remember Paddy Hill in that township?—and many have come across the city line to live with us.

It ought to be made part of the annals of the Irish population of Rochester, that after the war was over, the war spirit which had found expression for America soon found expression in another direction. The Fenian organization of this city was made up largely of the old soldiers of the Civil War. One squad from Rochester did go to Canada and one Cleary even went to Ireland and found trouble. Later the city was a hot center of the Land League and Parnell himself was here in 1879. A Rochester man was the treasurer of the national organization.

Just how small has been the Irish immigration to this city in recent years can be judged from the fact that less than twenty children in our public and parochial schools were born in Ireland.

As was suggested at the outset, all manner of topics and problems can come from the application of some of the data supplied in this introduction, all manner of solutions will suggest themselves to those who have troubled to read it, but we refrain from devoting space to these things because we believe most of all in the essential qualities of the races which we have considered together. They have not come to us for our charity nor our settlements, they have come seeking our co-operation in the working out of their ideals, it remains for us to welcome them with wholeheartedness to co-operate with us in the working out of our ideals, that together a common vision may be realized. Of course, there are some in Rochester as in other cities, who think that immigration should be restricted; there are some here as in other cities who believe every sensational news item of the foreigner's passions as typical of the race, forgetful of the large mass of solidly worthwhile men and women who come to our shores; some here as elsewhere, to whom every foreigner killed or injured on a canal job or in a street excavation, is only one "Wop," "Dago" or "Giny" the less; but there are others in Rochester who when they see one of our Greek boot-blacks, think of him as a young fellow from Socrates' land, "fresh from the master Praxilites' hand;" perhaps descended from one of those who have become deathless in story and song; there are others who when they see the Pole working in the shoe factory, think at once of Chopin, and recall how Dvorak made the heavy faces bloom with his wild Czeck melody; there are others who when the Italian fruit man comes to the door, or dies of tuberculosis in one of our tene-



3 9077 03660 8530

ments, go back in their minds four centuries ago when "a world from the wave began to rise," who remember when they see the wide lustrous eyes that when Italy dreams Caesar and Dante and Angelo come with us to dwell; yes, there are others, who when the junkman comes to the back door, never think of him as a "Sheeny," but see in him the sad, kindly eyes of the man of Nazareth. Our end can best be an aspiration with Robert Haven Schaufler:

"New comers all from the Eastern seas,
 Help us to incarnate dreams like these,
 Forget and forgive that we did you wrong,
 Help us to father a nation strong
 In the comradeship of an equal birth,
 In the wealth of the richest bloods of earth."

INDEX

Age of Householders - - -	10	Native parentage - - -	10
Age of Population - - -	10-11	Naturalized citizens - - -	11
Aliens - - - - -	11	New England colonists - - -	5
Buffalo - - - - -	6-7	New York city - - -	6-7
Congested Wards - - -	8	Number of Dwellings - - -	9
Crime of Immigrants - - -	4	O'Reilly's History - - -	4
Density - - - - -	7-9	One-family houses - - -	10
"Desirability" - - - - -	12	Over-crowding - - - - -	8
Divorced persons - - -	10	Ownership of homes - - -	9
Educated Immigrants - - -	14	Percentage who stay in U. S. -	3
Fenians - - - - -	19	Percentage of Foreign-born -	3
Foreign Parentage - - -	10-1	Percentage of natives - - -	4
Fourth Ward - - - - -	8	Poles - - - - -	17-18
Germans - - - - -	15-17	Rates of Increase - - - - -	5-7
Illiteracy - - - - -	4	Rented Homes - - - - -	9
Indian population - - -	4	Rochesterville - - - - -	5
Inhabitable areas - - -	8	Savings in banks - - - - -	14
Immigrant agents - - -	13	School children - - - - -	12
Irish - - - - -	18-19	Sex Characteristics - - - - -	10
Italians - - - - -	12-15	Syracuse - - - - -	6-7
Jews - - - - -	17	Two-family houses - - - - -	9
Money brought in - - -	12	Voters - - - - -	11, 18
Mortgaged homes - - -	9	Watchorn's letter - - - - -	3
Natives - - - - -	10-11	Widowed, The - - - - -	10