

127

Note For German Population Study: Newark, N.J.

I have covered most of the written material. However, there are still many clippings on Germans in Newark. These clippings may be found in Foreign Nationalities File at the Newark Library.

Most of the work from now on should be personal contacts with old citizens, etc.

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## NEWARK AND ITS GERMAN ELEMENT

Due to the fact that its settlers were mainly artisans and due to its close proximity with New York and excellent shipping facilities, the city of Newark became early engaged in manufacturing. Along with these initial advantages was joined another inviting feature that caused many New York business men to locate permanently in this city. This was the cheapness of rent and building sites, with low taxation. Naturally, these factors readily drew ample capital and skilled labor to the mills and factories of embryonic Newark. Important industries, for whom New York afforded a ready market, gradually developed, and for approximately forty years, up until the World War, their chief products were hats, shoes, leather, carriages, jewelry, celluloid, and fertilizer.

Although many of the skilled workmen came from New York, along with the capital, the great majority were immigrants. According to the Tenth Census of the United States (1880): "The original population, from New England, with their descendants, long held sway; but with the increase of manufactures came immigrants from the old world, and these, principally Irish and German, with their descendants, now form a considerable part of the population."

Since the promising dawn of the nineteenth century, and especially since its gaudy twilight, Newark had had a maneuvering population. Taken from year to year, the population shifts may not have been very noticeable; but when analyzed by decades, the advances and retreats of the various national groups - particularly of the Germans - appear quite distinct. The Germans were among the first immigrant groups to settle

in Newark. A few of their number can be traced to Newark as far back as pre-Revolutionary days; but the real nucleus for the soon-to-be-great German immigrant colony did not actually take form until about 1810. Most of the earliest arrivals were farmers and small tradesmen, who left their devastated Vaterland during the unsettled period that followed the Napoleonic wars. Many came to escape persecution; many others to escape more hardships, hardships that they considered wholly unnecessary so long as there was a country like the United States to which the long-suffering European could flee and in which he could build his life anew. The strong characteristics of industry and thoroughness of the Germans were welcomed in young America, and soon found their possessors at work establishing and developing many important industries.

It is not strange that one of the earliest German enterprises in Newark was the city's first brewery. The brewer, William Bauer, first located on William Street, but later moved his business to Walnut Street. However, the very first factory for which a German immigrant, Rochus Heinisch, was responsible was located near High Street. Since their first appearance in 1825, the Heinisch products, scissors and knives, were in great demand in both American and European countries.

Not until right after the German Revolution of 1848, however, did the Germans enter America - and Newark - in great numbers. Continued influx thereafter spurred the growth of strong German immigrant influence in American public life, the most significant step in this locality being the election of W.H.Fiedler, a German-born, to the office of mayor. This occurred in 1878, just thirty years after the German element had begun to

show itself definitely as a major and ever-growing part of the city's population. The activities of the many German-American political and cultural groups and leaders that have appeared in constantly greater numbers since Mayor Fiedler, goes far toward proving that Germans, on the whole, possess a strong corporate consciousness.

"No other immigrant background contains greater diversity of types," writes Kuno Franck in his essay, "The Germans," in Fairchild's Immigrant Backgrounds. Dr. Franck goes on to describe these, perhaps not in keeping with the taste of the more scientifically minded, but at least vividly as: "The choleric Bavarian", the light-hearted Franconian", "the deep mystically-inclined Slovakian", "the effervescent Rhinelander", "the bright gentle Thuringian", "the impassionate melancholy Silesian", "the stubborn slow-moving Low German", "the smart versatile Prussian".

It can be truthfully said that Newark has become the home of a goodly share of each of these types, colorful adjectives and all. However, what may surely be more important are the human qualities and the national characteristics, other than those alluded to above, which the German immigrants have carried over into their new homeland.

From "The German" essay by Kuno Franck:

Six chief characteristics: systematic schooling, thrift and orderliness; sense for aesthetically pleasing home surroundings and recreations; pride in national achievement; lack of churchliness; lack of experience in political organization.

Even the smallest village without a singing society is unthinkable.

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In a cultural sense Newark owes a great deal to its German-American inhabitants. The "Turnvereins" called attention to the necessity of body training for growing youth and played an important role in the introduction of physical training in public schools.

Appreciation for the fine art of choral singing was engendered by the song-loving Germans. Around 1900 there were numerous singing societies in the city, which by concerts or saengerfests, demonstrated the beauty of song when rendered by a large chorus of voices.

The first German society was founded in 1833 as "Deutsche Gesellschaft" for benevolent purposes. A singing society, "Eintracht", was organized in 1846. Neither of these organizations exists today. Arion Singing Society, founded in 1859, still exists and is one of the largest German singing societies.

Although German-Americans now reside in practically all parts of the city, the neighborhood of Springfield Avenue, from Tenth Street to city line still retains the characteristics of a German section. Here may be found stores selling German delicacies and merchandise, butcher shops specializing in all types of wurst, prepared in old country style, and taverns and club houses, where groups gather to sing over steins of foaming beer. "Wie Gehts" may be heard on many occasions when passersby meet.

Reasons for trend of Germans to Irvington and other suburbs:

1. Crowding by other national groups.
2. Health: "The influence of adjacent marshes or salt meadows is said (1880) to produce malaria in low part of city, while Orange range of hills, though healthy in themselves, exert no special influence of climate." (Tenth Census, Social Statistics)

Germans were largely responsible for Academy of Music, which was first a brewery, then a schoolhouse, and for Newark Opera House (1880).

Also: Atlantic Garden, Volks Union Park, Siefert's Park, Roseville Park, Jubert's Park, and Weice's Park. Had active interests in all public places from beer gardens to WCTU hall.

1848: Outbreak of revolution in Germany sent great numbers of Germans to Newark.

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German organizations in Newark today: Approx. total, 210. 45 Benevolent; 45 Church organizations; 40 social and cultural; 30 music and drama; 30 athletic and other recreation; 10 business and trade; 7 political; 3 war veterans. Some of these meet in Irvington, but have mostly Newark members. Some, on other hand, that meet in Newark draw most of their members from Irvington. Membership of clubs run from a handful to about 1000. Delegates of 50 of these organizations make up the German-American League of Newark and Vicinity. This League represents thereby approximately 3000 members.

# LIST OF REFERENCES

"The Germans" by Kuno Franck, in Immigrant Backgrounds, edited by Fairchild (1927)

"German Race in City Development", Star Eagle, April 15, 1936.

Tenth Census of the United States (1880): Volume on Social Statistics of Cities.

Analysis of Newark made by the Executive Planning Committee for Youth Service.