To John Conville, Limerick, Ireland.

16th February 1831.

Dear John,

Several steam ferry boats ply from hence across the East river to Long Island a distance of 1200 yards in about 10 Minutes, and across the Hudson to Jersey, about 2000 yards, in fifteen minutes. They are so continuous that Coaches, Wagons, &c with all their company, and loading, drive on an inclined plane from the wharves upon their decks, and out again upon the same. The wharves are generally built with Timber.

There are also many Timber houses in the principal streets, this City is about two thirds the size of Dublin and contains one Hundred and eighty thousand inhabitants about ten thousand of whom are black or people of colour, it increases prodigiously every year, the number of new houses built last year exceeded three thousand, and the population encrease in the ratio of five to each house, it must in a few years be much larger than Dublin, the streets are generally wide and straight, intersecting each other at right angles, but the houses are very irregular in the Old parts of the town and the Middle of the streets are kept in the worst areas, here are no fine green squares such as Stephens Green, nor are there any Buildings that can be called elegant, Many ranges of houses in New Streets are very handsome and uniform, but not to be compared to the leading Streets in Dublin or London or even Georges Street in Limerick, with the exception of Broadway, which is the principal one, with a flagged footway at either side twelve to fourteen feet wide, the Shops, which are here called Stores, are not so well stocked, nor are their proprietors so wealthy as those of Dublin or Cork.

Rents are enormously high, a house much inferior to yours, Situated in one of the leading Streets of business would let for two to three thousands Dollars a year. Landlords do not usually grant leases of houses but let them to tenants at will from year to year, this practice produces the greatest inconvenience to people of business, whose rent if they have formed an establishment, and thus enhance the value of Premises the Landlord will raise at pleasure, and if they do not submit, he will let their houses over their heads and turn them into the Street.

Here are no religious distinctions, all men of good character are eligible to every public office without exception, the laws are mild but rigorously executed, thefts are not so frequent as in Ireland, perhaps because the people are not so poor, the shop doors to the Streets are half Glazed, and constantly shut, large quantities of Goods of every description lay outside the different shops and warehouses; notwithstanding.

Very few instances of petty larceny occur, the people in general are civil, but disgustingly free in their manners, in their dealings they are very sharp, and usually disposed to take every advantage, honesty and integrity appear to me to be at a low ebb; and if a stranger be not very cautious and circumspect, he will be soon shorn of any wool he may have, and must then turn to shearing himself.

Our Countrymen here are very numerous, reckoned at about fifteen thousand, no common beggars prowl the Streets, any industrious person can get work and may soon become independent; Carpenters, Masons, Smiths and other tradesmen have constant employment and can earn from 1 1/2 to 2 dollars a day.

Labourers one dollar a day, the Sawyers of fire wood who are in general Irishmen and blacks are computed at One thousand, they go about with a whip saw and a cross to lay the wood in and they earn from one to two dollars a day. Several respectable merchants and traders in this city are Irishmen, but our countrymen here, as in every other place, are generally employed in the most laborious occupations, as digging Canals, attending brick layers, loading and unloading Ships, carrying burthens etc, the exceptions are few; Several Irishmen who are not able or willing to work hawk oranges, Lemons, apples &c about the Streets - and about two hundred of them are employed driving hackney coaches.

I have observed that the low Irish are the worst conditioned people in this country - on their first landing they are extremely meek and Servile, after mixing a short time with their Countrymen and hearing that all men are here free and equal in respect to their rights, they think that freedom consists in being at liberty to do as they please, and they become intolerably insolent, but at length after receiving repeated chastisements, they in two or three years become tollerably well conducted; Brandy is so very cheap and the climate so much in extremes of heat and cold that excessive drinking, even amongst the better classes, is not unfrequent.

I was much surprized to see many respectable Merchants drinking Punch in Public houses betwixt Breakfast and dinner, an act which, you know, would destroy any mans character forever in Ireland.

Many Irishmen who scraped together a little money, commenced selling grog, and by such beginnings, several have realized considerable fortunes, you seldom see a person in a state of inebriety in the Streets, the laws against drunkeness are severe and rigourously enforced.

There are several fine converted Markets in every part of the City, all well supplied, Beef is good, Mutton much inferior to ours, Turkeys 30 lbs. weight. Poultry in general not so well flavored as the Irish, Potatoes abundant, but very bad.

Fish must be brought alive to market; it is neither so good, nor in so great variety as in Ireland, Oysters are plenty and good. the prices of provisions about the same as with you, but clothing is dearer, with the exception of house rent, you can live as cheap in New York as in Limerick, as an instance I am boarded and lodged in a highly respectable family for four Dollars per week. the climate of New York is unhealthy, deaths average one hundred per week, consumption is the most common disease. I fear your patience will be worn out, therefore I will bring this long desultory letter to an end.

Write soon,

George.

To Mr Pack-Beresford (Hanging-Gale Beresford) of Carlow, 1862.

Firmount House,
Donoughmore,
County Cork, Ireland.

June 7th 1862.

Dear Sir,

I have just returned from Travelling in the United States of America.

I found my unfortunate Uncle, Batty Pack, in a most deplorable state of health and equally so as to his means of living and situation in New York.

He has been attacked with convulsive fits and were it not for the pecuniary assistance I afforded him timely there is no doubt but he would have died, as he was absolutely in want with his family of the common necessaries of life.

I take the earliest opportunity of relating these facts to you as I am under the impression that you will not suffer your cousin to die with his children of starvation.

There is little of no employment in the States, which makes the matter urgent, and I hope that I have only to bring the case under your notice in order for you to do something for my poor Uncle who I consider is a deserving high minded man whom all of us love and are anxious to serve.

I am very, very sorry I cannot myself do something as unfortunately my means are but small.

I beg to remain Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

Richard Brasier Creagh.

Questions to consider:

1. **Who is your immigrant group?**
2. **Why did they come to America?**
3. **What did they do in America?**
4. **How were they treated in America?**
    a. **Why were they treated this way?**
5. **How did they contribute to American society? (economically, politically, socially, etc.)**
6. **How does the treatment of this immigrant group feed in to the idea of American Exceptionalism or Nativism?**

Letters from an American farmer, by J. Hector St. John Crevecoeur-French Immigrant to the US who received his Naturalization papers and settled on a frontier farm in New York.

LETTER III.

WHAT IS AN AMERICAN.

I WISH I could be acquainted with the feelings and thoughts which must agitate the heart and present themselves to the mind of an enlightened Englishman, when he first lands on this continent. He must greatly rejoice that he lived at a time to see this fair country discovered and settled; he must necessarily feel a share of national pride, when he views the chain of settlements which embellishes these extended shores. When he says to himself, this is the work of my countrymen, who, when convulsed by factions, afflicted by a variety of miseries and wants, restless and impatient, took refuge here. They brought along with them their national genius, to which they principally owe what liberty they enjoy, and what substance they possess. Here he sees the industry of his native country displayed in a new manner, and traces in their works the embrios of all the arts, sciences, and ingenuity which flourish in Europe. Here he beholds fair cities, substantial villages, extensive fields, an immense country filled with decent houses, good

good roads, orchards, meadows, and bridges, where an hundred years ago all was wild, woody and uncultivated! What a train of pleasing ideas this fair spectacle must suggest; it is a prospect which must inspire a good citizen with the most heartfelt pleasure. The difficulty consists in the manner of viewing so extensive a scene. He is arrived on a new continent; a modern society offers itself to his contemptation, different from what he had hitherto seen. It is not composed, as in Europe, of great lords who possess every thing and of a herd of people who have nothing. Here are no aristocratical families, no courts, no kings, no bishops, no ecclesiastical dominion, no invisible power giving to a few a very visible one; no great manufacturers employing thousands, no great refinements of luxury. The rich and the poor are not so far removed from each other as they are in Europe. Some few towns excepted, we are all tillers of the earth, from Nova Scotia to West Florida. We are a people of cultivators, scattered over an immense territory communicating with each other by means of good roads and navigable rivers, united by the silken bands of mild government, all respecting the laws, without dreading their power, because they are equitable. We are all animated with the spirit of an industry which is unfettered

unfettered and unrestrained, because each person works for himself. If he travels through our rural districts he views not the hostile castle, and the haughty mansion, contrasted with the clay-built hut and miserable cabbin, where cattle and men help to keep each other warm, and dwell in meanness, smoke, and indigence. A pleasing uniformity of decent competence appears throughout our habitations. The meanest of our log-houses is a dry and comfortable habitation. Lawyer or merchant are the fairest titles our towns afford; that of a farmer is the only appellation of the rural inhabitants of our country. It must take some time ere he can reconcile himself to our dictionary, which is but short in words of dignity, and names of honour. (There, on a Sunday, he

sees a congregation of respectable farmers and their wives, all clad in neat homespun, well mounted, or riding in their own humble waggons. There is not among them an esquire, saving the unlettered magistrate. There he sees a parson as simple as his flock, a farmer who does not riot on the labour of others. We have no princes, for whom we toil, starve, and bleed: we are the most perfect society now existing in the world. Here man is free; as he ought to be; nor is this pleasing equality so transitory as many others are. Many ages

will not see the shores of our great lakes replenished with inland nations, nor the unknown bounds of North America entirely peopled. Who can tell how far it extends? Who can tell the millions of men whom it will feed and contain? for no European foot has as yet travelled half the extent of this mighty continent!

The next wish of this traveller will be to know whence came all these people? they are mixture of English, Scotch, Irish, French, Dutch, Germans, and Swedes. From this promiscuous breed, that race now called Americans have arisen. The eastern provinces must indeed be excepted, as being the unmixed descendants of Englishmen. I have heard many wish that they had been more intermixed also: for my part, I am no wisher, and think it much better as it has happened. They exhibit a most conspicuous figure in this great and variegated picture; they too enter for a great share in the pleasing perspective displayed in these thirteen provinces. I know it is fashionable to reflect on them, but I respect them for what they have done; for the accuracy and wisdom with which they have settled their territory; for the decency of their manners; for their early love of letters; their ancient college, the first in this hemisphere; for their industry; which

which to me who am but a farmer, is the criterion of everything. There never was a people, situated as they are, who with so ungrateful a soil have done more in so short a time. Do you think that the monarchical ingredients which are more prevalent in other governments, have purged them from all foul stains? Their histories assert the contrary.

In this great American asylum, the poor of Europe have by some means met together, and in consequence of various causes; to what purpose should they ask one another what countrymen they are? Alas, two thirds of them had no country. Can a wretch who wanders about, who works and starves, whose life is a continual scene of sore affliction or pinching penury; can that man call England or any other kingdom his country? A country that had no bread for him, whose fields procured him no harvest, who met with nothing but the frowns of the rich, the severity of the laws, with jails and punishments; who owned not a single foot of the extensive surface of this planet? No! urged by a variety of motives, here they came. Every thing has tended to regenerate them; new laws, a new mode of living, a new social system; here they are become men: in Europe they were as so many useless plants, wanting vegitative mould, and refreshing

refreshing showers; they withered, and were mowed down by want, hunger, and war; but now by the power of transplantation, like all other plants they have taken root and flourished! Formerly they were not numbered in any civil lists of their country, except in those of the poor; here they rank as citizens. By what invisible power has this surprising metamorphosis been performed? By that of the laws and that of their industry. The laws, the indulgent laws, protect them as they arrive, stamping on them the symbol of adoption; they receive ample rewards for their labours; these accumulated rewards procure them lands; those lands confer on them the title of freemen, and to that title every benefit is affixed which men can possibly require. This is the great operation daily performed by our laws. From whence proceed these laws? From our government. Whence the government? It is derived from the original genius and strong desire of the people ratified and confirmed by the crown. This is the great chain which links us all, this is the picture which every province exhibits, Nova Scotia excepted. There the crown has done all; either there were no people who had genius, or it was not much attended to: the consequence is, that the province is very thinly inhabited indeed; the power of the crown in conjunction with the musketos has prevented men from settling there. Yet some parts of it flourished once, and it contained a mild harmless set of people. But for the fault of a few leaders, the whole were banished. The greatest political error the crown ever committed in America, was to cut off men from a country which wanted nothing but men!

Questions to Consider:

1. **Where is this immigrant from?**
2. **Why did he immigrant to the United States?**
3. **What did he do when he came to the United States?**
4. **How does he define "American"?**
    a. **How does this fit in to the idea of American Exceptionalism or Nativism?**
5. **What is this immigrant's opinion of American government?**

American Colonization Society: a Memorial to the United States Congress

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States:

The President and Board of Managers of the American Colonization Society respectfully represent that, being about to commence the execution of the object to which their views have been long directed, they deem it proper and necessary to address themselves to the legislative council of their country. They trust that this object will be considered, in itself, of great national importance, will be found inseparably connected with another, vitally affecting the honor and interest of this nation, and leading, in its consequences, to the most desirable results.

Believing that examination and reflection will show that such are its connexions and tendency, they are, encouraged to present themselves, and their cause' where they know that a public measure, having these advantages, cannot fail to receive all the countenance and aid it may require.

The last census shows the number of free people of color of the United States, and their rapid increase. Supposing them to increase in the same ratio, it will appear how large a proportion of our population will, in the course of even a few years, consist of persons of that description.

No argument is necessary to show that this is very far indeed from constituting an increase of our physical strength; nor can there be a population, in any country, neutral as to its effects upon society. The least observation shows that this description of persons are not, and cannot be, either useful or happy among us; and many considerations, which need not be mentioned, prove, beyond dispute, that it is best, for all the parties interested, that there should be a separation; that those who are now free may become so those who hereafter, should be provided with the means of attaining to a state of respectability and happiness, which, it is certain, they have never yet reached, and, therefore, can never be likely to reach, in this country.

The two last reports of the Society, to which your memorialists beg leave to refer, show the success of their mission to Africa, and the result of their inquiries upon that continent. From those it is manifest that a situation can be readily obtained, favorable to commerce and agriculture, in a healthy and fertile country, and that the natives are well disposed to give every encouragement to the establishment of such a settlement among them. Thus, it appears, that an object of great national concern, already expressly desired by some of the States, and truly desirable to all, receiving, also, the approbation of those upon whom it is more immediately to operate, is brought within our reach.

But this subject derives, perhaps, its chief interest from its connexion with a measure which has, already, to the honor of our country, occupied the deliberations of the Congress of the United States.

Your memorialists refer, with pleasure, to the act, passed at the last session of Congress, supplementary to the act formerly passed for the suppression of the slave trade. The means afforded, by the provisions of that act, for the accomplishment of its object are certainly great;

but the total extirpation of this disgraceful trade cannot, perhaps, be expected from any measures which rely alone upon the employment of a maritime force, however considerable.

The profits attending it are so extraordinary, that the cupidity of the unprincipled will still be tempted to continue it, as long as there is any chance of escaping the vigilance of the cruisers engaged against them. From the best information your memorialists have been able to obtain, of the nature, causes, and course of this trade, and of the present situation of the coast of Africa, and the habits and dispositions of the natives, they are well assured that the suppression of the African slave trade, and the civilization of the natives, are measures of indispensable connexion....

Since the establishment of the English settlement at Sierra Leone, the slave trade has been rapidly ceasing upon that part of the coast.

Not only the kingdoms in its immediate neighborhood, but those upon the Sherbro and Bagroo rivers, and others with whom the people of that settlement have opened a communication, have been prevailed upon to abandon it, and are turning their attention to the ordinary and innocent pursuits of civilized nations.

That the same consequences will result from similar settlements cannot be doubted. When the natives there see that the European commodities, for which they have been accustomed to exchange their fellow-beings, until vast and fertile regions have become almost depopulated, can be more easily and safely obtained by other pursuits, can it be believed that they will hesitate to profit by the experience? Nor will the advantages of civilization be alone exhibited. That religion, whose mandate is "peace on earth and good will towards men," will "do its errand"; win deliver them from the bondage of their miserable superstitions, and display the same triumphs which it is achieving in every land.

No nation has it so much in its power to furnish proper settlers for such establishments as this; no nation has so deep an interest in thus disposing of them. By the law passed at the last session, and before referred to, the captives who may be taken by our cruisers, from the slave ships are to be taken to Africa, and delivered to the custody of agents appointed by the President. There will then be a settlement of captured negroes upon the coast, in consequence of the measures already adopted., And it is evidently most important, if not necessary, to such a settlement, that the Civilized people of color of this country, whose industry, enterprise, and knowledge of agriculture and the arts, would render them most useful assistants, should be connected with such an establishment.

When, therefore, the object of the Colonization Society is viewed in connection with that entire suppression of the slave trade which your memorialists trust it is resolved shall be effected, its importance becomes obvious in the extreme.

The beneficial consequences resulting from success in such a measure, it is impossible to calculate. To the general cause of humanity it will afford the most rich and noble contribution, and for the nation that regards that cause, that employs its power in its behalf, it cannot fail to procure a proportionate reward. It is by such a course that a nation insures to itself the protection

and favor of the Governor of the World. Nor are there wanting views and considerations, arising from our peculiar political institutions, which would justify the sure expectation of the most signal blessings to ourselves from the accomplishment of such an object. If one of these consequences shall be the gradual and almost imperceptible removal of a national evil, which all unite in lamenting, and for which, with the most intense, but, hitherto, hopeless anxiety, the patriots and statesmen of our country have labored to discover a remedy, who can doubt, that, of all the blessings we may be permitted to bequeath to our descendants, this will receive the richest tribute of their thanks and veneration?

Your memorialists cannot believe that such an evil, universally acknowledged and deprecated, has been irremovably fixed upon us. Some way will always be opened by Providence by which a people desirous of acting justly and benevolently may be led to the attainment of a meritorious object. And they believe that, of all the plans that the most sagacious and discerning of our patriots have suggested, for effecting what they have so greatly desired the colonization of Africa, in the manner proposed, present the fairest prospects of success. But if it be admitted to be ever so doubtful, whether this happy result shall be the reward of our exertions, yet, if: great and certain benefits immediately attend them, why may not others, still greater, follow them?

In a work evidently progressive, who shall assign limits to the good that zeal and perseverance shall be permitted to accomplish? Your memorialists beg leave to state that, having expended considerable funds in prosecuting their inquiries and making preparations, they are now about to send out a colony, and complete the purchase, already stipulated for with the native kings and chiefs of Sherbro, of a suitable territory for their establishment. The number they are now enabled to transport and provide for, is but a small proportion of the people of color who have expressed their desire to go; and without a larger and more sudden increase of their funds than can be expected from the voluntary contributions of individuals, their progress must be slow and uncertain. They have always flattered themselves with the hope that when it was seen they had surmounted the difficulties of preparation, and shown that means applied to the execution of their design would lead directly and evidently to its accomplishment, they would be able to obtain for it the national countenance and assistance. To this point they have arrived; and they, therefore, respectfully request that this interesting subject may receive the consideration of your honorable body, and that the Executive Department may be authorized, in such way as may meet your approbation, to extend to this object such pecuniary and other aid as it may be thought to require and deserve.

Your memorialists further request, that the subscribers to the American Colonization Society may be incorporated, by act of Congress, to enable them to act with more efficiency in carrying on the great and important objects of the Society, and to enable them, with more economy, to manage the benevolent contributions intrusted to their care.

Signed by John Mason, W. Jones, E. B. Caldwell, and F.S. Key, committee.

Questions to consider:

1. What was the American Colonization Society? What were their goals?

a. Why did they feel it was necessary to act upon these goals?

2. What did members of this society think of African Americans?

3. How does this fit into the idea of American Exceptionalism or Nativism?

4. With what US region and political affiliation would members of this society most likely be associated?

United States Congress, "An act to establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization" (March 26, 1790).

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That any Alien being a free white person, who shall have resided within the limits and under the jurisdiction of the United States for the term of two years, may be admitted to become a citizen thereof on application to any common law Court of record in any one of the States wherein he shall have resided for the term of one year at least, and making proof to the satisfaction of such Court that he is a person of good character, and taking the oath or affirmation prescribed by law to support the Constitution of the United States, which Oath or Affirmation such Court shall administer, and the Clerk of such Court shall record such Application, and the proceedings thereon; and thereupon such person shall be considered as a Citizen of the United States. And the children of such person so naturalized, dwelling within the United States, being under the age of twenty one years at the time of such naturalization, shall also be considered as citizens of the United States. And the children of citizens of the United States that may be born beyond Sea, or out of the limits of the United States, shall be considered as natural born Citizens: Provided, that the right of citizenship shall not descend to persons whose fathers have never been resident in the United States: Provided also, that no person heretofore proscribed by any States, shall be admitted a citizen as aforesaid, except by an Act of the Legislature of the State in which such person was proscribed.

United States Congress, "An act to establish an uniform rule of Naturalization; and to repeal the act heretofore passed on that subject" (January 29, 1795).

For carrying into complete effect the power given by the constitution, to establish an uniform rule of naturalization throughout the United States:

SEC.1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That any alien, being a free white person, may be admitted to become a citizen of the United States, or any of them, on the following conditions, and not otherwise: --

First. He shall have declared, on oath or affirmation, before the supreme, superior, district, or circuit court of some one of the states, or of the territories northwest or south of the river Ohio, or a circuit or district court of the United States, three years, at least, before his admission, that it was bona fide, his intention to become a citizen of the United States, and to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty whatever, and particularly, by name, the prince, potentate, state or sovereignty whereof such alien may, at that time, be a citizen or subject.

Secondly. He shall, at the time of his application to be admitted, declare on oath or affirmation before some one of the courts aforesaid, that he has resided within the United States, five years at least, and within the state or territory, where such court is at the time held, one year at least; that he will support the constitution of the United States; and that he does absolutely and entirely

renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty whatever, and particularly by name, the prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, whereof he was before a citizen or subject; which proceedings shall be recorded by the clerk of the court.

Thirdly. The court admitting such alien shall be satisfied that he has resided within the limits and under the jurisdiction of the United States five years; and it shall further appear to their satisfaction, that during that time, he has behaved as a man of a good moral character, attached to the principles of the constitution of the United States, and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the same.

Fourthly. In case the alien applying to be admitted to citizenship shall have borne any hereditary title, or been of any of the orders of nobility, in the kingdom or state from which he came, he shall, in addition to the above requisites, make an express renunciation of his title or order of nobility, in the court to which his application shall be made; which renunciation shall be recorded in the said court.

SEC. 2. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That any alien now residing within the limits and under the jurisdiction of the United States may be admitted to become a citizen on his declaring, on oath or affirmation, in some one of the courts aforesaid, that he has resided two years, at least, within and under the jurisdiction of the same, and one year, at least, within the state or territory where such court is at the time held; that he will support the constitution of the United States; and that he does absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty whatever, and particularly by name the prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, whereof he was before a citizen or subject; and moreover, on its appearing to the satisfaction of the court, that during the said term of two years, he has behaved as a man of good moral character, attached to the constitution of the United States, and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the same; and when the alien applying for admission to citizenship, shall have borne any hereditary title, or been of any of the orders of nobility in the kingdom or state from which he came, on his moreover making in the court an express renunciation of his title or order of nobility, before he shall be entitled to such admission; all of which proceedings, required in this proviso to be performed in the court, shall be recorded by the clerk thereof.

SEC. 3. And be it further enacted, that the children of persons duly naturalized, dwelling within the United States, and being under the age of twenty-one years, at the time of such naturalization, and the children of citizens of the United States, born out of the limits and jurisdiction of the United States, shall be considered as citizens of the United States: Provided, That the right of citizenship shall not descend to persons, whose fathers have never been resident of the United States: Provided also, That no person heretofore proscribed by any state, or who has been legally convicted of having joined the army of Great Britain during the late war, shall be admitted a citizen as foresaid, without the consent of the legislature of the state, in which such person was proscribed.

SEC. 4. And be it further enacted, That the Act intituled, "An act to establish an uniform rule of naturalization," passed the twenty-sixth day of March, one thousand seven hundred and ninety, be, and the same is hereby repealed.

Questions to consider:

1. **What is the purpose of this law?**
    a. **Would this law limit or encourage immigration? Explain.**
    b. **Why was this law passed?**
2. **What 1800s political party would have most likely agreed with this law? Explain.**
3. **How does this fit in with the idea of American Exceptionalism or Nativism?**

Beddoe believed that hair and eye color were keys to ethnic and racial identity, and he developed a specious formula he called the “index of nigrescence,” which supposedly quantified the amount of melanin in the skin, eyes, and hair-in the process assuming that one end of the nigrescence scale was clearly preferable to the other. He used this index of nigrescence to “prove” that the Irish were darker and more Negroid than the English. Beddoe’s index of nigrescence provided the scientific justification for racial hatred of the Irish as an inferior race.

Black Niger Which includes not only the jet black which has retained the same colour from childhood and is generally very coarse and hard but also that very intense brown which occurs in people who in childhood have had dark brown or in some cases deep red hair but which in the adult cannot be distinguished from coal black except in a very good light

Personally we think it would be advantageous to discriminate in some way say by making a different mark in the n column between the jet black and the black brown

In the present instance the hair colours were taken as nearly as possible on Dr Beddoe's plan there being a difficulty only on one point and that the case of the brown hair much of which is of a light shade and in many cases accompanied by a light yellowish or reddish beard and might by some have been classed as fair

Care was taken to note only such cases as could be seen fully at close quarters and in a good light so that there could be no mistake about the colour a precaution very necessary for the estimation of doubtful tints especially of the eyes

Cases in which the hair had begun to turn grey were excluded altogether and as far as possible all who were not natives also this was rendered an easy matter in most cases by the distinctive dress It may be mentioned here that one of the most valuable means of obtaining the colours was the getting together of groups to be photographed or measured and the noting both of them and of the members of the knot of spectators which was sure to assemble another way was to engage in conversation with some group by the roadside or on the seashore and note them carefully while speaking

Children ie all apparently under eighteen were noted on separate cards and had a separate index and nigrescence table made out for them The apparent difference between them and the adults both as to index of nigrescence and the presence of black hair is due to the progressive darkening with age of the very dark hair which has been counted as black in the adults as being only distinguishable from it in some lights and on very close examination In fact from the absence of true black among the children it is doubtful whether there is any among the adults we observed

The Index of Nigrescence and its use are best explained in Dr Beddoe's own words “A ready means of comparing the colours of two peoples or localities is found in the Index of Nigrescence The gross index is gotten by subtracting the number of red and fair haired persons from that of the dark haired together with twice the black haired I double the black in order to give its proper value to the tendency to melanosity shown thereby while brown chestnut hair is regarded as neutral though in truth most of the persons placed in b are fair skinned and approach more nearly in aspect to the xanthous than to the melanous variety”

Index From the gross index the net or percentage index is of course obtained Though it is not specifically mentioned in Dr Beddoe's which index he uses yet as it is evident from a glance at the given by him that he has used the percentage index there the has been employed here in all cases The tables given here are not formed on Dr Beddoe's plan but one somewhat more minute

All the actual observations are in their classes as well as the percentages and separate tables given for males and females To facilitate reference however on his plan is given showing his Aran observations along with of this expedition

The difference apparent between the two indices must be due to the smaller number 90 in the first series b Head Face and Body Measurements

1. Head length Taken from the glabella to the greatest behind in the middle line
2. Head breadth-The greatest breadth obtainable the being held at right angles to the middle longitudinal line In and in the former measurement the points of the callipers were in as close contact to the skin of the scalp as was possible
3. Head height-The radius of the top of the head vertical the ear opening and from its centre
4. Head circumference The greatest horizontal obtainable above the eyebrows The tape was passed under the of the back of the head and brought as close to the skin of the as possible
5. Face length From the naso frontal suture nasion to the of the chin
6. 6 Face breadth The greatest breadth obtainable on the arches

Questions to consider:

1. **What is "The Index of Nigresence"?**
2. **How did Beddoe calculate this index? What peoples did he include?**
3. **What effect (if any) did this index have on the way Americans viewed immigrants to their country?**
4. **How does this affect the idea of American Exceptionalism or Nativism?**

German Immigration to the U.S. in the 1800s

Of all the nations of Western Europe, Germany played the greatest role in the peopling of the United States. Even in colonial times Germans constituted the largest non-English-speaking group of settlers. Over the years the numbers of Germans Crossing the Atlantic in search of new homes, new opportunities, and new freedoms steadily increased, most dramatically in the years between 1820 and 1910, when nearly five and a half millions arrived.

Most of these newcomers settled in the North Central states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Iowa Missouri, Nebraska, North and South Dakota and Wisconsin.

German farmers provided a sizable and stable rural population; German cultural societies and institutions such as the musical groups called Liederkranz, the Turnverein, and the Free Thinkers flourished in many communities.

The French Revolution, with its liberating ideals, abolished the rigid Germanic feudalistic system altogether and led to changes which set the stage for the eventual migrations. Agricultural reforms, industrialization, the rise of capitalism, a 38 per cent increase in the birth rate, a disastrous potato blight and other crop failures in the **period between 1846 and 1853** all conspired to produce an army of dispossessed farmers. Artisans, displaced by factory workers, roamed the countryside in search of employment. To such people America did indeed seem the land of hope and shining promise.

Fortunately for those leaving Europe in the middle of the nineteenth century, many of the vicissitudes that had plagued earlier emigrants had been eased. Steam and sailboat service to major ports had been regularized, and the terrors of confronting an unknown land had been reduced by floods of information about America in newspapers, travel books, immigration guides, and promotional tracts. More importantly, improved postal services brought the reassurance of glowing letters from friends and relatives already established in the New World.

But even so, the human costs involved in the decision to emigrate remained high and departure scenes were usually heart-rending, as many German immigrants to Wisconsin were to testify. A member of the Schuette family, who departed Germany for Manitowoc County in 1848, wrote: "The neighbors and friends were on hand to say a last farewell and tears flowed in profusion (since) anyone leaving for America was considered about to pass into eternity." Sometimes bitterness towards those "deserting" the homeland split families apart, and on occasion the separation proved too much for those left behind. Jacob Eifler of Sheboygan recalled that his grandfather "passed away from grief and heartache" two years after members of his family set sail for the United States.

For many, the passage across the Atlantic was the longest voyage of their lives. Some had never been out of their native districts. Almost always they viewed the harbor scene with wonderment and awe. One Schuette family member described Bremen, one of the principal ports of departure: "On arrival at this seaport we saw for the first time what we had longed to see, ships of all nations, in all colors, with symbolic figureheads and majestic spars - oh how different from our inland town! What a grand and enchanting picture!"

A journey by sail across the Atlantic took between one and one and one-half months. Steam power cut the time in half. Judging by their diaries, reminiscences, and letters, most immigrants seem to have had similar shipboard experiences - poor food, sea sickness. deaths, births, disease, crowded sleeping quarters, joys, sorrows, and hopes. Generally they carried foodstuffs along with their scanty possessions. One German traveler advised bringing zwieback, dried meat, and prunes, as well as vinegar "which will be useful aboard ship to mix with the ill smelling drinking water." Even so, meals were monotonous, sometimes insufficient, and often badly prepared.

Boredom and sea sickness were the two most common complaints. Forty-four-year-old Johann Diederiehs, bound from Elberfeld to Manitowoc with his wife and four children in 1841, wrote in his diary: "Only a few days at sea and how bored we are with life on a ship." On September 23 he noted: "Sea sickness in full swing, and it is amusing to see how big strong men writhe and choke and roar

Storms added an element of danger, as well as intensifying the pervading sea sickness. Of one such storm Diederichs wrote in his diary: "Saturday 9 October: Doleful awakening or rather doleful waking, for there was no thought of sleep since the spirit was too agitated over shattered hopes. Stormy southwest winds have met we, the sea is running high, a sail has been torn by the force of the gale, and now we are drifting, the Lord knows how long. I am completely downcast from the long duration of the journey."

But the transatlantic crossing was not all suffering and dogged endurance. Shipboard friendships blossomed, and since the majority of the passengers were young, on warm nights there was much socializing on deck and the singing of folk songs. A never-to-be-forgotten thrill was the first sight of the shores of their new home, heightened by the knowledge that the initial and most trying stage of their voyage was ended. Commonly, arrival in New York proved a shock as an army of con men and fraudulent agents of all types descended on the newcomers, some offering to sell Wisconsin "farmlands" on the spot. "One must guard against dealing with . . . others in New York," Diederichs noted in his diary.

By far the most effective stimuli to German immigration were the unsolicited testimonials of recently arrived settlers. Immigrants wrote back to their friends, relatives, and neighbors in the Old Country, describing their new lives in America. This was information to be trusted and acted upon. From his new home in Waukesha County, J. K. Meidenbauer wrote to his sister in Germany in 1849: "You will next ask: is it really good in America...? and I can give you the answer, from my full conviction . . . Yes, it is really good here. I would advise my sister Barbara to come over with her intended for she can do better than in Germany. There are no dues, no titles here, no taxes . . . no (mounted) police, no beggars." Such so-called "America Letters" prompted hometown "clubs" in Europe to send emissaries to Wisconsin in search of land suitable for settlement. New Holstein in Calumet County was settled in this fashion when a group of Free Thinkers, impressed by enthusiastic letters and newspaper reports from their United States agent, emigrated as a body.

Economic factors, while the most important, were not alone in attracting Germans to Wisconsin. Religious leaders and institutions also played key roles. For example, as early as the 1840's, a

colony of Old Lutherans from the Oder River Valley in Brandenburg and Pomerania settled as groups in Jefferson and Dodge counties and in Friestadt in Ozaukee County, where, once established, they were joined by other co-relgionists in succeeding years. The Old Lutherans were a part of a body of religious nonconformists who had refused to bow to the will of the Prussian Kaiser when he united various Protestant churches under the Reformed banner. Led by several of their pastors, small groups of Old Lutherans began emigrating after 1837. One group, which settled in Buffalo, New York, sent back such encouraging reports that in 1839 forty families, under the leadership of Heirrieh von Rohr, an ex-military officer, came over from Pomerania.

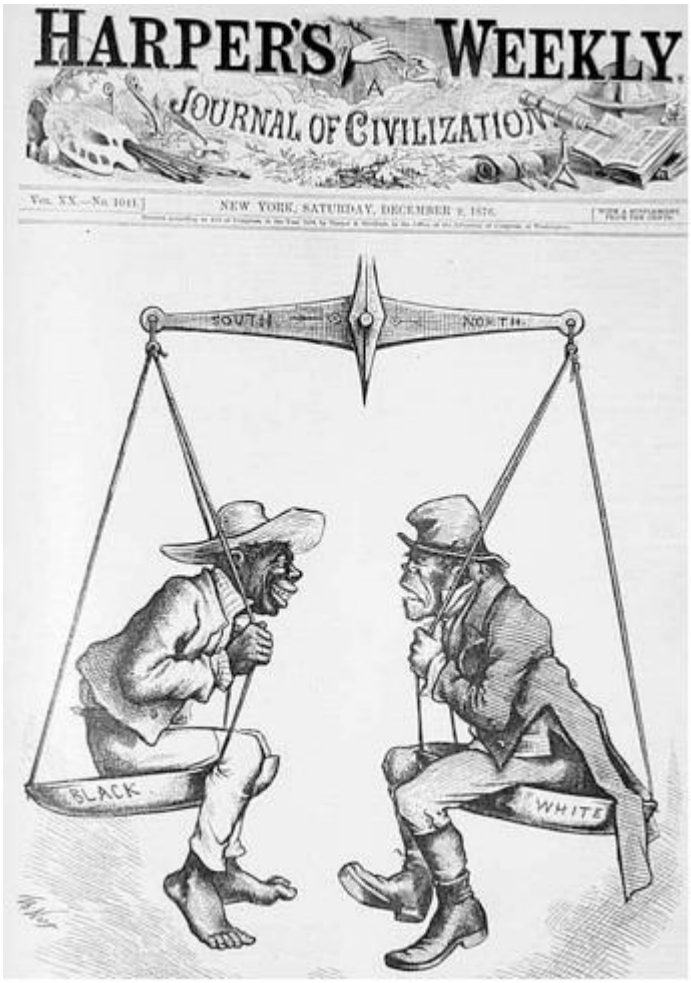
Germanic pioneers adopted native American crops almost immediately. On evidence of the manuscript census records, Germans began using and planting corn soon after their arrival. They adapted equally well to the local scheme of agricultural economics and quickly entered the market mainly by raising and selling wheat. During the Period 1840-1890 wheat was king in Wisconsin, the primary cash crop of the frontier. Immigrant guides stressed the advisability of planting wheat. Primitive farming methods did not hinder its growth; it yielded a quick marketable return for a small capital outlay, needed no complex machinery for its cultivation, stored easily, and shipped well, despite the poor roads of the day. But though Germans specialized in wheat, they grew other crops as well, sold wood from their woodcuts, and acquired as much livestock as they could. By contrast, many of their Yankee neighbors had settled on prairie lands which they transformed into wheat plantations through the expenditure of large amounts of capital, going into debt to buy whatever else was needed, such as expensive horses rather than slow-moving oxen to enable them to keep ahead of next year's payments on their debts. "Wheat," reported Philander Judson, a Kenosha County farmer, in 1851, was "the talismanic word . . . as though there were no ways to make a purchase or pay a debt without a wheat crop."

With the outbreak of the Civil War, German radicals, Forty-Eighters, Protestant liberals, Turners, and Free Thinkers generally rallied to support the antislavery cause and adopted pro-Union, pro-Republican, and pro-Lincoln stances, largely because of their previous struggles for social reforms in Europe.

However, not all Germans favored the Republican party, anti-slavery, or other reforms. Many German Catholics actively opposed these positions, as well as the North's involvement in the war. An-other group of dissenters were known as War Democrats, one of whom joined the Union Army but later expressed his cynicism about the war's aims in a letter to his wife in Wisconsin: "Dearest, take my word for it, the whole war from beginning to end is nothing but humbug and a swindle."

Questions to Consider:

1. **Where are these immigrants from?**
2. **Why did they immigrant to the United States?**
3. **What did he do when he came to the United States?**
4. **How did they contribute to American society? Politically, economically, socially?**
5. **What was the journey over like?**
6. **Was this particular group liked or disliked by Americans? Explain**
7. **Why did this immigrant group have a different experience from earlier immigrants?**



THINGS WHICH ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIESTS AND ALL TRUE ROMAN CATHOLICS HATE

Providence, July 22, 1854

1. They HATE our Republic, and are trying to overthrow it.
2. They HATE our *Flag*, and they grossly insulting it.
3. They HATE the liberty of the Press.
4. They HATE the liberty of speech.
5. They HATE our Public School system.
6. They HATE the Bible, and would blot it out of existence *if* they could!
7. They HATE Protestants, and are sworn to *exterminate* them from our country and the earth.
8. They HATE all rulers that do not swear allegiance to the Pope of Rome.
9. They HATE to be *ruled* by *Americans*, and say 'WE WILL NOT BE RULED BY THEM!'
10. They HATE to support their own paupers and they are left to be supported by the tax paying Americans.

11. They HATE, above all, the '*Know-Nothings*,' who are determined to rid this country from their cursed power.

—UNCLE SAM

Irish Immigration

Document C: Historian account

“Irish-Americans were sometimes used as substitutes for slaves in the South. Gangs of Irish immigrants worked ditching and draining plantations, building levees and sometimes clearing land because of the danger of death to valuable slave property (and, as one account put it, to mules) in such work. One Southerner explained the use of Irish labor as follows: ‘n-----s are worth too much to be risked here; if the Paddies (Irish) are knocked overboard. . . nobody loses anything.’ “Irish youths were likely to be indentured servants from the early 1800s through the Civil War. In that position they were sometimes called ‘Irish slaves’ and more frequently ‘bound boys.’ In New York City, Irish women made up the largest group of prostitutes, or as they were sometimes called in the 1850s, ‘white slaves.’”

Source: From David R. Roediger, Wages of Whiteness*, 1991, p. 146.*

The Irish were unfortunately divided during much of the nineteenth century and was therefore helpless in the face of its grave problems. The Act of Union of 1803 incorporated the island into British polity, but was useless in easing the difficult situation of the people.. With an overly large population as the result of the Napoleanic Wars, the Irish soon became impoverished. And with the religious prejudice of Protestant Masters to the Catholic Irish, plus political subordination, many had no alternative by to emigrate to the United States for relief. Between 1820 and 1860, the Irish were never less than a third of all immigrants. The British Passenger Acts attempted to deflect the immigration from the British Isles to Canada instead of the U.S., making the fare a cheap 15 shilling compared to the 4 or 5 pound fare to New York. Many Irish soon found it convenient to take the affordable trip to Canada, where they could buy cheap fares to the U.S., or cheaper yet, they could walk across the border. By 1840, the Irish constituted nearly half of all entering immigrants, and New England found it self heavily foreign born. By 1950, the Irish consisted of one fifth of all foreign born in the originally homogenous region.

In 1845, the great potato rot touched off a mass migration. The disaster eliminated the sole subsistence of millions of peasants thrusting them over the edge of starvation. For five weary years, the crops remained undependable, and famine swept through the land. Untold thousands perished, and the survivors, destitute of hope, wished only to get away (Handlin, 1972).

The only mode of escape was emigration. Starving families that could not pay landlords faced no alternative but to leave the country in hopes of a better future. And thus the steadily scaling number of Irish who entered the U.S. between 1820 and 1830 skyrocketed in the 1840s, nearly 2 million came in that decade. The flow persisted increasingly for another five years, as the first immigrants began to earn the means of sending for relatives and friends. The decade after 1855 showed a subside in the movement, but smaller numbers continued to arrive after the Civil War. Altogether, almost 3.5 million Irishmen entered the U.S. between 1820 and 1880.

Emigrating to the U.S. wasn't the magical solution for most of the immigrants. Peasants arrived without resources, or capital to start farms or businesses. Few of them ever accumulated the resources to make any meaningful choice about their way of life. Fortunately for them, the expansion of the American economy created heavy demands for muscle grunt. The great canals, which were the first links in the national transportation system were still being dug in the 1820s and 1830s, and in the time between 1830 and 1880, thousands of miles of rail were being laid. With no bulldozers existing at the time, the pick and the shovel were the only earth-moving equipment at the time. And the Irish laborers were the mainstay of the construction gangs that did this grueling work. In towns along the sites of work, groups of Irish formed their small communities to live in. By the middle of the nineteenth century, as American cities were undergoing rapid growth and beginning to develop an infrastructure and creating the governmental machinery and personnel necessary to run it, the Irish and their children got their first foothold- on the ground floor.

Questions to consider:

1. **Why did the Irish immigrate to America?**
2. **How were the Irish depicted in American media in the 1800s?**
3. **Why were the Irish treated poorly?**
4. **What roles did the Irish have in American society? (economically, socially, politically, etc.)**