



INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY

IMMIGRANTS AND THEIR OCCUPATIONS OF 1910: A TWENTY-SIX YEAR ODYSSEY

I have been interested in the ethnic history of Michigan's Upper Peninsula since 1974, when I first agreed to write an article on the Scots of Marquette County. This was followed by research and writing on Native Americans in the region. In 1982, representatives of the Paisano Clubs of the Upper Peninsula and later the Michigan Council for the Humanities provided funds for my grand study of the Italians in the Upper Peninsula which ran for some two years (1983-1985). During this time some 300 photographs and a similar number of oral interviews were gathered from throughout the Peninsula. Over the years I continued my work interviewing people of Cornish, Slovenian, and German backgrounds (among others). The result was a number of publications on ethnic topics.

While conducting this work I developed the idea of going through the 1910 Federal census of the Upper Peninsula and listing the population of the immigrants and their occupations. Why the 1910 census? This census was the high-water mark for immigrant population in the Upper Peninsula. After that date people left for the auto industry in southern Michigan and the natural resources of the region were on the decline which caused more people to leave.

The actual project began in the winter of 1984 when I taught a Public History class to a small number of students: Elspeth Gibbs, Charles Montney, Jody Oliver. Rather than having the students conduct a research project I had them

work in groups on two counties: Iron and Marquette. Both studies were privately published in 1984 and 1986.

In the years that followed I thought it would be wise to include three of the more populous counties in the Upper Peninsula: Chippewa, Dickinson, and Houghton. A number of interested students working on a directed study completed work on these three counties. At that time we did not have computers to make the table-making process possible. As a result, the early completed surveys were typed on graph paper with a great deal of maneuvering to get some of the larger numbers to fit. If any errors were made, or not all of the information available, it meant that the survey was either incomplete or listed out of alphabetical order.

The project came to an end sometime in the 1990s. Then, around 2001, it was revived when Mary Mikhael needed a project for summer employment. She took information from the microfilm reader and made the traditional lists. These notes were filed and kept in a safe place.

Then, in the waning days of 2005, Dan Brown came along and needed a handful of credits to graduate on time. Between December 2005 and into 2006, he worked on Gogebic and Keweenaw Counties and wrote a special report on his findings. The project continued and moved forward with much of the work done throughout 2006. The project was again revived and brought to completion during the summer of 2009 and the winter of 2010.

The final townships and wards were read and made into tables. The last ward to be put into a table and corrected was Quincy Township, done on January 12, 2010. The project ends on the 26th anniversary of its start!

At times it seemed like this project would never come to a conclusion, but here it is. It is hoped that the researcher will be able to use it to positive effect. The information will allow an individual to get into the smallest township in the Upper Peninsula.

Every opportunity was taken to be sure that all of the information provided here is accurate. There were some problems with the legibility of some of the hand-written pages of the census and their lack of use is appropriately noted. No census is completely accurate so you might find some errors.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This study would not have been possible without the assistance of many students from Northern Michigan University. They include: Ted Bays (1984-1986), R. Brad Beaudry (2006), Dan Brown (2005-2006), Florence Brumm (1984-1986), James G. Chambers (1987), Amy Clisch (2009), Miranda Cotter (2002), Richard Fields (1994), Elspeth Gibbs (1984), Anders Gillis (2009), Mary Brunn Graeber (1987), Jeremy Hosking (2006), Kam Jamshidi (2009), Mick Kaminsky (2006), Brian Kibby (2006), Mary Mikhael (2001), Charles Montney (1984), Bonnie Nichols (2006), Russell Olds (2009-2010), Jodi Oliver (1984), Lura Parker-McGlynn (2008), Journey Steward Schall (2006), and Rob Schall (2006). All of these individuals are to be commended for the tedious work they had to conduct and to be thanked for having made this documentation available to the researcher.

WHERE THE IMMIGRANTS CAME FROM?

Given the nature and development of Europe prior to 1910, it is important to understand where the immigrants came from in terms of nation states. At this time many of the modern nations did not exist. For instance, Poland was divided among the Russians, Germans, and Austrians. However we are lucky to have the individual nationalities identified in the census.

- **Austria-Hungary, Austro-Hungarian Empire, Hapsburg Empire** - a multi-national empire from 1867 to 1918. It consisted of the following nationalities: Austrians, Croatians, Czechs/Bohemians, Hungarians, Poles, Rumanians, Ruthenians, Slovenians, Slovaks, Trentino or Tyrol Italians, and Yiddish (Jews). Many of the nationalities from the empire are sometimes identified as "Austrian Croatian" or "Austrian Slovenian." In Calumet the Slovenian Catholic church was referred to as "the Austrian church."
- **Canada** - immigrants from Canada are basically classified as "Canadian English," "Canadian French," or "Canadian Other," for those who were listed as immigrants from another country before going through Canada to the United States. Some of these people have been listed. Also, you will find "Canadian Ojibwe." The archival record and original enumerated census would have more detail.
- **Croatia** - part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire until 1918. Became part of Yugoslavia.
- **Czechs/Bohemians** - Czechs were part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Many were German-speaking. They were usually referred to as "Bohemians" or "Moravians," although the former term was more

common and found in the census. The independent nation of Czechoslovakia was created in 1918 and consisted of seven million Czechs, two million Slovaks, 700,000 Hungarians, 450,000 Ruthenians, and 3.5 million German-speaking people living there. In 1993, it split from Slovakia and became the Czech Republic.

- **English** - here there are some problems. Cornish people predominated in the western Upper Peninsula mining areas, but they are listed as "English." As a result you are not able to get an accurate count of the Cornish immigrants. Sometimes the Scots are listed along with the Welsh, but this is not always the case.
- **Finland** - invaded by Russia in 1713; became a battleground for Swedes and Russians. Although under Russia, the government of Finland (virtually a constituent democracy) differed immensely from Russia. The 1800s saw a great Finnish cultural revival and nationalistic revival which the Russians tried to destroy through Russification. It should be noted here that in earlier censuses the Finns were listed as "Russians." Finnish independence was recognized by the Soviet Union in 1920.
- **Finn-Swedes** - sometimes **Swede-Finn**, a sub-division of Finns. These people and their descendants see themselves as a separate ethnic group and are so listed.
- **German Hungarians** - German colonists who were introduced into the Hungarian Banat (fertile plain) in the 18th century because of their excellent farming ability. In Hungary, they retained their strong German ethnicity but quickly lost it in the United States.
- **German Russians** - during the 18th century German colonists were imported to Russia by Catherine the Great and other rulers to colonize areas. They are also found in the census as "Russian Germans" and "Volga Germans."
- **Icelanders** - probably immigrated to the Upper Peninsula, but for one exception they were identified as "Danish." The largest concentration of Icelanders in the United States is on Washington Island, Wisconsin.
- **Ireland** - until 1920, part of Great Britain.
- **Norway** - ceded to Sweden 1814; became an independent kingdom in 1815 in a personal union with Sweden, which ended in 1905.
- **Poland** - was partitioned in 1772, 1793, and 1795 among Russia, Prussia (modern Germany), and Austria-Hungary. It would not become independent until 1918. As a result, Polish immigrants were listed as "Russian Pole," "Austrian Pole," or "German Pole" since until 1918, when Poland was divided between her larger neighbors. I decided to only include the term "Polish." If a person is interested in checking out the sub-division of Poles or other ethnic groups, the cards, booklets and notes for this project have been deposited with the Central Upper Peninsula and Northern Michigan University Archives for further study or clarification.

- **Rumanians** - became independent in 1878, although there were Rumanians living within Austria-Hungary.
- **Ruthenians** - to the east of the Slovaks were the Ruthenians, who in Austria-Hungary designated the Ukrainian population of western Ukraine, which included Galicia, Bukovina, and Carpathian Ukraine. After 1918, the term Ruthenia was applied only to the easternmost province of Czechoslovakia, which was also known as Carpathian Ukraine or by its Czech name, Sub-Carpathian Russia.
- **Slovaks** - these people were part of the Hungarian kingdom under Austria-Hungary. Slovak nationalism and culture was suppressed under the Hungarians although they were promoted and flourished among immigrants. In 1918, they became part of Czechoslovakia and remained so until 1993 when Slovakia was created.
- **Slovenia** - a province under the Austro-Hungarian Empire (Hapsburg rulers) from the 1300s to 1918. Then it became part of a south Slav union known as Yugoslavia.
- **Swedes** - an obvious category. The census also shows: "Norwegian Swedes," "Russian Swedes," and "Yiddish Swedes."
- **Syrian** - this term is frequently used to identify Christian Syrians or Lebanese immigrants in the census. They were part of the Ottoman Empire in 1910, and sometimes they will be identified as "Turkish." At this time, Christians from the Ottoman Empire immigrated to the United States. Muslims found that American society and culture was too exotic and remained in their homeland.
- **Trentino Italians** - ethnic Italians from the Austrian province of Trentino or Tyrol. These immigrants and their descendants are chiefly found in Dickinson County where they are so listed.
- **Volga Germans** - see **German Russians**.
- **Yiddish/Hebrew** - these terms appear separate or linked with German Yiddish, Hungarian Yiddish, and Swedish Yiddish. These terms refer to Jews.

CAUTIONARY NOTES

Every attempt has been made to count and develop the document for accuracy. However with so many numbers and so many people working on the material over the years, some errors might have entered the final document. We tried to do our best and apologize for any problems in advance. I must also caution the user that the censuses taken in 1910 and in 2010 are not always as accurate as we would hope them to be. Was someone missed in the count? This is always a possibility. Of all of the pages, only one set (Sault Ste. Marie, Ward 4), was illegible. An effort has been made to give some order to the myriad of occupations that were encountered. The census goes into some detail with some of the occupations, as a dressmaker might be listed as working

at home or in a commercial setting. I took the position to use the term "dressmaker" without going into a list of additional classifications. If someone needs more information they should check the cards created during the study deposited in the Northern Michigan University Archives or go back to the census itself.

The classification "**None**" refers to the following people: married women, children, older family members, and others.

In conclusion, the following material will provide the interested person or researcher with some invaluable information. It is hoped that in the future, researchers will go into the ethnic history of the Upper Peninsula in depth. This is the gateway to those future studies.

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

The following works are presented for a brief overview to the individual working with this census data. It is not exhaustive.

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Dated but an important source to start with.

---. *Ethnic Groups in Michigan*. Vol. 2 of *The Peoples of Michigan*. Detroit: Ethnos Press, 1983.
This continues to be a useful source for all ethnic groups in the state.

Archibald, Robert R. "Chinese Residents in Marquette," *Harlow's Wooden Man* 11 (Winter 1975), 9-10.
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A fine overview that helps you to understand these organizations.

Cetinich, Daniel. *South Slavs in Michigan*. East Lansing: Michigan State University Press, 2003.

Focuses on the Croatians, Serbs and Montenegrins, Slovenians, Bosnian Muslims, and Macedonians and includes the Upper Peninsula. Useful bibliography.

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Fine overview with bibliography.

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DuLong, John. *French Canadians in Michigan*. East Lansing: Michigan State University Press, 2001.

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Good overview of the Cornish in the Upper Peninsula.
- . *Italians in Michigan*. East Lansing: Michigan State University Press, 2001.
Short study that is divided into an Upper and Lower Peninsula focus.
- . *Miners, Merchants and Midwives: Michigan's Upper Peninsula Italians*. Marquette, Mich.: Belle Fontaine Press, 1987.
- . *The Way It Happened: Settling Michigan's Upper Peninsula*. Iron Mountain, Mich.: Mid-Peninsula Library Cooperative, 1982.
Included in this work are the following chapters: "Belgians in the Upper Peninsula," "Everybody but the Finns" which is an overview of Upper Peninsula ethnicity; "German-Hungarians at Banat," and "Scots of Marquette County."
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- . "Scandinavians in Baraga County," in *Baraga County Ethnic Pageant, August 14, 1982*. Baraga, MI: Baraga County Ethnic Historical Society, 1982.

Magnaghi, Russell M. and Michael T. Marsden, eds. *A Sense of Place, Michigan's Upper Peninsula*. Marquette: Northern Michigan University Press, 1997.
Several chapters in this work deal with Finns, the Cornish pasty, and ethnic foods.

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Provides insights into the religious development of Catholic immigrants.

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One of the few autobiographical studies of a Finnish-American miner. He also discusses the ethnic community of Negaunee.

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A dated but excellent source with biographies dealing with prominent immigrants.

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Fine source for background.

Thernstrom, Stephan, ed. *Harvard Encyclopedia of American Ethnic Groups*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1980.
This is a critical and important point to obtain information on immigrants. From here you can proceed to Anderson and Smith.

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Presents a wealth of information about immigrants and native-born Americans as revealed in the 1910 census. Good background for understanding the census and America at the time.

W.P.A. *Michigan: A Guide to the Wolverine State*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1941.
An excellent overview of the state for the late 1930s which mentions ethnic history in the Upper Peninsula. Extremely useful.

MICHIGAN'S UPPER PENINSULA IMMIGRANTS AND THEIR
OCCUPATIONS AS SEEN IN THE 1910 FEDERAL CENSUS.

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