

A black and white photograph showing a group of men, likely immigrants, standing in a line or cluster in a park-like setting. They are wearing heavy coats and hats, and some are carrying large bags or suitcases. In the foreground, there are large, tied-up bundles of clothing or luggage. The background shows trees and a building.

BROOKLYN

CONNECTIONS

**EARLY 20TH CENTURY
IMMIGRATION IN BROOKLYN**
PRIMARY SOURCE PACKET

Student Name

INTRODUCTORY READING *The Encyclopedia of New York City*. Edited by Kenneth T. Jackson, 2010.

Adaption

By the early nineteenth century **economic** conditions in much of northern and western Europe led increasing numbers to leave their homelands: population increased, **depressions** recurred, and families subdivided their farms for younger generations into plots too small for **subsistence**, larger farms run as businesses replace smaller ones, and factories replaced handcraft workshops. Crop failures and other agricultural crises became a constant **affliction**: for example, British land policies in Ireland and a devastating Potato Famine from 1845 to 1847 led to severe hardship. Revolutions and religious **persecution** also led to emigration.

The opening of the Erie Canal in 1825 and the growth of New York City as a major world seaport and center for manufacturing created tremendous need for labor. Between 1815 and 1915, about 33 million people moved to the United States from all over the world, three quarters of them through the Port of New York. Irish and German Catholics made up the greatest numbers, and their presence in a city that was still strongly Protestant and Anglo-Saxon led to conflicts over **temperance**, city government, and the religious **orientation** of public education.

Almost half of all employed immigrants worked in the clothing industry or as manual laborers, servant, cooks, waiters, and house hold help ... A second phase of immigration began in the late 1880's, as Russian and Polish Jews as well as southern Italians, Greeks, Polish, Hungarians, Romanians, Bohemians, and others from southern and eastern Europe who fled changes similar to those that has **beset** northern and western Europe in the first half of the century.

BUSHWICK AS IT IS.

Its Extensive Cattle Yards and Factories—Progress Evident since the Inception of the South Side Railroad—The New Sewer Commenced.

With the flight of years, and the gradual reaching out for building and factory sites beyond the cramped limits of the densely populated portion of the city, the Sleepy Hollow air that was always to be recognized about that section of the Eastern District known as Old Bushwick, has rapidly succumbed to the force of business enterprise, and where comfortable farm houses only were to be seen, now, loom up in every direction large and substantial buildings, used in various mechanical pursuits, the principal of which are devoted to the manufacture of rope and lager beer.

Document 1 - "Bushwick As It Is." *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* 30 Mar. 1871.

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Farmers have been forced to seek more **congenial** quarters at a greater distance, and their land has been divided up into lots, the most of which are built upon and occupied by the families of those who labor in the adjacent works. Nearly contemporary with the building of the South Side Railroad and preceding it but a brief time, a new enterprise was started in the vicinity of it.

1. According to Document 1, list three ways Bushwick changed during the late nineteenth century:

2. Do you think the author is happy with the change? Why or why not?

3. What types of people do you imagine moved in to the houses that were built on the old farmland?

4. Describe what you think “Old Bushwick” might have looked like? Use lots of detail!

In the mid-1800's, over one million Germans and Austrians immigrated to the United States because of **civil unrest**, severe unemployment, or almost **inconceivable** hardships at home. Most of these people settled in northern Brooklyn and the area was nicknamed "Little Germany." Germans were known for their beer and breweries and by 1880 there were 11 breweries in Bushwick; by 1904 there were 44 breweries.



Document 2 - *Trommer Brewery*. 194- ? The Brooklyn Collection, Brooklyn.

1. What do you see in the image? Make five observations.

2. Describe the different types of people you see in the image.

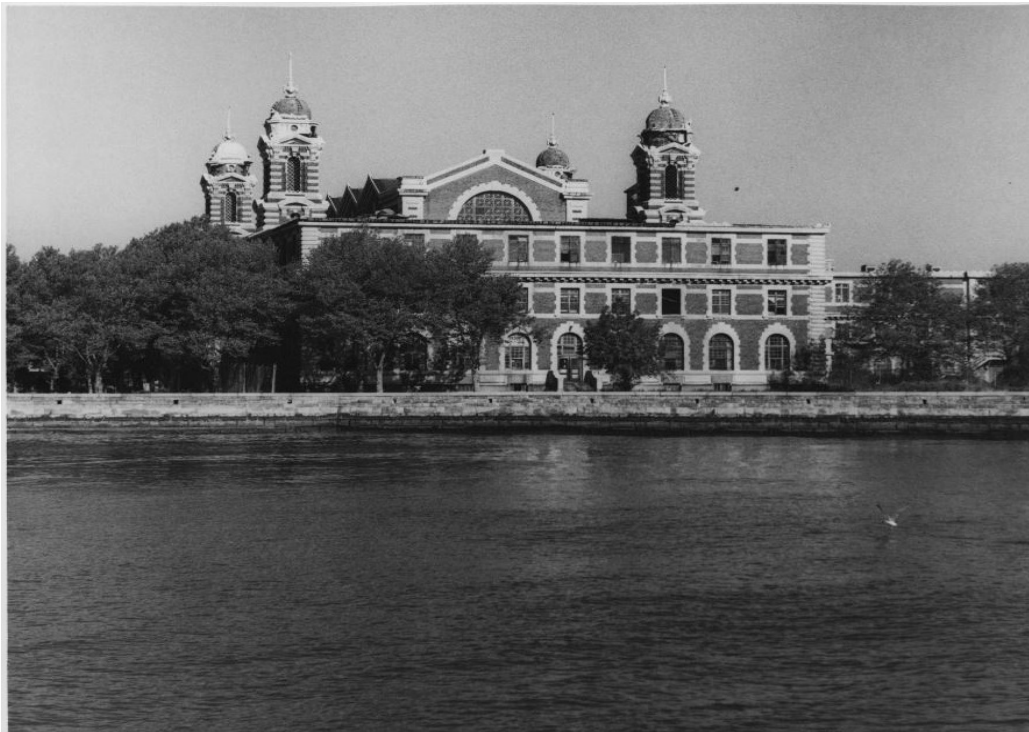
3. Why do you think beer was important to the German immigrant community in Bushwick?

4. How do you think the German community's connection to beer might have been viewed by outsiders?

At least four hundred of the two thousand Italians who were landed at Ellis island on Sunday and Monday will be deported, as they have not the means to subsist upon for thirty days. The law requires each immigrant to have at least \$30 and to have some relative in America before he is admitted. Commissioner Senner attributes the large migration of Italians to the Italian invasion of Abyssinia, to which most Italian peasants are averse. They do not wish to be drafted into the army and so to avoid becoming conscripts they emigrate. In many instances they have sold their household effects in order to raise their passage money.

Document 3A- "Four Hundred to Be Deported." *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle* 27 Mar. 1896: 1.

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Document 3B- Herzberg, Irving. *Ellis Island*. 1950's. The Brooklyn Collection, Brooklyn.

1. Why does the article say Italians were immigrating to the United States? What are some other reasons a person might immigrate to a new country?

2. What did the law state immigrants needed to enter the United States?

3. What reason does the article give for the Italians' deportation?

4. What do you think seeing Ellis Island meant for people immigrating to America? How do you think those who were deported felt?

IN GERMAN CIRCLES.

The new German Roman Catholic St. Barbara Church, on Central avenue and Bleeker street, will be dedicated on Sunday next. The dedication services will be conducted by the Rt. Rev. Bishop McDonnell. The church has been erected according to the ideas of the Rev. Fr. Hanselmann, who made a trip to Europe for the purpose of studying the construction of large church edifices. After the



Document 4 - (top 4A) "In German Circles." *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*. 28 Nov. 1910: p7. (bottom 4B) *St. Barbara's Roman Catholic Church*. 1950. The Brooklyn Collection, Brooklyn.

1. Find Document 4A's citation. Infer what year St. Barbara Church was built?

2. According to Document 4A, which group of people was the church initially built for?

3. Why do you think Rev. Hanselmann traveled to Europe to study how churches were constructed there before building St. Barbara's Church?

4. St. Barbara's Church still stands today and the makeup of its congregation has changed along with the population of Bushwick. Why do you think religious spaces such as St. Barbara's Church are so historically important to the immigrant populations of Bushwick?

SENATE ADOPTS BILL TO STEM TIDE OF ALIENS

Dillingham Measure Cuts Admissions to 3% of Pop- ulation, or 355,000 in Year

Washington, Feb. 19—A drastic measure against immigration during the next year was adopted today by the Senate, which, by the overwhelming vote of 61 to 2, passed the Dillingham Immigration Restriction bill after adding amendments to increase its restrictive features.

Document 5A - "Senate Adopts Bill to Stem Tide of Aliens." *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*. 20 Feb. 1921.

American
Feb. 21, 1921

CAN—A Paper for People Who Think—SUN

How Immigrants Will Come Under 3% Rule

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.

THE conference report on the immigration bill was adopted to-day by the House and Senate and the measure sent to the President.

The measure provides that the number of aliens of any nationality entering as immigrants for the next twelve months shall be limited to 3 per cent of the total number of persons of such nationality already in the country. This plan would work out as follows:

NORTHWESTERN EUROPE.				ELSEWHERE IN EUROPE.			
Countries.	Popu- lation in U. S. 1910.	Average annual immig- ration 1910- 1914.	Approx- imate number admis- sible annually under 3 % limit.	Countries.	Popu- lation in U. S. 1910.	Average annual immig- ration 1910- 1914.	Approx- imate number admis- sible annually under 3 % limit.
Belgium.	49,400	5,690	1,482	Aus.-Hun.	1,670,582	225,931	50,117
Denmark.	181,649	6,694	5,449	Bulgaria.	11,498	344
France...	117,418	8,601	3,522	Serbia...	4,639	4,964	139
Germany.	2,501,333	32,239	75,039	M'tenegro	5,374	161
Netherl'd	123,134	7,147	3,694	Greece...	101,282	26,442	3,038
Norway..	403,877	11,416	12,116	Italy....	1,343,125	220,967	40,293
Sweden..	665,207	17,843	19,956	Portugal.	59,360	10,380	1,780
Switzer'd.	124,848	3,762	3,742	Rumania.	65,923	2,570	1,977
U'd King.	2,673,534	89,188	90,206	Russia...	1,732,462	210,922	51,973
				Spain...	22,108	5,723	663
				Turkey in Europe.	32,230	13,930	966
Totals.	6,740,400	182,850	55,000				

The exemption of domestic-born persons from the operation of the percentage restriction is provided for.

Document 5B - "How Immigrants Will Come Under 3% Rule." *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*. 26 Feb. 1921.

1. In your own words, what is the “3% Rule?”

2. Why would the US government want to limit the admission of immigrants during this time?
Infer two reasons here:

3. Imagine you are a recent immigrant in Bushwick when this bill is passed. Name three concerns on your mind:

4. Which population was hurt most by the 3% Rule? (Hint: look at the second and third columns of Document 5B.

SAENGERBUND.

A Sketch of Brooklyn's Largest German Singing Society.

The Ups and Downs of its Career Since
its Organization a Quarter of a Century
Ago—In a Prosperous Condition Now
and Ready to Fittingly Celebrate its
Twenty-fifth Anniversary.

During the early part of the sixth decennial of the present century, shortly after the German revolutions of 1818 and 1819 had thrown hundreds and thousands of exiled and expelled patriots to the shores of the Western Hemisphere, a contemporary could easily have witnessed in this city the many social gatherings of German residents, who at that time settled in several wards, some of which were in the neighborhood of South Brooklyn, and whose number was increased with the arrival of every sailing vessel, with its human freight, from the Old World. Among these German residents were many lovers of music and poetry, all of marked social qualities, and soon they were organized into societies and the songs of the Fatherland and the music of Mozart, Beethoven, Haydn and others, and the poems of such writers as Schiller, Goethe and Lessing were heard at the primitive headquarters erected by these societies for the purpose of continuing the culture of their domestic music and song on American soil.

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1. In your own words, what is Document 6 describing? What is it celebrating?

2. Why did the German population come to Brooklyn?

3. How does Document 6 describe South Brooklyn during this time?

4. What was the purpose of this singing society? What did the German people want to continue?

Record of Inmates Kings County Alms House, under Act Chap. 140, Laws of 1875.

Name, *Mary Boyle* and child, Sex, *F*, Age, *19*, Color, *White* Single, Married, Widow, Widower, *Single* Birth Place, State or Country, *N. York*
County, *Kings* Town or City, *Greenpoint* (If Foreign Born, how long in the U. S.? ———— How long in this State? ———— At what Port Landed? ———— Was Head Money Paid? ———— Is the Person Naturalized? ————)
Record Number, *8182* Birth Place of Father — State or Country, *Ireland* County, *Unknown* Town or City, *Unknown* Birth Place of Mother —
Date of Admission *Mar 19-1885* State or Country, *Ireland* County, *Westmeath* Town or City, *Unknown* Education, *Read and write*
Date Admitted ———— 18 Habits, *Temp* Habits of Father, *Intemp* Habits of Mother, *Temp* Occupation, *Pencil Factory*
——— 18 Occupation of Father, *Foundry* Condition of Ancestors and other Relatives (living or dead), as to whether
——— 18 Pauper or Self-Supporting — Grand Parents Paternal Side, ———— Grand Parents Maternal Side, ————
——— 18 Father, *Self supporting* Mother, *Self supporting* Brothers, *None* Sisters, *None* Other
——— 18 Relatives, *do* (If a Parent, how many Children Living? *One*, State their Condition — whether in Poor
——— 18 Houses, Asylums, Hospitals, other Institutions, or Self-Supporting, ———— (*with mother*)
——— 18 Existing Cause of Dependence, *Bastardy*
What kind of Labor is the Person able to pursue, and to what extent? ———— *None*
Discharged ———— 18 Has the Person received Public or Private Out Door Relief? If so, how long? ———— *None*
——— 18 Have the Parents or other relatives been thus aided? If so, state the fact. ———— *None*
——— 18 Has the Person been, heretofore, an Inmate of Poor Houses? If so, how long? ———— *None*
——— 18 Has the Person been an Inmate of any other Charitable Institution? If so, note the fact. *Kings Co Hosp. 4 months*
——— 18 What is the probable destiny of the Person as respects recovery from the cause of Dependence? *May recover*
——— 18 Remarks: *This young woman has stated the full particulars to the commrs.*

Name: Mary Boyle & child	Sex: Female Age: 19 Color: White Single, Married, Widow, Widower: Single Birth Place: New York
Record Number: 8182	County: Kings Town or City: Greenpoint
Date of Admission: Mar 19 th 1885	Birth Place of Father: Ireland County: Unknown City: Unknown
	Birth Place of Mother: Ireland County: Westmeath City: Unknown Education: Read and write
	Habits: Temp Habits of Father: Intemp Habits of mother: Temp Occupation: Pencil Factory
	Occupation of Father: Foundry
	Father: Self-supporting Mother: Self-supporting Brothers: None Sisters: None
	Houses, Asylums, Hospitals, other institutions or self-supporting: (with mother)
	Existing cause of Dependences: Bastardy
	Has the Person been an inmate of any other charitable institution? Kings Co. Hospital 4 months
	What is the probably destiny of the person as respects recovery from the cause of dependence? May recover
	Remarks: This young woman has stated the full particulars to the commrs.

1. **Make three observations about Document 7 (don't forget to look at the citation):**

2. **Based on Document 7, describe Mary Boyle's life:**

3. **What questions do you have regarding this document? How would you find out more information?**



Document 8- "Leaning Tenement of Brooklyn." *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, 23 Sep. 1952.

1. Make four observations about Document 8:

2. Document 8 is of a tenement house in Bedford-Stuyvesant. What can you infer about the living conditions of immigrants in this community from this image?

3. List four changes you would implement to help immigrants if you worked for the City of New York at this time:

Outrages upon immigrants.

As if the poor immigrants who come hither from the old world, had not enough impositions practised on them, it appears by the following that some of our sea-captains claim the right of *flogging* them, at the said captains' high will and pleasure! A case, day before yesterday, was decided in the U. S. District Court at Phila., arising out of a flogging administered by the Captain of the brig Rebecca to a German passenger, on a recent voyage from Rotterdam to this country. The captain claimed the right to administer corporeal punishment to his passenger for refractory conduct, the same as if he were a seaman, and ropes-ended him severely. On the arrival in this country, the German Emigrant Society told the man his rights, and induced him to bring an action for the purpose of testing the authority of masters of vessels over their passengers, and also for the purpose of arresting this kind of degrading tyranny, which, we are told, is frequently exercised by captains over emigrants. The Court delivered an opinion repudiating the right of masters of vessels to inflict corporeal punishment upon passengers, no matter how humble their condition, and made an order mulcting the defendant in this case in damages to the amount of \$100 and costs.

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Document 9 – "Outrage upon Immigrants." *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, 5 Aug.1846.

1. In your own words, what is happening in Document 9? Who is involved?

2. In Document 9 who are the different players and what are their roles?

3. What was the role of the German Emigrant Society in this document?

4. Do you think that immigrants knew that they had certain rights based on the above document? Do you think that the fact that this article was written in a newspaper, changes anything? Why or why not?

1. Make four observations about Document 10.

2. Based on your observations, what was the purpose of this document?

3. What immigrant group do you think this document belongs to? How do you know?

4. What information would be helpful to better understand Document 10?

GLOSSARY

Abyssinia: The former name of today's Ethiopia whom Italy went to war with in 1895

Affliction: a cause of persistent pain or distress

Alms House: a privately financed home for the poor

Beset: to set or stud with or as if with ornaments

Civil Unrest: a situation where many people in a country or area are angry about a shared cause and hold riots or protests

Congenial: pleasant, agreeable, appealing

Conscript: To force someone to serve in the military

Corporal Punishment: physical punishment

Decennial: lasting for or relating to a period of ten years.

Degrade: to lower in grade, rank, or status

Depression: a period of low general economic activity marked especially by rising levels of unemployment

Economic: money, resources, and means of production

Exile: a period of forced absence from one's country or home

Feeble: lacking in strength

Freight: goods to be shipped

Flog: to beat with or as if with a rod or whip

Induce: to call forth or bring about by influence or stimulation

Imposition: a thing that is imposed, in particular an unfair or unwelcome demand or burden.

Inconceivable: Impossible to imagine or believe

Incur: become subject to (something unwelcome or unpleasant) as a result of one's own behavior or actions.

Loom: an apparatus for making fabric by weaving yarn or thread.

Mulct: a fine or penalty

Orientation: relative position of something

Patriot: one who loves his or her country and supports its authority and interests

Persecution: hostility and ill-treatment, especially because of race or political or religious beliefs.

Pestilence: a contagious or infectious epidemic disease

Primitive: not developed or derived from anything else

Refractory Conduct: A rule established in 1834 which could result in a period of solitary confinement for misconduct at work

Repudiating: to refuse to have anything to do with

Subsistence: maintaining or supporting oneself at a minimum level

Succumb: to stop trying to resist something

Temperance: abstinence from alcoholic drink.

Tyranny: oppressive power

Ward: the action or process of guarding