

# Sivell Family Passengers' Contract Ticket, August 20, 1852

## PASSENGERS' CONTRACT TICKET.

1. A Contract Ticket in this Form must be given to every Passenger engaging a Passage from the United Kingdom to North America.
2. All the Blanks must be correctly filled in, and the Ticket must be legibly signed with the Christian Names and Surname and Address in full of the Party issuing the same.
3. The Day of the Month on which the Ship is to sail must be inserted in Words and not in Figures.
4. When once issued this Ticket must not be withdrawn from the Passenger, nor any Alteration or Erasure made in it.

No. 374 15 day of August 1852  
 Ship Margaret Evans of 1200 Tons Register Burden, to sail from  
 London for New York, on the nineteenth day of Sept 1852

NAMES.	Ages.	Equal to Statute Adults.	
<u>John Sivell</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>1</u>	<p>I engage that the Parties herein-named shall be provided with a Steerage Passage to NEW YORK, in the Ship</p> <p><u>Margaret Evans</u></p> <p>with not less than Ten Cubic Feet for Luggage for each Statute Adult, for the Sum of £ <u>40/5</u> including Government Dues before Embarkation, and Head Money, if any, at the Place of landing, and every other Charge; and I hereby acknowledge to have received the Sum of £ <u>13</u> in — Payment.</p> <p>In addition to any Provisions which the Passengers may themselves bring, the following Quantities, at least, of Water and Provisions will be supplied to each Passenger by the Master of the Ship, as required by Law, and also Fires and suitable Places for cooking:—</p> <p>3 Quarts of Water daily.</p> <p>+ 5 lbs. of Bread or Biscuit, not inferior in Quality to Navy Biscuit.</p> <p>+ 1½ lb. of Wheaten Flour.</p> <p>+ ¼ lb. of Oatmeal.*</p> <p>2 lbs. of Rice.*</p> <p>½ lb. of Sugar.</p> <p>¼ lb. of Molasses.</p> <p>2 oz. of Tea.</p> <p>* 5 lbs. of good Potatoes may, at the Option of the Master of the Ship, be substituted for 1 lb. of Oatmeal or Rice, and in Ships sailing from Liverpool or from Irish or Scotch Ports, Oatmeal may be substituted in equal Quantities for the whole or any part of the Issues of Rice.</p> <p>+ The above in lieu of 2½ lbs. Biscuit, 1 lb. Flour, and 5 lbs. Oatmeal, as hitherto given.</p>
<u>Elizabeth</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>1</u>	
<u>John</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>1</u>	
<u>Elizabeth</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>1</u>	
<u>Elizabeth</u>	<u>Infant</u>		
<u>William</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>1</u>	
<u>Stephen Deaw</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>1</u>	
<u>Thomas Crawford</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>1</u>	
<u>Martha</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>1</u>	
<u>George</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>1</u>	
<u>Mary</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>1</u>	
<u>John</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>1/2</u>	
<u>Ann</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>1/2</u>	
<u>John Hagerty</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>1</u>	
<u>Serenah</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>1</u>	

Deposit ..... £ 13 . 0  
 Balance ..... £ 35 . 15 . 0 to be paid at London before Embarkation.  
 TOTAL ... £ 48 . 15 . 0

Received Balance 20 day of Aug 1852  
 Phillipps, Shaw & Lowther,  
 2, Royal Exchange Buildings.  
Thomas Verdoy  
 Jetty, London Docks.

N.B.—This Contract Ticket is exempt from Stamp Duty.  
 Passengers to be on Board for Medical Inspection, on 19 at 11 o'Clock.



# Sivell Ship's Manifest, 1852

Thomas Henrich	6	M	England	United States
Charles Henrich	4	F	do	do
Emma Henrich	2	F	do	do
Elizabeth Henrich	4	F	do	do
Klannah Henrich	20	F	do	do
Charles Goodyear	21	M Labourer	do	do
Robert Pike	24	M do	do	do
William Carter	33	M do	do	do
Ann Ryan	37	F	Ireland	do
Catherine Ryan	12	F	do	do
Thomas Ryan	35	M Labourer	do	do
Cathick Ryan	8	M	do	do
Edward Spinsford	30	M Shoemaker	United States	do
George Spinsford	28	M do	do	do
James Annett	34	By Engraver	England	do
James Annett	3	M	do	do
Mary King	40	F	Ireland	do
John Sivell	48	M Shoemaker	England	do
Elizabeth Sivell	46	F	do	do
John Sivell	24	M do	do	do
Elizabeth Sivell	25	F	do	do
Elizabeth Sivell	3	F	do	do
William Sivell	23	M do	do	do
Stephen Dean	30	M do	do	do
Thomas Crawford	40	M Labourer	do	do
Martha Crawford	53	F	do	do
George Crawford	22	M do	do	do
Henry Crawford	15	F	do	do
John Crawford	11	M	do	do
Ann Crawford	9	F	do	do
John Flaherty	127	M Shoemaker	Ireland	do
Seimian Flaherty	120	M Sailor	do	do
Stephen Elphick	47	M Labourer	England	do
Henry Lock	424	M Clerk	do	do
Catherine Barry	49	F	Ireland	do
Margaret Barry	77	F	England	do
William Dawson	122	M Sailor	do	do
Margaret Driscoll	50	F	Ireland	do
Catherine Driscoll	15	F	do	do
Johanna Driscoll	15	F	do	do
Jonathan Driscoll	13	M	do	do
Johnna Donagan	15	F	do	do
Catherine Griffey	50	F	do	do
Cathick Griffey	44	M	do	do
Michael Ambmann	35	M Labourer	do	do
Bartholomew Sullivan	50	M Painter	do	do
Bridget Sullivan	42	F	do	do
John Sullivan	28	M do	England	do
Bartholomew Sullivan	19	M do	do	do
William Sullivan	77	M do	do	do
Herbert Gammann	39	M Sailor	do	do

57



# The Great Bartholdi Statue, Liberty Enlightening the World: The Gift of France to the American People, 1885



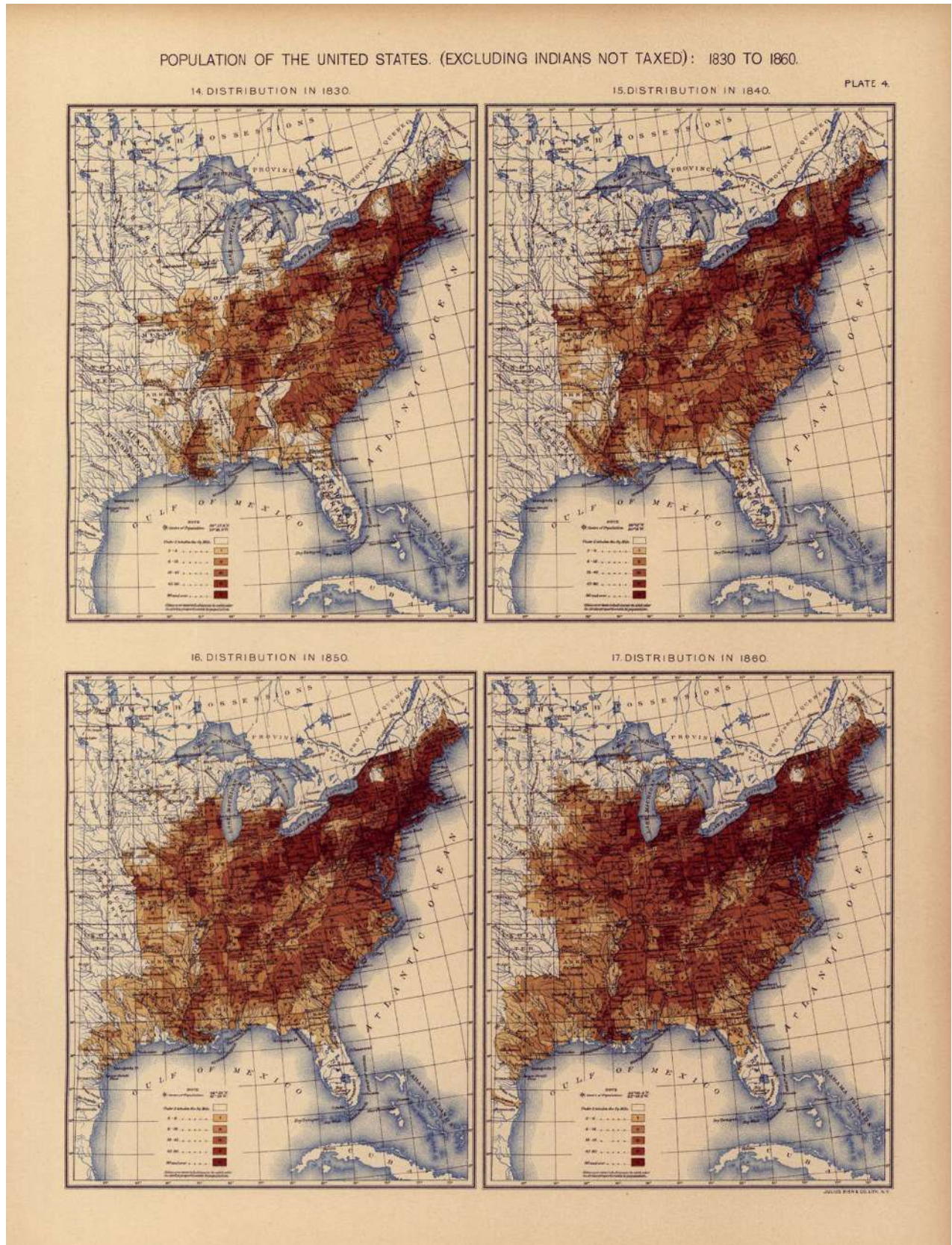
THE GREAT BARTHOLOMEW STATUE,  
LIBERTY ENLIGHTENING THE WORLD,  
THE GIFT OF FRANCE TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE,  
ERECTED ON BEDLOE'S ISLAND, NEW YORK HARBOR.

The statue is of copper-clad iron, 146 ft. in height, and is to be installed on a stone pedestal 150 ft. high, making the extreme height 296 ft. The torch will display a powerful electric light and the statue that passes by night as by day, an exceedingly grand and imposing appearance.





# Statistical Atlas of the United States' Population (excluding Indians not taxed), 1898



Courtesy of Library of Congress, United States Census Office, 11th Census (1890), and Henry Gannett, Washington, 1898



# Emigrants coming to the "Land of Promise," 1902





# Railroad Workers in Fort Madison, Iowa, ca. 1920



Courtesy of Iowa Women's Archives, "Railroad workers employed by the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad in Fort Madison, Iowa, 1920s," Iowa Women's Archives, University of Iowa Libraries, ca. 1920



# “What is the Difference between Immigrants and Refugees?” 2003

## What is the Difference between Immigrants and Refugees?

### Refugees

Refugees are forced to leave their home countries because of war, environmental disasters, political persecution and/or religious or ethnic intolerance. They come to the United States with a special immigration status that gives them automatic admission into the country and helps them connect with family members who are already in the country. This status also provides them with a “green card” or a permit to work. Refugees are “invited” to live in the United States to start a new life.

### Immigrants

Immigrants generally come to the U.S. for one of two reasons:

- they are joining family members who already live in this country

or

- they are “economic immigrants” seeking work and a better life for themselves and their families

Immigrants and refugees have a good deal in common. They experience new cultures and languages. They are often ethnic minorities who might face open discrimination or other forms of hostility, regardless of their immigration status.

Credit:

Adapted from *The New Iowans, A Companion Book to the PBS Miniseries The New Americans* (2003), provided courtesy of Iowa Center for Immigrant Leadership and Integration, University of Northern Iowa.

<https://www.iowapbs.org/iowapathways/mypath/what-difference-between-immigrants-and-refugees>

Courtesy of Iowa PBS, “What is the Difference between Immigrants and Refugees?” *The New Iowans, A Companion Book to the PBS Miniseries The New Americans*, Iowa Center for Immigrant Leadership and Integration, University of Northern Iowa, 2003



## “Definition of a Refugee” from Iowa PBS, 2007



Courtesy of Iowa PBS, “Definition of a Refugee,” A Promise Called Iowa, Iowa PBS, 2007



# “Get The Facts: Refugee Resettlement in Iowa,” 2018



GOVERNOR OF IOWA  
**Kim Reynolds**

## GET THE FACTS: Refugee Resettlement in Iowa

“Thanks to the President’s leadership, Americans can be confident once again in the screening process for refugees entering the United States, and Iowans can be assured of the program’s integrity when welcoming refugees to our communities.”

— Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds

### An Overview:

***President Trump’s Executive Order on Enhancing State and Local Involvement in Refugee Resettlement requires states to consent to the continued resettlement of refugees. Under the direction of Gov. Reynolds, Iowa has consented to participate in the refugee resettlement program, joining more than 30 states willing to accept refugees vetted by the Trump Administration. By doing so, Gov. Reynolds is continuing Iowa’s long-standing refugee procedure in compliance with President Trump’s Executive Order and refugee policy.***

### How many refugees are coming to Iowa and where are they coming from?

At this time, ***no additional refugees are coming to Iowa*** as a direct result of consenting to President Trump’s Executive Order. ***In 2018, 383 refugees resettled to Iowa***, a decline from the previous three years. Those refugees arrived to Iowa from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burma and Eritrea. Refugees resettling to Iowa should not be confused with “asylum seekers” who are attempting to enter the U.S., usually at our southern border, without going through the strict refugee vetting process.

### Who is vetting the refugees?

Only refugees approved by President Trump’s administration are allowed to enter the country. His administration has taken strong steps to thoroughly vet refugees and provide much needed assurances to local communities.

### What is their legal status?

Refugees are required to apply for Lawful Permanent Residence (“green card”) status one year after being admitted. A refugee may then apply to become a naturalized citizen five years after receiving their green card. Only after completing the naturalization process do they receive the right to vote. However, they do pay the same employment, property, sales and other taxes as any U.S. citizen immediately upon arrival.

### Who manages Iowa’s refugee program?

The State Department’s Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration coordinates admissions and allocations to specific cities and resettlement agencies, in conjunction with nine national voluntary agencies that oversee a network of 250 affiliates that operate in individual states. Iowa has three affiliates: Catholic Charities of Des Moines, U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI), and Catherine McAuley Center. Iowa’s Bureau of Refugee Services, located within Iowa’s Department of Human Services (DHS), is fully funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Bureau’s services include: job skills training, case management services, interpretation, transportation, and a wide variety of other social services.

### Who pays for this program?

Federal funds primarily flow through nonprofit charities and DHS to pay for refugee resettlement.



# Inspection Room, Ellis Island, New York, between 1900 and 1915



Courtesy of Library of Congress, Detroit Publishing Co., between 1900 and 1915



# Emigrants [i.e. immigrants] Landing at Ellis Island, 1903



Courtesy of Library of Congress, Abadie, Alfred C., United States: Thomas A. Edison, Inc, 1903



# Immigration Figures for the United States, 1903

## ILLITERACY.

Number of persons in each hundred immigrants over fourteen years of age who cannot write or cannot read and write their own language, from those races (*not nations*) which contributed upwards of 2,000 immigrants to the United States during any of the past four fiscal years:

WESTERN EUROPE.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
Scandinavian . . . . .	0.9	0.8	0.5	0.6
Scotch . . . . .	—	1.2	1.2	1.2
Bohemian and Moravian . . . . .	3.0	1.5	1.6	1.6
English . . . . .	0.2	1.8	1.9	1.6
Irish . . . . .	3.3	3.2	3.9	3.8
Finnish . . . . .	2.7	2.2	1.4	2.2
French . . . . .	3.9	3.9	4.8	3.8
German . . . . .	5.8	4.1	5.4	4.6
Dutch and Flemish . . . . .	9.6	7.8	7.6	6.9
Italian (North) . . . . .	11.2	15.7	14.4	12.7
<b>Average of above . . . . .</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>3.9</b>

EASTERN EUROPE (WITH SPAIN AND PORTUGAL).	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
Spanish . . . . .	—	—	—	8.9
Magyar . . . . .	16.8	7.5	13.3	10.5
Roumanian . . . . .	—	—	28.3	21.5
Slovak . . . . .	27.9	30.7	25.9	21.6
Greek . . . . .	17.1	25.9	30.0	27.7
Russian . . . . .	—	—	—	31.9
Polish . . . . .	31.2	37.5	38.4	32.1
Croatian and Slovenian . . . . .	37.4	39.7	42.2	35.2
Bulgarian, Servian, Montenegrin . . . . .	—	—	—	44.7
Lithuanian . . . . .	31.7	49.8	54.1	46.6
Ruthenian . . . . .	49.0	53.2	50.0	49.4
Italian (South) . . . . .	54.6	59.1	56.4	51.4
Portuguese . . . . .	59.9	63.8	71.6	73.2
<b>Average of above . . . . .</b>	<b>39.8</b>	<b>46.0</b>	<b>44.3</b>	<b>39.7</b>

OTHER RACES.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
Cuban . . . . .	6.8	—	8.0	4.2
Chinese . . . . .	—	6.9	—	12.9
Hebrew . . . . .	22.9	23.6	28.6	26.5
Japanese . . . . .	8.9	6.7	1.2	27.0
African (black) . . . . .	—	—	—	32.5
Syrian . . . . .	55.9	56.1	51.0	53.8

# Immigrants' Landing at Ellis Island, New York, between 1910 and 1920



Courtesy of Library of Congress, Detroit Publishing Co., between 1910 and 1920



# Language Proclamation Concern Letter, June 6, 1918

C. A. Gævert  
Pastor  
Swedish Ev. Luth. Mission Church  
1111 Seventh Street

Auto Phone 1848

Sioux City, Iowa,  
June 6th, 1918

Governor W. L. Harding  
Des Moines, Iowa.

Dear Governor:-

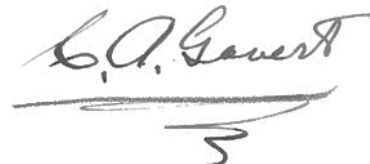
Forgive me for writing to you in regard to the proclamation regarding the language question here in Iowa.

My church here, the Swedish Mission church in Sioux City, has a membership of 290 about. The church is intensely loyal, and always has been. We have bought Liberty Bonds all of us, and W. S. S., and have an auxiliary Red Cross that meets every Wednesday to saw for our dear soldier boys. Our church have invested this years building fund, which is approximately \$1500, in Thrift Stamps, and we are very proud of it. In every way possible have we helped the country, and will till our dying day.

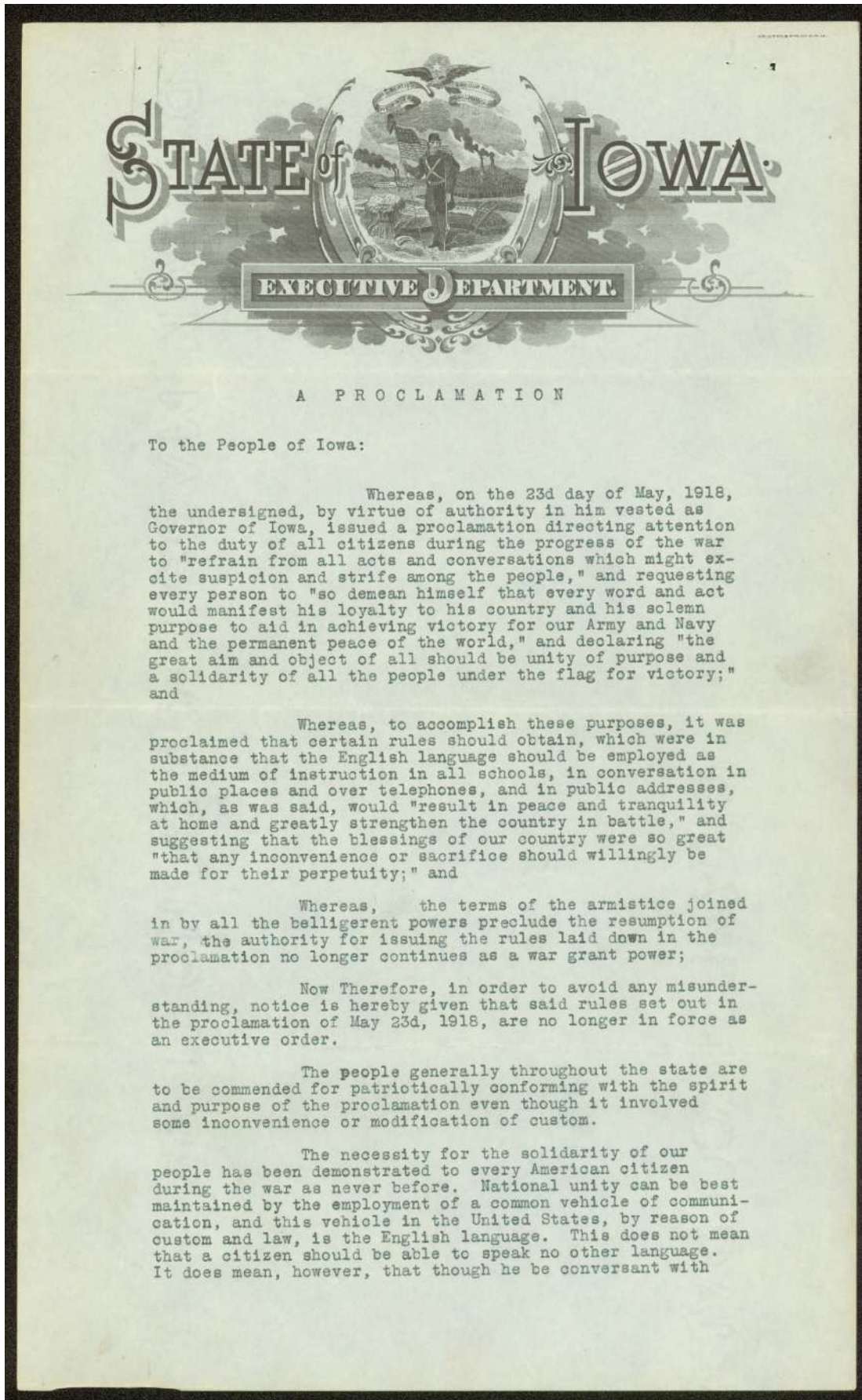
My members have mostly imigrated when at an advanced age. They are therefore incapacitated to understand a sermon in English, i. e. most of them. It is very pathetic to see them weeping in there homes because they can not gather in church any more to hear the Word of God in their language. Now, my dear Governor I appeal to you, if it would be possible for me to use the Swedish language in the Sunday forenoon services. But Sunday evenings use the English, and thereby get used to the change. I feel so sorry for my members. It is very pathetic, and, therefore, I appeal to you as a man of justice to grant us this favor.

Would you please answer me before Sunday. If the time does not allow to send it by mail, please wire at my expense.

Your humble fellow-citizen,

  
5

# Revocation of Babel Proclamation, 1918 (pg.1)





# Revocation of Babel Proclamation, 1918 (pg.2)



another language or languages he should be able to make efficient use of the official language of the country and should use the same.

Further, the English language should be the only medium of instruction in all schools of the state, whether public, private, denominational or otherwise, and no foreign language should be taught in any school of grade lower than the high school, and if taught it should be as a culture and not as a medium of instruction for other subjects.

While we welcome enlightened and thrifty people to our shores and to all the advantages of free institutions under our representative form of government, this is not with the view, and should not be so interpreted, of enabling them to establish themselves in communities by themselves and thereby maintaining the language and customs of their former country. All should understand that they are welcome to come, but for the purpose of becoming a part of our own people, to learn and use our language, adopt our customs, and become citizens of our common country.



In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Iowa.

Done at Des Moines, this fourth day of December, 1918.

By the Governor:

*W.S. Allen*

Secretary of State.

*W. Harding*

# “Strong Ties” Article from The Goldfinch, April 1991 (pg.1)

## Strong Ties



Office of Refugee Programs

*These new Southeast Asian immigrants arrive in Des Moines.*

by Jean Florman

**D**URING THE 1800S, Iowa was seen as a “land of opportunity” by many ethnic groups. Thousands of people came to the Midwest to improve their lives by farming, trading, and building new towns. Not all settlers who wanted a better life came to Iowa in the last century. Some arrived just a few years ago.

The Tai Dam (tie dom) of Vietnam began arriving in Iowa in 1975. The Tai Dam **refugees** [people who flee their own country because of war] had been invited to resettle in Iowa by Governor Robert Ray. They originally were from northwestern Vietnam. Between 1954 and 1975, war in Vietnam forced many of them to flee to the nearby countries of Laos and Thailand. Another ethnic group, the Hmong (mung) originally of China who migrated to Laos, also fled to refugee camps in Thailand.

### “I dropped my tears”

Khao Baccam remembers his family trying to escape the fighting in Vietnam when he was seven years old. “My parents moved me frequently, fleeing from war and **persecution** [being badly treated because of your beliefs]. I did not know where we were going. I just held onto my mother’s hand and she kept on dragging me along.”

Khao’s family settled in Laos, where they remained for 21 years. After war started in Laos, Khao and his family fled to Thailand. In 1975, they settled in Iowa. Over 2600 Tai Dam refugees are now settled here.



# “Strong Ties” Article from The Goldfinch, April 1991 (pg.2)

Many of the refugees from Vietnam and Laos escaped in overcrowded boats. Khao had to leave everything but \$100 behind. By the time he arrived in Iowa, he had “nothing at all.” Other refugees even had to leave some members of their family behind. One Lo Thi tells how her daughter and four grandchildren “didn’t get to come along [from Laos to Thailand] because [the person helping us escape] was in a hurry and couldn’t get them all. I dropped my tears crossing [the Mekong River].”

## Coming to Iowa

Individuals, families, communities, or church groups in Iowa “sponsored” Tai Dam families. When One Lo Thi and her husband Vong Lo Van arrived in Iowa, their relatives and their sponsors helped them find a home, get health checkups, study English, and find jobs. Vong detassled corn near Mt. Pleasant and studied writing, reading, and speaking for eight hours a day.

Relatives brought silverware, linens, and clothing to the couple. Unlike the Vong’s home in Laos, their house in Iowa has running water, electricity, heat, air conditioning, and a refrigerator.

Life is easier and more peaceful in Iowa, but many Tai Dam immigrants miss their friends, relatives, and the customs of their homeland. “I was lucky to have the chance to come and live here,” says Khao Baccam. But he adds that his “memories in the homeland . . . make me think and miss home.”

Older Tai Dam immigrants like One Lo Thi worry that, “However happy we are, we can’t forget our people over there [in Vietnam and

Laos]. Younger generations, five or ten years from now, might not know, not understand all these things.” Tai Dam immigrants want their children to learn the Tai Dam language and customs, and to keep alive the stories of their parents’ struggles.

“We have stronger social ties, a stronger love and cooperation than Americans,” says One Lo Van. His wife adds, “The love between the Tai Dam [can’t be thrown away.]”



Office of Refugee Programs

*A young Southeast Asian immigrant*

# Mario Ruiz Ronquillo Interview about Mexican Immigration and Workplace Culture in the Midwest, December 4, 2015



Courtesy of Library of Congress, Ruiz Ronquillo, Mario, Interviewee, John W McKerley, and Sponsor Occupational Folklife Project, "Mario Ruiz Ronquillo interview conducted by John W. McKerley," 4 December 2015



# “Immigrant group works to help newcomers integrate in America” Newspaper Article, March 29, 2015 (pg.1)

## Immigrant group works to help newcomers integrate in America

Mar. 29, 2015 10:00 am Updated: Apr. 6, 2015 12:12 pm

When Congolese immigrants arrive for an appointment at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, there often is a Swahili-speaking translator there to help them if needed.

But sometimes communications still can break down.

Congolese Swahili is different from the Tanzanian and Kenyan Swahili spoken by many translators, said board members of the CongoReform Association, a local group comprised mostly of East African immigrants. The organization's members work to help new arrivals to the Corridor find jobs, enroll their children in school and otherwise integrate into Iowa life.

And the group is having integration problems of its own. Building connections and connecting with resources has proved a challenge. Members are trying to raise awareness of their group and the issues community members face, from translation challenges to helping their children with their homework.

### History

The CongoReform Association started as a network of immigrants helping immigrants. Association Executive Director Boumedien Kasha arrived in Iowa in 2003, when there were only a handful of Congolese families in the Corridor.

The community has grown exponentially since then.

Today, community leaders estimate there are around 500 families spread between Iowa City and Cedar Rapids. Immigrants from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Burundi, Rwanda, Sudan and South Sudan have formed substantial communities as well.

Many of the Congolese community members come from refugee camps in Tanzania, where they lived for years after fleeing violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

# “Immigrant group works to help newcomers integrate in America” Newspaper Article, March 29, 2015 (pg.2)

For most, Iowa was not their first stop in the United States. Families often decide to relocate to Iowa after the federal government settles them in places such as New York City or Los Angeles because Iowa has available jobs, low cost of living, good schools and low crime rates.

Often, an individual arrives, then sends for family members and tell friends in other states - thus the community grows.

Community members who have been here longer hold valuable skills - they've had time to learn English, secure driver's licenses, make connections with employers and scope out housing options.

They call themselves 'pathfinders' - the ones who forged the way. Those pathfinders have taken it on themselves to help newer arrivals.

'We said, it's our people. Let's help each other,' Kasha said.

When they get word someone new is heading to Iowa, CongoReform Association members arrange pickup at the airport or bus station, inviting them to sleep on their couches and floors while helping them look for housing. Established community members gather basic living necessities such as mattresses and dishes to get families started.

They set up job interviews and doctor's appointments and provide translation services with school officials and immigration lawyers. They help them sign up for English-language classes, secure driver's licenses and open bank accounts. Sometimes they raise money from each other to help a family in financial need.

All of this was happening informally until recently, when community members decided to get organized. The association now has federal and state non-profit 501(c) 3 status.

Group members hope they can use the status to apply for grant funding and to build up connections with outside institutions. They'd like to do more to send resources - medical supplies and money - back to the DRC as well.

For now, they collect \$30 a month from members to keep operations afloat.

Seeking to grow

A group of 10 association board members met March 20 with Coralville Mayor John Lundell and Iowa State Rep. Art Staed, a Democrat representing the district that includes portions of Cedar Rapids.



# “Immigrant group works to help newcomers integrate in America” Newspaper Article, March 29, 2015 (pg.3)

Those are exactly the kinds of connections the board is hoping to build, and members are working to connect with other elected officials and institutions.

They have a simple message - we're here and we want to be part of your community. As relative newcomers to the town, state and country, they're hoping the community's leaders can help show them how.

'We know there are resources, we just don't know how to get them,' board member Edmond Zigaba said.

A primary need, the board said, is finding free or cheap office space. They would like a place where people can drop in and that they can use for grant applications. Somewhere with a dedicated phone number that is not Kasha's cellphone.

Right now a volunteer is working to build them a website, but for now the association has neither a physical nor virtual location, which makes it hard to connect with the wider community.

In addition to meeting with elected officials, board members hope to connect with people in charge of translation services at area hospitals to address their concerns. They'd also like to have a designated point of contact in the Iowa City Community School District - someone in a role similar to the intercultural specialist position the Cedar Rapids Community School District has, where Rama Muzo, himself an immigrant who speaks Swahili, interfaces between the district and families.

There are issues school staff simply might not think about, board members noted, such as the inability to help children with homework in a new language or to read a letter sent home by a teacher.

The community is looking for a hand up, not a hand out, Kasha emphasized.

'Most of the new arrivals are getting a job, and after getting a job they are self-reliant,' he said.

Many have gained American citizenship, board member Jean Paul Mugemuzi added. They want to be fully part of American life.

'Education is needed, education about voting. They want to know where and how to vote,' he said. 'People want to know their rights as Americans.'

Building connections

# “Immigrant group works to help newcomers integrate in America” Newspaper Article, March 29, 2015 (pg.4)

Lundell and Staed said the discussion with the association was an eye-opener, and they promised to work on the group's behalf.

'This meeting has been very helpful because now I have these issues in my head,' Lundell told them. 'I'll try to see what I can do. I'll try to be your ambassador.'

He promised to make a declaration at a future Coralville City Council meeting recognizing World Refugee Day on June 20. He said he liked the idea of a community celebration on that day, to help Coralville meet its new neighbors.

'I think it starts with organizing activities where we get to know each other in friendly ways,' he said.

He and Staed both agreed to reach out to their contacts in search of an office space. Lundell suggested area chambers of commerce might have ideas.

Staed said he would check with contacts in government and at the University of Iowa. He also promised to introduce them to other lawmakers.

'I would like to help you if I can,' he said. 'Networking and connections would be helpful.'

Staed said building communications would benefit everyone involved, both Congolese and American.

'We really need to know about your culture, too. That exchange enriches all of us,' he said.

Want to get involved?

The CongoReform Association seeking community partners. To get involved or learn more about the group, contact Tom Sandersfeld at (319) 521-4633 or [tsandersfeld@ilt.org](mailto:tsandersfeld@ilt.org) or Boumedien Kasha at (319) 651-2917 or [sasakasha4@hotmail.com](mailto:sasakasha4@hotmail.com).



# “Refugee from Congo speaks of challenges in Iowa City” Newspaper Article, August 17, 2016

## Refugee from Congo speaks of challenges in Iowa City

Aug. 17, 2016 8:08 pm

IOWA CITY - Being a refugee is hard. But there are ways to make it easier.

That was the heart of a message delivered Wednesday by Bisetsa Ntwari, 31, to a group of Johnson County community leaders gathered to discuss how better to assist the growing number of refugees in the area.

More than 60 people attended the meeting, held at First Presbyterian Church in Iowa City.

Ntwari, a refugee from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, spoke of living in refugee camps across Africa after his father died as a result of war in 1997. Ntwari said he help fellow refugees overcome communication barriers and deal with emotional trauma.

He ended up in Iowa City and said he dealt with many of the same issues, only he found little help.

'I started struggling in life," he said. 'I lived a strange life I never lived before."

He said he eventually overcame the barriers and once again started helping other area refugees who were friends. Ntwari said he began translating for those who didn't speak English. He bought a computer and printer for fellow refugees to use to apply for green cards and use for tasks like finding a doctor.

'I can help a refugee because I am able to help myself," he said.

In 2013, Ntwari went to work as a translator for ICCompassion, an Iowa City organization that focuses on food assistance, immigration services, education and transportation for area residents.

He said he has noticed language barriers prevent refugees in Johnson County from securing proper housing, advanced education and jobs that pay enough to allow them to buy houses and be financially stable.

He said Wednesday's meeting, where attendees included Sen. Joe Bolkcom, D-Iowa City, and Bob Dvorsky, D-Coralville, administrators from the Iowa City school district - is a step in the right direction for making improvements.

Bolkcom reiterated that the purpose of the meeting was to see what is already being done to support refugees and identify service gaps.

'It's good for the community at large to have everybody be successful," Bolkcom said.

Teresa Stecker, executive director of ICCompassion, Kent Ferris, who works with refugees in the Davenport Diocese, Joan Vanden Berg, who works with the Iowa City Community School District, Ann Valentine, dean of Kirkwood Community College, and others spoke about programs their organizations are working on to solve issues for refugees regarding language barriers, education opportunities, lack of affordable housing, food assistance and access to health care.

Ann Grosscup, who works with refugees through First Presbyterian Church Servanthood Ministry, said the meeting also served to advocate for more attention and financial resources from the state outside of Polk County, where she said the majority of services for refugees in the state exist. Chad Dahm, State Refugee Coordinator with the Iowa Department of Human Resources, agreed.

'It's a good thing if you're a refugee and you land in Des Moines, but if you land outside of Des Moines, I don't know what we're doing for you," Dahm said, though he added officials from the Bureau of Refugee Programs are beginning to brainstorm how to spread services across the state.

It's unclear what the next steps are in terms of continuing the discussion about local refugees. Names and contact information for those in attendance were collected Wednesday.

Bolkcom said it's important to find solutions to help refugees overcome barriers.

'We have newcomers to our community that need our help to figure out how things work here - the language, figure out how to get a good job," he said. 'That's just going to make the community stronger."

# Sokol Festival, July 4-6, 1911



Courtesy of State Historical Society of Iowa, July 1911



# Sauerkraut Day, September 7, 1912



Courtesy of State Historical Society of Iowa, Shirley, William, 7 September 1912



## Bettendorf Foundry Workers, ca. 1920



Courtesy of Iowa Women's Archives, "Bettendorf foundry workers," Migration is Beautiful, Iowa Women's Archives, University of Iowa Libraries, ca. 1920



# Wedding of Cruz and Esperanza Martinez in Kansas, 1920



Courtesy of Iowa Women's Archives, Martinez, Adella, "Esperanza and Cruz Martinez, 1920,"  
Migration is Beautiful, Iowa Women's Archives, University of Iowa Libraries, 1920

# Celebrating Mexican Independence Day in Fort Madison, Iowa, ca. 1926



Courtesy of Iowa Women's Archives, "Celebrating Mexican Independence Day, Fort Madison, Iowa, ca. 1926," Migration is Beautiful, Iowa Women's Archives, University of Iowa Libraries, ca. 1926



# Italian Immigrants in Iowa, April 15, 1942



Courtesy of State Historical Society of Iowa, 15 April 1942



## Sudanese Immigrants in Iowa, late 1990s



Courtesy of State Historical Society of Iowa, late 1990s



# “Why Do Immigrants and Refugees Come to Iowa?” 2003

## Why Do Immigrants and Refugees Come to Iowa?

Immigrants and refugees live in Iowa for the same reasons other residents live here. Most are drawn by the availability of jobs. Many arrive to take jobs in meatpacking and other agricultural industries. But as time goes by, more newcomers work in other sectors of the economy, including construction, services, retail and hospitality. In many communities their labor is in great demand.

Newcomers also appreciate Iowa’s low cost of living, affordable housing and safe communities. Just like established-resident Iowans, immigrants and refugees realize their children receive a fine education in the schools. For refugees and immigrants, living in Iowa provides an opportunity to start a new life for themselves and their children. Iowa provides an opportunity for thousands of newcomers to live their version of the American dream.

Credit:

Adapted from *The New Iowans, A Companion Book to the PBS Miniseries The New Americans* (2003), provided courtesy of Iowa Center for Immigrant Leadership and Integration, University of Northern Iowa.

<https://www.iowapbs.org/iowapathways/mypath/what-difference-between-immigrants-and-refugees>