Norfolk and the Mormon Folk: Latter-day Saint Immigration through Old Dominion (1887-90)

Fred E. Woods

Abstract
On 11 September 1887, the front page of the Norfolk Virginian had a bold headline, “Four Hundred Mormons,” along with the following information: “The Old Dominion steamer Richmond, which arrived from New York yesterday, had on board four-hundred and twenty Mormon immigrants from the British Isles who had arrived in New York on Thursday on the steamship Wisconsin. The immigrants are all new converts to the Mormon religion and will swell the number of adherents to the Brigham Young faith in the territory considerably. The party is composed of men, women and children, and when the special train with nine coaches put in appearance, there was a rush and scramble to get aboard. Mr. A. S. Butt, the immigrant agent had his hands full in attending to their wants, and allowed a large smile to overspread his face when the train pulled out. The train goes direct to Utah without stops. This is the largest party that has passed through the city.” On this same day, the Norfolk Landmark noted, “Four hundred and eighty loaves of bread were ordered from one of our bakers for the Mormon immigrants who left over the Norfolk and Eastern railroad yesterday morning.” The increase of Mormon immigrants was certainly providing a boost to the Virginia economy.

Original Publication Citation
Fred E. Woods, "Norfolk & Mormon Folk: Latter-day Saint Immigration Through Old Dominion (1887-1890)," Mormon Historical Studies 1, no. 1, (Spring 2000): 72-92

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation
https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/facpub/1115

Document Type
Peer-Reviewed Article

Publication Date
2000-01-01

Permanent URL
http://hdl.lib.byu.edu/1877/3016

Publisher
Mormon Historical Studies

Language
English

College
Religious Education

Department
Church History and Doctrine

Copyright Status
© 2000 Fred E. Woods Used by permission of Mormon Historical Studies:
http://mormonhistoricsites.org/publications/

Copyright Use Information
http://lib.byu.edu/about/copyright/
Utah. The immigrants landed in New York and were processed by New York State officials at Castle Garden Immigration Depot in Lower Manhattan.[4] Until 1887, Mormon immigrants had traveled onwards by rail using tickets arranged by Mormon agents in New York. This changed following attempts by the Grand Trunk Line Immigration Clearing House Commission to monopolize rail travel by the immigrants and raise the far... "Norfolk and the Mormon Folk: Latter-day Saint Immigration through Old Dominion (1887–90)" (PDF). Mormon Historical Studies. 1 (1): 73–91.

Newspapers[edit].