

The "Smidt" was the only vessel owned by Captain H. Raschen, who commanded her, and his partners. She was an iron built vessel, built by Johann Lange of Bremen. She was launched for H. Raschen on 16 December 1867. She was the first ocean going steamer built on the River Weser, or probably in Germany as a whole. Her dimensions were 1672 gross tons, length 210 ft. x beam 39.5 ft, one funnel, two masts, one single screw and a speed of 9 knots. Her maiden voyage started 4 April 1868 when she left Geestemunde for London and New York and her second voyage from Bremen - New York commenced 26 June 1868. She sailed from Geestemunde (between Bremen and Bremerhaven) on 4 April 1868 with cargo and 766 passengers. She experienced strong westerly gales during the entire passage and did not reach New York until the 3rd May. Altogether she landed 3,032 passengers at NY in 1868 during the course of 4 voyages, the last three starting at Bremerhaven. She then sailed between Bremerhaven and NY until 1873. The SMIDT's first voyage in 1869 nearly ended in disaster. She left Bremerhaven on 11th Jan., called at London and didn't reach New York until 5th March after experiencing a severe hurricane. She shipped a huge sea which washed the bridge overboard and filled the second cabin and engine room half full of water, lost deck stores and everything on deck. The passengers suffered greatly. She made 7 round voyages in 1869-70 and then trace was lost for nearly two years, partly on account of the Franco-Prussian War. It appears that she changed ownership as she is recorded as being owned by Bremer Dampschiffahrt Ges. in 1872. She made 9 New York voyages in 1872-73; on 9 October 1873 she started her 20th and last New York sailing; and in 1874 she was sold to Sidenburg & Wendt of Bremen, her engines were removed and ran her for more than 20 years as a three masted barque. In 1896 she was abandoned at sea and was towed to Fayal, Azores and later to Hamburg where she was condemned. In 1897 she was scrapped at Briton Ferry, SouthWales. In 1872, she made 4 trips, carried 55 cabin passengers, 2,655 steerage passengers, and had 4 births on board, and 4 deaths.)

Castle Garden was New York's immigrant landing from 1855 to 1890.