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The Jacksonian Character

The essay by Edward Pessen, “The Jacksonian Character” is the work that covers the comments given by the visitors about the political, society and economic life of Americans. The visitors had four ways in which the community of America and they included emotional traits or personality, mental traits, habits or manners, and values (Pessen, pp. 9). The paper will discuss how these categories were used in describing the American community.

An example of a habit that is reported by the visitors to America is the spitting portrayed by men who chew tobacco. Many of the men in Americans were observed to have a notorious habit of spitting which was a negative manifested behavior (Pessen, pp. 9). The American people also were identified to have a habit of being busy in which they were restless and moved from one place to another especially the New York City.

An example of a trait that is presented by the essay is Shrewdness, and it can be considered as a personality and intelligence trait, and it was among many Americans visitors interacted with in the nation (Pessen, pp. 9). The Americans are said to have the power of judgment in making their decisions.

The other category of observation of Americans according to the article is values of the American people. The Americans are described to be hospitable, affectionate, brave and frank (Pessen, pp. 9). According to Marryat, Americans are good-tempered people and good people. Also, Harriet Martineau found that the Americans were pleasant people and very affectionate.

An emotional trait or personality that was used to define the Americans was that most of the Americans were cold. Combe says that the individuals were cold and reserved and they never welcomed the visitors or even wish them a goodbye when they leave the hotels (Pessen, pp. 9). Miss Martineau is one person who faced the coldness of the Americans in her visit to America.

Work Cited

Pessen, Edward. *Jacksonian America: society, personality, and politics*. University of Illinois Press, 1978.