



Migration Trails Across America

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At the end of class each student will be able to:

I. Describe how understanding migration patterns will help genealogists.

- A. Researchers can trace back to places of origin—needed for extending the pedigree.
- B. Researchers can learn about neighbors, associates, and groups that migrated together.
- C. Researchers can learn about the trip, find diaries of immigrants, and describe the trip in an ancestor's biography.

II. Briefly explain the history and geography of major American ports and records.

- A. Philadelphia most immigrants until about 1810
- B. Baltimore connections to Bremen Germany
- C. New York City more immigrants than all others combined since 1820
- D. New Orleans mostly Midwestern immigrants
- E. Boston the 1635 Great Migration
- F. Charleston most enslaved Africans arrived here
- G. San Francisco late Chinese immigration records available
- H. Pittsburgh on Ohio River 1754 was the cause of start of French and Indian War
- J. Wheeling busiest port in Virginia at start of Civil War
- K. Louisville rapids and 1830 canal locks allow travel from New Orleans to Pittsburgh
- L. Buffalo in 1825 connected Erie Canal and Great Lakes
- L. Detroit center of automobile industry
- M. Chicago largest Midwest city, famous for cattle stockyards
- N. St. Louis early French and German influence, gateway city on the Mississippi
- O. Independence-Kansas City-St. Joseph staging area for the major western trails

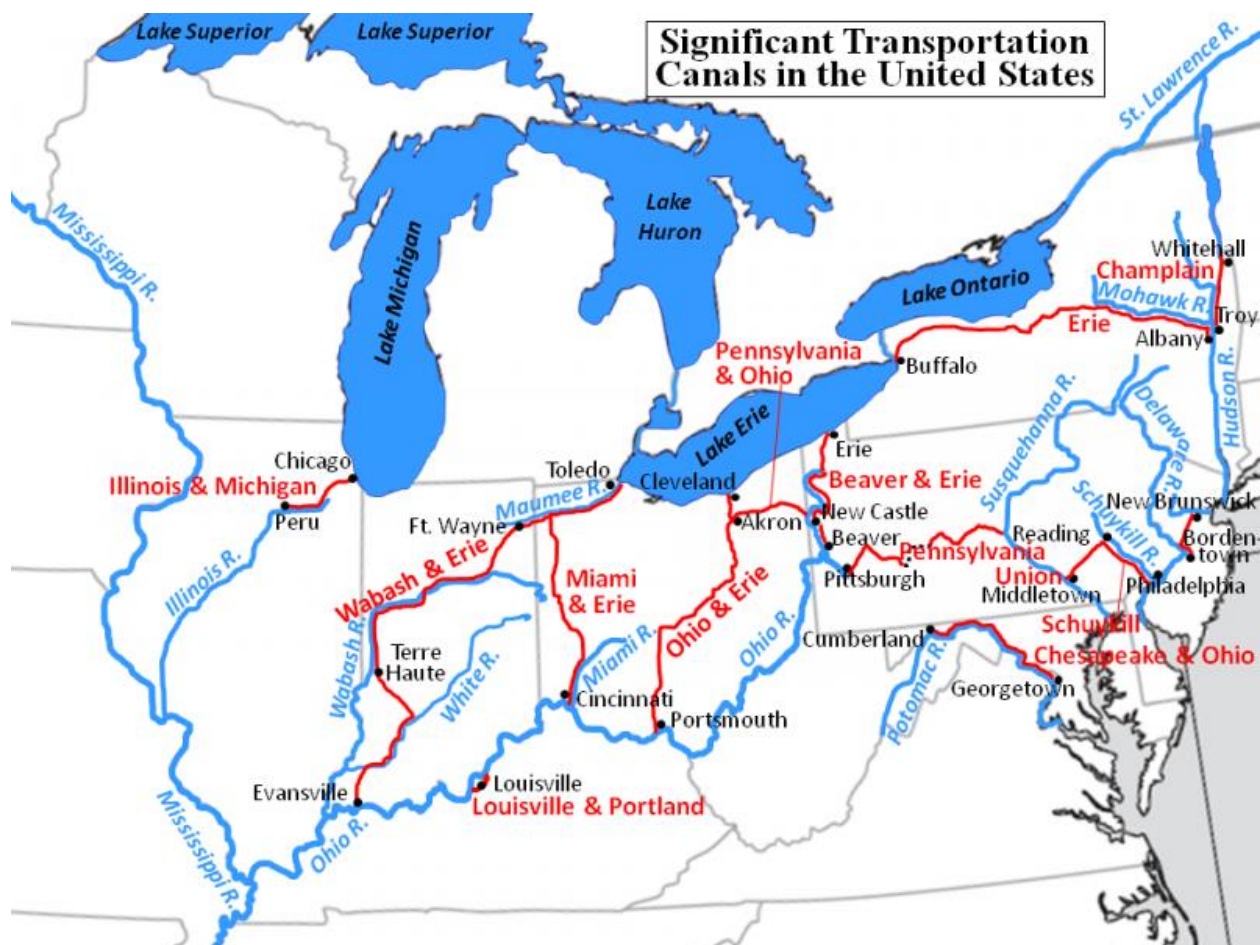
III. Explain the history and geography of major rivers used for migration. Rivers help go around trees in east, and are used to water horses in the west.

- A. Rio Grande 1598 Camino Real
- B. Hudson 1614 New Netherland settled as far north as Albany
- C. Delaware 1623 New Netherland, 1638 New Sweden
- D. Potomac saw early canal-railroad efforts to reach the Ohio River
- E. James 1607 first permanent English settlement
- F. Savannah 1716 (Ft. Moore) at Savannah Town SC; 1633 Savannah GA near the ocean
- G. Mississippi goods moved up and down entire drainage
- H. Ohio from Pittsburgh to Cairo opened all the way after 1830 locks at Louisville
- J. Cumberland KY and TN: *Founding of the Cumberland Settlements: the First Altas 1779-1804*
- K. Arkansas all the way to Pueblo, Colorado
- L. Missouri a few steamboats; most important for connection to Platte River/Oregon Trail
- M. Platte the way west to the Sweetwater; trappers by 1811
- N. Sweetwater the way west to the Snake

- O. Snake the way west to the Columbia
- P. Columbia the way to the west coast; wagon trail to Willamette Valley by 1846
- Q. Humboldt the way to California by 1845

IV. Explain the history and geography of major migration canals.

- A. Erie partially opened 1819-1825; Albany to Buffalo, NY; made Great Lakes and Midwest open to NYC markets
- B. Champlain 1818/1823 linked L. Champlain to Hudson; let Vermonters to use Erie Canal
- C. Schuylkill 1825 Philadelphia to Port Carbon incl. Reading; PA canals were rivals to Erie
- D. Union 1828; Reading to Middletown in PA; became a leg of the Pennsylvania Canal
- E. Ohio and Erie 1828/1832 Cleveland to Portsmouth, OH
- F. Louisville and Portland 1830 KY opened the whole Ohio River as far as Pittsburgh
- G. Beaver and Erie 1831/1844 connected PA canals to Erie, PA
- H. Pennsylvania (main line) 1834 Philadelphia to Pittsburgh
- J. Delaware and Raritan 1834 Bordentown to New Brunswick, NJ
- K. Chesapeake and Ohio 1836 Georgetown to Cumberland, MD; later extended by railroad
- L. Wabash and Erie 1837/1853 Toledo, OH to Evansville, IN
- M. Pennsylvania and Ohio 1840 New Castle, PA to Akron, OH
- N. Miami and Erie 1845 Cincinnati to Toledo, OH
- O. Illinois and Michigan 1848 Chicago to Peru, IL



V. Explain the history and geography of major trails and roads.

- A. Camino Real de Tierra Adentro 1598 Mexico City to Santa Fe, NM
- B. King's Highway 1650-1735 Boston, MA to Savannah, GA
- C. Camino Real de los Tejas 1690s Mexico to Natchitoches, LA
- D. Camino Real de California 1683
- E. Fall Line Road 1735 Fredricksburg, VA to Montgomery, AL
- F. Natchez Trace Natchez, MS to Nashville, TN
- G. Great Valley Road 1744 Philadelphia, PA to Knoxville, TN (south fork to Augusta, GA)
- H. Upper Road 1750s Fredricksburg, VA to Macon, GA
- J. Braddock's Road
- K. Forbes Road 1759
- L. Wilderness Road 1775
- M. Avery's Trace
- N. Zane's Trace and Maysville Turnpike
- O. National Road (or Cumberland Road)
- P. Santa Fe Trail
- Q. Oregon-California-Mormon Trail
- R. Butterfield Overland Mail

VI. Explain the history and geography of the most significant western railroads.

- A. Union Pacific + Central Pacific
- B. Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe + Southern Pacific
- C. Texas and Pacific + Southern Pacific
- D. Southern Pacific
- E. Northern Pacific
- F. Atlantic and Pacific
- G. Canadian Pacific
- H. Great Northern Railway (U.S.)
- J. Union Pacific (via Boise)

VII. Find info on migration ports, rivers, canals, trails, railroads, or immigrant lists, if any.

- A. *Handbook for Genealogists*
- B. Wiki
- C. Google
- D. Overland routes with partial immigrant lists are underlined above.
- E. Use censuses, county histories, and land records to identify candidates on the other routes.

VIII. Practice figuring out places of origin.

Bibliography

"United States Migration Internal" in *FamilySearch Research Wiki* at

https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/United_States_Migration_Internal (accessed 2 May 2011).

Dollarhide, William. *Map Guide to American Migration Routes*. Bountiful, Utah: AGLL Genealogical Services, 1997. Discusses significant wagon roads and their history east of the Mississippi River.

Handybook for Genealogists: United States of America, 10th ed. Draper, Utah: Everton Pub., 2002. Pages 847-62 include several maps and over 100 eastern US routes including alternative

names, start and end places, and counties on the route.

Myer, William E. *Indian Trails of the Southwest*. Nashville, Tenn.: Blue and Gray Press, 1971.
Includes maps and route descriptions with brief histories.

Homework: Each student will select two American ancestor families and write a half page about how their migration in the United States matched or differed from typical migration patterns in the area.

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