

Migration in the U. S. RAMBLE AMERICA

Reasons for U. S. Migration – RAMBLE

R – Religion, race & ethnicity

- Identify either the religion and/or ethnicity of the ancestor, then search for areas where major groups settled.
- Northern and Western movement of African-Americans.
- Western movements of Native Americans.
- Track the migration patterns of the group, which tended to travel together.

A – Acquisitions and exploration of territory, including:

U.S. Being formed as a nation

- Loyalists moved to Canada, many to New Brunswick
- Canadians who found it too cold moved back down through Detroit
- Territories were settled and broke off from original colonies to become new states

Louisiana Purchase

- French and Spanish land records of existing citizens
- New lands opened up for settlement after exploration
- Arcadians driven out of Canada, settled in French Louisiana

Northwest & Alaska

- Removed Russian presence
- Settled boundary between U. S. and Canada
- Lewis & Clark Expedition provided information which prompted settlement

Native American tribal cessions

- European populations seeking land pressured land sales and cessions from Native American tribes
- Use *Ancestry's Redbook*, *Everton's Handybook for Genealogists* or the computer program *Animap* to track the transition from Native American tribal land to territories to states.

Florida & Texas

- Florida acquisition removed presence of Spain from eastern seaboard
- Texas migrants from U. S. eventually brought that nation in U. S. as a state

Mexican-American War

- California statehood extended nation to Pacific Ocean
- Land between California and Louisiana Purchase land became U. S. territory.

M – Money and Minerals

- Gold & Silver rushes – California, Nevada, Alaska, Colorado
- Mining – Mountain states – coal & metals
- Real Estate Development – Nevada & the West

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- Government Contracts - Jobs

B – Bounty land

- Nation short on stable currency, paid soldiers with land warrants
- Revolutionary War
- War of 1812

L – Land

- Government and private entities sold land to attract new settlers
- Land was plentiful and was the greatest source of wealth for most families
- Government policies made it reasonable and affordable for families to acquire land

E – Environment

- Over-population
- Weather - Affects of “Little Ice Age” on the Americas, floods, Dust Bowl era
- Move to new farmland when old depleted
- Disease – epidemics

Essential Tools

- Migration Maps – Everton’s The Handbook for Genealogists
- Historical Maps – Library of Congress, Perry-Castañeda Map Collection-University of Texas

BOOK SOURCES:

Everton, A. Lee, Publ. “Migration Trails.” *Everton’s Handybook for Genealogists*, Tenth Edition. Draper, Utah: Everton Publishers, 2002; 847-864.

Sperry, Kip. “Chapter 6: Migration, Emigration and Immigration Records.” *A Guide to Mormon Family History Sources*. (Provo, Utah: Ancestry Publishing, 2007) 61-68.

COMPUTER PROGRAMS:

Animap; (The Gold Bug; Alamo, CA)

MAGAZINE SOURCES:

Fryxell, David A. “Moving Targets.” *Family Tree Magazine*, March 2008; 22-29.

Sage, Donald A. “Migration Via the Great Lakes Waterway.” *Everton’s Genealogical Helper*, July/August 2007; 22-24.

Dollarhide, William. “The Best U.S Map & Gazetteer Sites on the Internet.” *Everton’s Genealogical Helper*, January/February 2007; 79-90.

Taylor, Maureen A. “The Weather Report.” *Family Tree Magazine*, May 2008; 26-31.

ONLINE RESEARCH SITES:

www.migrations.org www.ancestry.com & www.genealogy.com (learning centers-no subscription needed)

Family History Library Catalog: www.familysearch.org (Search by locality, religion or ethnic group. Check state research guides for history that would have prompted migration to or from the state.)

www.cyndislist.com (Search by locality, religion or ethnic group.)

www.USGenWeb.org

Railroad Information www.rrhistorical.com/rrdata

Library of Congress www.loc.gov

www.glorerecords.blm.gov