Migration of Our Ancestors Within the American Colonies

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Migration of Immigrants

• Almost all of our immigrant groups have begun to migrate within the United States very soon after their arrival.

• Our early immigrant groups were prosperous, left their homes because of religious persecution and began to migrate in the 13 colonies in search of better land.
The first immigrants were English, settling along the east coast of British North America between 1620 and 1690. Almost all the English came during this time to escape religious persecution. First the Pilgrims, then the Puritans, then the Royalists and Catholics and finally the Quakers.
Great Puritan Migration

- In 1630 John Winthrop organized the mass migration of more than 13,000 Puritans (men, women and children) from England to Massachusetts Bay colony.

- The first ship landed in Boston in May 1630 and many more followed that year and in the next few years.
Puritan Migration Out of Boston Begins in 1634

- By 1635, almost 1/3 of the Puritans had left Boston; some returned to England; most went to Connecticut, Maine, and Rhode Island.
- The Puritan administrators of Boston were intolerant of new ideas and other groups;
- Roger Williams led a group from Boston and settled Rhode Island; R.I. became a haven of religious tolerance.
Migration Was North Or South At That Time.

• The two factors which forced the colonists to move only north or south in the 1600s were:
• Berkshire mountains to the west of Massachusetts colonies
• The fierce Iroquois Nation tribes to the west of Massachusetts, New York and New Jersey.
Puritans Gained Power in England; Many Royalists Left

- Cromwell and the Puritans defeat King Charles’ army by 1648; Puritans gained power and stopped immigrating.
- Puritans began persecuting Royalists and destroyed their property, and Catholic churches.
- Many Royalists left England; came to Virginia and Maryland beginning in 1646.
- Virginia colony adopted Church of England as established state church; Maryland developed as a haven for Roman Catholics.
Most Royalists Settled in Virginia With Their Servants

• Royalists began emigrating to Virginia and Maryland with their servants in the 1640s.
• The Royalists brought servants so almost half of immigrants were indentured servants.
• The Royalists settled on the banks of the rivers along the coast of Virginia, e.g. James River, York River, Potomac River etc. where the land was fertile.
Quakers Begin Emigrating

- Emigrations of Quakers from England began in 1665 and increased by 1675.
- Most Quakers came with their servants from the north, central part of England and had considerable financial resources.
- They settled in New Jersey, and Pennsylvania (Delaware River Valley).
- Many colonies refused them as they tried to migrate; MA, VA, CT.
Half of Immigrants Were Servants in the 1600s

• In the 1600s, English colonists were generally prosperous people and brought many servants.
• Most servants were indentured for a 5-7 year period upon arrival in the colonies.
• Their children were not indentured and were free to migrate and to be free men or women in the colonies.
13 Colonies
Dutch Settle New Amsterdam

- Dutch West Indies Co. encouraged settlers to settle N.Y. city area beginning in 1630; purely commercial settlement, not religious colony
- Dutch and British settlers came to New Amsterdam beginning in 1634.
- Many British Protestants migrated here from MA and CT, 1635-1665, to avoid Puritans
- New York city always commercial center

source: R. Shorto. The Island at the Center of the World.
Dutch Settlers Went West

• In the late 1600s, the Dutch in New Amsterdam and Long Island migrated west into northern and western New Jersey

• Their routes west were blocked by mountains and Native American tribes but eventually many crossed the mountains into Kentucky and then west
German Immigration

- In 1670s large groups of German-speaking immigrants settled in New York state and Pennsylvania.
- In 1709, Palatine Germans came to the Hudson valley, New York, and Virginia.
- Several Palatine German groups landed in Philadelphia and in North Carolina.
German Immigration

• Large numbers of Germanic peoples came to the American colonies from 1671 to the early 1700s seeking land and religious freedom
• Many landed in Philadelphia and followed the Great Wagon Road into VA and N.C.
• Some German immigrants came into VA and trekked overland to Germanna colonies near Culpepper, VA.
Palatine Germans in Colonial America

- Ancestors of Nancy Hanson arrived in Philadelphia in early 1730s and 1740s; they migrated to Tryon, Rowan, and Cabarrus counties in North Carolina.
- My Lasher ancestors landed in N.Y. City in 1709 and settled near Kinderhook, N.Y., then moved to west of Albany in 1785.
- Clint Magill’s Palatine ancestors settled in VA in 1720 after 5 years in Ireland.
French Protestants

• In France, Protestant movement formed in the mid- to late-1500s.
• They were called Huguenots and suffered persecution before Henry IV came to power.
• At their peak, almost 2 million Huguenots lived in southwest France.
• In 1685, Louis XIV declared Protestantism illegal and the persecution increased enormously.
Huguenots

- French protestants, Huguenots fled; some to the 13 colonies in 1600s and 1700s, some to other Protestant countries like N.Ireland.
- Favored destinations were **New York City, Massachusetts, Virginia** and the Carolinas.
- The Huguenots were well-educated, generally prosperous, and brought servants.
Immigration from Scotland to American Colonies

• Large scale emigration of **Highland Scots** to American Colonies began in 1700 and accelerated after 1745 when clan structures were broken up.

• Highland Scots left grinding poverty in Scotland for a better life, mainly in coastal **South Carolina** and **Virginia**
Thousands of Lowland Scots Went to N. Carolina and N. Ireland in 1500s and 1600s

• Many **Lowland Scots** spent a few generations in N. Ireland and then, after more years of persecution by the English, emigrated to America in the early 1700s.

• In the late 1600s and early 1700s Lowland Scots came to the 13 colonies, mostly to **North Carolina**.
Borderers Emigrated to Backcountry of Virginia and the Carolinas

• In late 1600’s the Borderers went to American Colonies or to Northern Ireland to settle the Plantations
• After a few generations in N. Ireland they emigrated to the American colonies during the early 1700’s to escape poverty and persecution.
• Most Borderers landed in Philadelphia and followed the Great Wagon Road (I-81 approximates it) and ended up in western VA, NC, SC, western TN, (Appalachia)
ENGLISH COLONIES
IN AMERICA PRIOR TO 1763.

New York after 1664.
Rhode Island after 1664.
Connecticut, 1664-1774.
Carolina, 1655.
South Carolina, 1670,
Pennsylvania, 1681.
New Jersey after 1639.
Massachusetts after 1691.
New Hampshire after 1691.
Georgia, 1733.
Cumberland Gap

• Daniel Boone carved a trail known as the Wilderness Trail which went west from the Great Wagon Road
• Cumberland Gap was known to a few trailblazers like Boone and was the lowest pass in the Cumberland Mountain Range
• It was possible to move wagons over Cumberland Gap.
Wilderness Trail allowed settlers into KY, OH, IN
Migration of Immigrants‘ Descendants (in white)
Migration Routes From Wilderness Trail

Migration Routes to Kentucky and Tennessee 1779-1796

- The Wilderness Road
- Chickasaw Trail
- Avery's Trace
- Nickajack Trail
- Cumberland Settlements

Miss.  Alabama
Migration in North Carolina

Scots
Scots-Irish

Germans
Huguenots

Scots, High Germans

By the year 1800

- By the late 1790s the United States was mostly English, Irish, German, Scots, a little Dutch, and a few French; overwhelmingly Protestant and deeply religious.
- Descendants of the original colonists were migrating west, new states were forming and land developments were opening up.
- After 1800 many other Europeans immigrated to US, but for political reasons.
Future Programs

• Ramblers meets next Wednesday, July 26 at **10 AM** for elections and a buffet lunch
• Computer Users Group meets here on Aug. 16 at 9:30 AM
• Family History Writers group meets on August 23 right here at 9:30AM - the program will be *Solving Problems in Writing Family History*