

**Westward Ho! Why/How/Where of Early Migration**  
**By Betty Cook**  
**6 November, 2014**

**Emigrate:** To leave a country or a region to settle another.

**Immigrate:** To come to a new country to settle.

**Migrate:** To settle in another place or region.

**I. Early Roads and Trails**

**Colonial Roads**

1. Boston Post Road/King's Highway  
(also called Great Coastal Road and Potomac Trail)
2. Upper Post Road/Old Connecticut Path
3. Hudson River Road
4. Mohawk Road
5. Lancaster Road
6. Fall Line Road
7. Great Valley Road
8. Philadelphia Road
9. Pioneer's Road
10. Upper Road

**Early American Migration Routes**

1. Braddock's Road
2. Forbes' Road
3. Wilderness Road
4. Avery's Trace & Nashville Road
5. Cumberland Road/National Road
6. Gist's Trace
7. Zane's Trace
8. Lancaster Pike
9. Mohawk Turnpike
10. Great Genesee Road
11. Great Sauk Trail/Chicago Road

**Old Southwest**

1. Natchez Trace
2. The Federal Road

**II. Canals 1817 - 1850**

1. Erie Canal (1825)
2. Ohio Canal (1825)
3. Chesapeake Canal (1831)
4. Pennsylvania Canal (1826)
5. Main Line Canal
6. Illinois and Michigan Canal (1848)

**III. Rivers**

1. Hudson River
2. Connecticut River
3. Delaware River
4. James River
5. Ohio River
6. Mississippi River
7. Missouri River
8. Columbia River

**IV. Westward Expansion****A. Major Overland Routes**

1. Lewis and Clark Expedition (1803-1806)
2. Oregon/California Trail (1850)
3. Santa Fe Trail (1820's)
4. Mormon Trail (1846)
5. Butterfield Trail
6. Pony Express
7. Beale's Wagon Road

**B. Railroads**

1. Union Pacific (1869)
2. Southern Pacific (1884)
3. Atchison Topeka & Santa Fe (1885)
4. Northern Pacific (1864)
5. Great Northern (1895)

**A few tips:**

**When an ancestor disappears or moved: consider migration routes, his occupation, his neighbors, did he serve in the military, his church or religion.**

Look at maps for mountains and rivers. Look at free land, homesteading, public land sales. The period between the Revolutionary War and the Civil War was when most migration westward out of New England occurred.

Good luck!

### Bibliography

#### Books:

Gilbert, Martin. *The Routledge Atlas of American History*, London and New York: Routledge. Reprinted 1995.

Kashuba, Melinda. *Walking With Your Ancestors*, Family Tree Books: Cincinnati, Ohio: 2005

Goetzmann, William H. and Williams, Glyndwr. *The Atlas of North American Exploration*, University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, Oklahoma. 1992

Dollarhide, William. *Map Guide to American Migration Routes*, AGLL Genealogical Services: Bountiful, Utah 1997.

Shank, William H. *Towpaths to Tugboats*. The American Canal and Transportation Center: York, Pennsylvania. Seventh Printing 2004.

Modelkski, Andrew. *Railroad Maps of the United States*, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 1975.

#### Guides:

Dollarhide, William. *Colonial Wagon Roads to 1750*.

Dollarhide, William. *American Migration Routes 1750 – 1800*.

Both by Family Roots Publishing Company ([www.familyrootspublishing.com](http://www.familyrootspublishing.com))

National Geographic Society/National Geographic Magazine

#### Websites:

<http://www.cyndislist.com/maps.htm>

<http://www.davidrumsey.com/index.html>

<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/histus.html>

[www.americanals.org](http://www.americanals.org)