

Why Migration Patterns Are Important

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"Migration patterns allow you to expand your perspective so you will spot things of significance you might otherwise miss and you will gather more proof from the sources you search. One important observation is that men tend to marry young women on the opposite side of the river from where they reside--recording marriages in counties you would not usually search. This is especially true where the river is the boundary line."
"Genealogy Column," *Antique Week*, 17 July 1988

- **Essential to identity, 5th dimension of research**

Search dimensions: Place, Name, Relationship, Date, and Migration Pattern
Jacob Hoffman, resided Berks County PA
Jacob Hoffman, resided Philadelphia PA
Both owned lands in Northumberland County PA
Both had wives named Catherine
Both came to Pennsylvania as indentured servants
Only one migrated to Fairfield County OH--he was the ancestor

- **People travel together, settle in clusters**

Kinship networks: George Croghan, an Indian Trader in Colonial PA and his nephew, William Croghan seemed to have migrated from Ireland together. George was associated in business with several men, all of them related to him: Edward Ward (half-brother), Dr. John Connolly (nephew), Thomas Smallmen, William Powell, and John Clark (cousins), Lt. Augustine Prevost (son-in-law), and William Trent (brother-in-law). Buried in these family relationships is this evidence: married surnames of his mother (Ward), of his two sisters (Connolly and Trent), his daughter (Prevost), and his three aunts (Smallmen, Powell, Clark)

- **Group migrations are usually better documented, easier to track**

Utrecht Association, Company 2: from Rotterdam, Spring 1847:
800 persons: 20 died on ocean, 4 died at St. Louis

Journey took 3 weeks:

Rotterdam----London----Liverpool----Baltimore

Railroad to Columbia PA----Canal boats to Hollidaysburgh----

Portage boats to Johnstown----Canal boats to Pittsburgh----

Steamboat Ohio River to St. Louis----Steamboat Mississippi River to Keokuk IA----

Wagon train to cross Iowa.

Read Jacob Vanderzee. *Hollanders of Iowa* (Iowa City: State Historical Society);
and *History of Juniata Valley*, Vol. 1 (Harrisburg: National Historical Association, 1936) and Arlene H. Eakle, "Recruiting Americans: Organized Migration Groups," *Research News* (Jan 1996).

- **Other places to research if courthouse burns or records are lost**

Stroup Family migration--Iron workers

AL----Moses Stroup, resided Calhoun County 1840's, d. 1846 Altoona County

GA---Jacob Stroup, resided Stamp Creek, Cass County 1836; Habersham County 1828

SC---Jacob Stroup sold out 1827, no known place of residence

NC---David Stroup, resided Lincoln County, ran Iron Works

PA---David Stroup, gun maker in Revolutionary War

Read Ethel Armes, *The Story of Coal and Iron in Alabama* (Birmingham: Book Keepers Press, 1972)

Also read: John T. Humphery, *Understanding and Using Baptismal Records*. Washington DC: Author, 1996.

- **Legalities acquired along the way--watch carefully**

Lease for 3 lives (Scots moving into Ireland on way to North Carolina)

Inherit 2 portions of estate (Connecticut into Pennsylvania)

Land conveyances not recorded until land sold out of family (Virginia into Kentucky and Indiana)

Use of "next best friend" as guardian of children in wills (Northern England, Lowland Scotland into Tennessee)

Legal use of maiden name

- **Identify contact families where sons and daughters intermarry**

In Duke University Library (Durham NC) is an old account book of Zachariah Johnston. It records money loaned to family members and close associates from the time the Johnston family left Ireland to their initial settlement near Bethlehem PA, through their stop in Orange County VA until they finally settled in Rockbridge County VA. The same names over and over again, are recorded in that little account book. These families intermarried more than 10 times from 1709 to 1800. Later the Johnston family migrated on to Iowa and Idaho.

Each contact person is a potential key to unlock your pedigree. Contact families can be relatives (Scots-Irish and Germans marry cousins), neighbors from nearby farms, employers and business partners, fellow travelers, militia units, sponsors and officers in church or government, school mates, bondsmen and witnesses to documents

- **Commercial Networks and Activities**

"Buchanans of Glasgow, Greenock, and London," Bernard Bailyn, *Voyagers to the West* (New York: Alfred Knopf, 1986) and *William and Mary Quarterly*, 3rd S. Vol 46

Philadelphia PA to Nashville TN connection

Dumfries, Virginia to Glasgow, Scotland and Bristol, England

- **Bridging the Ocean**

Scotland--David Dobson compiled over 51 vols of Scots emigrants and immigrants

England--Henry F. Waters (wills and administrations,) Peter Wilson Coldham (court records), George Sherwood (court records and genealogies)

Ireland--Indexes to Irish Films at the Family History Library, 6 vols (271 rolls)

- **Adaptations to institutions and lifestyles encountered**

Congregationalists from New England, as they moved into New York, found active Presbyteries established very early. Both groups lacked sufficient members of their own and the necessary funds to support separate churches. So they accommodated themselves to the united support of a neighborhood church--changing administration structure and even underlying philosophy.

Huguenots in South Carolina attended the nearest Anglican Church in their county because it held the most prestige and was established by law. They did not want to focus attention on themselves.

The Evangelical Church in America was created by the merger of the Lutheran and Reformed churches in 1817. In America, Union congregations allowed both to share the same church buildings and even the same pastor. In Europe, the "Old Lutherans" rejected the merger and considered it unacceptable where everyone had to have the same religion. Many were forced to emigrate to America--these "Old Lutherans" are mostly from Pomerania and Lower Silesia, including those called Bohemians.

Read David K. Koss, "Unscrambling the German American Churches," *Palatine Immigrant IX* (Winter 1984) updated in *Pages from the Past #6* (1994). Available from Palatines to America, 611 E. Weber Road, Columbus OH 43211-1097

Search Strategy:

1. Extract your family entries from census searches onto family charts.

2. Sort *alphabetically* by surname, given name, birthdate.

Identify possible spellings of the original name--as it is found in the records. Watch for nicknames.

3. Draft list of these characteristics:

Migration patterns--birthplaces for surname families

birthplaces for persons of other surnames in household

persons in same census district with same birthplaces

regardless of surnames

These identify kinship networks--persons traveling together

and associated with each other.

Naming patterns--persons with given names repeated

persons in other families in same census district with those

same given names

These persons may be related, especially if in proximity

persons with same given names in computer searches--

they could lead you to other places to search.

4. Match with marriage records--sort charts by census years and marriages for each couple.

5. Compare with other census years and documents.

6. Locate personal records: family Bible, diaries (especially travel diaries), family letters, exit documents for immigrants