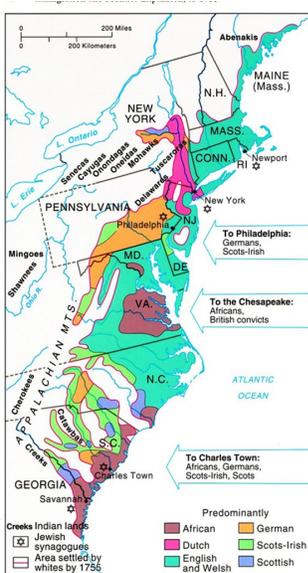


COMINGS AND GOINGS: MIGRATION ROUTES OF YOUR ANCESTORS



SELECTED READINGS

- ~ Billington, Ray A. *Westward Expansion: A History of the American Frontier*. New York: Macmillan, 1967.
- ~ Collins, S.H. *The Emigrant's Guide to and Description of the United States of America* (New York, 1971 [Facsimile reprint of the London, 1830 ed.])
- ~ Cordasco, Francesco. *Dictionary of American Immigration History* (Metuchen, 1990)
- ~ Cotterill, Robert. *History of Pioneer Kentucky*. Cincinnati: Johnson and Hardin, 1917.
- ~ Harper, Josephine. *Guide to the Draper Manuscripts*. Madison, WI: Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 1983.
- ~ Hasse, Adelaide Rosalia. *Index of economic material in documents of the states of the United States: Kentucky, 1792-1904*. (Kraus Reprint, 1965)
- ~ Official Commonwealth of Kentucky documents published in the *House and Senate Journals, Kentucky Reports*, etc.

KENTUCKY'S IMMIGRATION AND EMIGRATION HISTORY

Kentucky's immigrant experience began with the first settlers to the commonwealth in the mid-1700s. This discussion explores the diversity of Kentucky's immigrant population, describes opportunities for researchers to understand their ancestor's immigration and emigration travels, and provides reasons for understanding historical context to facilitate research.

IMPORTANCE OF IMMIGRATION RESEARCH

- Provides opportunities for researchers to understand their ancestor's motives for migrating to and from Kentucky
- Gives insight into cultural, economic, political, and religious factors at play during the 18th and 19th centuries that influenced migration / immigration to and from Kentucky
- Illustrates the diversity of immigrant experiences in Kentucky

POINTS TO CONSIDER

- Where did our ancestors start out from. Why did they leave to come to Kentucky?
- Why did they settle where they stopped? How long did they stay in one place?
- What affect did settlement vs. displacement issues have?
- What kinds of opportunities attracted immigrants to Kentucky? Were they seeking land, leaving unrest at home, looking for new jobs or education?
- How did Kentucky try to directly affect immigration?
- What caused out-migration from Kentucky? Who left and why?
- What records are available to assist in the research?

SOME STATE PUBLICATIONS ON IMMIGRATION, A CHRONOLOGY

- 1790-1850 Tabular statement regarding progress of population in Kentucky
- 1809 Governor's message regarding treaty with Chickasaws
- 1817 Governor's message concerning the difficulties in regaining slaves who had escaped to Ohio and Indiana
- 1825 Governor's message claiming that extensive emigration thinning state
- 1830-1880 Table regarding advance in population of Newport & Covington by decades
- 1831 Governor's message claiming emigration (from Kentucky) due to a lack of employment opportunities
- 1859 Governor's message suggesting that the state offer each free negro who wished to leave the state (and had not the means) money to pay expenses to destination of choice. Once out of state, could not return
- 1865 & 1867 Governor's messages suggesting inducements and laws to encourage the immigration of a superior class of laboring peoples to Kentucky
- 1869 Governor's messages:
 - suggesting that emigrant agencies be established in "chief towns of Europe" to encourage immigration to Kentucky
 - suggesting a Commercial Convention in Louisville to encourage immigration
 - Lamenting the shortage of labor in Kentucky and made suggestions for the increase in "white foreign immigrants"

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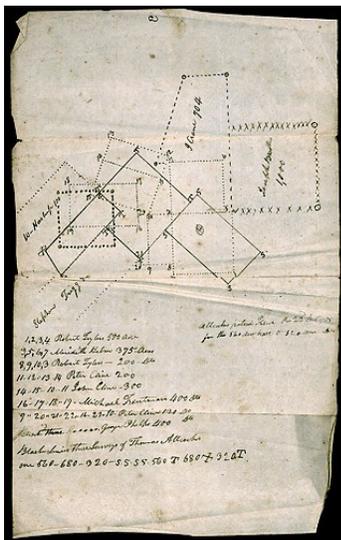
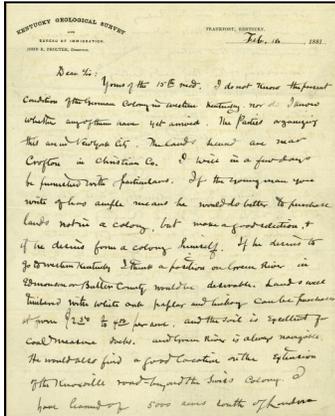


- 1871 Governor's messages for recommendations to induce foreign capital and desirable immigration to ease labor shortages
- 1872 Governor's message listing the number of emigrants arriving at port of New York destined for Illinois, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Indiana, & Kentucky
- 1875 Geological Survey Report suggesting that in order to secure immigrants, Kentucky should be added to the great east-west rail lines
- 1883 Geologic Survey reports suggesting that Kentucky threatened with a depletion of farm labor due to the "tendencies of the negro to leave the farm, congregate in towns and villages, and in mining regions; immigration necessary to supply this depletion" and that native Kentuckians were being lured to the western states by the land give-away sponsored by the railways
- 1883 Governor's message on the work of the immigration bureau, the seven colonies (Austrian, German, Swedish, Swiss, et al) of immigrants established in Kentucky, and thousands of other immigrant induced to settle in the state
- 1885 Pamphlet from the Bureau of Agriculture entitled "A word to the wise; a few "pointers" for emigrants – Kentucky in a nut-shell"
- 188(?) - 1886 List of publications of the Kentucky Geological Survey and Bureau of Immigration
- 1886 Senate Journal report on appropriations for the Bureau of Immigration and monies to aid the exhibits at the Expositions in New Orleans and Louisville
- 1896 Governor's message on worthless and dangerous immigration to U.S.

MIGRATION PATTERNS

- Migration has been primarily responsible for the distribution of the state's residents.
- Most migrants came overland by way of the Wilderness Road, but increasing numbers traveled down the Ohio River
- After 1820, when the Kentucky population exceeded half a million, the growth rate dropped well below that of the nation, indicating a loss of residents to other states
- In 1860 Virginia was the origin of most migrants to Kentucky, followed in order by Tennessee, Ohio, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania
- By 1870 most migrants to Kentucky came from Tennessee. By 1970 most came from Ohio
- Migrants from Indiana, Illinois, and West Virginia came to Kentucky in greater numbers during the twentieth century, while the numbers from North Carolina and Pennsylvania declined
- The movements of Kentucky natives to other states show a significant shift from a movement west in the nineteenth century to a movement north by the mid-twentieth century
- In 1850 Missouri, followed by Texas, was the leading destination of Kentucky migrants and remained so until 1910
- Economic factors have exerted the greatest influence on the movements of people both into and out of Kentucky. Within sixty years after the first settlers moved in, the availability of good farmland farther west caused a net loss in population

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- The failure of Kentucky to develop major manufacturing industries to supplement agriculture and mining made it even more difficult for the state to retain its population in the years following World War II
- Compared with more urbanized states of the region, Kentucky has attracted relatively few foreign immigrants
- In 1850 the first count of the foreign-born tallied 31,400 immigrants, or 4 percent of the state's population. The highest percentage (6.4) of foreign-born persons in Kentucky was recorded in 1869 and the greatest number (63,400) in 1870
- From 1860 until 1950 both numbers and percentages of the foreign-born decreased
- Since 1950 there has been a slight increase

EXAMPLE OF HISTORICAL CONTEXT FROM ABROAD

Scotland:

- Push of poverty, crop failures, cattle blight, & unemployment. Pull of opportunity.
- 1690s, 1709, 1740 & 1760 were disastrous agriculture years for Scotland's mainstay crop of grey oats
- Colony immigration to NY, Carolinas, New Jersey, Connecticut, Georgia, & Vermont (et al.) in 1600s & early 1700s were both forced (mostly Highlanders) and unforced (mostly Lowlanders)
- 1707, Act of Union (unification of Scottish and English Parliaments) allowed emigration without penalty. Continued until 1775 when Parliament decided emigration was detrimental to Scotland's economy
- 1715 -1745 Jacobite uprisings
- 1762, the beginning of the "clearances" or "improvements"
- Halted during American Revolution only to resume in 1782
- After 1784, most Scottish emigration went to Canada
- Emigration slowed by 1840, and by 1890 the Highlands were so depopulated that immigrants from that locale almost totally stopped

Ulster:

- Push of poverty, crop failures, religious strife, & unemployment. Pull of opportunity.
- 1729 British Commission concluded that Ulstermen were leaving because:
 - Drastic rise in the price of corn
 - Similar drastic drop in the price of linens
 - Rise in rents and a push by clergy for payment of tithes
 - But, did not discourage immigration because the immigrants could help combat the French and Indian "problem" in the New World
- According to 1790 census, 14% of Virginians were Scots-Irish
- By end of the War of 1812, approximately 350,000 Scots-Irish emigrated to North America
- 1840s potato famine contributed to second wave of emigration