

Migration, Maps, and National Expansion

A Selective Bibliography

Introduction

There is an overwhelming amount of material available on these topics. The sources listed on this bibliography are only a small sampling. They are some of my personal favorites and the ones I use in my own research.

Maps and Genealogy

Ancestry's Redbook: American State, County & Town Sources, 3rd. ed., edited by Alice Eichholz. Ancestry, 2004.

Clear outline maps for all counties in each state, with county seats shown. A table for each state lists the counties, their dates of formation, and the records they hold. There is also a section on state history, research facilities and more.

Atlas of American Migration, by Stephen A. Flanders. Facts on File, 1998.

Clear maps, useful charts, and excellent explanatory text.

The Handy Book for Genealogists, 11th. ed. Everton, 2006

Information and maps similar to the *Redbook*. Use both, as the information is not exactly the same. In the back of the book is a list of migration trails, mostly in the eastern United States; several maps show these routes.

Historical Atlas of the United States, edited by Wilbur E. Garrett. National Geographic Society, 1988.

Superb maps but also lots of excellent text on many aspects of history related to migration, transportation, settlement and other topics related to American history and culture.

Land and Property Research in the United States, by E. Wade Hone. Ancestry, 1997.

Especially useful are the land office boundary maps and the excellent bibliographies.

Map Guide to American Migration Routes, 1735-1815, by William Dollarhide. American Genealogical Lending Library, 1997.

Excellent for early transportation and migration routes. The maps are basic but very clear.

Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Censuses: 1790-1920, by William Thorndale and William Dollarhide. Genealogical Pub. Co., 1987; reprint, 2000.

Maps of each state in each census year, so boundary changes can be easily traced. The software program *Animap* does essentially the same thing.

Mapping the American West: America's Westward Movement, 1524-1890, by Paul E. Cohen. Rizzoli, 2002.

Wonderful maps that chronicle the history of the country during this time period.

Measuring America: How an Untamed Wilderness Shaped the United States and Fulfilled the Promise of Democracy, by Andro Linklater. Walker, 2002.

About the development of one coherent system of surveying, measuring and mapping the United States.

Road Atlas, published annually by Rand McNally

There are other similar modern road atlases, but this is my favorite. Use it to find present-day equivalents of old roads and trails.

Settlement and Trails Atlases, compiled and published by Carrie Eldridge

Clear black-and-white outline maps with lots of supplemental information. Titles in the series are: *Southern Trails to the Mississippi*, *Appalachian Trails to the Ohio River*, *Northern Trails Westward from New England*, *Trails West of the Mississippi* (weakest in the series), and *Settlement Between the Appalachian Mountains and the Mississippi-Missouri Valley*.

State Atlas and Gazetteer Series, Delorme

Detailed topographic maps contain a wealth of information on secondary roads, wooded areas, streams and lakes, place names, railroads, museums and important historic sites.

Township Atlas of the United States, compiled and edited by John L. Andriot. Andriot Associates, 1979.

Maps and indexes to the minor civil divisions (such as townships, census county divisions, election precincts, etc.) for all fifty states. Out of print; look for it in libraries.

Historical Background

Albion's Seed: Four British Folkways in America, by David Hackett Fischer. Oxford University Press, 1989.

How four immigrant groups from the British Isles—Puritans, “distressed cavaliers” (well-born but without top-drawer position or wealth) and indentured servants, Quakers and Lowlands Scots from the northern borderlands of England—affected the American culture.

Almost a Miracle: the American Victory in the War of Independence, by John Ferling. Oxford University Press, 2007.

A good one-volume history of the Revolutionary War, with emphasis on the military aspects. The same author has also written a political history of the Revolutionary period.

American Heritage History of the Great West, by David Lavender. American Heritage, 1982.

One of the best general overviews of the westward movement, from 1763 to the early 20th century. Profusely illustrated.

Arundel, by Kenneth Roberts. First published in the 1940s and still in print

Novel about Benedict Arnold’s march to Quebec during the Revolutionary War. Roberts, a Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist, also wrote several other novels set in Maine during the Revolutionary War. Historical novels based on actual events often give a very good feel for what life was really like during the era portrayed and can add depth to one’s historical knowledge of events.

A Bibliography of American County Histories, compiled by P. William Filby. Genealogical Pub. Co., 1985.

There is at least one county history for nearly every county in the United States. They are good sources of information on early migration and roads in their local areas.

The California Trail: An Epic with Many Heroes (American Trails Series), by George R. Stewart. University of Nebraska Press, 1962; reprint of an earlier McGraw-Hill edition.

Good overview history of this important emigrant route.

Canals for a Nation: the Canal Era in the United States, 1790-1860, by Ronald E. Shaw. University of Kentucky Press, 1990.

Although the canal era was comparatively short, it was an important aspect of American migration and transportation patterns in the 19th century.

Champlain's Dream: The European Founding of North America, by David Hackett Fischer. Simon and Schuster, 2008.

Biography of French explorer Samuel de Champlain, but also a history of the French presence in colonial North America. The author is a Pulitzer Prize winning historian.

The Devil's Backbone: the Story of the Natchez Trace (American Trails Series), by Jonathan Daniels. McGraw-Hill, 1962.

More history than guidebook, this is only one in an older but still excellent series on important American trails and roads.

1812: the War That Forged a Nation. By Walter R. Borneman. Harper and Collins, 2004.

A good history of this important turning point in American history.

A Field Guide to America's History, by Douglass L. Brownstone. Facts on File, 1981.

How to recognize and interpret the signs of our past history out on the ground wherever we find it. Extremely useful.

Fort Benton: World's Innermost Port, by Joel Overholser. The author, 1987.

Comprehensive history of steamboating days and Fort Benton, at the head of navigation on the Missouri River.

The French and Indian War, by Walter R. Borneman. Harper and Collins, 2006.

A good history of an important early turning point in American history, one that led to some of the first exploration and development of routes west of the Appalachian Mountains.

The French Broad, by Wilma Dykeman, Holt Rinehart, 1955 (Rivers of America Series); reprint: Wakestone Books, 1992, 1999.

There are more than 50 books in the Rivers of America Series, covering rivers all over the U.S. A number of them have been reprinted. The French Broad is an Appalachian mountain river that runs through the mountains near Asheville, North Carolina to join the Holston and Little rivers near Knoxville, Tennessee. This was a famed migration route from the Carolinas into Tennessee and Kentucky in the late 1700s.

A Great and Shining Road: The Epic Story of the Transcontinental Railroad, by John Hoyt Williams. University of Nebraska Press, 1996; reprint of 1988 edition.

Good narrative history.

Handcarts to Zion: The Story of a Unique Migration, 1856-1860, by Leroy Hafen and Ann W. Hafen. University of Nebraska Press, 1992.

The best resource on this special aspect of the Mormon migration and trail history.

Long Day's Journey: the Steamboat and Stagecoach Era in the Northern West, by Carlos Arnaldo Schwantes. University of Washington Press, 1999.

A beautiful and fascinating book by a well-known Northwest historian.

The Look of the Elephant, by Andrew and Joanne Hammond. Oregon-California Trails Association, 2009.

"Seeing the elephant" was a euphemism for the difficulties overland emigrants encountered along the way. This book gives many examples quoted from emigrant diaries.

The Old Post Road (American Trail Series), by Stewart H. Holbrook, McGraw-Hill, 1962.

Interesting information on one of the earliest roads in the country—a route that still exists.

The Plains Across: the Overland Emigrants and the Trans-Mississippi West, 1840-60, by John D. Unruh, Jr. University of Illinois Press, 1982; reprint of 1979 edition.

A comprehensive study, detailed and in depth. Examines the interrelationships of forces shaping the overland experience and the changes over time. A fine history.

Rush for Riches: Gold Fever and the Making of California. By J. S. Holliday. Oakland Museum of California and University of California Press, 1999.

Story of the gold rush to California and California's transformation from "a quietude of Mexican hinterland to the forefront of entrepreneurial capitalism." An excellent history.

So Rugged and Mountainous: Blazing the Trails to Oregon and California, 1812-1848 and ***With Golden Visions Bright Before Them: Trails to the Mining West, 1849-1852***, by Will Bagley. University of Oklahoma Press, 2010 and 2012

Brand new and very detailed history of the overland emigration. These are the first two volumes of a projected four-volume history that aims to present a fresh look at the entire westward migration.

That Dark and Bloody River, by Allan W. Eckert. Bantam, 1995.

Compelling narrative history of the settlement of the Ohio River Valley.

Treasure in a Cornfield: The Discovery and Excavation of the Steamboat "Arabia," by Greg Hawley. Paddle Wheel Publishing, 1998.

Fascinating account by a member of the family who found the boat under the mud of a Missouri cornfield and dug it up. Artifacts from the boat and displays about the excavation adventure are preserved in the Steamboat Arabia Museum in Kansas City.

Western Rivermen, 1763-1861: Ohio and Mississippi Boatmen and the Myth of the Alligator Horse, by Michael Allen. Louisiana State University Press, 1990.

Comprehensive and informative exploration of the rigorous lives of professional boatmen who plied the rivers in non-steam vessels—flatboats, keelboats, rafts—during this period.

Migration Patterns and Routes

American Diaries: An Annotated Bibliography of Published American Diaries and Journals, by Laura Arksey, Nancy Pries, and Marcia Reed. Gale Research, 1983, 1987

Many of the entries are for diaries of the Oregon and other overland trails. There are name, subject and geographical indexes. Many public libraries will have this.

American Guide Series, by Federal Writers Project

Produced by the WPA in the 1930s and very early 1940s. there is a volume for each state, plus one for the Oregon Trail. Excellent for detailed information on roads and trails and even the smallest towns, some of which no longer exist. A few have been reprinted. Look for these in public libraries.

America's Historic Trails, by John Thompson. National Geographic, n.d.

Fourteen designated National Historic Trails, portrayed in brief text, maps and superb color photographs.

America's National Historic Trails. By Kathleen Ann Cordes. University of Oklahoma Press, 1997.

Twelve trails are covered. In addition to basic information, there are photographs and very clear maps with historic sites along each trail identified and described.

The California Missions: A Pictorial History, by the Editors of Sunset Magazine. Sunset, 1979.

Brief history and an excellent map, plus color photographs of all the California missions.

Cherokee Trail Diaries, three volumes in two, by Patricia A. K. Fletcher and Dr. Jack E. Fletcher; Lee Whitely is co-author of the first volume. Fletcher Family Foundation, 1998, 2001.

Definitive work on the Cherokee Trail routes, 1849, 1850, and later. This route began as a route used by Cherokees heading west from Oklahoma to California to seek gold. The first book (Volumes I and II) covers the 1849 route and the somewhat different 1850 route; the second book (Volume III) covers variations of the route 1851-1900.

Chesapeake and Ohio Canal: A Guide to Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park, Maryland, District of Columbia, and West Virginia. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, National Park Service, 1991

One of the excellent NPS handbooks put out for National Historic Sites. Good text, Many illustrations, superb maps.

Covered Wagon Women: Diaries and Letters from the Western Trails, 1840-1890, 11 volumes, edited by Kenneth L. Holmes. Arthur H. Clark, 1983-1992; reprint: University of Nebraska Press, 1995-2000.

Diaries often have valuable clues to routes the travelers were taking, as well as much information on all aspects of the journeys. This collection of accounts by women is a classic in the field.

Following the Santa Fe Trail, 2nd ed., by Marc Simmons. Ancient City Press, 1985.
Guidebook to the historic sites and ruts along this trail. Good maps.

The Great Fur Trade Road: Discovery and Exploration, 1739-1843, by Fred R. Gowans. Mountain Grizzly Publications, 1994.

Points out that prior to white exploration or settlement the North American continent was filled with people (Indians) who had a well-developed web of transportation arteries (mostly foot paths); later fur traders and settlers by and large followed the same routes as they developed roads. Very comprehensive, with many maps and illustrations.

The Great Platte River Road: the Covered Wagon Mainline via Fort Kearny to Fort Laramie, by Merrill J. Mattes. University of Nebraska Press, 1969, 1989.

The most comprehensive study of the route along the Platte River (south and north side). Very detailed, but easy to read. Includes sections on all of the major “jumping off” places and their feeder routes.

The Great Wagon Road from Philadelphia to the South, by Park Rouse, Jr. McGraw-Hill, 1973; reprint: the Dietz Press, 1995.

A good history, with emphasis on Scotch-Irish, German, and English migrations.

Historic Highways of America, 16 volumes, by Archer Butler Hulbert. Arthur H. Clark, 1904-1905.

This series covers everything from Indian paths through explorers’ routes and military and trade routes, to pioneer roads.. An older series, but with excellent information.

Historic Resource Study: Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail, by Stanley B. Kimball. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, National Park Service, 1991.

Identifies and evaluates the historic events and resources related to the trail. Discusses Mormon history and the background of their emigration from Nauvoo, Illinois, to Salt lake City; gives a detailed accounting of their crossing of the plains between 1847 and 1868; and identifies historic sites along the trail. Good maps too. There are similar studies for other National Historic Trails.

In Search of the Spanish Trail, Santa Fe to Los Angeles, 1829-1848, by C. Gregory Crampton and Steven K. Madsen. Gibbs smith, 1994.

A trail guide and a history, with contemporary and historic photographs, maps and a bibliography.

Maps of the Oregon Trail, by Gregory Franzwa. Patrice Press, 1990.

Detailed maps, with trail route superimposed on modern maps. Identifies places where one can still walk in the original trail ruts. A very useful guide. He also produced a similar book on the California Trail.

National Historic Trails Auto Tour Route Interpretive Guide: Along the Snake River Plain Through Idaho, prepared by National Park Service, National Trails System—Intermountain Region. U. S. Dept. of the Interior, National Park Service, 2008.

One of a series of excellent guidebooks put out by NPS for portions of the Oregon-California and Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trails. All volumes have good text, lots of color photographs, and fine maps.

News of the Plains and Rockies, 1803-1865: Original Narratives of Travel and Adventure..., nine volumes, edited by David A. White. Arthur H. Clark, 1996-2001.

Includes selections from explorers, fur traders, Santa Fe traders, settlers, missionaries, Mormons, Indian agents, Indian captives, soldiers, scientists, artists, gold seekers, railroad surveyors, mailmen and others. A huge variety of wonderful information.

Platte River Road Narratives: A Descriptive Bibliography of Travel Over the Great Central Overland Route to Oregon, California, Utah, Colorado, Montana, and Other Western States and Territories, 1812-1866, by Merrill J. Mattes. University of Illinois Press, 1988.

A must as a guide to trail diaries and journals. There is an alphabetical index and a key to locations of the original documents.

Roadside History of Wyoming, by Candy Moulton. Mountain Press Pub. Co., 1995

This and other historically oriented travel guides offer basic historical information arranged by travel routes, which are often very similar to the earlier pioneer migration and travel routes. Such books also include photographs and, usually, maps. This particular one has an entire section on Oregon Trail country in Wyoming and a section on Union Pacific Railroad country as well.

Routledge Historical Atlas of the American Railroads, by John F. Stover. Routledge, 1999.

Clear maps and lots of good information.

The Shaping of America: A Geographical Perspective on 500 Years of History, by D. W. Meinig. Yale University Press, 1986, 1985, 1999.

There are three volumes: *Atlantic America, 1492-1800*; *Continental America, 1800-1867*; and *Transatlantic America, 1850-1915*. These books show the relationships between geography and migration and settlement, all set into historical and political context. Very detailed. Good maps.

Tour Books, published by the American Automobile Association

Published annually for each state or group of states. There are state, city, and regional maps as well as information on historic and scenic attractions, history of towns and areas, and lodgings and restaurants. For members only, but the information is worth the price of membership.

West from Fort Bridger: the Pioneering of Emigrant Trails Across Utah, 1846-1850, edited by J. Roderick Korn and Dale Morgan, revised and updated by Will Bagley and Harold Schindler. Utah State University Press, 1995.

A good guide to emigrant routes a state where many routes criss-crossed the area.

Traveling the National Road: Across the Country on America's First Highway, compiled by Merritt Ierley. Overlook Press, 1990.

Contemporary accounts from travelers on the road from 1754 to 1989.

Wagon Roads West: A Study of Federal Road Surveys and Construction in the Trans-Mississippi West, 1846-1869, by W. Turrentine Jackson. University of California Press, 1952.

Focuses on the role of the federal government in the development of western roads before the railroad era. Includes routes not often covered in other books.