

Migrants in the New Country



Map of Norway

Generally speaking, migrants from Europe sought out their own kind in the New World. In other words, congregations of Quakers settled in Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina and Georgia and were eventually caught up with by other church members. This is also true of the Puritans, Moravians, Methodists, Huguenots, and other protestant groups.

Occasionally, the genealogist discovers an old last will and testament filed at the court house written in German. This means that there existed a small hamlet of Germans in the vicinity. Every State has its own particular history of emigrants, however. The story of misery did not end once they arrived in

the colonies, but these daring ancestors put their backs to the wheel and carved out communities all over this great land. During the settling of the colonies under English monarchs, the pioneering families had to protect their farms and homeland from marauding Indians, despite the reluctance of the Royal Governors for military assistance. When there occurred a militant situation, the local militia was called out. Every man in the county took his rifle and fought to protect his family. Many fought in the American Revolution and the War of 1812. Old pension records and muster rolls are sources of information, however, do not overlook such events as Lord Dunsmore's War and other Indian battles. In Kentucky, carrying a rifle was standard for all pioneers.

As more land grants were offered to settle western territories commencing early in the 18th century, settlers were encouraged to venture into mountainous terrain, usually inside of Indian territories. No Indian worth his salt was going to allow the white man to seize his land. Thus, skirmishes, scalping and thieving were common practice. Old maps of Indian villages are worth studying to get a broader picture of the environment. We were taught that bones were under the burial mounds, yet, recent excavations of this century has revealed the evidence of tall buildings (on the mound) which overlooked bustling communities and villages.

To better understand, the Dawes Rolls published after 1900, is a collection of over 32,000 applications of those persons who believed that they had 1/16th Indian blood. Applicants were from Georgia, Tennessee, North Carolina, no doubt descendants of those who had traveled the Trail of Tears. Although most of the applicants could not prove their lineage, a great many stories were told of particular relatives believed to be Cherokees. Getting down to the business of digging into the genealogies from a historical point of view, opens up vast avenues of knowledge, and provides answers to the question "why?" With each passing generation, the number of ancestors double on the pedigree chart. Thus, more family

members are discovered the further one traces back in time.

Each generation (of names) provides its own exciting history. And how quickly one discovers that they are linked to just about every event which brought their ancestors to America. In other words, the history of America was the labor and sacrifice of our own kin! George Washington and Thomas Jefferson made it to history books. However, they were surrounded by "our kin", whose sacrifices went untold. But they are there. Migrants in the New County