

Quaker Records and Migration
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History

The "Society of Friends," or Quakers began in England. In its early period, it was under the direction of George Fox (1624-1691). By the year 1654, there were Quakers living in most of the counties of England, as well as Scotland, Ireland. The first Quakers in America arrived in Rhode Island in 1657.

Secrets of Successful Research

1. Know the Monthly Meeting
2. Look at all the records, including nearby Monthly Meetings
3. Never assume
4. Use secondary sources as indexes to the primary sources (don't stop too soon)
5. Look at the Family Search Wiki on U.S. Quaker Research as a refresher

Records

Meetings

Yearly Meetings, Half-Yearly Meetings, Quarterly Meetings, Monthly Meetings

Preparative or Particular Meetings for Worship, Indulged Meetings for Worship

Types of Records

Membership records, Men's minutes, Women's minutes, Certificates of Marriage, Certificates of Removal.

Record Repositories

Swarthmore Friends Historical Library - <http://www.swarthmore.edu>

Haverford College Quaker and Special Collections - <http://www.haverford.edu>

Guilford College Friends Historical Collection - <http://library.guilford.edu/friends-historical-collection/>

Friends Collection at Earlham College

See Quaker Information Center; www.quakerinfo.org/resources/genealogy

Typical Quaker Migrant

Places

Pennsylvania was the chief source of Quaker migration into Virginia

North Carolina was the chief destination

Directions

South and to the West before the end of the Revolution

Then the direction was to the Northwest toward Ohio after 1790

To the South

Appalachian Valley, between the Blue Ridge and the Appalachians.
Best route from Philadelphia to the North Carolina back country.

Great Philadelphia Wagon Road

Eastern Terminals: Baltimore. Alexandria, Richmond

By the River Gaps – Potomac, Rappahannock, James, Roanoke

South and West

50% prior to 1770 to N.C.
Others went to S.C., Ga., Tenn.
40% to south by 1800

Few Quakers in Virginia prior to 1750

Few scattered families in late 1730s
1760s migration double that of 1750s
600 members in the 1780s
Peaked in 1780s
Stabilized in 1790s to about 100 moves a year

Movement within Virginia

Overwhelmingly to the Southwest
South River
Goose Creek (Bedford County)

Southeast to Southwest in the 1780s

Northern Virginia to Southwest after 1786

To the Northwest

Braddock's Road as early as 1769
Passage of the Northwest Ordinance in 1787
50% to Western Pennsylvania in 1790
Westland MM
Redstone MM

Routes into Ohio

The Report 19 (Summer 1979), p. 61

From the north into the Western Reserve and Fire Lands

The southern route across the Allegheny Mountains to a point west of Pittsburgh and then into Ohio
Across central New York followed by the Erie Canal to Buffalo
Came by land on primitive roads

By boat down the shores of Lake Erie to a port near their destination

By way of the Ohio River to Belmont and Jefferson

Around 1800 nearly a thousand Quakers from North Carolina, sometimes entire congregations, moved through forest paths by wagon trail and on horseback, driving livestock before them. In 1795-6 the Quakers farmed, raised wheat and hogs, and operated grain mills and stores at Mt. Pleasant. They called their settlement Concord.

Marietta and Muskingum to way of the Ohio River (this is the way of the New England Ohio Company in 1788).
 Chillicothe and Scioto River
 Scioto River the major north-south method for getting into the interior
 Chillicothe in 1796, 45 miles upriver from the Ohio River; Franklinton in 1797 (now Columbus), 90 miles from the Ohio River.
 Zane's Trace in 1796
 National Road in 1836\

Cincinnati and the Miamis – Symmes Tract
 By this time the Ohio Country was becoming accessible from the Atlantic coast with direct routes from New England and the middle states.
 Forbes Road from Philadelphia through Pittsburgh
 Braddock Road (Cumberland and National Road) immigransts from Maryland and Virginia to Redstone, Brownsville, Wheeling or the Ohio River
 Wilderness Road, up the Shenadoah Valley to the headwaters of the New River, through the Cumberland Gap, then by the Warriors Path to Lexington and Limestone, Kentucky. Chief route from Virginia and Kentucky. Columbia (mouth of the Little Miami) in 1788 (folk mainly from New Jersey). In Losantville (mouth of the Licking River) in 1788. This settlement became Cincinnati in 1790.

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