

# THE MARCH OF THE VIRGINIANS

## Supplemental Handout

Presentation by  
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GENEALOGY: SPECIAL TOPIC; INTERMEDIATE-ADVANCED  
UNITED STATES: VIRGINIA, MIGRATION

Migration through and out of Virginia from the earliest Colonial period to just prior to 1900. Discussing migration patterns into, within, and out of Virginia, eventually showing the states that have strong Virginia ties.



MLE, Carto. Sect., LSU

↳ The Creation of New States, 1791–1848 (excluding California)

# CHRONOLOGY OF WESTWARD MIGRATION FROM VIRGINIA 1750 - 1860

- 1749 The Ohio Company, organized by a group of Virginians and a number of prominent Englishmen, obtained a grant of 500,000 acres on the upper Ohio and sent out Christopher Gist, in 1750, to explore the region as far as the falls of the Ohio. His favorable report led to the establishment of a trading house at Wills's Creek, present Cumberland, Maryland, and to the blazing of a trail to the junction of Redstone Creek and the Monongahela River. This activity forced the French to secure their claim to this region.
- 1750 Dr. Thomas Walker discovered the Cumberland Gap while exploring the far western Virginia frontier where Virginia, Kentucky, North Carolina and Tennessee come together.
- 1754 Virginia troops were dispatched to the Ohio, with a young George Washington as second in command. The French had built Fort Duquesne at the forks of the Ohio, now Pittsburgh, prompting Washington to build Fort Necessity in the Great Meadows. The Virginians were attacked and forced to surrender.
- 1755 The French and Indian War (The Seven Years' War in Europe). This war successfully acquired land west of the to Appalachian Mountain range to the Mississippi for the British colonists.
- 1763
- 1763 The Proclamation of 1763 (October 7) issued by King George III closed all of these new western lands to white settlement.
- 1763 Despite the Proclamation of 1763, plans were still underway for various settlements of the western lands, and slowly to the King gave way to various settlements.
- 1775
- 1769 The Watauga settlement in eastern Tennessee was planned and augmented by the arrival of Virginians, led by William Bean, and North Carolinians under James Robertson and John Sevier in 1770 and 1771. The Watauga Association was formed in 1772 as the form of government, and then the territory was later organized as Washington County, North Carolina in 1777.
- 1774 Meanwhile, Richard Henderson, of North Carolina, together with associates, organized the Transylvania Company, & purchased land from the Cherokees, and established the Transylvania settlement in Kentucky in 1775. Daniel
- 1775 Boone was Henderson's agent and cleared the Wilderness Road to Kentucky. The settlement of Kentucky (1775-1777) was facilitated by the peace forced on the Indians as a result of Lord Dunmore's War.
- 1775 The Revolutionary War slows, if not stops, settlement of the western territories. The winning of independence to secured these western territories to the Mississippi River and north to the Great Lakes region.
- 1783
- Many Virginians fought in the North and South Carolina upcountry which was still sparsely settled. They would later settle these regions.
- 1783 Decline in Virginia prominence economically and in government. After the Revolution, Virginia was in to considerable economic distress due to the after effects of the war. This economic distress, combined with the
- 1845 extreme soil depletion, due to extensive tobacco growing over the past centuries, would cause a great period of migration by many Virginians into the southern colonies, southwestern and western territories, and the northwestern territories.
- 1784 Virginia ceded the Northwest Territory to the United States Federal Government.
- 1787 The Northwest Territory setup by the United States Government. It included the area north of the Ohio River and east of the Mississippi. This territory was setup on the precondition that no more than five States would be established from this territory and none would allow slavery to exist.

- 1788 First authorized settlement of Americans north of the Ohio River was made by the Ohio Company at Marietta.  
A short while later, the Symmes Company established a settlement in southwestern Ohio.
- 1792 Kentucky, former county of Virginia, was admitted as a State.
- 1793 Captain Robert Gray of New England discovers the mouth of the Columbia River in the "Oregon Country".
- 1794 Jay's treaty finally secured the Great Lakes region.  
General Anthony Wayne defeated the Indians at Fallen Timbers. By the Treaty of Greenville (1795), the Indians ceded all but the northwest quarter of Ohio. Settlement of Ohio begins immediately, particularly by Kentuckians just waiting to cross the Ohio River into the new territory.
- 1795 Pinckney's treaty secured a boundary with Spain between Georgia and Florida, thus securing the Mississippi Territory for the United States and opening navigation on the Mississippi River all the way to New Orleans.
- 1796 Tennessee admitted as a State.  
Connecticut settlers established Cleveland in the Connecticut Western Reserve.
- 1800 The Great Valley Road was a migration route that began in Philadelphia and went south through the Shenandoah Valley to the Cumberland Gap [where Virginia, Tennessee and Kentucky meet]; on the western side of "The Gap" it became known as the Wilderness Road and it extended into the interior of Kentucky.  
By this time, 400,000 people were in Kentucky, and at least 300,000 people had used the Great Valley and Wilderness Route to get there, and eventually on into the Old Northwest Territory.
- 1803 Ohio admitted as the 17th state; the first to be carved out of the Old Northwest Territory.  
The Louisiana Purchase (April 30th) by Jefferson, acquires the lands west of the Mississippi River to the Rockies from France, doubling the size of the nation.
- 1803 The Lewis and Clark Expedition all the way to the Columbia River and the Pacific Ocean, secured claim to the to "Oregon Country" for the United States.
- 1804
- 1810 Indians, led by Tecumseh, opposed the advancement of white settlements in the Northwest Territories (Indiana to and Illinois). The Battle of Tippecanoe, between Tecumseh, and frontiersmen led by William Henry Harrison
- 1811 (formerly of Virginia) resulted in victory by the frontiersmen and the rise of William Henry Harrison as a leader.
- 1811 John Jacob Astor established Astoria on the Oregon coast.
- 1812 Louisiana admitted as a State.
- 1812 The War of 1812, with Britain. The British strengthened their influence on the Indians of the Northwest Territory. to Meanwhile, Andrew Jackson subdued the Indian Nations of the Southern Territories.
- 1814
- 1816 Indiana admitted as a State.
- 1817 Mississippi admitted as a State.
- 1818 Great Britain and the United States agree on a boundary between Canada and the Western Territories, establishing the 49th parallel as the boundary from the Lake of the Woods to the Rocky Mountains, leaving the Oregon question unanswered.  
Illinois admitted as a State.

- 1818 Treaty with Spain acquires Florida and Louisiana to the Sabine River bordering Texas, and secures a border to between Spanish California and the Oregon Territory.  
1819
- 1819 Alabama admitted as a State.
- 1820 The Missouri Compromise. Missouri admitted as a slave State, while remaining portions of the Louisiana purchase north of 36 degrees 30 minutes would prohibit slavery.
- 1821 American Colonization of Texas begun; Southerners were the primary settlers of Texas.
- 1825 Completion of the Erie Canal, begun in 1817. The canal made possible the opening of the west, and assured New York's primacy as a port.
- 1828 The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad begun as the first public railroad in the United States.
- 1830 Controversy between Georgia and the Cherokee Indians led to Jackson's Indian policy in which the Cherokee to Cherokee were driven by force to territories west of the Mississippi.  
1834
- 1834 A Methodist Mission was established in the Willamette Valley of the "Oregon Country", followed by numerous others. The 1840's sees a substantial migration of Americans to the Willamette Valley.
- 1836 Texan Independence.
- 1845 Texas admitted as a State.
- 1846 Oregon Treaty with Great Britain establishes the 49th parallel as the boundary between the Oregon Territory and Canada.
- 1846 War with Mexico. This war resulted in securing the Rio Grande as the border between Texas and Mexico. It also to acquired for the United States, California, and the Territory of New Mexico.  
1848
- 1848 Discovery of gold in California soon leads to the great "Gold Rush of 1849".
- 1850 The Compromise of 1850, admits California as a free State and Territorial governments be established in the recent acquisitions from Mexico, without yet deciding their fate as to slavery. Meanwhile, Texas would yield claims to New Mexico and other territories, for which the United States would assume her debt. Also, slavery would be abolished in the District of Columbia and a more effective fugitive slave law was enacted.
- Grants to Railways established the Illinois Central Railroad, and the Mobile and Ohio line from Alabama to Ohio.
- 1853 Rail connection established between New York and Chicago, begins a firm attachment of the Old Northwest Territory to the North Atlantic seaboard, thus changing the primarily north-south trade on the Mississippi to an east-west movement in the north.
- 1853 Meanwhile, the Gadsden Purchase secured the region south of the Gila River for the New Mexico Territory, primarily for the purpose of establishing a railway route to California.
- 1854 The Kansas-Nebraska Act repealed the Missouri Compromise and opened the Nebraska country to settlement on the basis of popular sovereignty and provided for the organization of the two territories of Kansas and Nebraska.
- 1854 War for Kansas, between the southerners and northerners led to the term of "Bleeding Kansas". This was sparked to by the Kansas-Nebraska Act opening the country on the basis of popular sovereignty, leading to a mad scramble 1858 for control between pro-slavery and free-soil groups.

1860 Abraham Lincoln, Republican, is elected President of the United States under the platform of opposing further extension of slavery in the territories of the west. Lincoln was elected without receiving any electoral votes in any of the slave states.

As a protest against the election of Lincoln, South Carolina adopted the ordinance of secession on December 20.

1861 The American Civil War begins.  
to  
1865

## **STATES WITH PROMINENT VIRGINIA SETTLEMENTS**

### **CHRONOLOGY OF ALABAMA SETTLEMENT**

1783 Planters from Georgia, Virginia and the Carolinas move westward into Alabama.

1798 Alabama was made a part of the Territory of Mississippi.

1809 A group of Scotch-Irish from Tennessee settled in northern Alabama in the Tennessee River Valley.

1800 Carolinians and Virginians came into the central part of the territory, as well as in western Alabama along the  
to Tombigbee and Black Warrior Rivers.  
1812

1812 The War of 1812; Andrew Jackson subdued the Creek Indians in Alabama.

1812 Gigantic migration into Alabama resulting in a breakoff separate Territory in 1817 and  
to Statehood by 1819.  
1819

### **CHRONOLOGY OF ARIZONA / NEW MEXICO SETTLEMENT**

1848 The Southwest was acquired by the United States in the War with Mexico.

1849 The Gadsden Purchase acquired the region south of the Gila River extending from the California border to the Rio Grande River.

This southern region would become settled primarily by pioneers from the south, including many Virginians.

There would also be heavy settlement by the Mormons.

1860 The Territory of Arizona was created and seceded from the Union.

1862 The Territory of Arizona was recognized by the Confederate States of America.

1863 The Territory of Arizona was recognized by the United States Government.

1865 Great influx of settlers from the southern states, most of whom were ex-Confederates, or refugees from the  
to Reconstruction South, including a great many from the war devastated regions of Virginia.  
1890

1912 Arizona becomes a State.

## **CHRONOLOGY OF ARKANSAS SETTLEMENT**

1803 Arkansas acquired as part of Louisiana Purchase.

Arkansas was immediately opened up to settlement at low prices. Many Virginians and Carolinians were settlers into this region, as well as many Kentuckians and Tennesseans.

The Arkansas River divides the state into equal north/south halves. People from the deep southern states settled south of the river, while Tennesseans and Kentuckians settled north of the river.

Over 6600 men took their War of 1812 Bounty Land in Arkansas.

1812 Arkansas was made part of the Missouri Territory.

1819 Arkansas made a separate Territory, including what is now Oklahoma.

1836 Arkansas made the 25th State.

1837 The "Panic of 1837" [a financial crash] brought many settlers from the southern states.

## **CHRONOLOGY OF CALIFORNIA SETTLEMENT**

1848 The Southwest, including California, was acquired by the United States in the War with Mexico.

1849 The Gold Rush begins.

Southern California would become settled primarily by pioneers from the south, including many Virginians.

1850 California becomes a State.

1860 Southern California sympathetic to the Confederacy.

to

1865

## **CHRONOLOGY OF DELAWARE SETTLEMENT**

1664 This Scandinavian Colony was acquired by England.

1666 Large influx of settlers from Virginia and Maryland.

Colony was divided into three districts called Hundreds which would later become counties.

1787 Becomes the first State in the new Union.

1861 Though a slave State, it remains loyal to the Union.

to

1865

## **CHRONOLOGY OF FLORIDA SETTLEMENT**

1763 Spanish Florida given to England after Seven Years War in Europe; French and Indian War in America.

1783 Florida given back to Spain after England lost in the American Revolution which was supported by Spain.

- 1812 West Florida, southern parts of Mississippi and Alabama, acquired by the United States.
- 1819 Florida acquired by the United States.
- 1820 Middle section of Florida settled by former settlers from Virginia and the Carolinas.  
Beginning of settlements in Florida which were founded and settled by Virginians from the Shenandoah Valley regions, or by southerners with ancestry from the Shenandoah Valley.
- 1822 Florida becomes a Territory.  
Jacksonville founded.
- 1825 Quincy founded.
- 1828 Monticello founded.
- 1829 Marianna and Apalachicola founded.
- 1836 St. Joseph founded.
- 1835 The Seminole Wars.  
to  
1842
- 1845 Florida becomes a State.
- 1845 East Florida primarily settled by Georgians, Alabamans and Carolinians.  
to  
1860

## **CHRONOLOGY OF GEORGIA SETTLEMENT**

- 1732 Georgia made a Royal Province.
- 1733 Colony established by Oglethorpe at Savannah.
- 1775 Georgia had a difficult start and by the Revolution had a population of about 500 people.
- 1780 After the Revolution, South Carolinians flooded into southeastern and eastern Georgia along the Savannah River.
- 1788 Georgia becomes the 4th State.
- 1798 Territory of Mississippi created from Georgia lands.
- 1803 Early Georgia Land Lotteries attracted a great many Virginians and Carolinians. Residents of Georgia for a year  
1806 or more were allowed to draw, as well as veterans or widows or orphans of veterans.  
1819  
1827  
1832
- 1832 Cherokee Indians forced out of western Georgia, opening up new territories for settlement.

## **CHRONOLOGY OF ILLINOIS SETTLEMENT**

- 1787 Acquired as part of the Northwest Territory.
- 1800 The southern part was the first to be occupied by permanent settlers. They came from the southern states, primarily North Carolina, Virginia and Kentucky.
- 1809 Illinois became a Territory.
- 1818 Illinois became the 21st State.
- 1825 New Englanders began to settle in northernmost part of the State.

## **CHRONOLOGY OF INDIANA SETTLEMENT**

- 1787 Acquired as part of Northwest Territory.
- 1790's Settlement began in the southernmost part of the State by Virginians, Kentuckians and Carolinians.
- 1800 Indiana became a Territory.
- 1816 Indiana became the 19th State.
- 1830's Many Quakers from Virginia and Tennessee settled in the central part of the State bordering Ohio. They were escaping the slavery practice.
- 1840's New Englanders began to settle the northern parts of the State.

## **CHRONOLOGY OF KANSAS SETTLEMENT**

- 1803 Part of the Louisiana Purchase.
- 1812 Part of the Missouri Territory.
- 1821 Becomes an Unorganized Indian Territory.
- 1827 Fort Leavenworth established as first community and jumping off point to Utah and California in the 1850s.
- 1840s Great influx of settlers, mostly from the South and New England, but also pioneers from Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, & Ohio and Kentucky.
- 1850s
- 1854 Kansas becomes a Territory.
- 1861 Kansas becomes the 34th State.

## **CHRONOLOGY OF KENTUCKY SETTLEMENT**

- 1750 Dr. Thomas Walker discovered the Cumberland Gap when exploring the far western Virginia frontier where Virginia, Kentucky, North Carolina and Tennessee come together.
- 1774 Richard Henderson, of North Carolina, together with associates, organized the Transylvania Company and to purchased land from the Cherokees. They established the Transylvania settlement in Kentucky in 1775. Daniel Boone was Henderson's agent and cleared the Wilderness Road to Kentucky. The settlement of Kentucky (1775-1777) was facilitated by the peace forced on the Indians as a result of Lord Dunmore's War.



1777 Kentucky County established by Virginia, being dismembered from Fincastle County.

1779 Virginia began to grant land in Kentucky.

1789 District of Kentucky set up under Federal control.

1792 Kentucky admitted as 15th State.

The earliest settlers to this region came primarily from Maryland, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Virginia.

1795 With the opening of the Northwest Territory, many Kentuckians rushed into this region.

### **CHRONOLOGY OF LOUISIANA SETTLEMENT**

1803 Louisiana Purchase.

1805 Louisiana made a Territory.

Great influx of Americans primarily from south of the Ohio River.

1812 Louisiana made the 18th State.

### **CHRONOLOGY OF MARYLAND SETTLEMENT**

1625 Group of Virginia Planters, led by William Claiborne, settle Kent Island in the Chesapeake Bay, opposite present Annapolis.

1632 Charles I granted a portion of the Virginia territory to Lord Baltimore and it becomes Maryland.

1634 First group of colonists from Europe arrive.

Claiborne with his Virginia planters, objecting to the Kings grant and the arrival of these European Catholic colonists, began a war with the new colonists which wouldn't end until his death in 1677.

1644 Virginia Puritans settle in Anne Arundel County, Maryland.

1649 Maryland Act Concerning Religion which pronounced Religious Toleration.

1788 Maryland becomes the 7th State.

### **CHRONOLOGY OF MISSISSIPPI SETTLEMENT**

1798 The Territory of Mississippi was created and included what is now Alabama and Mississippi.

1803 The Louisiana Purchase opened up the Mississippi River. This created a land boom which brought settlers from the eastern and northern states.

1817 Mississippi admitted as the 20th State.

1837 Another extreme migration into the region after the last Indians were forced out. Many of the settlers came from South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama.

## **CHRONOLOGY OF MISSOURI SETTLEMENT**

1803 Missouri acquired by the United States as part of the Louisiana Purchase.

1805 Missouri was part of the Territory of Louisiana.

1812 Missouri made a separate Territory, including Arkansas.

The earliest settlers primarily came from Kentucky, Virginia; some settlers came, as well, from North and South Carolina, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Tennessee. Virginians make up the largest portion of the population along the Missouri River.

1821 Missouri becomes the 24th State.

## **CHRONOLOGY OF NORTH CAROLINA SETTLEMENT**

1653 First permanent settlement in what would become North Carolina was established when 1000 settlers from south Virginia occupied the region north of Albemarle Sound, on the Chowan River.

1690 A group of French Huguenots from Virginia colonize a place called Bath, on the Pamlico River in North Carolina.

1691 North Carolina set up as a separate province from Virginia, being administered by deputy governors from South Carolina.

1711 North Carolina under self-rule.

1746 A large number of Scots-Irish settled in North Carolina, having initially entered into Pennsylvania and taken the Shenandoah Valley route into Virginia and then on to North Carolina.

1750 Dr. Thomas Walker discovered the Cumberland Gap while exploring the far western Virginia frontier where Virginia, Kentucky, North Carolina and Tennessee come together.

1760 Many Germans came into North Carolina, like the Scots-Irish, many originally came into Pennsylvania and entered the Shenandoah Valley and migrated into Virginia and North Carolina.

1760's Many Quakers from Virginia and Pennsylvania settled in North Carolina.

1783 Beginning of migration of many Virginians, primarily Revolutionary War Veterans, into the Piedmont of North and South Carolina.

1789 North Carolina became the 12th State.

## **CHRONOLOGY OF OHIO SETTLEMENT**

1787 Ohio was acquired as part of Northwest Territory.

Much of Ohio was to be given as Bounty Land for Military Service.

1794 Jay's treaty finally secured the Great Lakes region.

General Anthony Wayne defeated the Indians at Fallen Timbers. By the Treaty of Greenville (1795), the Indians ceded all but the northwest quarter of Ohio.

Settlement of Ohio begins immediately, particularly by Kentuckians just waiting to cross the Ohio River into the new territory.

- 1799 Territory of Ohio established.
- 1800 A region of Ohio known as the Virginia Military Bounty was established between the Scioto and Little Miami Rivers for settlement by Virginians and Kentuckians.
- The Chillicothe section in Ross County attracted many impatient and unrestrained Kentuckians and Tennesseans.
- 1803 Ohio admitted as the 17th State.
- 1825 The opening of the Erie Canal now brought a large flock of settlers from the northeastern states into the northern part of the State.

### **CHRONOLOGY OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA SETTLEMENT**

- 1749 The Ohio Company, organized by a group of Virginians and a number of prominent Englishmen, obtained a grant of 500,000 acres on the upper Ohio and sent out Christopher Gist, in 1750, to explore the region as far as the falls of the Ohio. His favorable report led to the establishment of a trading house at Wills's Creek, present Cumberland, Maryland, and to the blazing of a trail to the junction of Redstone Creek and the Monongahela River. This activity forced the French to secure their claim to this region.
- 1754 Virginia troops were dispatched to the Ohio, with a young George Washington as second in command. The French had built Fort Duquesne at the forks of the Ohio, now Pittsburgh, prompting Washington to build Fort Necessity in the Great Meadows. The Virginians were attacked and forced to surrender.

### **CHRONOLOGY OF SOUTH CAROLINA SETTLEMENT**

- 1671 First settlers were group of English people direct from England and from Barbados. They settled Charles Town.
- From then on, the tidewater [or coastal] region was primarily settled by various European groups.
- 1713 Southern Carolina was separated from North Carolina.
- 1723 South Carolina was recognized as a royal colony.
- The coastal region continued to be settled by various European groups of peoples.
- 1745 Settlement of the "up country" was slowly begun by various European groups.  
to  
1760
- 1770s Beginning of settlement of the Piedmont by Virginians.
- 1783 Heavy migration of Virginians, primarily Revolutionary War Veterans, into the Piedmont of North and South Carolina.
- 1788 South Carolina became the 8th State.
- 1790 Capital of the state moved from Charleston to Columbia.
- 1795 Pinckney and Washington Districts established in the upcountry as previously a heavy migration into the region had by now built up the population. Many of the settlers were from Virginia and North Carolina.

### **CHRONOLOGY OF TENNESSEE SETTLEMENT**

- 1750 Dr. Thomas Walker discovered the Cumberland Gap while exploring the far western Virginia frontier where Virginia, Kentucky, North Carolina and Tennessee come together.
- 1769 The Watauga settlement in eastern Tennessee was planned and augmented by the arrival of Virginians, led by William Bean, and North Carolinians under James Robertson and John Sevier in 1770 and 1771. The Watauga Association was formed in 1772 as the form of government, and then the territory was later organized as Washington County, North Carolina in 1777.
- 1780's North Carolina gave control of Tennessee to the Federal government, who ignored Tennessee for four years or so. The far eastern Tennesseans attempted to form a new State called Franklin which was also ignored by Washington.
- 1796 Tennessee was admitted as the 16th State.
- Most all settlers of east, middle and west Tennessee came from Virginia, North and South Carolina.
- 1800 Population of 70,000, including 3000 that were black.

### **CHRONOLOGY OF TEXAS SETTLEMENT**

- 1821 The Austins begin to encourage settlement from Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee. There were also a great influx of Kentuckians and Virginians.
- 1836 War for Texas Independence.
- 1845 Texas becomes the 28th State.
- Now there comes a new great influx of Southerners.
- 1861 A Confederate State.  
to  
1865
- 1865 New wave of pioneer settlers in Western Texas. Primarily these are ex-Confederates and refugees from the  
to  
1890s destroyed South.