Pacific States:
Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, Washington

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BEGINNING DATES

Alaska – was part of Russia from 1799-1867. It was purchased by the U.S. in 1867. It became a district in 1884 and a territory in 1912. In 1959 Alaska became the 49th state. It is divided into boroughs rather than counties.

California – was part of Spain, then Mexico until 1846 when it became the California Republic. In 1850, it became the 31st state.

Hawaii – was a kingdom until 1893, then a republic until annexed by the U.S. in 1898 and became a territory. In 1959, Hawaii became the 50th state.

Oregon – had joint British and American occupancy until 1846. It was the autonomous Oregon Country, 1843-1848, then it became a territory in 1848. In 1859, Oregon became the 33rd state.

Washington – had joint British and American occupancy until 1846, then it was part of Oregon Territory 1846-1853. It became a U.S. territory in 1853. In 1889, Washington became the 42nd state.

GOLD, SILVER, ETC. RUSHES

California – California Gold Rush (1848-1855), Northern California Gold Rush (1851+)
Oregon – Southwest Oregon (1851), Eastern Oregon

TRAILS, BOUNDARIES AND PLACES

1) Migration routes, see Wiki for each state
   a) Rivers, including the Platte, Colorado, Snake, Green, and Columbia
   b) Trails, like the Santa Fe, Oregon, California, and Mormon
   c) Railways, like the Southern Pacific, Union Pacific
   d) Some major Pacific Ocean ports
      i) Alaska – Juneau, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Nome
      ii) California – San Francisco, San Diego, Los Angeles
      iii) Hawaii - Honolulu
      iv) Oregon – Portland, Coos Bay
      v) Washington – Seattle, Tacoma, Port Townsend

2) Boundary changes
   a) Wikipedia, Territorial evolution of the United States
   b) Map of US, www.mapofus.org
3) Finding places, past and present
   b) Google Maps, www.google.com/maps
   c) Omni Gazetteer
   d) Town/County/State gazetteers

IMMIGRATION AND MIGRATION

1) People came by ship, wagon train, or railroad
2) Some came over the Canadian or Mexican borders
   a) United States Border Crossings from Canada to United States, 1895-1956, FamilySearch digital
   b) United States Border Crossings from Mexico to United States, 1903-1957, FamilySearch digital
3) Ship records may be found in the FamilySearch Catalog under the state, county or port town
   a) Alaska
      i. Index of arrivals at Eagle, Hyder, Ketchikan, Nome, and Skagway, 1906-1946
      ii. Lists of aliens at Eagle, 1910-1938
      iii. Lists of aliens at Skagway, 1906-1934
   b) California
      i. Pioneer index file (California), 1906-1935
      ii. Passenger lists, Los Angeles, 1907-1948, FamilySearch digital
      iii. Passenger lists...San Francisco...1893-1953, FamilySearch digital
      iv. Passenger lists, San Diego, 1904-1952
   c) Hawaii
      i. Hawaii, Honolulu passenger lists, 1900-1953, FamilySearch digital
      ii. Indexes of passenger lists, 1900-1952
      iii. Many lists for Chinese, Japanese, Filipinos, Portuguese, etc.
   d) Oregon
      i. Pioneer registers, 1818-1859
      ii. Portland index and register of vessels, 1949-1955
   e) Washington
      i. Canadian border crossings
      ii. Certificate of head tax paid by aliens arriving at Seattle
      iii. Seattle passenger and crew lists, 1890-1957, FamilySearch digital

GOVERNMENT BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

1) Marriages usually kept by counties as soon as the county was created, except Alaska has no government marriage records before 1913; Hawaii has none before 1842, and Washington has none before 1853.
2) Births and deaths were usually not kept until the states began recording them
3) For each state, check the FamilySearch Wiki for information about state records
   a) Alaska – birth, marriage, and death records began 1913
   b) California - birth and death records began 1905
   c) Hawaii - birth records began 1842 with most records beginning 1896; death records started in 1862 but mostly starting in 1896
   d) Oregon - birth and death records began 1903; some counties started births as early as 1871
   e) Washington - birth records began 1891; a few counties started births as early as 1869; death records began in 1891
4) Check the following Wiki pages, putting the name of a state in the blank space. The pages have links to records on Ancestry, FamilySearch, other sites, and addresses of where to write to obtain certificates.
   a) How to Find ______ Birth Records
   b) How to Find ______ Marriage Records
   c) How to Find ______ Death Records

CHURCH RECORDS

1) Church records are the major records for births (baptisms) and deaths (burials) before states started keeping these types of records. They are also another source for marriage records.
2) Information in these records varies a lot depending on the record keeper and the denomination. Some have a great deal of information.
3) In FamilySearch Catalog, check Church Records under 1st the town, 2nd the county.
4) The Church Wiki page for each state shows predominant churches before 1900, including how to contact them.
   a) Alaska – Russian Orthodox Church, with Moravian, Catholic, Episcopal, Presbyterian, Methodist
   b) California – Catholic, with Methodist, Presbyterian, Congregational
   c) Hawaii – Catholic, Congregational, Mormon, Presbyterian
   d) Oregon – Catholic, Methodist Episcopal, Presbyterian, Baptist, Disciples of Christ
   e) Washington – Baptist, Catholic, Methodist Episcopal, Presbyterian

CENSUSES

1) Indian Censuses
2) State and Territorial Censuses
3) For each state, check the FamilySearch Wiki
   a) Alaska – federal 1900 on, several territorial
   b) California – federal part 1850 on, several other censuses
   c) Hawaii – federal part 1900 on, several other censuses
   d) Oregon – federal 1850 on, several other censuses
   e) Washington – federal 1850 on, several other censuses

LAND RECORDS

1) All states in this region are public land states, except Hawaii which is a state land state and the only state with a single state-wide recording office.
2) Person to person, deeds, were recorded by each county.
   a) Need to know the existing county where a person bought or sold land.
   b) Some on film, some online, some still paper.
3) Government to person, homesteads, bounty land, etc. recorded by the federal land office.
4) In the FamilySearch Catalog, use Place Search to find the county, then check Land and Property Records.

NATIVE RACES

Check the FamilySearch Research Wiki article, ‘American Indian Genealogy’ for general information about Native American family research and links to other articles for each state.
VOTING RECORDS

1) County recorders kept voting registers, sometimes called great registers.
2) These registers include residence, naturalization, and place of origin.
3) In the FamilySearch Catalog, check voting registers for state and county.
   a. California
      i. state 1867-1890, also see counties
      ii. Ancestry.com has 1866-1968
   b. Hawaii, state 1887-1888, also see counties
   c. Oregon, see counties

MAJOR INTERNET SITES WITH RECORDS

1) Ancestry.com
2) FamilySearch.org
3) Find My Past
4) Fold3
5) My Heritage

REGIONAL AND STATE INTERNET SITES

1) Region
   a) Mountain West Digital Library, [http://mwdl.org](http://mwdl.org)
   b) Western States Marriage Index, [http://abish.byui.edu/specialCollections/westernstates/search.cfm](http://abish.byui.edu/specialCollections/westernstates/search.cfm)
2) Alaska
   b) Alaska Newspaper Project, [http://library.alaska.gov/hist/newspaper/newspaper.html](http://library.alaska.gov/hist/newspaper/newspaper.html)
   c) Alaska's Digital Archives, [http://vilda.alaska.edu](http://vilda.alaska.edu)
3) California
   a) California Digital Newspaper Collection, [http://cdnc.ucr.edu/cgi-bin/cdnc](http://cdnc.ucr.edu/cgi-bin/cdnc)
   b) California Genealogical Society and Library, [www.californiaancestors.org](http://www.californiaancestors.org)
   c) Online Archive of California, [www.oac.cdlib.org](http://www.oac.cdlib.org)
   d) Genealogy and History for the San Francisco Bay Area, [www.oac.cdlib.org](http://www.oac.cdlib.org)
   e) Southern California Genealogical Society, [www.scgsgenealogy.com](http://www.scgsgenealogy.com)
4) Hawaii
   a) Hawai'i State Archives, [http://ags.hawaii.gov/archives](http://ags.hawaii.gov/archives)
   c) Hawaiian Genealogy Indexes, [http://ulukau.org/algene/cgi-bin/algene](http://ulukau.org/algene/cgi-bin/algene)
   d) Department of Land and Natural Resources, [https://boc.ehawaii.gov/docsearch/nameSearch.html](https://boc.ehawaii.gov/docsearch/nameSearch.html) only back to 1976
5) Oregon
   a) Genealogical Forum of Oregon, [www.gfo.org](http://www.gfo.org)
   b) Oregon Historical Records Index, [http://genealogy.state.or.us](http://genealogy.state.or.us)
6) Washington
OTHER USEFUL INTERNET SITES

• German Roots, www.germanroots.com points to online genealogical sites
• Cyndi’s List, www.cyndislist.com points to online genealogical sites
• Find a Grave, www.findagrave.com for search form, click 1st option under Find Graves
• Digital State Archives, www.digitalstatearchives.com
• USGenWeb, http://usgenweb.org, check Projects
• Chronicling America, http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov, newspapers 1836-1922
• Old Maps Online, www.oldmapsonline.org

NOT ON THE INTERNET, NOW WHAT?

1) FamilySearch Catalog
2) FamilySearch Wiki
3) County courthouses
4) Libraries and archives
5) Societies

#USGenealogy
#FamilyHistoryLibrary
#FHLUSSeminar