



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 1848-1853. It became a U.S. territory in 1853. In 1889, Washington became the 42nd state.

GOLD, SILVER, ETC. RUSHES

Alaska – Klondike Gold Rush (1896-1899), Nome Gold Rush (1899-1909), Fairbanks Gold Rush (1902-1905)

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
 - a) USGS, <http://geonames.usgs.gov>
 - 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.
 - a) General Land Office Records, www.glorerecords.blm.gov
- 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>
 - b) Western States Marriage Index, <http://abish.byui.edu/specialCollections/westernstates/search.cfm>
- 2) Alaska
 - a) Alaska State Archives, <http://archives.alaska.gov/genealogy/genealogy.html>
 - b) Alaska Newspaper Project, <http://library.alaska.gov/hist/newspaper/newspaper.html>
 - c) Alaska's Digital Archives, <http://vilda.alaska.edu>
 - d) Alaska Vital Records, 1816-1959, <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/2216300?collectionNameFilter=false>
- 3) California
 - a) California Digital Newspaper Collection, <http://cdnc.ucr.edu/cgi-bin/cdnc>
 - b) California Genealogical Society and Library, www.californiaancestors.org
 - c) Online Archive of California, www.oac.cdlib.org
 - d) Genealogy and History for the San Francisco Bay Area, www.oac.cdlib.org
 - e) Southern California Genealogical Society, www.scgsgenealogy.com
- 4) Hawaii
 - a) Hawai'i State Archives, <http://ags.hawaii.gov/archives>
 - b) Ethnic Hawaii Genealogy Resources, <http://guides.library.manoa.hawaii.edu/genealogy-hawaii>
 - c) Hawaiian Genealogy Indexes, <http://ulukau.org/algene/cgi-bin/algene>
 - d) Department of Land and Natural Resources, <https://boc.ehawaii.gov/docsearch/nameSearch.html>
only back to 1976
- 5) Oregon
 - a) Genealogical Forum of Oregon, www.gfo.org
 - b) Oregon Historical Records Index, <http://genealogy.state.or.us>
 - c) Oregon State Archives, <http://sos.oregon.gov/archives/Pages/records.aspx>
- 6) Washington
 - a) Washington State Archives – Digital Archives, www.digitalarchives.wa.gov
 - b) Washington State Library, www.sos.wa.gov/library

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