

The Great African American Migration Video Descriptions

The Great African American Migration – Original one-hour video

The Great Migration between 1915 and 1970 when over 6 million African Americans moved from the Southern States to the North, is one of the most dramatic movements of people within United States that has ever occurred, and it is almost completely ignored by historians and is unknown to most genealogists. This presentation focuses on the people and records from the 20th Century and the difficulty in connecting the individuals and families to the places they were living at the turn of the century.

Supplementary Videos

Part One - The Great Northward Migration 1915-1970 Overview and Methodology for Beginning Research

This first video in a six-part series explains the concepts for beginning research into the Great Migration, including focusing on the methodology used in researching a representative family with an introduction to the types of records that can be used to start building the family's history back into the 1800s beginning with the 1950 U.S. Federal Census. This part of the series will focus on a family from Chicago.

Part Two - Tracing Your Ancestors in The Great Migration Back in Time - Destinations and Causes

This second video in a six-part series focuses on discovering the destinations and causes of the Great Migration population shift with a more in-depth examination of the sources of information including the U.S. censuses, draft registration records, employment records, Social Security records and other resources for tracing a family back to its origins in the South. This part of the series will focus on a family from New York.

Part Three - Tracing Your Ancestors in the Great Migration Back in Time - Additional Sources

This third video in a six-part series explains the causes and destinations of the early part of the movement with an additional example of a family with an amplification of the documents and sources for moving further back in time primarily using the U.S. Census records. The representative family will be used to show how the records help to supply research continuity. This part of the series will focus on a family from Detroit.

Part Four - Tracing Your Ancestors in The Great Migration Back in Time and Impact on the Country

This fourth video in a six-part series focuses on the resultant changes in the families due to migration, including an overview of the impact of the migration on the larger centers of African American population and the establishment of influential African American communities – the rise of these influential communities such as the area southeast of Washington, D.C. The representative family will be used to show how the records help to supply research continuity. This part of the series will focus on a family from Pittsburgh.

Part Five - The Great Northward Migration 1915-1970: Impact on Population and Culture

This fifth video in a six-part series examines in depth the areas around the country that have been impacted with the migration as shown in the census records and cultural impact of the population including specific regional records and sources for research in each area including censuses, directories, tax records, land and property records, occupation and employment records, and other types of records. The representative family will be used to show how the records continue to help supply research continuity. This part of the series will focus on a family from Oakland.

Part Six - The Great Northward Migration 1915-1970: Summary of the Main Record Sources and Impact

This sixth and last video in a six-part series summarizes the main record sources for tracing ancestors who were part of the Great Migration in the impacted geographical areas. It will also review specific research challenges, including family organization, employment, and other factors in a case study of the representative family. This part of the series will focus on a family from Philadelphia.