

American pioneer

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American pioneers are any of the people in American history who migrated west to join in settling and developing new areas. The term especially refers to those who were going to settle any territory which had previously not been settled or developed by European, African or American society, although the territory may have been inhabited by or utilized by Native Americans.

The pioneer concept and ethos greatly predate the migration to parts of the United States now called Western, as many places now considered as East were also settled by pioneers from the coast. For example, Daniel Boone, a key figure in American history, settled in Kentucky, when that "Dark and Bloody Ground" was still undeveloped.

One important development in the Western settlement was the Homestead Act, which provided formal legislation for the settlers which regulated the settlement process.

Pioneers

Various figures in American folklore and literature typify the pioneer. James Fenimore Cooper's *The Deerslayer* (1841) became the most successful of his early series, the Leatherstocking Tales, about pioneer life in the Province of New York. Laura Ingalls Wilder's *Little House on the Prairie* series, published a century later in 1932-1943 but set in the 1870s and 1880s, typified later depictions of pioneer families. Daniel Boone (1734-1820) and Davy Crockett (1786-1836) became two real-life icons of pioneer history.

See also

- American frontier
- American pioneers to the Northwest Territory
- American West
- Donation Land Claim Act of 1850
- Land Act of 1804
- Military Tract of 1812
- Mormon pioneers
- Preemption Act of 1841
- Public Land Survey System
- Settler
- Wagon train

References

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PIONEER SETTLERS BUILDING ADVENTURE GALLEY ON THE YOUGHIOGHENY

American pioneers building the flatboat *Adventure galley* at Sumrill's Ferry on the Youghiogheny River during March 1788.

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