

C23-1

Lecture 12

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I. Northern Agriculture (continued)

A. The role of the frontier

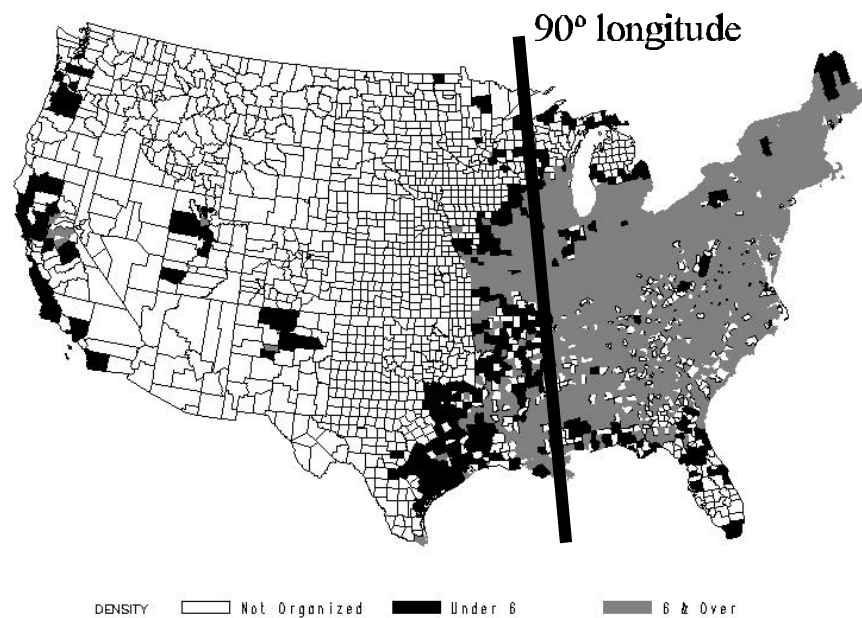


Figure 1 Population Density of U.S. Counties, 1850

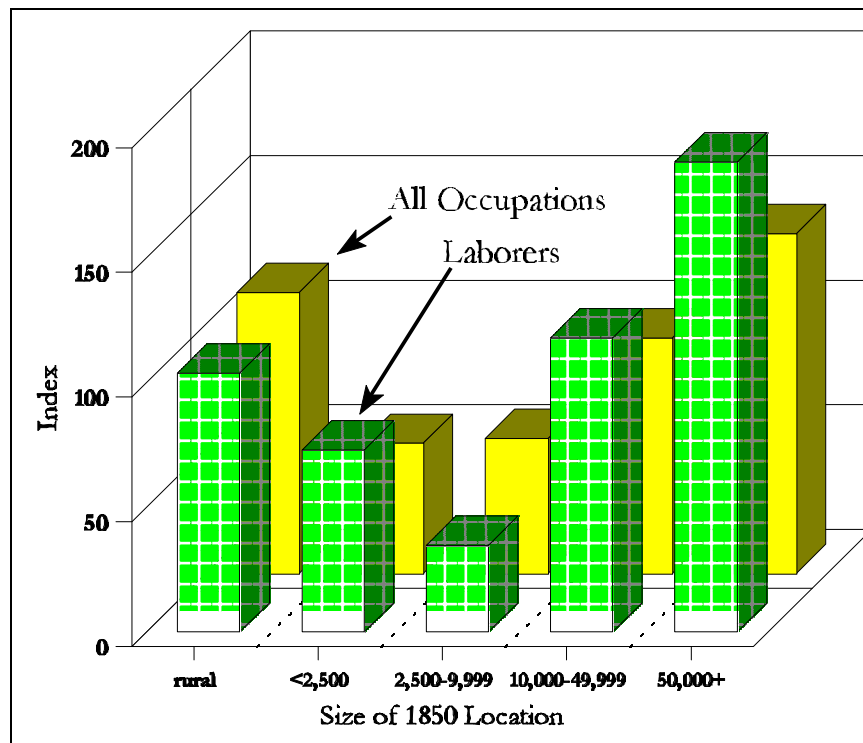
why it matters

previous views

why laborers *couldn't* have been important

New evidence:

the numbers going west



**Figure 2** Index of Representation in Frontier Migration: The share of each group in frontier migration divided by the share in the sample, multiplied by 100.

relative quality:

measurement problems

the bottom line

## II. Economic Mobility More Generally

### A. Background: The “Myth” of Mobility

### B. Early *persistence* studies

### C. The occupational mobility of stayers

### D. New evidence

Table 7-2. Conditional rates of persistence 1850-60 of natives and immigrant arrivals at New York, 1840-50, by occupation, region, and size of location.

1850 Location	All ))))))		White Collar ))))))		Skilled ))))))		Farmer ))))))		Unskilled ))))))	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
<i>Natives</i>										
<i>Region</i>										
NE	881	64.7	56	64.3	231	65.4	252	78.6	320	55.0
MA	1546	55.7	81	65.4	278	60.1	448	68.3	725	45.4
MW	873	49.4	34	52.9	89	44.9	384	61.2	356	37.9
SE	587	65.4	32	56.3	57	66.7	220	70.0	271	63.5
SC	363	52.1	—	—	25	56.0	178	60.1	152	42.1
<i>Size of location</i>										
Urban	664	57.1	84	66.7	238	58.0	65	78.5	248	49.2
Rural	3607	57.2	126	57.1	449	61.0	1419	67.0	1587	47.7
Total	4271	57.2	210	61.0	687	60.0	1484	67.5	1835	47.9

Table 7-3. Multivariate analysis of mobility 1850-60 of natives and immigrant arrivals at New York, 1840-50.

Variable	Natives )))))))))		Immigrants )))))))))	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Intercept	33.460***	31.344***	14.545	14.583
Age	0.567**	0.673**	-0.042	-0.042
Age <sup>2</sup> x 10 <sup>-3</sup>	-1.142	-2.137	8.259	8.322
Married	6.425***	8.952***	18.356***	20.357***
Family size	0.115	0.131	2.160***	2.232***
Occupation				
White collar	-0.941	-2.224	6.389	5.667
Skilled	1.886	2.595	5.774*	6.194**
Farmer	5.049***	6.029***	16.337***	19.169***
Real Wealth x 10 <sup>-4</sup>	-	25.530***	-	13.471
Real Wealth <sup>2</sup> x 10 <sup>-8</sup>	-	-5.877**	-	-2.166
Owned property	11.563***	-	10.411***	-
Origin				
Ireland	-	-	-10.444***	-11.008***
Germany	-	-	-5.783*	-6.005*
Other	-	-	2.270	2.229
Literate	-0.703	-0.585	-5.350	-4.758
Region				
New England	7.193***	8.223***	2.273	2.509
Midwest	-7.400***	-6.326***	-3.054	-2.068
Southeast	8.733***	9.323***	3.738	3.641
South Central	-3.945	-2.948	-12.980**	-12.992**
Far West	-23.013**	-21.217**	-15.417	-14.720
Urban	-3.791*	-4.636**	7.029***	6.160**
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	0.105	0.103	0.224	0.219
N	4,270	4,270	1,175	1,175

Note: The dependent variable takes a value of 100 if the individual did not change county between 1850 and 1860, and a zero otherwise. The coefficients measure the number of percentage points by which the probability of remaining in the same county increases or decreases in response to a unit change in the independent variable. All estimates were obtained by ordinary least squares regressions. Unmarried, illiterate, unskilled workers residing in the rural Middle Atlantic region in 1850 are the reference group in each regression. For immigrants, the British are the reference group. Probability that the true  $\beta$  is equal to zero: less than \* 10% \*\* 5% \*\*\* 1%.

Source: Males fifteen years and older in 1850 Public Use Microdata Series linked to the 1860 manuscript census schedules; male household heads and unaccompanied males in passenger ship arrival records at port of New York, 1840-1850, linked to 1850 and 1860 manuscript census schedules.

Table 7-6. Occupational and geographic mobility 1850-60 of natives and immigrant arrivals at New York, 1840-50, by distance moved and 1850 occupation.

	Same County	Different County	Distance Between 1850 & 1860 Counties (miles)		
			1-149 ))))))))))	150-400 ))))))))))	Over 400
Upward mobility of unskilled workers <sup>a</sup>					
Natives					
<i>N</i>	697	799	430	181	188
% up	62.1	67.1**	62.8	72.4***	71.8***
Immigrants					
<i>N</i>	122	419	113	127	179
% up	48.4	52.7	46.0	54.3	55.9
Downward mobility of others <sup>b</sup>					
Natives					
<i>N</i>	1744	1031	563	207	261
% down	10.4	15.2	14.2**	19.3***	14.2*
Immigrants					
<i>N</i>	246	389	111	98	180
% down	8.5	31.4***	27.9***	36.7***	30.6***

Note: Probability that the true percentage is identical to that for "Same County": less than \* 10% \*\* 5% \*\*\* 1%. <sup>a</sup> The percentage of 1850 unskilled workers (including farm tenants) who were found in white collar or skilled occupations or as farm owners in 1860. <sup>b</sup>The percentage of 1850 farm owners, white collar workers, or skilled workers who were found as unskilled workers (including farm tenants) in 1860.

Source: Males fifteen years and older in 1850 Public Use Microdata Series linked to the 1860 manuscript census schedules; male household heads and unaccompanied males in passenger ship arrival records at port of New York, 1840-1850, linked to 1850 and 1860 manuscript census schedules.

Table 7-8. Multivariate analysis of occupational mobility 1850-60 by natives and immigrant arrivals at New York, 1840-50.

Variable	Natives )))))))))		Immigrants )))))))))	
	Unskilled	Others	Unskilled	Others
Intercept	19.141**	45.655***	43.581***	74.361***
Age	2.099***	-1.483***	1.318*	-2.993***
Age <sup>2</sup>	-32.143***	19.326***	-28.825**	37.693***
Origin				
Ireland			-30.935***	17.641***
Germany			-1.290	-5.501
Other			-6.195	-6.010
Literate	14.775**	-8.758***	14.746**	-11.356
Region				
New England	4.774	-2.820*	2.252	9.305*
Midwest	7.838**	-4.272**	-2.058	-1.963
Southeast	1.809	-1.292	-3.134	-4.857
South Central	9.645**	-5.842**	-13.761	-3.209
Far West	-24.849	7.710	3.800	6.100
Urban	3.279	0.852	-4.419	-1.950
Changed County	4.995**	4.376***	6.297	18.098***
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	0.023	0.021	0.083	0.143
N	1,495	2,774	540	634

Note: For Unskilled Workers, the dependent variable takes a value of 100 if the individual moved into a job as something other than an unskilled worker between 1850 and 1860, and a zero otherwise. For Others, the dependent variable takes a value of 100 if the individual moved into a job as an unskilled worker between 1850 and 1860, and a zero otherwise. The coefficients measure the number of percentage points by which the probability of changing occupation increases or decreases in response to a unit change in the independent variable. All estimates were obtained by ordinary least squares regressions. Illiterate, unskilled workers residing in the rural Middle Atlantic region in 1850 and not changing county are the reference group in each regression. For immigrants, the British are the reference origin group. Probability that the true  $\beta$  is zero: less than \* 10% \*\* 5% \*\*\* 1%.

Source: Males fifteen years and older in 1850 Public Use Microdata Series linked to the 1860 manuscript census schedules; male household heads and unaccompanied males in passenger ship arrival records at port of New York, 1840-1850, linked to 1850 and 1860 manuscript census schedules.