Pack your wagon for the Carolina Backcountry

In the 18th century many families came to North America from countries such as Germany, England, Scotland, and Ireland. They came for different reasons. some for religious freedom. Some to escape famine. Others for economic betterment. They traveled across the sea to port towns such as Philadelphia, PA and New Castle, DE. As more immigrants came to America settlements moved westward toward the mountains. They then began moving south along the eastern side of the mountains. Those who moved south followed what became known as the Great Wagon Road. The Wagon Road stretched from Philadelphia all the way to Augusta, GA. It was like the interstate of the colonial period. Thousands of people and families followed the road south.

Some families moved south along the Wagon Road several times. Andrew Pickens’s family did this. They first moved to American in 1720 and settled at Paxton Township in Pennsylvania. In the 1730s they moved to Virginia, and finally moved to South Carolina in 1750. Other families moved south in one big move. Some families could only take what would fit on a horse. Others had wagons. Each form of transportation had advantages and disadvantages. Wagons could carry more, but were easy to get stuck and were slow. Pack horses could not carry as much but were faster.

Now consider this scenario, put yourself in this situation to decide what to take with you.

The year is 1764. Your family has lived in Philadelphia, PA for many years. Your parents and grandparents moved here from Europe in 1741, before you were born. Over the past few years you have heard much talk of land opening up for settlement in the Carolina colonies. Having lived in a port city the open land in the backcountry of Carolina sounds like a wild place. It also sounds like an exciting adventure and opportunity. Your grandparents plan on staying in Philadelphia. But your parents decide to take the chance and head south. They dream of owning their own land and farming it. They have heard the land there is cheap and good for farming. You will follow a trail south from Philadelphia known as the Great Wagon Road.

To prepare for your trip your father has purchased a wagon. It will carry supplies and the family belonging to your new home. Your wagon can hold 4,000 pounds with 2 horses pulling it. Although your wagon can carry a lot it cannot hold everything that your family owns. Some things will have to be left behind. What will you take with you to your new home? Remember you might find some places to buy food along the way. but there will be many times when you have to rely on your packed provisions or fresh hunted meat. Not only will you need to pack food for your family and yourself, but your horses will need food as well.

Your parents decide to follow the Wagon Road to an area of the South Carolina Colony know as Ninety Six. You will have to travel 700 miles before you reach your new home. In good conditions your wagon can travel 12 miles a day. How long will it take you to reach your destination? (round up to the next whole number)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Days

Assuming there is enough grass and hay along the way for your horses, each horse will need an additional 15 pounds of feed/grain per day. How much feed/grain will you need for your horses?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Pounds

For each family member needs at least of 80 pounds of flower, 80 pounds salted/cured meat, 5 pounds sugar, 10 pounds of vegetables, 10 pounds of beans, and 5 pounds of salt for the trip. Other food items such as spices, tea, and cornmeal are optional.

Bellow you will find a list of supplies that people may have considered taking with them when they moved to a new home. You will not be able to take everything. Consider the list and what is necessary for you to have on your trip and at your home.

Keeping your family’s food needs and your horses’ food needs in mind pack your wagon. Remember you can only pack 4000 pounds in the wagon. If you or any of your family plan on riding in the wagon don’t forget to add their weight to the wagon’s cargo weight. You may pack more than one of each item, but remember to multiply the weight.

The Family

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Member** | **Will they ride?** | **Weight in Lbs. if riding** | **Total Weight in Wagon** |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Subtotal** |  |  |  |

Food

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Weight in Lbs.** | **Number packed** | **Total Weight Packed** |
| Horse grain/food | 75 |  |  |
| flour | 80 |  |  |
| Salted/cured meat | 80 |  |  |
| sugar | 5 |  |  |
| Vegetables | 10 |  |  |
| beans | 10 |  |  |
| Salt | 5 |  |  |
| spices | 5 |  |  |
| cornmeal | 10 |  |  |
| tea | 5 |  |  |
| water | 100 |  |  |
| lard | 50 |  |  |
| **Subtotal** |  |  |  |

House Hold Items

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Weight in Lbs.** | **Number packed** | **Total Weight Packed** |
| Spinning wheel | 20 |  |  |
| Drop spindle | 1 |  |  |
| Floor weaving loom | 300 |  |  |
| Inkle loom | 5 |  |  |
| Cookware | 40 |  |  |
| Dishes and Utensils | 30 |  |  |
| Butter churn | 8 |  |  |
| Rocking Chair | 30 |  |  |
| Table | 40 |  |  |
| chair | 15 |  |  |
| stool | 8 |  |  |
| Extra fabric | 20 |  |  |
| Bed | 70 |  |  |
| Blanket roll | 15 |  |  |
| Mirror | 15 |  |  |
| 5 candles | 2 |  |  |
| Needle and thread | 1 |  |  |
| rug | 10 |  |  |
| Large basket | 3 |  |  |
| Wooden bucket | 5 |  |  |
| Clothing chest | 50 |  |  |
| **Subtotal** |  |  |  |

Tools and Parts

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Weight in Lbs.** | **Number packed** | **Total Weight Packed** |
| Rifle | 8 |  |  |
| Black powder | 20 |  |  |
| Lead balls | 25 |  |  |
| Rifle tools and flint | 10 |  |  |
| Hunting knife | 2 |  |  |
| House building tools | 50 |  |  |
| Farming tools | 50 |  |  |
| Black smith tools | 200 |  |  |
| Extra wagon parts | 50 |  |  |
| Fire starting kit | 2 |  |  |
| **Subtotal** |  |  |  |

Total Weight Packed in Wagon: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Were you able to keep it at 4000 or less? If not what else can you leave behind?

Personal Items

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Weight in Lbs.** | **Number packed** | **Total Weight Packed** |
| Extra clothes for 1 person | 10 |  |  |
| Soap | 5 |  |  |
| medicine | 5 |  |  |
| fiddle | 10 |  |  |
| doll | 2 |  |  |
| Marbles | 1 |  |  |
| Other toys | 5 |  |  |
| books | 5 |  |  |
| One blanket | 5 |  |  |
| Family keepsakes | 30 |  |  |
| Ink, Quill, and Paper | 5 |  |  |
| **Subtotal** |  |  |  |

Packing for a Trip Today

If you were going on a trip for 2 or more weeks consider how you might do things differently or the same.

How are you traveling? Will you use a car, plain, train, boat, or a combination? How does this effect what you pack?

Will you camp each night or will you stay in a hotel? How does this effect what you pack?

Will you eat in restaurants or will you make your own meal? What will you need to take?

What do you know about where you are going? What will you need for where you are going?

ITEM DEFINITIONS

* Spinning wheel – a hand-driven or foot-driven machine used for spinning fiber into thread or yarn. [Quirijn van Brekelenkam | The Spinner | The Metropolitan Museum of Art (metmuseum.org)](https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/435771?searchField=All&amp;sortBy=Relevance&amp;ao=on&amp;ft=loom&amp;offset=420&amp;rpp=20&amp;pos=434) [Spinning Wheel | The Metropolitan Museum of Art (metmuseum.org)](https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/7748?searchField=All&amp;sortBy=Relevance&amp;ao=on&amp;ft=spinning&amp;offset=20&amp;rpp=20&amp;pos=21) [Jules Breton | Woman at the Spinning Wheel | The Metropolitan Museum of Art (metmuseum.org)](https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/772866?searchField=All&amp;sortBy=Relevance&amp;ao=on&amp;ft=spinning&amp;offset=20&amp;rpp=20&amp;pos=29)
* Drop spindle – a small wooden spike like object with a disk on one end used for spinning fiber into thread or yarn. Unlike spinning wheels, the user can walk around while spinning. [Goya (Francisco de Goya y Lucientes) | An old woman spinning, spindle in her right hand, distaff in her left | The Metropolitan Museum of Art (metmuseum.org)](https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/643912?searchField=All&amp;sortBy=Relevance&amp;ao=on&amp;ft=spinning&amp;offset=120&amp;rpp=20&amp;pos=136)
* Floor weaving loom – a large frame for weaving thread or yarn to make cloth [Jan van Haelbeeck | Enigmes Joyeuses pour les Bons Esprits, Plate 5 | The Metropolitan Museum of Art (metmuseum.org)](https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/744904?searchField=All&amp;sortBy=Relevance&amp;ao=on&amp;ft=loom&amp;offset=60&amp;rpp=20&amp;pos=75)
* Inkle loom – a small loom used to weave strips of cloth to make things such as straps and ribbons. <https://woolery.com/ashford-inklette-loom.html>
* Butter Churn – a vessel used to agitate buttermilk or cream to separate the butterfat from the milk. <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/371525>