

But we have a still clearer, if not stronger, evidence of the Dénés having migrated from the northwest, that is from Asia. In the basin of Greater Bear Lake lies a large steppe, the southern end of which is known to the present day Indians under a native name which means "The Last Steppe", while there is in the same region a mountain called "The Last Mountain" by the natives of the same country. This being the southernmost of a group of mountains, it should have been named "The First Mountain" if the Indians responsible for its designation had followed a northerly direction in the course of their prehistoric migrations.¹

Then, as if to preclude the possibility of an error in this respect, the northernmost mountain of the same group is called by a Déné word which means "The First Promontory".²

It is therefore evident that when those aborigines saw for the first time that country, they were travelling from north to south. On the other hand, as those who still live in a higher latitude claim that they came from the west, and as almost all the Dénés have a tradition of a passage by water, I fail to see how we can escape the conclusion that they reached America through Behring Strait or the Aleutian Islands, and that such of them as crossed the Rockies took a southeastern direction, while the others made directly for the south.

The strength of these conclusions becomes still greater by a consideration of the unmistakable fact that the migrations of all the Dénés in America have invariably been southward. Several of the northern tribes, such as the Sarcees, the Beavers and the Tsilkotins, had but lately a more northern habitat. Instinctively, when not meeting with resistance at the hands of a body of people already in possession of the country, they have tended towards the more hospitable climes of the south.

The best proof I can adduce of this, in addition to the three above mentioned instances, is that which we find in the presence in Arizona and New Mexico of the Navahoes and the Apaches, the two foremost Déné tribes as far as population is concerned, as well as in the different bodies of stragglers in the southward march whom we now call the Kwalhioquas of the State of Washington, the Umpquas of Oregon, and the Hupas and others of California.

That the Navahoes come from the north there is not the shadow of a doubt. True, the late Dr. D. G. Brinton wrote somewhere that they "have no reminiscence of their ancestral home in the north".³

¹ *Exploration de la Région du Grand Lac des Ours*, pp. 124 and 313; Paris, 1893.

² *Ibid.*, *ibid.*

³ "The American Race", p. 72; Philadelphia, 1901.