



Planning and Implementing a Research Trip

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Not everything is on the Internet and many times it is not possible to get assistance from libraries or societies in far-away places. At some point it may become necessary to plan a research trip to the home of your ancestors. Research trips can be fun and frustrating at the same time. Preparation is the key to success.

OBJECTIVE:

1. What to do at home
2. What to do when you get to your location

Why On-Site Research

- Find original records
- Talk to relatives
- What does the area look like
- Not everything is on the internet

What to Do at Home

- Airplane tickets
- Rental Car
- Hotel or Friends
- Groceries or eat out
- Credit, Debit, Cash
- What is available on line
- Connect with distant relations and make plans to meet
 - Facebook
 - White Pages
 - E-mails
 - Anything to connect with Individuals

To Take:

- Camera
- Money (change, real money)
- Chargers
- Writing instruments
- Lists of what to gather
- Lists of what to visit
- Maps (paper)

Prepare

- Take someone with you
- Who has the Records?
- Are the Records Available?
- Create a Research Plan
- Learn the lay of the Land
- Prepare for Your Visit

Visiting Churches

- Time of Worship Service
- Visit on Sunday
- Wait for the Minister or Priest
- Schedule a time
- Ask to take pictures
- Abide by the rules
- Give a donation

Visiting the Court House

- Parking
- Bills and Coins
- Security
- Research room or no
- Staff
- Patience
- Copies

Visiting a Society or Library

- Parking
- Bills and Coins
- Follow the Rules
- Copies
- What can you bring in
- Donation

Visiting a Cemetery

- Check for an office
- Is map available
- Is there a list of those buried
- Is the grounds keeper available
- Walk a number of rows at a time
- Take the camera

Take a Break

Helpful Articles

Tips for Planning a Genealogy Vacation

http://genealogy.about.com/od/research_trips/fl/Tips-for-Planning-a-Genealogy-Vacation.htm

Ten Questions to Ask a Research Facility Before you Visit

<http://genealogy.about.com/od/libraries/a/questions.htm>

Genealogy Research at the Courthouse, Archives or Library

http://genealogy.about.com/od/basics/a/onsite_research.htm

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