

Preparing for a Research Trip in the 21st Century

Getting the most out of your time and tools

By Barbara Horn 6 May 2016 Fellesraad Centennial

Preparation

- Pencils
- Copy money, look for cost ahead of time
- Jump drive
- Paper, laptop, tablet, phone, camera, scanners
- Food
- Identification [driver's license]
- Maps
- Parking locations, rules
- Sweater or jacket
- Small flashlight

Research location

- Where are documents located
- What form are the documents
 - Books, microfilm, indexes
- Hours of operation
- Rules for using / copying documents
 - Certified copies only?
 - Can cameras, laptops, tablets, scanners be used?
- Any restrictions
 - ND can only view vital records in Bismarck
 - Chippewa Co, WI – limit on number of researchers

Available closer to home?

- Consider trip 1st to places that are closer to home or with concentrated resources
 - Saves time/money
- Inter library loan
 - Check www.worldcat.org
 - See which libraries have the book

Other facilities in area

- Check out all courthouses, libraries, museums, historical societies, churches, cemeteries
- See if they list any special collections or have indexes on line
- Call to discuss the collections further
 - May direct you elsewhere
 - May collect documents before you arrive

Make sure not available at home

- Via Ancestry.com, familysearch.org, other on line resources
- Church records – verify which available on line – birth/marriage/death / confirmation
- What years are available so know what years / records to concentrate on

Prepare lists

- Create list for each state, county, town
 - What do you know
 - What do you want to know
 - Separate from your genealogy program
- Use indexes available on internet to verify location if possible
- Some events happen in unexpected locations
- Example resources to use:
 - MN Birth, Marriage and Death Indexes
 - WI Marriages and pre 1907 birth/marriage/death indexes
 - SD birth index over 100 yrs old
 - ND death index – from about 1900 to 1 year ago
 - ND Biography index

Record what have / need

- Make lists to show what you have already found and still need
- Look for birth/marriage/death/obituaries
- Note cemeteries and locations
- Church records
- Prioritize
 - Time is usually too short

Plan time most efficiently - MN

- MN History Center
 - County histories, school records, church records
 - Order books when go to lunch – available when return
 - Large collection of newspapers, births mostly 1900 – 1934, deaths 1904 – 2001, naturalizations

Plan time most efficiently – MN

- More recent births 1935 – 2002 indexed on Ancestry.com, familysearch.org
- Marriages
 - 1958 – 2001 on Ancestry.com, familysearch.org
 - County lists – done by volunteers
 - <https://moms.mn.gov/>
 - Can put in partial names

Humboldt Co, IA

- Planned a trip and phoned ahead.
- Planned to go to museum. They said go to public library.
- Arranged for me to meet with a local genealogist
- Arranged for me to meet with someone from St Olaf Lutheran church in Bode

Mistakes I made

- Assumed there would be a place to eat lunch in Bode – NOT
 - Luckily, I had some snacks with me
- Did not check for church records on line
 - I spent most of the time on earlier records
 - They were available on Ancestry.com
 - Should have started with later records

Scanned church records

On Ancestry.com – available at many libraries
U.S., Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, Records, 1875-1940
Many mistakes in the indices

North Dakota Biography Index

ND Institute for Regional studies in Fargo
<https://library.ndsu.edu/ndsarchives/genealogy-and-biography>
Biography Index to all the books they have
Use before a ND trip
Also have early pioneer biographies on microfilm, newspapers and pioneer women interviews
Can save from microfilm onto jump drive
Inter library loan to request can save time during trip

Plan time most efficiently - ND

North Dakota Death Index
<https://apps.nd.gov/doh/certificates/deathCertSearch.htm>
Must put in last name
Try alternate spellings
Limit of 10 years to search at a time
Starts about 1900 and goes to a year ago

Plan time most efficiently - SD

Birth Index over 100 years old
<http://apps.sd.gov/PH14Over100BirthRec/index.aspx>
Optional to register before 1905

Plan time most efficiently - WI

www.Familysearch.org
Pick a state and look at the indexes available
Search for the families
Exact or soundex type matches

Tablet or phone

Save spreadsheets, documents
Make them available off line
Google Drive
Available if have Gmail account
15 GB free storage
On Android, select Upload to add documents
On iOS, click + and select files to add
On PC or MAC drag and drop documents, files
Right click on document to get options
See Help document preloaded in your Google drive

Tablet or phone

- Save spreadsheets, documents

- Make them available off line

- DropBox

 - Can do activities to get more space

 - Can purchase more space

 - Click on icon on right side to get options like view off line

Tablet or phone – Databases

- Download a current copy of your database for easy reference

- Legacy for apple or android, RootsMagic, GedStar for PC

- May load a gedcom or reference the program's data directly

- Master of database on laptop / desktop

- May be read only [RootsMagic, GedStar]

- May allow updates and synch with laptop / desktop [Legacy]

- May be free or small cost

Tablet or phone – Apple related

- Reunion app - <http://www.leisterpro.com/>

 - Can make updates either on tablet/phone or laptop

 - Synch to other device

- ReunionTouch for iPhone, iPad purchased via AppStore for small fee

- Legacy – available with features covered earlier

- iCloud

 - Can make documents to view without internet

On site

- Respect that workers have a job to do

- Make sure you follow the rules and leave a few minutes before closing time

- Ask for any copies to be made awhile before closing

- Even if want to keep working, tomorrow is another day even if tomorrow is on the next trip