

Why do I need to go on a “Road Trip” for my family research?

- Isn't everything I need online?
- At best guess there are about 17 billion genealogical records online for us to sink our teeth into
- However, that is just over 11% of the estimated 150 billion genealogical records available
- There is nothing like going to a location that your ancestors lived and died
- The family history you will get from just one trip to an ancestral home will be truly eye-opening and very heartwarming
- During your research efforts I am sure that at least 2 of your generations of ancestors lived, worked, played, and died in one geographical area
- Why not go there and walk in their footsteps?

Three Road Trips

- We will explore 3 different repositories and locations to plan for
- First will be the Family History Library in Salt Lake City
- Second will look at Ohio County, Kentucky
- Third, Bolton, Lancashire, England

Get Prepared

- What type of traveler are you?
- Do you like to fly? Drive? Take the train?
- Hotel?
- Last minute changes?
- What must you have in the way of traveling?
- Internet availability at where you are staying?
- Medical Insurance?
- Timing: What should I be concerned about when I get there?
 - The weather
 - Traffic
 - Your well being
- What are you going to take with you to record your findings?
 - Laptop Computer or Tablet
 - Digital Camera
 - Smartphone
 - Jump Drive
 - A lot of paper?

Saving Your Finds

- Make sure you have the ability to connect to the internet
- Hotel Wi-Fi
- Smartphone phone carrier
- What I do:
 - Download my digital images to my tablet from my smartphone, camera and jump drive
 - Organize it in folders on my tablet
 - Call up my home computer via “GoToMyPC.com” and upload all the findings for the day
 - My home computer backs up my hard drive every night at 10:50 PM, thus saving all my research

Other Options:

- The “Cloud”
- Dropbox
- Google Drive
- One Drive
- Evernote
- Etc.....

Family History Library

- Planning your research way ahead of time is CRITICAL
- You need to figure out who you are looking for?
- What family and/or individuals within that family?
- After you have decided on that, you need to find out what is available at the Family History Library for your research
- To do that, you need to go to the FamilySearch catalog

Research Logs

- Do a research log for each your trips
- Each research log will be different because each repository has different setups for their records
- The Family History Library has millions of records to choose from in books and microfilm
- Repository's like Ohio County Kentucky and Bolton England do things differently
- You have to find out what information is available at each location and construct your research log accordingly
- The research log for the Family History Library will not work in Bolton England
- Your planning for each trip will tell you what you need to have in the research log for each
- Good research logs help you:
 - Organize your research activity
 - Cite your sources
 - Sort out what has and has not been found
 - Organize and correlate copies of documents
 - Show your search strategies and questions
 - Reduce unwanted duplication of effort
- On my 2014 trip to the Family History Library, I did not want to take a lot of paper with me but I needed something to plan my research
- So I looked at all the existing research logs that are available to us on the internet
- I didn't like what was there so I took what I felt was the best of all of them and designed my own
- Link to Hal's research log: <http://www.occg.com/research/forms.html>
- When you are done with all the research log pages, print them
- I suggest double sided printing so the research log is not too thick
- Arrange the pages the way you want
- Add a few blank pages for notes and any other information that you might want at your finger tips
- Design a cover and include your name, the dates you are at the library, your cell phone number, and a line that says "If found, please call – Thank You"
- Take your almost completed research log to Staples and have them **spiral bind** your pages with a **clear plastic front** and a **black vinyl back**
- You now have a "Research Log Booklet" that you can take with you down the book shelves or down the rows of microfilm racks

While in Salt Lake City

- Plan your research time around the hours of the library
- Spend some time in the Temple Square area

Recommendations for Salt Lake City

- Stay at the Salt Lake Plaza Hotel
- Try to go with a group, at least the first time
- Take breaks during the day to stay fresh

Planning a Trip to Ohio County Kentucky

- Dates you are planning on being there?
- How are you going to get there?
- Research online records and get everything you possibly can on your ancestors in Ohio County
- After that, what do you want to accomplish once you get there?

Pre-planning your trip

- Google: Ohio County Kentucky
 - Look for information on the local history
- Generate a timeline of your ancestors in relation to their time in Ohio County:
 - When did they arrived in Ohio County
 - When and where they born, married and died

- Contact the local Genealogy and Historical Societies to find out what they have available and what might be of interest to you for your research goals
- Go to the Rootsweb Mail List for Ohio County Kentucky and join it
 - Why? So you can post a message about your trip
- Go to the Rootsweb Message Board for Ohio County Kentucky and look at the posted archives
- Google Ohio County KY
 - Wikipedia
 - FamilySearch Wiki

What I would do:

- Post on the Ohio County Message Board that I was planning a trip
- Tell them what I want to accomplish
- Who my ancestors are
- Ask for recommendations

Questions to Ask

- What records are available in the archives that are NOT online?
- What are the hours of the Historical Society?
- When are the Genealogy Society meetings?
- Remember, there are NO dumb questions.....
- After all your questions are answered, go walk in your ancestors footsteps.....

What You Might Find

- A cousin that is also into genealogy and can act as a tour guide
- A family cemetery
- A published biography, journal, or autobiography of an ancestor
- To name a few.....

On to Bolton, Lancashire, England.....

- Step one is to Google “Bolton Lancashire England Genealogy Society”
 - Join the local society
- Questions to Ask
 - Ask questions in the forum if they have one
 - Ask for advice
 - Tell them you are ‘coming across the pond’ because you have ancestors from Bolton
 - Ask for suggestions for where to stay, what to see, etc.
 - Don’t be shy
 - If you don’t find a ‘cousin’ you will certainly find a friend

Pre-planning

- Same information as listed in the Ohio County Kentucky section above

Summary

- Plan your trip well in advance
- Pre-planning your research activities is critical to success
- Get your research for the ancestors you are looking for up to date by finding everything online that is available
- “Timeline” your ancestors in the area
- Google is your best friend in finding out about the area that you are visiting
- Wikipedia for history
- FamilySearch Wiki for genealogy resources
- Google Earth to map out the addresses you want to visit
- Contact the local genealogical society and historical society
- Take your technology with you and make sure you have internet connection
- Find out what is available at the local repository and make a research log
- Go on the Rootsweb message board for the area
- Save your daily work to an offsite location, i.e. the cloud
- And, most importantly, have fun.....