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COLLECTIONS AND SERVICES LIBRARY ARCHIVES

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- I. Information about WHS collections
 - A. Library owns published materials from across the United States and Canada.
 - B. Collection of family and local histories started in the 1850s and always had a wide scope.
 - C. The Archives is the State Archives of Wisconsin so it owns governmental collections deposited with us from various state and local agencies. You'll also find a massive amount of manuscript collections.
 - D. Map collection in Archives is international in scope.
 - E. Location is on the UW Madison campus. We have access to a variety of online materials because we are on this campus. <http://library.wisc.edu>

- II. Prepare before you arrive.
 - A. Choose which family lines you will research on the trip. Choose more than 1.
 - B. Organize what you already have found. Read it all over before you come.
 - C. Create a research plan. Make a list of "basic" genealogical records to locate. (Vital Records, Censuses, Newspapers)
 - D. Write out the more problematic records to locate.
 - i. Military
 - ii. Land
 - iii. Immigration (passenger lists and citizenship papers)
 - iv. Court, etc.
 - E. Look at online resources before you come. Print out entries from catalogs/websites.
 - i. Online Catalog (Library and Archives are now in 1 catalog)
 - ii. Online Digital Collections (www.wisconsinhistory.org)
 - iii. Online Indexes (www.deathindexes.com)
 - iv. Ancestry (Library Edition)
 - v. FamilySearch.org (digital collections, books, film to order)
 - vi. www.findagrave.com

- III. What should you bring to Madison on your trip?
 - A. Pencils and pens.
 - B. Flash drive, digital camera, scanner
 - C. You will need to use a credit card to add money to our new copy card.
 - D. Notebook (not lots of scratch paper).
 - E. Printouts of family group sheets, pedigree charts and timelines
 - F. Lists of records to find and questions to ask.
 - G. Printouts from online catalogs and indexes.
 - H. Your logins and passwords for sites like FamilySearch.org or Ancestry.com

- IV. One Online Catalog (found under Research Your Family History at www.wisconsinhistory.org)
 - A. Archives
 - i. Unpublished materials, Manuscripts, public records, photos, maps, etc.
 - ii. Search by location (town, county, state in separate searches to find records based on those 3 different authors) and the type of record.
 - B. Library
 - i. Published materials, but exceptions exist
 - ii. Location search; Surname family; Surname genealogy

- V. WWW.WISCONSINHISTORY.ORG
 - A. Research Your Family History (blue button on www.wisconsinhistory.org)
 - i. Name index covers many resources (pre-1907 vital records, property records, obituaries, biographical sketches)
 - ii. Only indexes some collections. Still need to look through newspapers, etc.
 - B. Wisconsin Historical Images (from the front page of www.wisconsinhistory.org)
 - C. Roster of Wisconsin Volunteers (look at Wisconsin in the Civil War)

- VI. Strategies to make the most out of your trip to WHS.
 - A. Consultation with Lori Bessler (phone or in person)
 - B. Interlibrary Loan (newspapers)
 - C. ARC Network Archivists
 - D. Online digital collections

- VII. What is left to find at WHS in Madison?
 - A. Online subscriptions (Fold3 and American Ancestors)
 - B. Vital Records (Actual records for Pre-1907. Cannot scan yet. Must print (25 cents per page).
 - C. Family and Local Histories (not online if still under copyright)
 - D. Maps (Sanborn maps, atlases, plat maps) (not available through ARC network)
 - E. City Directories (check Ancestry and Fold3 websites)
 - F. Censuses (special schedules not yet complete on Ancestry) (Agricultural, Mortality, Industrial)
 - F. Genealogical and Historical materials for all other states and Canada.