

Tar Heel Travelers: Primary Sources of North Carolinians Traveling Abroad

General Overview

The teens and 20s were a time of great travel in the United States. People often took voyages that lasted for months and many left diaries and journals chronicling their journeys. North Carolina has had its share of word travelers and many of them have left details about their journeys. In the North Carolina State Archives are journals, itineraries, mementos, and photographs of the travels of many of our state's residents.

Lesson Objectives

Students will be able to

- Place the opportunities for grand voyages in the historical context of the Gilded Age.
- Compare the current costs of such journeys with the historical costs.
- Think about and discuss their travel aspirations.
- Discuss subjects that can be learned from travel accounts.
- Become aware of the importance of archival collections.

Preparation

Students should read and study the materials provided.

Activities

- Discuss what we can learn from travel diaries and journals. Why is it important to save such documents?
- Discuss the reasons people travel. Have the students write about their own travel aspirations.
- Discuss the Gilded Age and why that period was one in which many people could travel.
- Study vintage luggage labels on the web (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/wavesjax/>). Have students design a luggage tag for somewhere they want to go or have been.
- Create a Top 10 List of places they want to travel or sights they want to see.

Enrichment and Extension

- Talk to a travel agent about how the travel industry has changed.
- On your next trip, pick topics of interest to you, such as architecture, cemeteries or fashion, and notice and write about them during your travels.
- Read Clarence Poe's journal and create an illustrated timeline of his trip.

Sources

See the attached bibliography and NCSA collections chart



Courtesy of the State Archives of North Carolina

Travel Activities

- Create a Top 10 List of places they want to travel or sites they want to see
- Study the great ocean liners either through books or websites and write a biography of one of them. (See bibliography)
- Choose a major city that is a favorite tourist destination and investigate the tourist “must-sees”
- Do a search on the web for diaries of past people who have visited North Carolina. Many of them have been published. Read one of your choice and discuss their opinions of our state at that time?
- Create a luggage label for a favorite destination of yours.
- Read the travel writings of a great author, such as Mark Twain, Charles Dickens, Jack Kerouac, Robert Louis Stevenson or James Percy Shelley.
- Read the travel quotes provided. Pick one and write an essay about what that quote means to you.
- Read Hobson Pittman’s itinerary for his 1966 trip to the Orient. Plot his route on a map. With a travel agent’s or website’s help determine what that trip would cost today.

Collections Containing Travel Diaries and Information

Name of Collection	Collection Number	Dates of Travel	Countries Visited	Contents of Collection
W. Vance Brown	PC 121	Early 1800s	Australia, New Zealand	Journals of farm in New Zealand
Aaron Burtis Hunter	PC 142	1899-1923	Europe	Journals with ephemera
John J. Blair	PC 249	1920s	Around the world	Letters
Thomas M. Pittman	PC 123	1888	Europe	Diary of Eliza Pittman
Willis G. Briggs	PC 355	1901-1902	Lucerne, Munich	Letters
Gertrude Weil	PC 1488	Many trips, late 1800s, early 1900s	numerous	Diaries, ephemera, activity, correspondence
Hobson Pittman	PC 1620	1928	Europe	Diary, itinerary, Postcards, Hobson Pittman image
Zebulon Baird Vance	PC 15	1870s	Europe	Diary
Gales Papers	PC 146	1794-1795	Germany to America	Diary
Siamese Twins	PC 916	1868-1869	England and Scotland	Typed copies of diary and letter
Franz Ludwig Michel Diary	PC 1267	1701-1702	Switzerland to NC	Diary
Rose O'Neal Greenhow	PC 1226	1863-1864	England and France	Diary
Clarence H. Poe Papers	PC 256	1910-1911	Around the world	Diary

As time permits we will be adding these items to our digital collections at that time we will add direct links to the documents and images, please check back often.

Travel Quotes

Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take but by the places and moments that take our breath away.

Anonymous

Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts.

Mark Twain

Keeping to the main road is easy, but people love to be sidetracked.

Lao Tzu

The world is a book, and those who do not travel, read only a page.

St. Augustine

It is better to travel alone than with a bad companion.

African Proverb

Be the change you want to see in the world.

Mahatma Ghandi

It's better to travel well than to arrive.

Buddha

The traveler is wiser than he who has never left his own doorstep.

Margaret Mead

I never travel without my diary. One should always have something sensational to read in the train.

Oscar Wilde

For my part, I travel not to go anywhere, but to go. I travel for travel's sake.

Robert Louis Stevenson

The journey not the arrival matters.

T. S. Eliot

The wise man travels to discover himself.



James Russell Lowell

He who returns from a journey is not the same as he who left.

Chinese proverb

Take only memories. Leave nothing but footprints.

Chief Seattle

Our happiest moments as tourists always seem to come as we stumble upon one thing while in pursuit of something else.

Lawrence Block

If you come to a fork in the road, take it.

Yogi Berra

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www.lostliners.com

www.kinshipsprints.com



STATE ARCHIVES
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109 E. Jones Street Raleigh, NC 27601 -- Email: archives@ncdcr.gov -- www.ncdcr.gov/archives -- Phone:

www.greatoceanliners.net

www.travelhistory.org

www.gerty.ncl.ac.uk/

www.mathphysics.com/meg/trav/1965%20World%20Tour.pdf

www.pagina.netc.pt/%7End24322a/index.html

www.louisvuitton.com

www.intute.ac.uk/socialsciences/cgi-bin/browse.pl?id=114467

Courtesy of the State Archives of North Carolina