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 currents 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

![Postcard Image](image)

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

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

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
Bibliography


www.lostliners.com
www.kinshipsprints.com
www.greatoceanliners.net
www.travelhistory.org
www.gerty.ncl.ac.uk/
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