Research Plans & Reunion

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What are we covering?
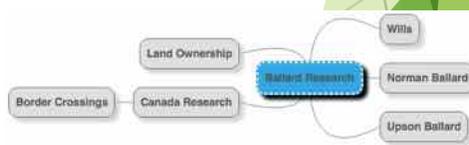
▶ Why a research plan?

▶ Mindmapping

▶ Creating the plan

▶ Transferring the mind map

▶ Using the research plan in Reunion

Why a research plan?

▶ Searching vs. Researching

▶ Tracking results

▶ No duplication of work

▶ Creates focus for your work

▶ Helps define an exhaustive search

▶ Helps with genealogical proof standard (GPS)

Why Mind mapping

▶ Brainstorming

▶ Generating ideas for where to look

▶ Easy visualization

▶ Sparks other ideas

▶ Easy way to jot down all ideas

▶ Online options

▶ Offline options

▶ Free options

Generating the plan

- ▶ What question to ask?
  - ▶ Broad questions
  - ▶ Specific questions
- ▶ What is known
- ▶ Where to look for information
  - ▶ Online/Offline
  - ▶ Local/Remote
  - ▶ Detailed plan

Who were his parents?

What's his birthdate?

Where was he born?

What were JU Ballards parents' names?

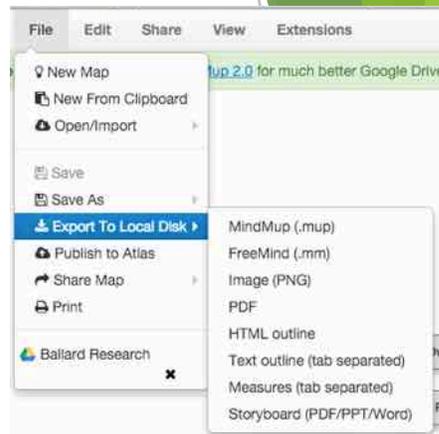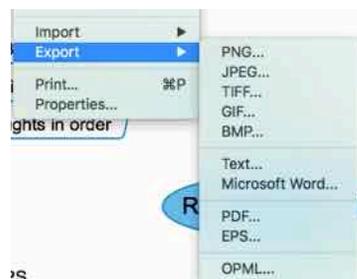# Define where to look for information - Online

- ▶ Ancestry
- ▶ FamilySearch
- ▶ My Heritage
- ▶ Find My Past
- ▶ Fold3
- ▶ Define what sites you need to visit based on question – grave websites? County websites? Land websites?
- ▶ Document your sources!

Define where to look for more information

- Local resources/repositories
  - Hours/Access
  - Camera/Scanning capabilities
  - Document your sources!
- Remote resources
  - E-mailing/Website
  - Writing/Calling
  - Patience & waiting for a response

Transferring the Mindmap

- Exporting options
  - Check the program – what files can you export to?
  - BMP, GIF, HTML, JPEG, PDF, PNG, TIFF
  - Text, Word, PPT
  - Excel, MS Project

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Using it in Reunion

- ▶ Adding it to logs
  - ▶ Use when exporting the research plan to text
  - ▶ Generate a plan per question
  - ▶ Copy & paste into Reunion
  - ▶ Use a Calendar program to setup reminders
    - ▶ Follow-up on research requests
    - ▶ Gmail, iCal, Outlook
  - ▶ Document who you contacted and when
  - ▶ Document when to follow-up
  - ▶ Document your sources!

Using it in Reunion

- ▶ Adding it to notes
  - ▶ Notes are on a per person or per family basis
  - ▶ Add completed research to each person
  - ▶ Make sure to document sources!
  - ▶ Document what was found and transcribe as needed
  - ▶ Once plan is complete – review added information, did it answer the question?

More Info

- Mindmaps Online
  - Mindmup – http://www.mindmup.com
  - Popplet – http://www.popplet.com
- Mindmap software
  - AppStore - iMindMap
  - Novamind
- Books
  - Tony Buzan – Mindmapping