

A new approach! We take two journeys with the author: first we travel from Broken Bow, Nebraska eastward to Erie County, New York by car; second we travel in the dimension of time from the present backward to the early 1800s. We accompany the author on a research trip to discover more about his ancestors. We will research Ebenezer and Aurilla M. Wait Luther and their descendants who made the trek westward. Just as they traveled westward, we travel eastward in search of family history.

We begin in Custer County, Nebraska. We travel through Saline County, Nebraska, across Iowa to stop in Warren County, Illinois, northward skirting Chicago and then east to Crawford County, Pennsylvania, ending finally in Erie County, New York. Along the way are stops to search cemeteries, stops to search genealogical records in courthouses, stops at genealogical libraries, and stops to soak up local atmosphere just as did his ancestors.

As we travel the interstate from location to location, we read the thoughts of the author concerning his ancestors and their role in the community. We also read of his thoughts of the interstate highway system, genealogical libraries, persons he meets, places he sees, and what he learns as he travels backward in time. He expresses exactly what this reviewer and probably many others have often subconsciously thought about that resource, "the county history." He discusses most of the things we all learn in a beginning genealogy class, that county records are sometimes available but sometimes not, that often the census index is incorrect making surname research a challenge, that records are not always legible, and that sometimes persons just are not where we expect them to be.

This is a wonderfully readable book. We learn about the authors ancestors and how to research at a variety of locations without even trying.. We spend much time philosophizing as well. This book seems almost an adventure to discover one's past rather than a genealogy. Even readers with no descendants of this family will enjoy an evening with this well written journal.

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