

SLC#1

Vera Wimberly

## SO, YOU WANT TO GO TO SLC

By

Mehitable Higginbotham

Well, howdy, there. A group of them-air genealogists done asked me what I thought about going to SLC to research in the Mormon Family History Library. I guess they knewed that I had been out there a time or two, ever year, for 16 years! If'n anybody wants to know about SLC - they done come to the right place - for answers, that is!

They is a number of topics I'd like to chat with you bout, but you have to be down right serious about going to SLC. I don't have no time to chit-chat, if'n you ain't agonna listen and do what I say do!

Okay, let's get started... best time to go....

"Er-a, Mam, you can't bring that youngun in this here liberry. They just ain't allowed in the genealogy department. Well, I don't know why....they just ain't." Some people!

Now, back to the topic at hand. What was it? Oh, yes, we wuz bout to talk about the time of year to go to SLC. The summer months is absolutely the worst. It's vacation time. Kids is out of school. People done flock to SLC cause it is the only time many persons can go, and believe me, kids, even babies, are welcome in the Family History Library. Will have to say a word about them kids though, they is the best behaved and less noisy kids I ever been round. But it is still crowded.

How long you plan to stay? Not less than a week. Hardly worth the trip out there if'n you don't stay at least a week. The liberry is open at 7:30 a.m. every morning and closes at 10:00 p.m. except on Monday & Saturday, when they close at 5:00 p.m. Monday night is family night, and Saturday night is getting ready for Sunday worship.

The winter months is the berries. After October 15 and before May 1<sup>st</sup>, it is

less crowded. Hotel rates is cheaper. It's cold but you ain't gonna be out in the weather anyways. We'll talk about the hotel in a minute, but I never left the hotel til the liberry opened. At that time of the year, never had any problems getting one of them reader machines. You know them machines that you can read them micro-films on - cause just everything out there is on microfilm. They done been in ever court house in the country and filmed their records. You can sit there on a reader with them films and research a half dozen counties in just no time atall. To go to each court house you might research, would take you days and days and days. Not to mention gettin' there at closing time, or for some reason they was closed to celebrate pea-pickin' time or somethin. Give me SLC ever time!

The traffic at the liberry usually picks up during the day, but is still less crowded. When you get your head in one of them readers, you don't know what is goin' on around you anyways.

Hotels? Okay. SLC is done full of all kinds of them places to hang your hats, but the one you want to try to stay in is the hotel in the same block as the liberry. Best Western. With this one, you go out the back door of the hotel and into the front door of the liberry. Never paced it, but would guess they're not more than 100 paces apart. The most important thing is to make reservations - at least 6 months ahead. The street rooms [fourth floor or higher - it's quieter] is the best ...bigger, two lavatories, and you can have a refrigerator if'n you want it. They also have smoke free floors. They done give a genealogical rate if'n you ask for it. And don't forget that Senior Citizen Discount if'n you is one.

As soon as you done decided the date you want to be there, make your airplane reservations. To get the best fares, you have to make these at least two weeks in advance anyways. Just don't forget to re-confirm hotel & plane reservations about a week before time to leave. To hold the hotel room for a late arrival, give them one of them credit card numbers. I always do it anyway. That way, they have to hold the room until they hear from you that you ain't agonna make it. It is really most dis-concerting to arrive at the hotel and find they done gave your room away because they didn't have one of them credit card numbers. Don't make no never mind that it was not your fault you didn't get there before six o'clock, they don't care if the plane was late, they lost your luggage, the taxi had a flat, somebody gave you wrong directions.... Just give 'em a credit card.

Speaking of luggage.....I never ever put my genealogical records in my check through luggage. I carry it on the plane with me. They can lose my clothes, but it would be down right inconvenient for them to lose my genealogical records. If clothes should get lost, they's a department store right near where you can pick up needed pieces of clothing. They's also a neat washer/dryer room in the hotel. But they ain't no place to replace your genealogical records you need to search for whoever your lookin' for to add another limb on the family tree. Or to prove out something your Aunt Hezzie done told you bout.

We're still planning our trip. Well, I, personally, like to arrive in SLC on a Wednesday on an early morning flight. This gives you almost a full day to spend at the library. By goin' in the middle of the week, you have time on Sunday to recoup and see where it is you are and where it is you want to go, research wise. Sunday is the day you done get rejuvenated and do whatever sight seeing you plan to do. Take a walk across the street to Temple Square. It's always colorful, summer or winter. Please do take the time on Thursday evening to go hear that there Tabernacle Choir practice. They's sumthin' else again.

The full week done ends on Wednesday night, so plan to take the morning flight out of SLC on Thursday a.m. that way, you won't be arriving at midnight at some airport. Sometimes, even though kin folks loves you, they might not want to pick you up at such a ungodly hour.

Can I say somethin' about goin' out there with a bunch of people to do research? The most important thing to know is that **YOU NEED TO DO YOUR OWN THING**. Time is precious out there. By the time you wait for a bunch of people to gather for lunch or anything else, you done wasted precious research time. You always have a roommate [cheaper that way], make it the buddy system. Let someone know where you are at all times. If you dash back to the room to get a notebook, let your buddy know. Don't waste time looking for her, a note on her reader will be enough.

Now that you have decided when you're goin', how you gonna get there, and made your reservations, I'm gonna tell you in the next installment about clothes, food, booze, and yes, even money to take. In the meantime, get busy and do your home work. Don't save somethin to do out there that you can do right here in your own local liberry. To be continued.....