

SLC#3

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SO, YOU WANT TO GO TO SLC?

By
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Wanna tell you a funny story but have to give you a little back ground first. In SLC, all liquor stores is state owned and sometimes hard to find. The only place they sell booze in the hotel is the gift shop [not the bar] and that's in them little bitty airplane sized bottles and can get right down expensive - if'n you is gonna have a party. If you pack booze in your suitcase, be prepared for it to break. If'n you carry in on the plane, it has to be in an unopened bottle. People done tole me bout this, I don't imbibe atall!

Here comes the funny story. Well, I laughed. A friend of mine done packed a bottle of gin and a jar of instant coffee in her suitcase. Guess what. Both broke in flight! She spent all her first night there washing her clothes! She sure learned not to pack breakable containers of any kind in soft-sided suitcases!

The people in SLC are very health conscious people. They jest ain't gonna put nothin' in their bodies that they think might be harmful, like coffee, carbonated soda-waters, and specially the hard stuff. So, you finds these things scarce or not atall. You need to know that you can't just go in anywhere, belly up to the bar, and order any of them things. When in Rome....

Promised to talk about money. Well, here goes. Copies is so cheap, you'll find yourself Xeroxing everthang in site, or making copies of jest everthang cause it saves time. Unless they done gone to the card thing, all you'll need is nickels and dimes. That is, unless they done gone up on their costs. A supply of \$1.00 bills is sufficient. They got money changin' machines everwheres, both \$1.00 & \$5.00. Don't get caught tryin' to carry rolls of coins...they's heavy and sometimes don't get through the Security gates at the airport.

As far as money for meals, guess that depends on where and what you want to eat - but prices in SLC is comparable with anywheres else. Don't forget them "back at the room instant meals." They's the best, after all. Cheaper too. Traveler's checks is always welcome - anywheres. They's safer too. Think bout it!

Odds and ends you might not even think about. Take a supply of pencils and pens. You can use pens out there in their liberry. If you rather use pencils, take a little pencil sharpener. Saves time in hunting down the sharpener at the liberry. 3 x 5 index cards come in handy. Or make yourself a research log that you can put right in your family note book. Make a note of all films looked at and results. Be sure to jot down the entire call number & film number, so the next time you go you won't waste time re-reading the same films. That goes for any books you happen to look at too.

Take a good notebook. A knee-pad note-pad that has the three-ring holes already punched is good to take along. When you return home, you can place these notes directly into your family notebooks. Hint: Do not put notes on but one family at a time on a page. If you put more than one, you'll spend a lot of time making copies so you can put them in their proper places.

Forms. They's all kinds of forms - for just everthing. When a form couldn't be found to follow when abstractin' stuff from microfilm, one was created. Know that the SLC has a great many different forms, especially the census record forms. The price was 1 cent apiece, so it is cheaper to buy them out there. Even if they was double that price, would still be cheaper. Not a big deal. But all that paper adds up and will add weight to what you pack.

One more thang about the liberry. Them readers. Even though they is over 200 readers there, one may be hard to find, depending on the time of the year you decided to go. You'll eventually find a machine that you really like. It is also important where the reader is done located. You want to be close to where the film is stored so you can get them easily. The old machines with the big reeler-uppers are much easier to use. Sometimes you have to reel a long ways to get where you want to be. Just because you done left your note book at the reader you are using, don't assume it has your name on it, and it is yours for the day. When it is crowded, anyone may move in on you and take over your reader, if you are not there to protect it. How rude! It is done all the time. One way to get around that is to leave

a roll on film on the reader. They're not apt to bother your reader if it has a roll of film on it. Too much trouble to rewind it, I guess, but it works. It's ok to leave your work papers at your machine. They won't be bothered. Nobody wants nobody else's work papers. Just don't leave any valuables, like portable typewriters, laptop computers, billfolds, pens, etc. Pack 'em up and take 'em with you or just leave them at the hotel. Just remember what I done tole you - don't take nuthin' you is gonna worry bout.

A three-ring binder with all family records you need to help you find what it is that you wanta find is really all the family records you need to take. There is room at the reader station to open a binder and it will lay flat, where some other 'folders' do not work well. Don't take no original documents. Those can't be replaced. Don't take no more than two or three families' records that you will need to work on at one time. You want to exhaust every possible record that may be in a county for your ancestor. At your finger tips you will find wills, deeds, marriages, military records, census, probates & estate settlements.

Hint: About every 10 to 15 minutes they give a short tour of the FHL. Take time to take this tour, especially if it is your first time out there. They'll show you all the important parts that will help you do your research. They do have some rules that you certainly will want to obey.

Well, you have enough info to begin to start to pack and think about what it is that you want to go to SLC for. Next issue, the subject of what to do in the way of research before you actually climb on that plane for the FHL will be discussed. If you are prepared, and your homework done, you will have a more successful research genealogy trip. You won't feel like a chicken outta water.

You've also had a smidgen of knowledge re: FHL, so next talk will relate jest what needs to be done to get your records in order to go. What records to consult, etc. Should be a ball - don't forget to come.

To be continued.....