

SLC#2

Vera Wimberly

## SO, YOU WANT TO GO TO SLC?

By

Mehitable Higginbotham

Well, howdy there. Glad to see yawl returned for further chit-chats about the Family History Library [FHL] and doin' research on your family tree out there. You know if'n you want to go somewhere to research the basic source records, you got a choice of two places: the county courthouse where the event actually occurred or to SLC. Choose SLC because FHL done have all the county records all over this United States, and some foreign countries, on film. They are films of the actual books you would be lookin' at if'n you went to the court house in question. In SLC you can research as many different counties in a day that would take a week to travel to all them county courthouses.

Their liberry proper is highly stocked with all kinds of printed abstractions of county records. I'd rather look at the original record if'n I could - that's why I try to keep my research to the films. If a mistake should be made in abstracting the original records, then I want it to be me. I just hate it when I pick up somebody else's mistake. That's why the original record should be consulted anyways. Most of the original records are in the county clerk's handwriting, which sometimes is worse than mine, but at least I get a stab at trying to decipher the name or heir, or who done got what. If you're having troubles trying to decipher a film, you can take it to the film copier room, make a copy of it and take it home to study. You always want to make a copy of any proof you find anyways to take home.

Oh, I forgot to mention that there's over 200 volunteers in the liberry just waitin' for somebody to ask them for help. Many of them is bilingual [they done speak more than one language] and chances are you may find someone who can interpret the film whether it is in a foreign language or not. Just remember that these volunteers don't think there are any stupid questions. And if one can't answer your question, they'll find someone who can. So feel free to seek help.

Well, I done digressed.... You've decided when you are going, where you

are going to stay, and reservations have done been made. Now let's get down to the nitty-gritty.

Whatcha gonna pack? Pack very light. Don't take nothing you think you might not use. You ain't goin' out there to impress nobody. Take comfortable clothes. Nobody is payin' you any no mind anyways. You'll see ever mode of dress out there. Wear a skirt or suit for travel and nice, but take slacks for comfort - why they's even wearing blue jeans everwheres nowadays. Skirts or pants with nice deep pockets that you can put your billfold or whatever you need without taking your purse to the library is a real asset. Matter of fact. Don't take nothing you gonna have to worry about leaving - even in the room. You know, like extra jewelry or stuff like that.

**DON'T EVER LEAVE YOUR PURSE UNATTENDED** - anywheres. You don't ever put your purse down and leave it at your reader. Chances are it won't be there when you get back. And don't ask your friend or neighbor to watch your purse. They have their heads stuck in a reader and it is not fair to 'em. Invest in one of them fanny packs, but don't ever wear it on your fanny. Put it on your front side. That way you don't have to worry about your valuables when you need to go to eat, back to the room for more papers, or to get more film. On top of that you are being nice to your neighbors.

Let's talk about personal or private possessions. Just take a change of clothes for three days. There is plenty of time to wash out items you might need at night after your shower, or on the weekend. Makeup, toothpaste, toothbrush, etc. are all those daily personal needs you will automatically pack.

Don't forget your medicines. It's extremely difficult to get a refill without the doctor's original prescription. Over the counter medicines such as aspirin can be purchased in the hotel gift shop. Which by the way is a very interesting place. You'd be surprised what you might find there to take to the kids back home.

Regardless of the time of the year you go, it is always cold in the liberry, so be prepared with a sweater or light jacket. You'll be miserable trying to read film and rub the goose pimples off'n your arms. Besides that, it is harder to concentrate when you ain't comfortable.

A topcoat or raincoat is always necessary - any time of the year. Even though hopefully you were able to get reservations at the hotel next door, you never know when a rainshower might come up and you could get cold - even in May.

Tuck in a light weight carry-all to take to the liberry. Somethin' that will carry what records you need to help you to know what it is that you are out there doing research for, and your folding umbrella.

Don't forget your walking or comfortable shoes. You'll do a ton of walking, even though your hotel is, hopefully, very near, you will do considerable walking in the library itself and for meals. If someone tells you where you want to go is only a couple of blocks away, be prepared for a good walk. It just takes 7 blocks to make a mile in SLC and it is all uphill.

Let's talk about food for a minute. Are you going to SLC to eat? You can do that at home. Eating takes away research time. Tuck in an electric coil to heat water for instant coffee or instant oatmeal or any other instant food. Even instant soup back at the room saves a little time. Don't forget to tuck in a cup, spoon, sugar for all those instant meals. You ain't got to wait for waiters, or tables. You can pick up crackers at the gift shop, as well as a candy bar for dessert. Plan to eat one good balanced meal a day, either before or after the noon crowds. There is the hotel restaurant, but there are others pretty close around. They do have a snack room in the liberry where you can get vending machine sandwiches and a variety of salads, etc. and a microwave where you can heat different things. It is usually pretty crowded, so if you are going to use it, go early. Later does not leave much of a choice.

You will not find a grocery store near the hotel or liberry. In the ZMI mall, 2 & ½ blocks away, there is a grocer of sorts where you can get fresh fruit, bread, peanut butter, etc. They close every day at 6:00 p.m. so you have to plan your shopping early.

Well, shootman, I ain't near told you everything yet, but done run out of space and time for this issue. Next time I'll talk about booze, carbonated drinks and coffee, money and how to be prepared to research once you get there.

To be continued.....