

SLC#4

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## SO, YOU WANT TO GO TO SLC?

By  
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Well, Howdy! Sure is heart warming to see all yore familiar faces come again to hear about the Family History Library [FHL] in Salt Lake City [SLC]. Know you is gettin' itchy and anxious to get going so you can find them illusive records that will prove just how your ancestors is connected. So, let's get goin'.

Now. It is absolutely necessary for you to have done your homework and know what it is that you want to find out before you go to SLC !!! Again, don't save nuthin' to do out there that you can do at home or at your local liberry. Your generation chart jest will not automatically fill up cause you walk through the door of the FHL, and ain't nobody gonna get down the book and tell you who your ancestors is. You'll have to dig for ever fact and proof and documentation you want - BUT you must know what it is you're alookin' for and where you expect to find it. What state? What county? What record? Well, you may not know where to go, but you know where you been, so start there.

Any volunteer can take your generation chart and tell you where the best place would be to check for further records on your ancestors. So, the first thing you need to do is prepare a good generation chart with all the info you now have at hand. You might try this trick: Put everthang on the chart in pencil til you have proven it, then put it in ink. That way, with one look at your chart, you'll know what you need to prove and what has been proven. That is where you'll begin to work.

You members who is lucky to be close enough to the Montgomery County Memorial Library in Conroe, has most all the indexes, lists, or catalogs that they has in SLC either on microfilm, microfiche, or computer in the Genealogy Department.

Others may find an LDS Branch right near you. Use it.

When you mention Ancestral File, IGI, & FamilySearch, most all of you have done used them either at the Branch LDS library or the main Montgomery Co. Memorial Library, Genealogy Department, or at home on your own computer. Gather as much material as you can from these sources, including the FHL catalog. That will tell you if they have the particular records you want to see on hand, or if'n you should plan to work on some other family. And don't forget to write down all them Dewey call numbers & all them film numbers. You ain't gonna get nowhere without 'em. That way when you get to SLC you can hit the ground runnin'. You don't have to first find numbers so you can fetch film or books.

The Ancestral File. This file has been created from pedigree charts and family group records submitted by LDS Church members and others since Jul 1979. Just a word of caution. The info in this collection ain't never been verified by the FHL. Some may contain inaccurate or incomplete info - but they will give you a name of the submitter who you might contact for further info. It's not necessary for the LDS member to prove relationships and sometimes dates and places is done guessed at.

The IGI: The International Genealogical Index. Here again, use only as clues.

The Original Documents [ Courthouse records]. THIS IS THE MAIN REASON FOR GOING TO SLC. Housed in the liberry are absolutely millions of rolls of films. All County records. While many of the Genealogy Societies are putting their county records online, they's only abstracts or indexes. Even if you find an abstract, you jest must look at the original record. So, why not go to the horse's mouth to begin with! Don't be lulled into thinking that you can find on internet all the county records that are on film at SLC. It just ain't so!

FYI. These rolls of film is so valuable, the original is kept in climate controlled vaults in a mountain near SLC. If a film is lost and can't be located, they have a copy for you within hours.

The Genealogy Library Catalog [GLC ]- Locality section is now on computer. You can copy down the call numbers or you can make copies of the different pages you think you might need.

Though there's all them volunteers just dyin' to help you, ain't none of them gonna do your research for you. If you need professional help, they can give you names to contact.

Good-to-know-stuff: You may take five rolls of film at one time to your reader. You fetch your own film and you're responsible for refileing this film. If you find somethang on a film you wish to have a picture of - take the film off the reader (right where the record is) and take it to one of them copy rooms. There'll always be somebody to help you if you have a problem with the copy machines. Be sure to refile your film in the proper box and refile your film when finished. Numbers on the film correspond with the numbers on the box. Sometimes you might find a wrong film in the box - take both to the copy window and they'll get it straightened out.

Most all of the county-filmed records have indexes. Remember these are actual pictures of the court house books they done got entered in. The index may be at the beginning of the film, in the middle, or sometimes the end. You just have to look til you find it and remember each county is different. You jest don't have time to read unindexed records. The Court Minutes are almost never indexed. They contain some really neat stuff. But you jest have to save them for a day when you ain't got nuthin' else to do. Keep a note of the film numbers.

Do plan to spend some time in the Book Section of the FHL. Check the catalog for call numbers. Books are shelved by states, and most times counties are together, but not designated as such. You are free to browse. If you find pages you wish to copy, they ask you not to Xerox more than 5 pages at a time if they's others waiting. Hint: Do not wait until the end of the day to do your copying. They may close up on you before it's your turn at the copy machine and you still don't have copies. Hope you've made a note of those pages, the name of the book, etc, if that should happen to you, you can always order them through the mail. It'll cost you postage with cost of copies, but they are really prompt in answering mail requests.

Well, my friends, I hope you are eager to do your thang and gettin' ready to go work in the best place in the world for studying County source records. I wish you well.

**NOW YOU KNOW HOW TO DO IT - GO DO IT AND HAVE FUN!!**