

# MUSEUM TOUR SCRIPT UPDATED

## 1/1/2020

### ROOM 1/LOBBY

- The MCQUARRIE DUP MUSEUM BUILT IN 1938 was a gift from Hortense McQuarrie Odlum, a granddaughter of an early mayor of St. George, to the Daughters of Utah Pioneers of Washington County. The portrait of Mrs. Odlum, in Room 7, was painted especially for us by a famous portrait artist in New York City. At the time of the Museum's dedication, a painting of George Washington was given by her sister, Ann. It is a copy of a Gilbert Stuart work. This painting is hanging along the stairs from Room 6. Many choice heirlooms were given by the family members at the time of the dedication of the building in 1938 and several are on display in Room 7. The cost of the original building was \$17,500. An addition to the building was made in 1985 at the cost of \$93,000. This was supported by Ferol McQuarrie Kincade Moore, cousin to Hortense in honor of her parents, her ancestors and ALL THE DIXIE PIONEERS. The portrait of Ferol is in Room 7. There are written histories on both women available to read in Room 7.
- See the hand-carved CANES or walking sticks from different parts of the country. Many of them show the name of the owner.
- The MAP of St. George shows the location of the original settlers. The town of St. George was chartered on January 17, 1862 and was surveyed in 1862 before settlers could move onto their lots. The usual pioneer style way to assigning lots was to place the number of the lots on one piece of paper, and the name of each male over 18 on another piece of paper, put them in a hat, and draw. After the drawing, most were perfectly satisfied; others traded among themselves. A list of names is below the map. A copy of the map and list can be purchased.

### ROOM 2

- Notice the Dark Wood SECRETARY full of old books and journals.
- 3 White WILLOW CHAIRS were used by the 1<sup>st</sup> Presidency of the St. George Temple. They are made of river willow. Because there were so

few trees in the valley, river willow was used for furniture and even for fencing. The wood was soaked, steamed and bent to shape then then painted.

- The case of SHOES has many examples of shoe worn by early settlers, many of the shoes were made by the local shoemakers. Notice the Velvet Shoes made by James Samuel Page Bowler for his wife, Matilda Hill Bowler.
- There are 3 separate LANTERNS – policeman, miner, home. See if you can tell the differences.
- A unique instrument is the ORCHESTRONE. It is pedaled and sounds like an organ but has rollers like a player piano. It was used in the Harrison House at Silver Reef. When the mine closed, Robert Lund purchased it and brought it to St. George.
- Notice the many PHOTOS. The photo of the men in the Penitentiary can raise some questions.

### ROOM 3

1. is called the BRIGHAM YOUNG ROOM because the “huge” bed (#1128) and wardrobe (#1136) were built for him and they were in his home when he lived in St. George during the construction of the LDS Temple. Wardrobes were used at that period because closets could be taxed as a room. The bed has metal springs, a feather tick, and a straw mattress. If the weather was warm you slept on top of the feather tick. If it was cold you used it as a blanket. The straw would be replaced as needed and as fresh straw was available. The pillow slips were embroidered as were the lovely pillow sham which were put on to look pretty during the daytime and at night removed and folded neatly until morning. The Bedspread had crocheted edging made in the 1860 era with a pattern popular then.
- The CARPET was made by on the loom we will see in Room 4. Each spring the carpet would be taken up, the dirt whipped out of it, and then laid down again on a fresh pad of straw.

- The CHAIR was brought from London by Orson Pratt and given to Brigham Young.
- The old CRADLE (#1122) was found in a chicken coop. It was in terrible shape. In the bottle are some of the square nails that were taken from the cradle when it was refinished. Mae McAllister made the little mattress, quilt and pillow. The DOLL was donated by a lady from California.
- The SHOW CASE (#1135) was built to preserve uniforms worn by Erastus Snow who was a member of the Nauvoo Legion and the Utah Militia. Almost hidden on the left side is Erastus Snow's Nauvoo Legion Officer SWORD (#1139). Next to that is his Nauvoo Legion uniform and gold sash and eagle buttons. Next are: his Utah Militia uniform (beehive buttons), topcoat and cane. His top hat and belt-sword strap are on the bottom of the case

## ROOM 4

- CLOCK HANDS (#1334) This is a replica of the original Tabernacle clock face. It was painted on the wall by Priscilla Cannon. The numbers were painted by Walter Pace. The wooden hands are the original hands from the Tabernacle clock and were attached by Claude Cannon, so they could move. It was given to the museum as a centennial project.

When the settlers came here, they only had five timepieces. Those time pieces were set by "sun time." That was the time the sun came up. There was a sundial in the town square, but for meetings, parties, and especially water turns, it was necessary to have the correct time. This made it very difficult for the people to keep track of the correct time. As a result, no one knew for sure when to change the water in the irrigation ditches. Church and schools found it difficult to get everyone there on time. It chimed every quarter hour

- VICTORIAN HAIR LACE PICTURE (#148) Before photography, family and friends were remembered by Victorian Hair Lace items. Females saved their combed or brushed hair in a hair receiver. Delicate and intricate flowers were woven as well as a watch chain for a departing soldier to remember his sweetheart by her hair. The hair was also made into jewelry. Mothers often saved locks of hair from their babies. It is the

only one picture of its kind in the museum. It was made from human hair.

- This LOOM is very interesting (#1335). It was made about 1894 by Robert Gardner for his wife, Leonora. The timber used in it was grown in Pine Valley Mountain and cut in Water Canyon by their son-in-law, Jeter Snow. Leonora wove carpets for many years but kept no record of the number of yards she wove. She charged 10 cents per yard. During the two years her son was on a mission in Germany, she practically kept him with her weaving. After she quit weaving she helped the women of the town of Pine Valley prepare the warp on the loom and they wove their own carpets.
- On the south table are some CANDLE MOLDS (#1172): Mutton tallow and other grease were poured into the mold while hot. A string was put in the mold first. This could cool and then be removed from the mold. When the pioneers made their candles they soon found out that mice loved to chew on them during the night. This made it necessary to have some tight container in which to store them. The tube-shaped tin carrier was one method they used. If the candles were not stored correctly the candle was destroyed. The mice liked the sugar residue if bees wax was used or the fat left from the lard renderings.
- VARIOUS KINDS OF IRONS The fluting iron—both parts must be heated and then the material was put in to make pleats, ruffles or both. One of the irons is open on the end where hot coals were inserted, and the smoke would come out the little stovepipe. They would pump it to keep the coals alive and keep the iron hot. Lift some of these irons. They are very heavy.
- RIDING CASE on the South wall has a quick note on the top: “Fred Riding tinsmith, mining display: wire stretchers, tinsmith pipe crimpers, LANTERN, also shoe maker item, etc.” While looking within the case, locate the TIN CUP, the FUNNEL. These came from the Jacob Hamblin home. Christopher Lister Riding (Fred’s father) became apprenticed to a tinner in England, who, after Christopher had learned the tinner trade, gave him the tools he had learned the trade on. They were also the tools his boss had learned the trade on. When C. L. Riding came to the U.S., he brought his tools with him and he could bring the tools free of

charge as they were used as ballast in the bottom of the ship. He also brought a lot of sheet metal with him to use. Finally arriving in SLC, Brigham Young called him to go to Dixie as a tinner. For 30 years he plied his trade not even leaving for conference because he was called on a mission to make tin ware for the saints in the Dixie Mission.

- There are many examples of POTTERY made here in St. George. The Eardleys were trained as potters and most of the pottery in the area was made by them.

## ROOM 5

- The beautiful TITHING DESK was made by Elijah Cragun and used in the tithing office in St. George. It was refinished by Mildred E. (Cragun) Weston and was donated by her.
- MIDWIFE BAG This bag belonged to Leonora Cannon Gardner of Pine Valley. She was born in Liverpool, England 11 September 1840. Her parents and siblings were members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints when she was born. They were baptized the same year as she was born. The family left England for the United States and arrived in Nauvoo in 1842. They then moved on to Salt Lake Valley, arriving in 1849. There is also a list of the babies she delivered next to the bag (#1803).
- Here are SAMPLES OF COTTON AND SILK MATERIALS with some of the articles made from locally grown cotton and silk. President Young sent 300 families in 1861 to the "Cotton Mission" to raise cotton or "white gold", as it was called. The venture was quite successful despite the many setbacks. They had severe floods down the Virgin River which at times wiped out their entire crops, but they persisted. They succeeded in raising cotton comparable to that raised in the Southern States. They finally built the "COTTON FACTORY" in Washington City (5 miles east of here). They wove and dyed the material and factory became quite a business for a few years. A few people still raise cotton as a novelty in their gardens today.
  - The SILK INDUSTRY also thrived for a few years, but was abandoned for more lucrative businesses such as mining. The silk worms thrived on the Mulberry tree leaf and there are still many

trees in this area. Most of the trees now are non-bearing trees. The iron stoves had wicks that were lighted, and then a small pan of water was held over the heat until the water was heated to a certain degree. The silk worm cocoon was held over the heated water and the cocoon would open and the silk would come unwound. The silk was then put on the wooden bobbin. This was a long, slow, tedious process.

- The BLACK SILK DRESS was owned by Anne Cannon Woodbury. She raised the silk worms to make the cloth. The cloth was woven by Jean Coates. The dress was made about 1890. The crocheted collar was made by Emily Foremaster. Originally, Mrs. Woodbury intended to make a suit for her husband, but decided that a dress for herself would be very nice, since she had raised the silk worms. (Note the information in the glass case regarding the raising of the silk worms and the silk industry).
- The WHITE SILK DRESS (#633) was made from locally grown silk and was a temple dress made and used by Hannah Elida Baldwin Crosby, wife of Jesse Wentworth Crosby, sometime in the 1890s.
- This LARGE GLASS DYE JUG (#494) is from the Cotton Factory in Washington. It is the only one known to exist and was found in the river. It was cracked and broken as it is seen today. They used it to mix dyes.
- This CAKE UNDER GLASS DOME (#894) was made by Jane Thompson Bleak. She won the prize in the Washington County Fair, September 18-20, 1899. Mrs. Bleak was born in England on December 1, 1845. She came with her parents to America at the age of six. They settled first in Providence, Rhode Island where she received her Pastry Chef's certificate at the age of 13. She came to Salt Lake City in October 1861, and two weeks later came to St. George with the Dixie Pioneers. She died in May 1942.
- Notice the selection of wonderful old CLOCKS on the shelf. One will give the time, day of month; modern day time pieces are not so modern.

## ROOM 6

- MUSIC IN DIXIE The early settlers brought, loved and enjoyed all kinds of instruments, with many concerts, programs and dances. Several musical instruments are listed below:
  - #851 – Picture of Wm. Thompson’s Band
  - #853 – Four Generation Drums
  - #855 – Graphophone, the first talking machine in St. George, Utah
  - #857, 858, 859 – School bells
  - #866 – Violin made by hand—made with only two strings
  - #869 – Picture of John, Joseph and Fran Riding – a guitar trio
  - #870 – Picture of Horatio Pickett’s Choir
  - Picture of Henry Thomas’ Brass Band (check the drums out sitting in the corner)
  - Picture of a young boys’ band
  - Also, in the display case is a hand-written music book by William Nelson, and several other music books.
- THIS GRAND PIANO (#349) was brought across the plains by the McQuarrie family that built our museum. It was probably the first in Dixie. It wouldn’t fit into the house, so it was placed on the front porch of the home.
- STORY OF “FAR, FAR, AWAY” In December 1869, President Erastus Snow asked John McFarlane to write a song to cheer the Saints and help celebrate Christmas. There was little food and it was an unusually hard year for the settlers of St. George. John tried for days but nothing came. Then, in the middle of a cold night, just before Christmas, he awakened his wife, Annie. “Light the bitch, (a saucer with tallow and a knot of flannel-front case lower shelf) and pump the organ bellows. I’ve finally got it!” In their long flowing nightgowns and nightcaps (the belief then was that night air was bad for you!) they worked, and as Annie pumped she suggested they go back to their warm bed and finish in the morning. John shook his head and worked on. Just about dawn, he completed, “Far, Far Away on Judea’s Plain.” From then and there it spread throughout Mormondom and then the nation. Several years ago, in New York, tribute was given to it and “O Little Town of Bethlehem” as the only two American Christmas carols

- ADOBE BRICKS (#1848) As you will notice there are no trees in the valley that can be used for lumber. The pioneers made do with natural resources. The Mormon Battalion was organized from among the Pioneers as they headed west. It was to serve in the war with Mexico. They marched from Iowa to San Diego (the longest U.S. Military march). Some members became ill and stopped in the Santa Fe and Pueblo area. While there they saw irrigation ditches as well as adobe brick being used for building. Both were new to them. Later they went to the Salt Lake Valley and told Brigham Young about adobe. As there were few trees, Brigham adopted the idea readily because women and children could help make them. They were cheap but very labor intensive to produce. Many early homes in St. George are of adobe. Utah pioneers were the first whites to produce and use "dobies". Adobes were made from the clay in the valley floor.

## **ROOM 7**

### MCQUARRIE FAMILY DISPLAY:

- Portraits of Hortense McQuarrie Odlum and Ferol McQuarrie Kincade Moore plus photos of their grandparents and parents. There are many relics from the McQuarrie family on display. There are also brief histories of the two benefactors of the Museum. A copy of Hortense's autobiography is available to be read. Of interest is a shepherd's bell given to Ferol by Basque shepherds in Nevada. It is Okay for this to be rung. It can be very loud. So, beware!

### INTERPRETATIVE QUILT DISPLAY – NOT PERMANENT

- In addition to the beautiful quilts on display in the Quilt Case in Room 6, a special exhibit highlights three other quilts that represent the importance of quilts in the lives of early settlers. They also represent the talent and creativity of the women who made them. Of interest is the SILK "CRAZY" QUILT made by the St. George Stake Relief Society Women in 1899. The women grew the silk, wove it and made the material that was pieced together. The quilt was auctioned to raise money to support the Relief Society's efforts in caring for and helping the needy. After many years, the quilt ended up in the hands of Hortense Odlum, who then donated it to the Museum.

- During the preparation of the exhibit, the names of the 160 women who helped with this quilt, were discovered. Many of the women had at this point not been known. Mini histories were prepared for each of the 160 women. The histories include a photo of the woman and a photo of her “signature” from the piece of quilt with her name.
- Several activities are part of the exhibit to engage visitors in learning about the importance of quilt-making in the lives of our pioneers.
- This BASS drum was made by Edward Duzette in Nauvoo where it was used in the Martial band. It is reported that the beat of this drum followed the wagon carrying the bodies of Joseph and Hyrum from Carthage jail to Nauvoo. It was said to be used in Echo Canyon to warn the Salt Lake community of the coming of Johnston’s army. It came to St. George in 1861 and was used on special occasions and holidays. On July 4<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, after the cannon was fired at daybreak, the Martial Band would go through town to start the festivities. It would be sounded for political meetings, to signal the arrival of special visitors or an Indian attack. The drum could be heard all over the valley, so on Sunday when it was heard, everyone knew in 30 minutes they were due in church.

## ROOM 8

- INDIAN DISPLAY CASE was donated by Mrs. Woodbury from Hurricane. She made and dressed the dolls to show the various Indian dress. There are many Indian artifact in the case. Be sure to look at all of them.
- DAYBEDS were used for company. Many homes were small and room for family members only.
- There is both a CALVARY saddle and a Ladies’ side saddle. Calvary saddles did not have horns. We assume the horn was added after the owner was released from the Army.
- The NAIL CUTTING MACHINE was invented and used here in St. George. Samuel Adams was one of the blacksmiths.

- The TABLE with the chairs around was believed to be from one of the first café's in town owned and operated by John Pymm. Most furniture here was made by the early pioneers.
- The various CHAIRS are from early pioneer homes. Many are handmade. The cradle was made from willow from the Santa Clara Creek or Virgin River. The NECESSARY CHAIR may seem unique, but served a very special purpose.
- Old TYPEWRITERS AND SEWING MACHINES are around the perimeter of the room. One of the sewing machines does not have a treadle so the wheel had to be turned by hand. Sewing machines were blessing to many of the women who had and shared them to make their go a little faster.
- View the many FARM TOOLS. Imagine cutting the grains with a scythe.
- WASHING was a real chore, and much was done on rocks on the banks of the river or small streams. A wash board was a big help and then the modern convenience of a machine that all you had to do was push the handle back and forth. Lye soap really did the job on the dirt of the fields and on the hands as well.
- WINE VATS resemble the popular "Hot Tubs." Grapes do very well in this valley and many of the pioneer had their own vineyards, made raisins and almost all made wine. Many paid their tithing with wine they had made.
- The wheels above were from Brigham Young's WHEEL CHAIR
- Pay close attention to the GUT TURNER AND SAUSAGE STUFFER. The pioneers did not waste anything
- The PHOTOGRAPHER'S PRESS was donated to the museum and was used in the 1930's and 1940's.
- Look around the room and just imagine using these objects in your home and your fields and think how different your life would be today if you had only what was available to the pioneers.