

Northwest Missouri Genealogical Society Newsletter

P.O. Box 382
St. Joseph, Missouri 64502

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~monwmgs/index.htm>
library@nwmogenealogy.com

Vol. 29 No. 3

July/August/September 2008

We are in the wedding mode at my house. Our daughter is getting married the end of July so things are in full swing. It's an exciting time for us. A lot of planning goes into a wedding and reception, more than what I realized. Having a daughter, who knows what she wants and how to arrange for it, makes the job easier.

I began thinking about wedding traditions and wondered how some of them came about, so to the internet I went. Here are some interesting things that I found:

The Bride's Bouquet

Bridal bouquets have evolved through the ages. Saracen brides carried bouquets of orange blossoms to symbolize fertility, and Roman brides carried sheaves of wheat to symbolize prosperity for their husbands. In the eighteenth century, the practice of carrying a bouquet of flowers or herbs became a popular tradition, which symbolized fragility, purity, and new life. Bouquets of dill were among the most popular herb carried. Today bridal bouquets are tossed to assembled single women to symbolize new life and to pass on the bride's good fortune.

White Aisle Runner

A white aisle runner symbolizes walking on holy ground. A marriage covenant is not made merely between two people and their witnesses. It is made in the presence of God and He is actively involved in the agreement.

Kissing the Bride

During the Roman Empire, the kiss symbolized a legal bond. Continued use of the kiss to seal the marriage bond is based on the deeply rooted idea of the kiss as a vehicle for transference of power and souls.

The Bride and Groom Feeding Each Other the Cake

This represents the sharing of the body to become one. (continued on page 23)

Officers for 2007-2008

President.....John Hutchcraft
president@nwmogenealogy.com
Vice President.....Sarah Waugh
Treasurer.....John Atkinson
treasurer@nwmogenealogy.com
Recording Secretary.....Kenneth Cox
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Publications.....Deloris Foster
publications@nwmogenealogy.com
Publicity.....Rose and John Hutchcraft
Journal Editor.....
Newsletter Editor.....Jo Mayse
Program Chairman.....Sarah Waugh
Internet Chairperson.....Charlene Miller

General Meetings:
Fourth Thursday of April, June, September, and November at 7:00 PM

Executive Meetings:
Second Thursday of January, March, May, July, September, and November
at 3:00 PM.

Both are held at the Genealogy Library, 412 Felix, St. Joseph, MO.

Society members are welcome to attend Board Meetings.
Members and public are welcome at General Meetings.

This newsletter is published four times a year by the Northwest Missouri Genealogical Society. It is a medium for the exchange of information between members. Readers are encouraged to submit articles. All contributions will be considered. Suggestions and criticisms are also welcome. Write: Northwest Missouri Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 382, St. Joseph, MO 64502, or phone (816)233-0524. The editors reserve the right to make editorial changes in manuscripts, which they believe will improve the material without altering the intended meaning. The opinions expressed in this periodical do not necessarily represent the view of the Northwest Missouri Genealogical society or its officers. Articles represent the author's opinions and ideas and do not necessarily have official sanction nor does inclusion here represent approval or recommendation.

President's Corner

It looks like we are in for another hot summer, but it's cool inside here at the Northwest Missouri Genealogical Library. Come in and do some research. The street is open (at least in front of our building) so you can park in front now and use the front door again.

The Journal is out and things are getting back on track with that. If you have family stories, history, or photos that have not been in the Journal before and you would like them to be, contact Connie McCoy. It would be appreciated.

As always, we are looking for volunteers at the Library. If you would like to learn more about this opportunity, again, contact Connie McCoy. This society would not run if there were no volunteers. They keep this place going.

Another thing I have that needs to be addressed is the need for attendance at our meetings. They are in April, June, September, and November on the 4th Thursday of the month, except November and it is the Thursday before Thanksgiving. April and November are potluck dinner meetings, so a good meal is one of the benefits of coming at that time. Mark these dates on your calendar now so you don't forget. Sarah Waugh is the program chairperson and she has a variety of programs you won't want to miss.

Have a good summer.

John Hutchcraft,
President NWMGS

Reminder: There is still time to have a story about one of your ancestors in the Summer Journal. Bring it in or mail it to the Society so it arrives no later than July 15, 2008.

General Meeting: The Northwest Missouri Genealogical Society will hold their Annual Meeting on Thursday, September 25, 2008 at 7:00 PM at the Society's Library. Sarah will have an interesting program for us.

We still have the Northwest Missouri Genealogical Society shirts and tote bags for sale at the library. The tee shirts are dark green and we have added a new color, plum. The tee shirts are \$8.00 each. We also have the tote bags, which are natural with dark green lettering. They are \$7.00 each. We also have a few dark green sweatshirts for \$11.00.

From the Librarian

The streetscape work is progressing. Our block is about half done from Fourth Street to the alley next to the library. The good news is that the sidewalk is finished so we can use the front door again. The new sidewalk has brickwork near the curb. There is a bench and trash container in front of the building where it appears something will be planted. We speculate that it will be a tree.

The long overdue journal was printed and mailed to members. I, for one, was relieved when that job was done. My part was running the copier and during the process the machine needed servicing causing further delays. The duplex unit continued to malfunction and parts had to be ordered. However, while we were waiting for parts (still waiting), we could print one side then do the reverse side by putting the pages in the drawer, the way I used to do it back in my school teacher days. It was more labor intensive with the books having to be manually collated. The many tasks involved in producing this journal, i.e. organizing the raw material, getting it into the computer and into printable form, printing, collating, stapling, printing labels, putting into envelopes and applying labels, sorting for the post office, and delivering the many boxes to the post office were done by Rose Hutchcraft, Sarah Waugh, Kenneth Cox, Phyllis Heath, Juanita Haskins, John Hutchcraft, Carol Almanza, Shelia Thompson, Datha Dillon, and Connie McCoy. It took a lot of effort and teamwork.

Speaking of the journal, we are gathering material for the next journal. As mentioned in the last newsletter we need recipes with an anecdote about the person from whom you got the recipe. Also needed are family stories. I'm hoping we get a bunch of family stories as I enjoy reading them. Among the books in my personal library are *My Folks Came in a Covered Wagon* and *My Folks Claimed the Plains*. Both of these books were published by Capper Press of Topeka, Kansas. In 1955 *Capper's Weekly* asked for true pioneer stories in an effort to preserve word of mouth stories about the pioneer era. The editors received hundreds of letters from early settlers, their children, and their grandchildren. Only a portion of the pioneer stories were printed in the newspaper due to limited space but the remaining letters were too good to throw away. The collection was printed in 1956 edition of *My Folks Came in a Covered Wagon*. The book was reprinted in 1976 and 1991. In 1977 *Cappers* requested stories from readers about life on early day homesteads. Again, there was a terrific response and the stories were printed in 1978 in *My Folks Claimed the Plains*. This book was reprinted in 1994. I loved reading both of these books. In history class, I learned about the settlement of the plains and the hardships the pioneers endured such as grasshoppers, prairie fires, sod houses, etc. but a story about a mother putting a sunbonnet on her daughter and pinning it together in front to keep the grasshoppers from putting her eyes out when she went to school because grasshoppers came down with such force gives life to history. It makes us realize that history is the story of people--our stories.

Connie McCoy

Donations

Mary Carolyn Hays Patricia Grier Carol Almanza	"Of Roots & Wings: A Time to Remember 1790-2007 New Harmony Baptist Church Books "Recollections" (Interesting Stories, Virginia genealogy) by Bathurst Browne Bagby "History of Buchanan Co., MO 1881" Quantrill's Thieves
Kenneth Cox	Prairie Pioneer, Warren County IL. Gene. Society Vol. 28 No. 1 2008 and Vol. 26 No. 2,3,4 2006 Records of Meredian Christian Church, Warren Co. IL 1839 ca--1910
Louise Campbell	Griffon Yearbook 1974 Congressional Directory January 1956 Police Pension Benefit Ball Program 1958,1960,1962 Fireman Pension Benefit Ball Program 1964-1968
Sharon Patching	Lafayette Yearbook 1979 Benton Yearbook 1945 Central Yearbook 1963-1964 My Four Years in Germany by James Gerard Fishing on Deep River, Civil War Memoir by Suzanne Lehr Early Days in Kansas by Kansas Historical Society 1920 Vol. 2C Christian Co., MO Its First 100 Years Nodaway Co., MO A New History Vol. 2 1845-1869 Nodaway Co., MO Indian Lands to 1859 Vol. 1 Krug Park, St. Joseph's Crown Jewel by Clyde Weeks Texas in the Civil War (pamphlets) Family Tree Maker CDs Ozar'kin Vol. 16 #2
Ila Brazel	Research Pamphlets Finding Your Roots by Jeane Westin Worth County, MO Publications Tracing Your Ancestry Logbook
Jean Gayle Parker	NWMGS Journals Madison Co., IL Journals Miscellaneous genealogy papers
Jim Jennings	Land Abstracts Heritage Quest Magazines Miscellaneous genealogy papers
Dorothy Pullen Phyllis Heath Joyce Anderson	History & Biography of St. Joseph Paper shredder Abstract of Title for lot 9, bk 30. Wyatt Park Ext.

NEW MEMBERS

Jay Shewmaker Cosby, MO
Margaret Sandifer Pleasant Hill, MO
Dan McWilliams Aurora, CO
Donna McMechan Lawrence, KS
Austin Mueller Iowa City, IA
Shelley Davis Easton, MO

We are trying to update our membership. If you haven't renewed, please do so right away.

Members: Please check the label on your newsletter to see when your membership expires. In order to keep your newsletter and Journal coming, please mail your dues in before the expiration date.

Annual Dues are: \$15.00 -- in the USA
 \$20.00 -- in Canada and Mexico
 \$25.00 -- in other countries

Enclose a SASE (self-addressed stamped envelope) if you want a membership card returned to you by mail.

MONETARY DONATIONS

Aaron Baublitt
Margaret Patton
Arlette Duty
Melinda Johnson
Roger Kelley
Sally Hubbard
Peg Bryson

Does anyone have St. Joseph, MO City Directories form 2001 to 2007? We need them for our library if you have any to donate.

wedding traditions con:

Arras (Coins)

During Catholic ceremonies in Spain, Panama, and Mexico, the groom presents the bride with 13 gold coins, known as Arras, to represent his ability to support the bride. The coins are blessed by the priest and passed through the hands of the newlyweds several times, ending up with the bride.

"Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed, Something Blue"

Old and new items jointly symbolize the passage from the old unmarried state to that of the new married one. The wearing of a borrowed belonging demonstrates community participation in and approval of the wedding. Blue is worn because it is the color that signifies purity, love, and fidelity.

Groom's Cake

The tradition of the wedding cake was brought to the New World by the Pilgrims and it was fruit cake! It was not until the 1800's, with the advent of white flour, baking powder, and baking soda, that the white cake remained and became known as the groom's cake. It was placed beside the bride's cake at the reception, boxed, and given to guest as a favor. Legend has it that single guests who placed the boxed cake under their pillow would dream of their intended; hence, it became known as dreaming bread.

Jumping the Broom

This African tradition is one that's become a part of many African-American weddings. At the end of the ceremony, the couple jumps over the broom that's placed at their feet. The broom, in many regions of Africa, symbolized beginning life with a clean slate, of sweeping away evil spirits, and starting a new home with its many responsibilities. In the United States, when slavery prevented couples from legally marrying, they jumped the broom to seal their vows.

"Bridal"

In ancient world, there was no marriage. If a man wanted a wife, he simply raided the nearest village and captured her. In Israel, when a man raided a village and escaped with a wife, he spent the night (or moon) with her in seclusion drinking mead, a liquor made from fermented honey. The drink was called bride ale (the origin of the world bridal) and the night of liquor-drinking seclusion became known as the honeymoon.

taken from www.nawp.com/articles/wedding_traditions.cfm
Not Just Calligraphy-Event Planning by Mayra Etayo

Top Ten Indicators That You're a Gene-Aholic

10. You've introduced your daughter as your descendent.
9. You've never met any of the people you send e-mail to, even though you are related.
8. You can recite your lineage back eight generations, but can't remember your nephew's name.
7. You have more photographs of dead people than living ones.
6. You've taken a tape recorder and/or notebook to a family reunion.
5. You've not only read the latest GEDCOM standard, you understand it.
4. The local genealogy society borrows books from you.
3. The only film you've seen in the last year was the 1880 census index.
2. More than half of your CD collection is made up of marriage records or pedigrees.
1. Your elusive ancestor has been spotted in more different places than Elvis!

from: The Newsletter of the Northland Genealogy Society – The River's Bend
July 2000 Vol. 3 No. 3 Northland Genealogy Society Parkville, MO

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**Northwest Missouri
Genealogy Society Program
at**

East Hill Library Conference Room

September 18, 2008 at 7 p.m.

Speaker: Angela McComas

director of programing

for the new Midwest

Genealogy Center of

Mid-Continent Public Library

new address

3440 S. Lee Summit Road

homemade refreshments will be served