

Northwest Missouri Genealogical Society Newsletter
P.O. Box 382
St. Joseph, MO 64502

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

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April/May/June 2010

Castle Garden -- America's First Official Immigration Center

By Kimberly Powell, About.com Guide

Castle Clinton, also referred to as Castle Garden, is a fort and national monument located in Battery Park at the southern tip of Manhattan in New York City. The structure has served as a fort, theater, opera house, national immigrant receiving station, and aquarium throughout its long history. Today, Castle Garden is called Castle Clinton National Monument and serves as the ticket center for ferries to Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty.

History of Castle Garden:

Castle Clinton began its interesting life as a fort built to defend New York Harbor from the British during the War of 1812. Twelve years after the war it was ceded to New York City by the U.S. Army. The former fort reopened in 1824 as Castle Garden, a public cultural center and theatre. In 1855, Castle Garden became America's first immigrant receiving center, welcoming more than 8 million immigrants before it was closed on April 18, 1890. Castle Garden was succeeded by Ellis Island in 1892.

In 1896 Castle Garden became the site of the New York City Aquarium, a capacity in which it served until 1946 when plans for the Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel called for its demolition. The public outcry at the loss of the popular and historic building saved it from destruction, but the aquarium was closed and Castle Garden stood vacant until it was reopened by the National Park Service in 1975.

Castle Garden Immigration Station:

From August 1, 1855 through April 18, 1880, immigrants arriving in the state of New York came through Castle Garden. America's first official immigrant examining and processing center, Castle Garden welcomed approximately 8 million immigrants - most from Germany, Ireland, England, Scotland, Sweden, Italy, Russia and Denmark. (Continued on page 9)

Officers for 2009-2010

President -- John Hutchcraft president@nwmogenealogy.com
Vice President -- Sarah Waugh
Treasurer -- John Atkinson treasurer@nwmogenealogy.com
Recording Secretary -- Kenneth Cox
Corresponding Secretary -- Phyllis Heath
Past President -- Juanita Haskins
Members at Large -- Carol Almanza and Carolyn Garver
Librarian -- Connie McCoy librarian@nwmogenealogy.com
Assistant Librarian -- Phyllis Heath
Membership -- membership@nwmogenealogy.com
Publications -- Deloris Foster publications@nwmogenealogy.com
Publicity -- Rose and John Hutchcraft
Journal Editor --
Newsletter Editor -- Jo Mayse
Program Chairman -- Sarah Waugh
Internet Chairman -- Sharlene 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

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 Genealogy 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 authors opinions and ideas and do not necessarily have official sanction nor does inclusion here represent approval or recommendation.

President's Corner

Hopefully Spring has arrived after a long hard winter. We are thankful that Kenneth Cox is back to help 2 to 3 days a week along with all of our other dedicated volunteers who make it possible to keep the Society open. Our membership is growing. It is just under 400 members.

We want to invite everyone to our potluck supper/program on Thursday, April 22. The meal will start at 6:30pm with the meeting and program to follow. The Society will furnish the meat and drink. Please bring your favorite food; hot/cold, homemade/store bought, whatever - we always have a wonderful meal and delightful conversations. Sarah Waugh will present the program about the California/Oregon Trail. You won't want to miss it.

It is great to have the Society open again. We appreciate all the people who have been coming in to do research. They make our "jobs" worthwhile.

John Hutchcraft, President

(Castle Garden continued):

Castle Garden welcomed its last immigrant on April 18, 1890. After the closing of Castle Garden, immigrants were processed at an old barge office in Manhattan until the opening of the Ellis Island Immigration Center on 1 January 1892. More than one in six native-born Americans are descendants of the eight million immigrants who entered the United States through Castle Garden.

Researching Castle Garden Immigrants:

The free CastleGarden.org database, provided online by the New York Battery Conservancy, allows you to search by name and time period for immigrants who arrived in Castle Garden between 1830 and 1890. Digital copies of the many of the ship manifests can be accessed through a paid subscription to Ancestry.com's New York Passenger lists, 1851 - 1891. Microfilms of the manifests can also be obtained through your local Family History Center or National Archives (NARA) branches.

Visiting Castle Gardens:

Located at the southern tip of Manhattan, convenient to NYC bus and subway routes, Castle Clinton National Monument is under the administration of the National Park service and serves as a visitor center for Manhattan's national parks. The walls of the original fort remain intact, and park ranger-led and self-guided tours describe the history of Castle Clinton / Castle Garden. Open daily (except Christmas) from 8:00am to 5:00pm. Admission and tours are free.

Donations

Tom Harvey

Harrison Co., Mo. Plat Maps
Wanamaker History Index of Harrison Co., MO
Ragersville Cemetery, Tuscarawas Co., OH 1837-1978
Camden Co., MO Tombstone Inscriptions Vol. 2
Missouri General Assembly 1812-1976
The Kentucky Locator
Breathitt Co., KY Journals
Schulerite Co., Historical Museum Journals Rushville, IL
Ohio Lands, A Short History
The Fayette Connection, Fayette Co. Genealogical Society,
Washington, OH
History of Fayette Co., OH 1810-1889
(Child's fill-in book) This is My Life
Revolutionary War Genealogy
Civil War Genealogy
Partial List of Births in Andrew Co., MO 1850-1890s
Andrew Co., MO Cemeteries Vol. 4
Andrew Co., MO Marriage 1856-1870 &
Naturalization Records 1869-1919
MOSGA 4-Generation Charts Vol. 3 July 1985
Self Interpreting New Testament
Miscellaneous guides and other materials

Charles W. Peckham

The Peckham Family

Connie McCoy

Life During the Civil War

Katherine M. Nelson

Emigration, Igland Family in America

Bob Slater

Christian Brothers' High School 1867-1970

Phyllis Heath Memorials

Paula Schultz
John Atkinson
Rosemarie Faria
Carol Almanza
Sarah Waugh

(it is not too late to give a donation in memory of Phyllis Heath -Charter member and volunteer who passed away January 2010)

Monetary Donations

T.E. Fishburn -- Santa Rosa, CA
St. Joseph Chapter 6-070 MO, Daughters of the American Revolution
Bob Hadley -- Stillwater, OK

New Members

Cheryl Cornett -- Liberty, MO
Linda Coghill -- Turney, MO
Donald Hines -- Chatsworth, CA
Marion & Sue Rose Harter -- Utica, MO
Adolph Lustenberger -- Lockport, NY
Charlotte Prine -- St. Joseph, MO
Sherrie Stagner -- Gower, MO
Leanne Tiller -- St. Joseph, MO
Marylou Kendall -- St. Joseph, MO

Genealogy Bumper Stickers:

Genealogists are time unravel
Genealogy - will I ever find time to mow the lawn again?
Genealogy is like Hide & Seek: They Hide & I Seek!
Genealogy...it's not a hobby, it's an obsession
Genealogy: Chasing your own tale!

Missouri State Genealogical Association will have its 2010 Annual Conference August 13 and 14, 2010. It will be held at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Jefferson City, Missouri. Keynote speaker will be Roger Minert. There will be additional speakers and two workshops: *If you Don't Tell The Story, Who Will?* with Marilyn Collins and *When the Records Didn't Get It Right* with Mary Celeste, MLS. More conference information can be found at <http://www.mosga.org>

National Genealogical Society will have its 2010- Family History Conference April 28 - May 1, 2010. *Follow Your Ancestral Trail* will be held at the Salt Palace in Salt Lake City, Utah. (presented by the National Genealogical Society - local host Utah Genealogical Association). For more information visit WWW.ngsgenealogy.org

Topeka Genealogical Society will have its annual conference Saturday, April 24, 2010, in Topeka, KS. Featured speaker will be Michael John Neill. Questions: Write or call the TGS Library at 785-233-5762 or Conference Coordinator, Nora Patton Taylor at 785-286-1606 after 6pm.

The Genealogy Library has received a letter with a photograph that originated in St. Joseph, MO. Shelley Cardiel of Kirkland, WA found the photograph and has been trying to locate the family with no success. The photograph is of John Lehman and his family. It was taken at the Uhlman Studio in St. Joseph. Anyone who is interested in the photograph may see it at the Genealogy Library.

A Genealogist Is
A full-time detective
A thorough historian
An inveterate snoop
A confirmed diplomat
A keen observer
A hardened skeptic
A apt biographer
A qualified linguist
A part-time lawyer
A studious sociologist
An accurate reporter
An hieroglyphics expert
AND...
A complete nut!

(From www.ancestryprinting.com)

From the Librarian

It is good to be open again after being closed since mid December. I have been working my way through a backlog of research requests. The weather this winter kept me home so I got behind. I appreciate everyone being so patient and understanding about the delay.

Our database project is progressing. Most of the Buchanan County materials on the east wall have been catalogued. We are entering *the Deaths in St. Joseph from 1891 to 1909* into the database now. All of the A surnames are done and about one third of the B surnames. Kelly Alvarado resumed work on the database when we reopened. She is amazing in how much she gets done on her volunteer day! John Hutchcraft has been helping me verify data and I am doing some data entry also. We could use some more help with data entry and the verifying. For details give me a call at the library on Tuesday or Friday.

Carol and Sarah are making headway on their project of updating the Buchanan County probate index. They finished all the boxes on the shelves on the west wall and are starting on the boxes on the shelves to the east. They encountered some interesting cases as they checked each file with the index. Some that surprised us were marriages. It appeared that the judge was waiving the waiting period Missouri had. You never know what is going to turn up in a probate file!

Volunteers, of course, are the life blood of Northwest Missouri Genealogical Society. There is no paid staff. Volunteers do it all! The volunteers working at the library to assist patrons are Carol Almanza, Kenneth Cox, Juanita Haskins, John Hutchcraft, Rose Hutchcraft, Jean Martin, Connie McCoy, and Sarah Waugh. Carolyn Garver graciously has "substituted" when needed. We need additional volunteers who would like to assist patrons. It has already been necessary to not open the library a few days this year because there was no one available to help. Our policy is to have at least two people working. We will not open if there are not two of us in the building. I can imagine how disappointed people will be when they find the library closed on a day that it is supposed to be open. I expect there will be more unscheduled closing unless some of you volunteer. Can you volunteer part of a day, one day a month? All offers are welcome!

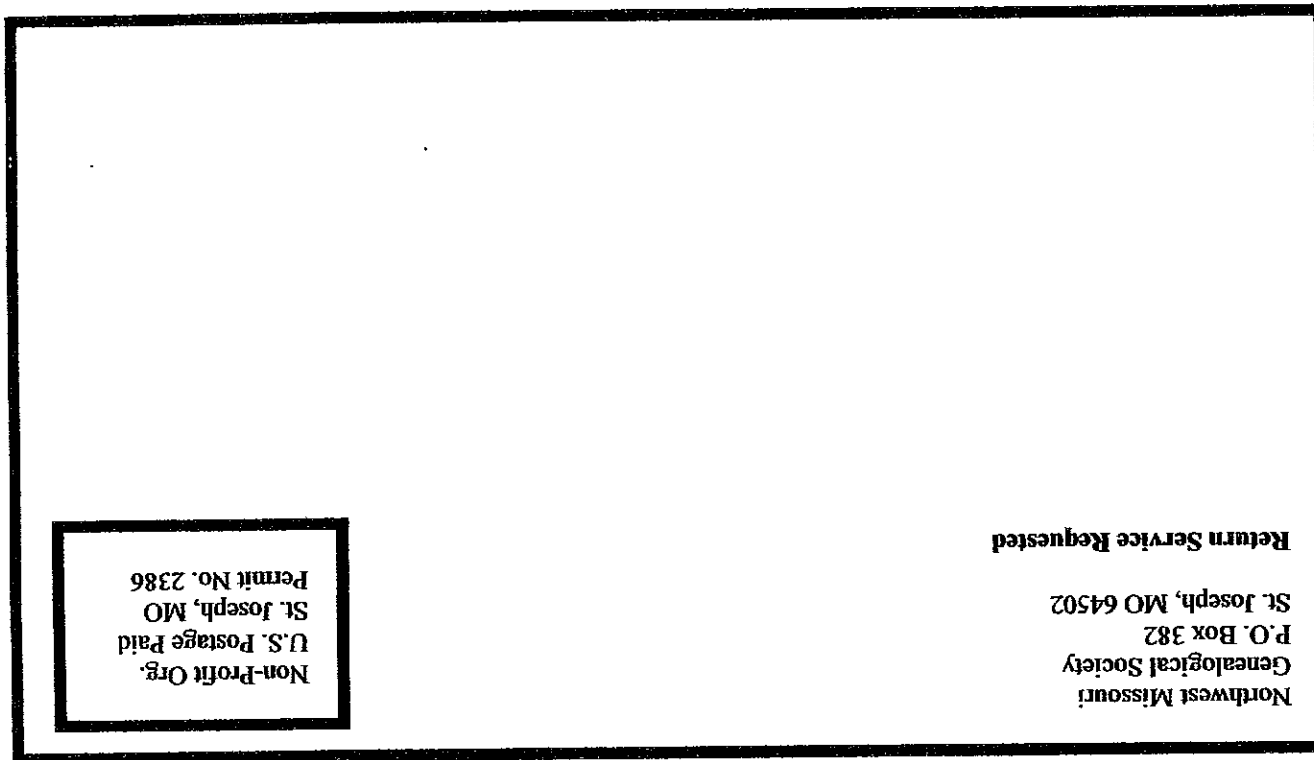
816-233-0524 816-233-0524 816-233-0524

Please check your newsletter address label for month membership is due. 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 -- all other countries

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

Next general meeting will be April 22, 2010 at the NW MO Genealogical Library, 412 Felix Street in St. Joseph, MO. at 6:30 PM. This will be a dinner meeting. The Society will furnish meat, drinks, and bread. Please bring your own table service and a covered dish. We will be electing new officers also.



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Genealogical Society
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