

Northwest Missouri Genealogical Society Newsletter
P.O. Box 382
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Volume 31 Number 3

July/August/September 2010

When trying to determine what I would put on the front page of the newsletter my thoughts went to the July 4th holiday we celebrated a short time ago. I looked into the history of Independence day and found some interesting facts I had not read before. I hope you enjoy the following:

Independence Day

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Independence Day, commonly known as the Fourth of July, is a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, declaring independence from the Kingdom of Great Britain. Independence Day is commonly associated with fireworks, parades, barbecues, carnivals, fairs, picnics, concerts, baseball games, family reunions, political speeches and ceremonies, and various other public and private events celebrating the history, government, and traditions of the United States. Independence Day is the national day of the United States.

During the American Revolution, the legal separation of the Thirteen Colonies from Great Britain occurred on July 2, 1776, when the Second Continental Congress voted to approve a resolution of independence that had been proposed in June by Richard Henry Lee of Virginia. After voting for independence, Congress turned its attention to the Declaration of Independence, a statement explaining this decision, which had been prepared by a Committee of Five, with Thomas Jefferson as its principal author. Congress debated and revised the Declaration, finally approving it on July 4. A day earlier, John Adams had written to his wife Abigail:

The second day of July, 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more. (continued on page 21)

Officers for 2009-2010

President -- John Hutchcraft president@nwmogenealogy.com
Vice President -- Betty Anslinger
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Publicity -- Rose and John Hutchcraft
Journal Editor -- Rose Hutchcraft
Newsletter Editor -- Jo Mayse -- brace@stjoelive.com
Program Chairman -- Betty Anslinger
Internet Chairman -- Kelly Alvarado

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

Well summer and very hot weather is here again, along with many family reunions and picnics. We would like to thank Sarah Waugh for her service as vice-president. She found many great programs for the Society. Betty Anslinger from Savannah, MO has very graciously accepted the vice-president position. We welcome her and hope she enjoys the job. If you have any suggestions for programs, please let Betty know. We would also like to thank those members who agreed to fill the same job again for two more years.

I talked to Meierhoffer Funeral Home this week about possibly getting a copy of their (Memorial Park) cemetery records. They are in the process of putting the records on the computer. When they complete the task, we can probably get a copy of them on disks.

Progress on the Buchanan County death records is moving right along as the ladies are now in the G's.

Only 13 members showed up at our last meeting and program. If you made it you found out the reason for using land records and also how to use them, with several pages to take home to aid in your research. If you missed it, you missed a great program.

The weather may be hot, but the air conditioner is on at the Society. Stop in and do some research soon.

John Hutchcraft, President

Next general meeting will be September 23,2010 at the NWMO Genealogical Library, 412 Felix Street in St. Joseph, MO. At 7:00 PM.

History and mystery. Ever heard that Jesse James faked his own death and lived to a very old age? Dan Weisenburger, great grandson of ol' Jesse James will share excerpts and surprises from the book his cousin wrote: Jesse James: The Real Story by Vincel Simmons of Hughesville, MO. Mr. Simmons is the grandson of Jesse and tells a story that no one could make up! Come listen, ask questions.....and thenyou decide..... Betty Anslinger

Donations

Craig Kirkpatrick, Jr.	The Deppen Family Poems & Drawings of Dr. Robert Chessley Deppen CD Photos, etc. Deppen, DeVall, MacDonald Families March 13, 2010 The Eastin Family Bible The Eastin Family Bible Index
Connie McCoy	Fashionable Folks Hairstyles 1840-1900 by Maureen A. Taylor
Alyson Clark College of the Ozarks	St. Joseph Art Glass Co. papers 1920s
Sandra Henselmeier Funk	The Henselmeier Family: A History
Sarah Waugh	The Orphan Trains Placing Out in America
John Hutchcraft	Van Meter History 1818-1980
Unknown	Andrew Co., MO, Marriage Certificate: George H. Prince, Elizabeth A. McGlothlin June 10, 1925
Linda Goerke	History of Appanoose Co., IA, Vols 1-2 Winfield Scott, A Biography of Schottsdale's Founder, by Richard E. Lynch Tri-County Researcher, Jan 1999, Vol. 23 No. 1 Mennonite Family History, Vol. XVII No. 2 McDaniel Family Research in North America Abstract of Title, Thomas Mills, Joseph D. Ellis

Monetary Donations

Anonymous

Phyllis Heath Memorial Fund Donations

Mary Carolyn Hays
Joseph and Jerilyn Zubko

New Members

Steven J. Sherman -- LaHabra, CA
Craig Kirkpatrick, Jr. -- Prairie Village, KS
Leona MacFarlane -- Buena Park, CA
William John Tunks II -- Maysville, MO
Janet Allison -- Stanberry, MO
Barbara J. Means -- Plainfield, NJ
Marie Protzman -- Maryville, MO
Bob Wilt -- Sun City West, AZ
Anna & Jerry Tharp -- St. Joseph, MO
Judy O'Donnell -- St. Joseph, MO
Sheila Adams -- Colorado Springs, CO
John G. Saylor -- Lawrence, KS
Nancy Brooks -- Kansas City, MO
Dwayne Rogers -- Rose Hill, KS
Stephany Bailey -- N. Little Rock, AR
Holly Kennedy -- Arvada, CO
Thomas J. Vought -- Morganville, NJ
Sandra Smith -- St. Joseph, MO
Helen Thornton -- Savannah, MO

Midwest Family History Expo: July 30-31, 2010, will be held at the KCI Expo Center 11730 N Ambassador Drive in Kansas City, MO.

LDS Historical Feature Tour: July 29, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

Free Keynote Address: July 30, 8:30 AM

Family History Classes: July 30-31 all day

Screening of "The Forgotten Ellis Island" July 30

For more information contact: Holly T. Hansen, FHExpos Founder/President, 801-829-3295.

Missouri State Genealogical Association 2010 Annual Conference featuring Roger Minert as keynote speaker will be held August 13 and 14, 2010 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, 415 W. McCarty, Jefferson City, MO. Pre-conference workshops by Mary Celeste and Marilyn Collins. For more information contact conference chair Janice Schultz, 816-252-7228 or 816-223-5777.

Email jschultz@mcpl.lib.mo.us

Egypt - Land of the Pharaohs sponsored by Missouri Western State University and St. Joseph Museum will be October 13-24, 2010. This will be hosted and led by University Professor of Archaeology Dr. Jimmy Albright. This will be an elaborate tour of the archaeology of Ancient Egypt. Tour will include: Cairo Museum and Treasures of King Tutankhamen, Pyramids and Great Sphinx of Giza, Luxor and Karnak Temples, Tombs of Pharaohs in the Valley of the Kings, 4 night cruise on Nile River to Aswan and Temples of Abu Simbel, tour of Alexandria on the Mediterranean Sea and the famous Cairo Bazaar.

From the Librarian

Since the last newsletter, I spent four wonderful days at the National Genealogical Society 2010 Family History Conference in Salt Lake City. I learned so much in the lectures. There was such a variety of topics offered that there was something for everyone. The highlight of the week was "An Evening Celebration of Family History" co-sponsored by Family Search and the Utah Genealogical Society held at the Conference Center adjacent to Temple Square. The Mormon Tabernacle Choir performed and their rendition of *Amazing Grace* accompanied by bagpipes was awesome. David McCullough, author of biography, John Adams, held the crowd spellbound with his speech. This was my third NGS conference and each has been incredible. The 2011 NGS conference will be held in Charleston, South Carolina 11-14 May. I will be there.

At the NGS conference I attended a lecture, *Every Picture Tells a Story: Dating Family Photographs* by Maureen A. Taylor. I purchased one of her books for our library. It is Fashionable Folks Hairstyles 1840-1900. Maureen Taylor is known as the photo detective. You can visit her website at www.maureentaylor.com or www.photodetective.com or read her blog at www.familytreemagazine.com.

Matthew Carver was the speaker at the June NWMGS meeting. He spoke to the group about land records in family research. He gave an overview of public land states and state land states, where to find land records, and explained grantor and grantee indexes. He emphasized that land records should not be overlooked by researchers even though some people find them difficult. Land records place an ancestor in a certain place at a given time. But sometimes there is more than the usual information in the record. Mr. Carver gave some examples from his own family research where information found in land records helped him break through some brick walls. His program was quite interesting. It inspired Juanita to dig into land records of Pennsylvania the next day!

Betty Anslinger is our new vice-president. She arranged for Matthew Carver to present the June program so she is off to a great start. We are pleased that Betty accepted the position.

The society also extends to Sarah Waugh our gratitude for her recent service as vice-president. Sarah did an excellent job of finding programs.

Our database is progressing. As reported in the last newsletter, we are entering the index to *Deaths in St. Joseph 1891-1909*. We are now entering surnames beginning with G. Jean Martin who volunteers on Thursday has joined the project by entering data and we so appreciate her help. We would be thrilled to have more help with the project. Call me: **816-233-0524**

Connie McCoy, Librarian

(Independence Day continued from page 15)

Adams's prediction was off by two days. From the outset, Americans celebrated independence on July 4, the date shown on the much-publicized Declaration of Independence, rather than on July 2, the date the resolution of independence was approved in a closed session of Congress.

Historians have long disputed whether Congress actually signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, even though Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and Benjamin Franklin all later wrote that they had signed it on that day. Most historians have concluded that the Declaration was signed nearly a month after its adoption, on August 2, 1776, and not on July 4 as commonly believed.

In a remarkable coincidence, both John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, the only signers of the Declaration of Independence later to serve as Presidents of the United States, died on the same day: July 4, 1826, which was the 50th anniversary of the Declaration.

Observance:

In 1776, thirteen gunshots were fired, once at morning and again as evening fell, on July 4 in Bristol, Rhode Island. Philadelphia celebrated the first anniversary in a manner a modern American would find quite familiar: an official dinner for the Continental Congress, toasts, 13-gun salutes, speeches, prayers, music, parades, troop reviews, and fireworks. Ships were decked with red, white, and blue bunting.

In 1778, General George Washington marked July 4 with a double ration of rum for his soldiers and an artillery salute. Across the Atlantic Ocean, ambassadors John Adams and Benjamin Franklin held a dinner for fellow Americans in Paris, France.

In 1779, July 4 fell on a Sunday. The holiday was celebrated on Monday, July 5.

In 1781, the Massachusetts General Court became the first state legislature to recognize July 4 as a state celebration.

In 1783, Moravians in Salem, North Carolina, held a celebration of July 4 with a challenging music program assembled by Johann Friedrich Peter. This work was titled "The Psalm of Joy".

In 1791 the first recorded use of the name "Independence Day" occurred.

In 1820 the first Fourth of July celebration was held in Eastport, Maine which remains the largest in the state.

In 1870, the U.S. Congress made Independence Day an unpaid holiday for federal employees.

In 1938, Congress changed Independence Day to a paid federal holiday.

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

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