

Northwest Missouri Genealogical Society Newsletter

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

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

Vol. 27 No. 3

July/August/September 2006

As I write this, Independence Day is just around the corner. It brings back some great childhood memories of July 4th.

We were about the only family at our church who lived in the country and fireworks were illegal inside the city limits. Each year my parents would invite the entire church to our house for food and fireworks. I can still see people arriving with their picnic baskets full of food, lawn chairs, and (of course) fireworks!! There was always a great game of badminton and the men enjoyed a competitive game of horseshoes. The kids would enjoy running and playing with each other and the older kids would set off their firecrackers. The food was always great, especially the homemade potato salad, grilled hamburgers, and watermelon. After eating was more playtime and the long wait for it to get dark enough for the real fireworks. It would finally get dark and we would start with the sparklers and then we'd all grab a chair or sit on a blanket to watch the real show! I loved the bright colored fountain fireworks – seeing the bright colors light up the sky was just awesome!! (I still love to watch them to this day.) My dog didn't like the fireworks and normally spent the evening hiding under the bed. At the end of the fireworks show it was time for the festivities to end and cleanup to begin. Picnic baskets and lawn chairs were gathered and loaded into cars and "thank-you" and "good-byes" were exchanged. It was another great 4th of July celebration. Jo Mayse - newsletter editor



Officers for 2005-2006

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Newsletter Editor.....Jo Mayse
Program Chairman.....John Hutchcraft
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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

Summer is with us, lush green lawns and many, many flowers. This begins our busiest season for traveling researchers. Since April we have had approximately 200 people sign our book. They represent nineteen states: Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. One of our patrons was Erik Aclik Enson (misspelled maybe?). He told us not to worry about his last name, just call him Erik. He was from Norway. Not only did he do research, but came to our genealogy program meeting.

Dixie had an interesting e-mail from Dennis Nutting, our former newsletter editor, living in Turin, Italy. He writes us from time to time with interesting tidbits. When they have to do with genealogy we print them for all to enjoy. (You should remember his description of the Olympics in the last newsletter). He told about visiting with an older couple from San Diego, California at a dinner recently. The wife lived in St. Joseph, Missouri until the age of ten. She said that when their children were young, they made the long trip from San Diego to St. Joseph without air conditioning through the hot desert to visit relatives each summer. He said they had a nice chat about St. Joseph, the Dairy Queen on King Hill Avenue, Krug Park, etc. They still have family in King City, Missouri. He didn't mention their name. Dennis always signs his notes "Ciao" which is so long or goodbye in Italian.

Randy Bohot has completed the tuck pointing in the basement of the library. It looks like a job well done. The downstairs is the cleanest I've ever seen it. "Thank you" members who did a lot of moving materials around while this was done.

This past month, Sarah Elder of the St. Joseph Museum, presented a program on St. Joseph during the Civil War. It was a very good informative program. It sounds like St. Joseph was anything but peaceful in this time in history. The city was a divided town, many for the South and less for the North. There were some quotes from Preston Filbert's book: **The Half Not Told, The Civil War in a Frontier Town.**

Our next program meeting will be Thursday, September 28th at 7:00PM at the library. Mark your calendars and come join us for an inspiring program.

Juanita

From the Librarian

“Some of the most genealogically-rich documents on an individual are actually created following their death. While many of us actively search for an ancestor’s obituary or tombstone, however, we often overlook probate records—a big mistake! Generally well-documented, accurate, and packed with numerous details, probate records can often provide answers to many stubborn genealogical problems.”

The quotation is the opening paragraph from *Probing Into Probate Records* in Gregg County Genealogical Society Newsletter, page 2, Volume 23 #2, February 2006. The article is by Kimberly Powell, About.com. The article goes on to explain what you may find in a probate file, what the probate process is, and how to find probate records.

It is a terrific article. I think every person beginning family research should have a copy to read. Probate records can contain a wealth of information. It is a resource that should be explored.

When someone visits our library, our volunteers suggest checking the probate and will indexes. Here at Northwest Missouri Genealogical Library we are most fortunate to have the probate court records of Buchanan County. Indexes list the names and file numbers. The files are stored in boxes and the researcher is able to read and photocopy the original records.

Recently, while researching a request from New Jersey I was lucky enough to find probate files of four family members. One file mentioned an adopted daughter and the will in the probate mentioned names of the deceased’s siblings. The other files listed heirs who were nieces and nephews as the couples did not have children. The death dates in the probates enabled me to then find obituaries. The files also yielded information about the real estate they owned and the family business.

In a different research quest, there were two files. One was a probate document filed upon the death of the person. It mentioned heirs and their addresses, death date, and the name of the funeral home. The other file turned out to be a guardianship for the person who was in the state hospital for almost twenty years preceding her death.

Another probate record I encountered this week contained an 1853 document verifying ownership of a piece of land.

When we start delving into the past, we never know what we will uncover but as researchers we are on a quest for information. You never know what you might find when you open a probate file. But it is always worth the effort.

Connie McCoy

Donations

- Ken Cox Records ; Holt County, MO Poor Farm
Enid Ostertag Journals: Smoke Signals BlackHawk Genealogical Society
 Rock Island, Ill. 1981, 1982, 2002, 2003
- Charles Waugh Books:
 Memorial The Scotch-Irish Volume One by Charles A. Hanna
 The Scotch-Irish Volume Two by Charles A. Hanna
 The Irish Scots and the "Scotch-Irish"
 by Hon. John C. Linehan
 Scots-Irish Links 1575-1725 Part One and Part Two
 by David Dobson
 Scots-Irish Links 1575-1725 Part Three by David Dobson
 Scots-Irish Links 1575-1725 Part Four by David Dobson
- NWMGS County court House Book by Elizabeth Petty Bently
 Marriage Records for Clinton Co., MO
 (Microfiche) 1897-1904
- Jesse R. and Descendants of John Cox, from Ashville, Bucombe Co.,
Laverne Taulbee North Carolina to Platte Co., Missouri
North
Joan Peterson St. Paul Lutheran Church Records 1940-1964
Betty Harvey
 Williams Williams Cemetery Book
Kenneth D. Cox Gerome Agler and Rebecca Pursely Family History
 by Mrs. Rose Shearer
 Custer Battlefield by Edward S. and Evelyn S. Luce
 Prairie Pioneer by Warren County Illinois Gen. Soc.
 Volume 25, Numbers 2-3-4, 2005
 Volume 26, Number 1, 2006
- W.B. Officer "Civil War History" publisher by State U. of Iowa,
 March 1956

A big **"Thank You"** to Betty Harvey Williams who donated books, family files and equipment! They will be listed in the next newsletter.

Monetary Donations

- Joyce Klepper -- Emmetsburg, IA
Janet Marshall -- St. Joseph, MO
Rose King -- St. Joseph, MO
Pauline Kee -- Monnett, MO
Aaron Baublitt -- St. Joseph, MO
Betty Dagenais -- Atchison, KS
Krista Scott -- Statesboro, GA
James Quinn -- Newhall, CA

New Members April/May/June

Denise Cox C217
P.O. Box 531
Elwood, KS 66024

Marcia Jones J65
3300 W. Raymond Rd.
Raymond, NE 68428

Kathy Reid Rippel R153
334 Point Dr.
Great Bend, KS 67530

Julia Erickson E67
46 Tall Pines St.
Jackson, TN 38305-8801

Melinda Johnson J66
1720 Ben Lomond Dr.
Glendale, CA 91202

Donald Roberts R154
Rt. 1, Box 1255
Cassville, MO 65625

Betty Ann Fisher F118
2302 Clay St.
St. Joseph, MO 64501

Gladys Kline K115
3516 Seneca
St. Joseph, MO 64507

Ginger Sowers S347
16555 NW 120th St.
Platte City, MO 64029

Linda Hawk H218
415 N. 3rd St. #601
St. Joseph, MO 64501

Penelope Kress K116
120 South 15th St.
St. Joseph, MO 64501

Linda Stafford S348
906 SW Parker Rd.
St. Joseph, MO 64504

Donna Heck H219
12207 Omaha Rd.
Maitland, MO 64466

Robert Moutray M370
3301 Bishop Rd.
St. Joseph, MO 64505

Belinda Yeager Y17
RR2 Box 177B
Marlow, OK 73055

Barbara J. Jones J63
P.O. Box 594
King City, MO 64463

Pat Rodes R152
1910 Lion Rd.
St. Joseph, MO 64506

Richard Hiatt H220
2114 Fairfax St.
Huntsville, AL 35811

Sue Jameson J64
P.O. Box 445
King City, MO 64463

Michael Leonard L131
31130 S. Gen. Kearny Rd.
#103
Temecula, CA 92591

George Wolfe W210
7701 E. Mt. Hope Rd.
Columbia, MO 65202-
7715

General Meeting: September 28, 2006 at 7:00 PM, at the Northwest Missouri Genealogical Society Library, 412 Felix in St. Joseph, MO. The guest speaker will be Becky Carlson with the State Archives. She will be telling us about an interesting Civil War family and how the descendants were brought together after many years. This will be an interesting program that you will not want to miss.

IN SYMPATHY

Our sympathy goes to Barbara Kelly whose father, Patrick Kelly, passed away April 29, 2006. Barbara is a member of the Genealogical Society.

60th Anniversary

Willis and Rosemary Wells celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary at a reception on May 14, 2006 in St. Joseph, MO. They were married May 14th in Troy, Kansas. Mr. Wells served in the Air Force and is retired from Mead Products. Mrs. Wells worked at Whitaker Cable and was a caregiver. They have two children, five grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and two step-great-grand-children. Both Willis and Rosemary have been volunteers for many years at the genealogy library.

Members -- please check the label on your newsletter to see when your membership dues expire. In order to keep your newsletter 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 when renewing by mail.

FOR SALE

Northwest Missouri Genealogical society items are now on sale:

Sweatshirts \$11.00 (dark green with white lettering)
Tee Shirts \$8.00 (dark green with white lettering)
Tote Bags \$7.00 (natural with dark green lettering)

What Did Grandpa Do?

Jemlller -- a jeweler or a dealer in gems

Joiner or Jointer -- a woodworker who joins pieces of wood on furniture, buildings, and ships

Mason -- a builder in stone or brick or a stonecutter

Millwright -- one who makes a business of planning and building mills or mill machinery

Moulder -- one who makes molds or uses a mold to make shoes, candy, etc.

Pattern maker -- one who makes a guide of paper, cardboard, sheet metal or thin plank of wood to be used as a pattern for making machinery, weaving patterns, etc

--copied, source unknown--

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