

Northwest Missouri Genealogical Society Newsletter

P.O. Box 382
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July/August/September 2007

An American Fourth in Geneva, Switzerland

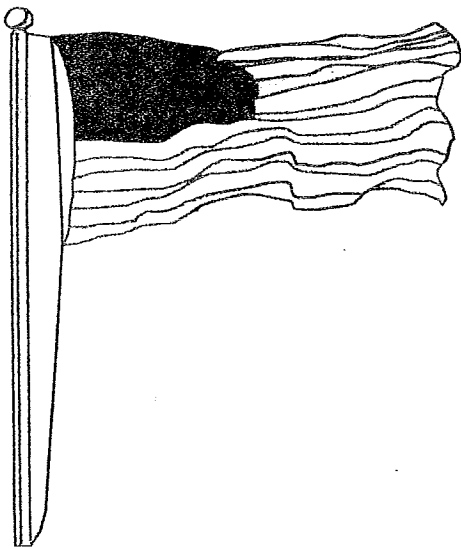
In 1953, my husband, Captain Charles Waugh was stationed in France with the US Air Force. The family lived in a small French village near the air base. We decided to take a short vacation to Switzerland over the 4th of July.

We visited several places before arriving in the city of Geneva on the evening of July 2nd. At dinner that evening we met an American couple who told us that the American Embassy always had an old fashioned 4th of July celebration for all the Americans in the area. It sounded like fun and we decided to stay over for the festivities. It turned out to exceed our wildest expectations.

The Embassy had taken over an island in Lake Geneva. There was a small area of carnival rides for the children. Hot dogs, hamburgers, potato salad and ice cream was available all afternoon and evening. A Swiss band played American patriotic songs and a lot of Sousa's marches. The American flag flew over the festivities and after dusk a most spectacular display of fireworks not only illuminated the sky, they reflected in Lake Geneva.

Perhaps best of all was meeting Americans from many parts of our country - two spinster ladies from New England on their first European trip, a wealthy couple there to see their daughter graduate from finishing school, a Navy family, like us, on leave, and many others from other walks of life. But that day we were all just fellow Americans celebrating the fact we lived in the United States and it was good to be with others like us in a place where our flag was flying on the 4th of July.

by Sarah Waugh



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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

Hello to all:

It looks like another long hot summer is upon us. Hopefully we will be busier at the Society. This means we could use more help. If you could volunteer 2 hours once a week, morning or afternoon, or perhaps one day a week, that would really help. Our Society functions on volunteers and we need more of them. You do not need to know about all of our research procedure when you volunteer; we will teach you as you go. Before long, you will be having lots of enjoyment meeting and helping other people, and you will also be helping us keep the Society open and thriving. Think about it.

John Hutchcraft, president NWMGS

Dick Piper Addresses Society

Dick Piper was the guest speaker at the April 26, 2007 meeting of Northwest Missouri Genealogical Society. Mr. Piper is from King City in Gentry County. He told about the house built by Colonel Manlove Cranor in the 1840s. The house was a stagecoach stop and had some unusual architectural features like a secret room and signaling devices from that room. A church was built north of the house. Mr. Piper stated that he had a list of the people buried there.

An earthen works fort was built about a half mile southwest of the house in 1861. Mr. Piper displayed a 1870s map showing the location of the fort and house.

Colonel Cranor was a Union man. Mr. Piper related a tale of a battle that never was. Colonel Cranor brought his 3000/4000 men to attack Colonel Patton and his 2000/3000 Confederate men near Gentryville. The troops were lined up waiting to attack while Colonel Cranor and Colonel Patton met under a tree near Isaac Miller's home. They were there quite awhile talking, then shook hands and each led their troops away in separate directions.

By Connie McCoy

From the Librarian

Not long ago I was at the Flea Market in White Cloud and Sparks, Kansas. It is great fun to see the variety of offerings the vendors have. I enjoy looking at the old postcards. I am not a postcard collector—it is the pictures showing how places used to look that attract me. In the Atchison Genealogical Society, our President Myrna McConnaughey has an extensive postcard collection which she brought to one of our meetings for us to see. They were quite amazing.

At the Flea Market there are always vendors who have boxes of old photographs. These once treasured pictures of somebody's relatives are now relegated to being items of curiosity to strangers. To us who do family research, finding a picture of an ancestor is a great treasure.

At the library we've had requests for pictures at various times. We've been asked to look through our yearbook collection in hopes there might be a picture.

A recent request was for a picture of Dr. Harriet Ravold who practiced medicine in St. Joseph and wrote articles for the Runcie Club magazine. We were unable to find a picture of her and if any of you can help this gentleman in his search, please email me or call the library.

Some time ago in a newsletter I told about the box of Ozenberger/Gunselman pictures brought to the library. We still have those pictures and hope to give them to someone connected to those families.

A woman who asked to remain anonymous recently brought a photo album to the library. It was in a drawer of a dresser she purchased at a used furniture store. There were a few papers in the album and names are on the pictures. She tried to locate someone to give the album to but had no success. Not wanting to throw it away, she brought it to us. Most of the pictures are from the 30s, 40s, and 50s. A clipping in the album tells of Mrs. W.K. Dearing going to Santa Clara, California to visit her daughter, Mrs. Eula Ham. On the way home she was stopping in Las Vegas to see Mr. Dearing's brother George Dearing, and then at Salt Lake City to visit Mr. Dearing's two sisters and husbands, Mr. and Mrs. John Selewsky (John and Jennie) and Mr. and Mrs. Ed Ivison (Ed and Alberta). Many of the pictures in the album have the names of Dearing, Selewsky, and Ivison written on them. There is a picture of Clyde Oscar Dearing who died in 1949. A few pictures of Huston men (Earl, Carl, Henry, Earnest) are labeled as cousins. Humphreys, Missouri is on some pictures. One says, "1925, K.D's father, D.W. Dearing in Humphreys". Another is of Kenneth, Claude, and Jennie Dearing in 1904 in Humphreys. If anyone reading this newsletter can help us put these pictures back into the hands of family members, please let us know.

Connie McCoy

Ellis Island

From 1892 to 1954, over twelve million immigrants entered the United States through the portal of Ellis Island, a small island in New York Harbor. Ellis Island is located in the upper bay just off the New Jersey coast, within the shadow of the Statue of Liberty. Through the years, this gateway to the new world was enlarged from its original 3.3 acres to 27.5 acres mostly by landfill obtained from ship ballast and possibly excess earth from the construction of the New York City subway system.

Before being designated as the site of the first Federal immigration station by President Benjamin Harrison in 1890, Ellis Island had a varied history. The local Indian tribes had called it "Kioshk" or Gull Island. Due to its rich and abundant oyster beds and plentiful and profitable shad runs, it was known as Oyster Island for many generations during the Dutch and English colonial periods. By the time Samuel Ellis became the island's private owner in the 1770's, the island had been called Kioshk, Oyster, Dyre, Bucking and Anderson's Island. In this way, Ellis Island developed from a sandy island that barely rose above the high tide mark, into a hanging site for pirates, a harbor fort, ammunition and ordinance depot named Fort Gibson, and finally into an immigration station.

From 1794 to 1890 (pre-immigration station period), Ellis Island played a mostly uneventful but still important military role in United States history. When the British occupied New York City during the duration of the Revolutionary War, its large and powerful naval fleet was able to sail unimpeded directly into New York Harbor. Therefore, it was deemed critical by the United States Government that a series of coastal fortifications in New York Harbor be constructed just prior to the War of 1812. After much legal haggling over ownership of the island, the Federal government purchased Ellis Island from New York State in 1808. Ellis Island was approved as a site for fortifications and on it was constructed a parapet for three tiers of circular guns, making the island part of the new harbor defense system that included Castle Clinton at the Battery, Castle Williams on Governor's Island, Fort Wood on Bedloe's Island and two earthworks forts at the entrance to New York Harbor at the Verrazano Narrows. The fort at Ellis Island was named Fort Gibson in honor of a brace officer killed during the War of 1812.

Prior to 1890, the individual states (rather than the Federal government) regulated immigration into the United States. Castle Garden in the Battery (originally known as Castle Clinton) served as the New York State immigration station from 1855 to 1890 and approximately eight million immigrants, mostly from Northern and Western Europe, passed through its doors. These early immigrants came from nations such as England, Ireland, Germany and the Scandinavian countries and constituted the first large wave of immigrants that settled and populated the United States. Throughout the 1800's and intensifying in the latter half of the 19th century, ensuing political instability, restrictive religious laws and deteriorating economic conditions in Europe began to fuel the largest mass human migration in the history of the world. It soon became apparent that Castle Garden was ill-equipped and unprepared to handle the growing numbers of immigrants arriving yearly. Unfortunately compounding the problems of the small facility were the corruption and incompetence found to be commonplace at Castle Garden.

(continued on back page)

General Meeting: September 27, 2007 at 7:00 PM, at the Northwest Missouri Genealogical Society Library, 412 Felix in St. Joseph, MO. The guest speaker will be Laura Waugh. She will dress in period clothing and will speak about sodbusters. If you have portraits or pictures of ancestors but do not know when they were taken, be sure to bring them to this meeting. Laura can identify (within a few years) when the photos were taken, thus helping identify family members.

Our Sympathy goes to Anita and Scott Thompson in the passing of Scott's mother, Nancy A. Thompson. Mrs. Thompson passed away June 22, 2007. Anita is the Journal editor, volunteers at the library, and takes care of the Society membership.

Our Sympathy goes to the family of Etta E. Hahn who passed away May 3, 2007. She was 102 years old. She was a member of the Northwest Missouri Genealogical Society.

Our Sympathy goes to the family of Joan M. Gillman who passed away April 16, 2007. She was a member of the Northwest Missouri Genealogical Society.

Our Sympathy goes to the family of Doris M. Arn who passed away June 26, 2007. She was a charter member of the Northwest Missouri Genealogical Society.

HELP WANTED: Volunteers needed to help in the Genealogy Library. If you can help a few hours or all day give Connie McCoy a call at the library (816) 233-0524.

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.

Donations

Chapter Ed PEO Sisterhood, In honor of Sarah Waugh for presenting Genealogy Program St. Joseph Chapter DAR: A Time for Heroes, The Ancestors' Stories

- Louise Campbell Missouri Western College Yearbook, Griffon
for 1972, 1973, 1974
- Carol Almanza Mount Mora 1851, A collection of Photography and Writing
- Juanita Haskins Little Known Cemeteries of Washington Township,
Buchanan Co., MO
Buechless-Compton
Despain-Hockaday
Filix-Liliger Maxwell
Sunbridge (Old St. Joseph)
- Rev. Richard A. Randall
& Martha Aston Randall Marlin Family Ancestors and Descendants of Allen
Pearson Marlin (1866-1937)

Monetary Donations

James Quinn -- Santa Clarita, CA

Ways You Can Tell If You're Taking Your Genealogy A Little Too Far

*To put the "final touches" on your genealogical research, you've asked your closest relatives to provide DNA samples.

*Your house leans slightly toward the side where your genealogical records are stored.

*You decided to take a two-week break from genealogy, and the U.S. Postal Service immediately laid off 1,500 employees.

*You plod merrily along "refining" your recently published family history, blissfully unaware that the number of errata pages now far exceeds the number of pages in your original publication.

*During an ice storm and power outage, you ignore the pleas of your shivering spouse and place your last quilt around that 1886 photograph of dear Uncle George.

*"A Loving Family" and "Financial Security" have moved up to second and third, respectively, on your list of life's goals, but still lag far behind "Owning My Own Microfilm Reader".

*A magical genie appears and agrees to grant your any one wish, and you ask that the 1890 census be restored.

*And finally, Ed McMahon, several TV cameras, and an envelope from Publishers Clearing House arrive at your front door on Super Bowl Sunday, and the first thing you say is, "Are you related to the McMahons of Ohio?" (copied)

Due to illness and other circumstances some donations and the new members for April, May and June will be in next month's newsletter. We apologize for the delay.

(Ellis Island continued)

The Federal government intervened and constructed a new Federally-operated immigration station on Ellis Island. While the new immigration station on Ellis Island was under construction, the Barge Office at the Battery was used for the processing of immigrants. The new structure on Ellis Island, built of "Georgia Pine" opened on January 1, 1892; Annie Moore, a 15 year-old Irish girl, accompanied by her two brothers entered history and a new country as she was the very first immigrant to be processed at Ellis Island on January 2. Over the next 62 years, more that 12 million were to follow through this port of entry.

While there were many reasons to emigrate to America, no reason could be found for what would occur only five years after the Ellis Island Immigration Station opened. During the evening of June 14, 1897, a fire on Ellis Island, burned the immigration station completely to the ground. Although no lives were lost, many years of Federal and State immigration records dating back to 1855 burned along with the pine buildings that failed to protect them. The United States Treasury quickly ordered the immigration facility be replaced under one very important condition. All future structures built on Ellis Island had to be fireproof. On December 17, 1900, the new Main Building was opened and 2,251 immigrants were received that day. (continued in the next newsletter)

Source: The National Park Service

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