

Northwest Missouri Genealogical Society Newsletter

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

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

Vol. 28 No. 4

October/November/December 2007

All I Want for Christmas

Dear Santa: Don't bring me new dishes,
I don't need a new kind of game.
Genealogists have peculiar wishes
For Christmas I just want a surname.

A new washing machine would be great,
But it's not the desire of my life.
I've just found an ancestor's birth date;
What I need now is the name of his wife.

My heart doesn't yearn for a ring
That would put a real diamond to shame.
What I want is a much cheaper thing;
Please give me Mary's last name.

To see my heart singing with joy,
Don't bring me a read leather suitcase,
Bring me a genealogist's toy;
A surname with dates and a place.

Author Unknown



Officers for 2007-2008

- 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
- Asst. Librarian.....Phyllis Heath
- Membership.....Anita Thompson
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- Publications.....Doloris Foster
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- Publicity.....Rose and John Hutchcraft
- Journal Editor.....Anita Thompson
- 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

I am writing this from the beautiful mountains of West Jefferson, Ashe County, North Carolina at the home of Don and Edna Welling who are members of our Society.

Fall is now upon us and the leaves have already started to change colors here.

We have been busy at the society the past few weeks with many people coming in to do research which is good for us. We still need volunteers to help. See Connie McCoy if you can help.

Your President,
John Hutchcraft

Donations

Janet Beattie	Hi Jo School Annual 1904
Kenneth Cox	St. Joseph, MO High School Annual 1899
Jim Jennings	Westerling Women & Frontier Experience 1800-1915 Women's Diaries of the Westward Journey The Gentle Tamers, Women of the Old Wild West Jennings Family History
William Simpson	Prince Bandar Bin Sultan
Nelrose Trump	Signature Quilt, Helena, Andrew Co., MO
Jewel King	Clay County Kentucky Ancestral News, 2003-2007 8 Volumes Kentucky Explorer Magazine, 2003-2007 47 Volumes
Sarah Woodrow	Descendants of John Seago Descendants of Charles Blakely
Frances Lynch Cooley	Lynch Family Tree

Vickie Whiting has donated an old copy of Edward's Atlas of Montgomery Co., KS, 1881. Vickie cleans up after estate sales and this was found after the last cleanup. The atlas shows all the family holdings and how many acres they owned on detailed maps. In addition to this, someone used the book to record family history, births, deaths, etc. The family name mostly found is Brunton.

From the Librarian

What's been happening at the library this summer? As in years past, summer means we have more researchers from afar. All of the volunteers like it when we are busy and enjoy helping folks with their search. It is interesting to meet people and hear the stories of their ancestors. Some of the travelers are members of the society who may not have been here for several years. It is a pleasure to meet all of you who support the society and to put faces with the names we see on the membership list.

In addition to the out of area visitors, we continue to be blessed with researchers from the area. Statistics show that the majority of our patrons are from the region. We recently started advertising in the newspaper publication *Young at Heart* with the purpose of informing the public about the genealogy library.

During August there was work being done on the street in front of the library so patrons had some difficulty getting to the library and we all endured the loud noise of the machines. The vibrations of the heavy machinery cracked one of our windows necessitating replacement. In the near future the sidewalks will undergo construction. It is all part of a streetscape plan of the city. I expect it will be quite lovely when they are done.

We continue to have good response to our research service offered via email. At the September board meeting our treasurer, John Atkinson, reported that the money raised by researching exceeded the cost of internet services. That was really good news!

A number of members have also contacted us via email to notify of address changes (mailing and email) or to inquire about membership status. I am the person who reads the email. I pass on print copies of messages about membership and address changes to Anita (membership and journal chairperson) and about email addresses to Juanita. Please continue to keep us up to date on your mailing address and email address and let us know if we have errors in your information.

And Coming Soon

Soon we will be able to receive payment through PayPal. The board approved the idea and steps are being taken to implement it. Currently the society only accepts cash and checks. PayPal gives the added option of credit card payment. I anticipate that this will be very useful for our research service and convenient for members to pay annual dues.

Connie McCoy

The Clothesline

A clothesline was a news forecast
To neighbors passing by.
There were no secrets you could keep
When clothes were hung to dry.

It also was a friendly link
For neighbors always knew
If company had stopped on by
To spend a night or two.

For then you'd see the fancy sheets
and towels on the line;
You'd see the company table clothes
With intricate design.

The line announced a baby's birth
To folks who lived inside
As brand new infant clothes were hung
So carefully with pride.

The ages of the children could
So readily be known
By watching how the sizes changed
You'd know how much they'd grow.

It also told when illness struck,
As extra sheets were hung;
Then nightclothes, and a bathrobe, too,
Haphazardly were strung.

It said, "Gone on vacation now"
When lines hung limp and bare.
It told, "We're back!" when full lines sagged
With not an inch to spare.

New folks in town were scorned upon
If wash was dingy gray,
As neighbors raised their brows, and looked
Disgustedly away.

But clotheslines now are of the past
For dryers make work less.
Now what goes on inside a home
Is anybody's guess.

I really miss that way of life.
It was a friendly sign
When neighbors knew each other best
By what hung on the line!

from:

A Genealogy Experience Social Sidebar @ groups.msn.com

Author Unknown

Posted by FrenchGal

Dated Posted 9/23/2000

General Meeting: November 15, 2007 at 6:30PM, at the Northwest Missouri Genealogical Society Library, 412 Felix in St. Joseph, MO. This will be a dinner meeting. The society will furnish meat, drinks, and bread. Please bring your own table service and a covered dish. The guest speaker will be Sarah Waugh. Back by popular demand, we will be playing "Fam'ly" (bingo game).

Our Sympathy goes to the family of Lila L. Sandusky who passed away August 1, 2007. She was a 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.

New Shirts are now at the library. We now have the Northwest Missouri Genealogical Society tee 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.

The Genealogy library will be closed the months of January and February. It will reopen March 4, 2008.

Ellis Island

(continued from last newsletter):

While most immigrants entered the United States through New York Harbor (the most popular destination of steamship companies), others sailed into many ports such as Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, San Francisco and Savannah, Miami, and New Orleans. The great steamship companies like White Star, Red Star, Cunard and Hamburg-America played a significant role in the history of Ellis Island and immigration in general. First and second class passengers who arrived in New York Harbor were not required to undergo the inspection process at Ellis Island. Instead, these passengers underwent a cursory inspection aboard ship; the theory being that if a person could afford to purchase a first or second class ticket, they were less likely to become a public charge in America due to medical or legal reasons. The Federal government felt that these more affluent passengers would not end up in institutions, hospitals or become a burden to the state. However, first and second class passengers were sent to Ellis Island for further inspection if they were sick or had legal problems.

This scenario was far different for "steerage" or third class passengers. These immigrants traveled in crowded and often unsanitary conditions near the bottom of steamships with few amenities, often spending up to two weeks seasick in their bunks during rough Atlantic Ocean crossings. Upon arrival in New York City, ships would dock at the Hudson or East River piers. First and second class passengers would disembark, pass through Customs at the piers and were free to enter the United States. The steerage and third class passengers were transported from the pier by ferry or barge to Ellis Island where everyone would undergo a medical and legal inspection.

If the immigrant's papers were in order and they were in reasonably good health, the Ellis Island inspection process would last approximately three to five hours. The inspections took place in the Registry Room (or Great Hall), where doctors would briefly scan every immigrant for obvious physical ailments. Doctors at Ellis Island soon became very adept at conducting these "six second physicals." By 1916, it was said that a doctor could identify numerous medical conditions (ranging from anemia to goiters to varicose veins) just by glancing at an immigrant. The ship's manifest log (that had been filled out back at the port of embarkation) contained the immigrant's name and his/her answers to twenty-nine questions. This document was used by the legal inspectors at Ellis Island to cross examine the immigrant during the legal (or primary) inspection. The two agencies responsible for processing immigrants at Ellis Island were the United States Public Health Service and the Bureau of Immigration (later known as the Immigration and Naturalization Service - INS). On March 1, 2003, the Immigration and Naturalization Service was re-structured and included into 3 separate bureaus as part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Despite the island's reputation as an "Island of Tears", the vast majority of immigrants were treated courteously and respectfully, and were free to begin their new lives in America after only a few short hours on Ellis Island. (con. p 32)

(Ellis Island continued)

Only two percent of the arriving immigrants were excluded from entry. The two main reasons why an immigrant would be excluded were if a doctor diagnosed that the immigrant had a contagious disease that would endanger the public health or if a legal inspector thought the immigrant was likely to become a public charge or an illegal contract laborer.

During the early 1900's, immigration officials mistakenly thought that the peak wave of immigration had already passed. Actually, immigration was on the rise and in 1907, more people immigrated to the United States than any other year; approximately 1.25 million immigrants were processed at Ellis Island in that one year. Consequently, masons and carpenters were constantly struggling to enlarge and build new facilities to accommodate this greater than anticipated influx of new immigrants. Hospital buildings, dormitories, contagious disease wards and kitchens were all feverishly constructed between 1900 and 1915.
(continued in the next newsletter)

Source: The National Park Service

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