

Northwest Missouri Genealogical Society Newsletter

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

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

Vol. 29 No. 1

January/February/March 2008

Memories

by Grace E. Easley

Memories are heartbeats
Sounding through the years
Echoes never fading
Of our smiles and our tears.
Moments that are captured
Sometimes unaware
Pictured in an album
Or a lock of hair.

Images that linger
Deep within the mind
Bit of verse we cherished
Once upon a time.
Through the musty hallways
Of the days we knew
Ever comes the vision
Beautiful and true.

Memories are roses
Blooming evermore
Full of fragrant sweetness
Never known before.
Life must have a meaning
Goals for which to strive
Memories are lights that burn
To keep the heart alive.



Officers for 2007-2008

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Journal Editor.....Anita Thompson
Newsletter Editor.....Jo Mayse
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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

Winter has arrived with a vengeance. The ice storm experienced by many in northwest Missouri will not be forgotten for a long time. I hope your electricity was not off too long. The electricity at my house was out for 5 days. The Society library closed part of December due to weather.

Some of our volunteers experienced health problems during December. We hope they get well soon and we look forward to seeing everyone when the library opens again in March. As always, anyone interested in being a volunteer, please let me know or contact Connie McCoy, the head librarian. Special thanks goes out to all our great volunteers, without them the Society could not remain open.

John Hutchcraft,
President NWMGS

Our sympathy goes to Anita Thompson whose brother passed away October 2007. Anita is a volunteer at the library and is editor of the NWMG Journal.

You Know You're an Addicted Genealogist

- ...when you brake for libraries.
- ...if you get locked in a library overnight and you never even notice.
- ...when you hyperventilate at the sight of an old cemetery.
- ...If you'd rather browse in a cemetery than a shopping mall.
- ...when you think every home should have a microfilm reader.
- ...if you'd rather read census schedules than a good book.
- ...when you know every town clerk in your state by name.
- ...if town clerks lock the doors when they see you coming.
- ...when you're more interested in what happened in 1697 than 1997.
- ...if you store your clothes under the bed and your closet is carefully stacked with notebooks and journals.
- ...if you can pinpoint Harrietsham, Hawkhurst, and Kent on a map of England, but can't locate Topeka, Kansas.
- ...when all your correspondence begins, "Dear Cousin".
- ...if you've traced every one of your ancestral lines back to Adam and Eve, have it all fully documented, and still don't want to quit.

(author unknown from [www.genealogy fix.tripod.com](http://www.genealogyfix.tripod.com))

From the Librarian

With the start of a new year, I've been pondering some questions about the library.

What can we do to bring more people to the library?

The number of people visiting the library to research in 2007 decreased from 2006 which had decreased from 2005. Not an encouraging trend! Our library has so much to offer people researching their northwest Missouri ancestors. Somehow we need to make it known that NWMGS is the place to research.

Will we be able to find more dedicated volunteers?

Currently we have nine regular volunteer librarians. It is these nine people who work every week to assist researchers. A sign has been up in the library for several years asking for volunteers. A request for volunteers has been published in the newsletter on several occasions. Thankfully, there have been some temporary volunteers that helped in a pinch. But the day to day opening continues to rely on nine people. The problem became critical in December when we decided to close the library two weeks early due to lack of workers. We cannot continue relying on only nine people to keep our door open to the public.

What new resources can we add to our collection?

We focus on the counties of northwest Missouri. If there are additional materials available for any of these counties, we need to acquire them. It would also be nice to fill in the gaps in our yearbook collection. I've received e-mails from Midwest Continent Library offering to other libraries their duplicates. Perhaps something they wish to discard is something we need. I like the idea and would like to weed out some of our duplicates in a similar manner.

What services can we offer to benefit members and other researchers?

The NWMGS research service has been in operation for little more than a year and has done well. Organizing and maintaining it has been a learning as you go experience for me. During 2008 I will continue to explore ways to refine and improve this service.

Recently we got set up to accept payments via Pay Pal. It offers a convenient way to pay for research. I also think it could be used for members to pay dues. I need to figure out how that works. I think it involves sending reminders via e-mail. If you'd like to pay your dues with a credit card and are willing to pay through Pay Pal, send me an e-mail.

At a meeting not too long ago a member suggested sending the newsletter online to members who were interested rather than via USPS. It is an idea with possibilities.

In accordance to tradition, a new year is a time to make resolutions or set goals. Doing so based on the questions I pondered, these could be some goals for 2008.

1. Attract more researchers to the library
2. Get more volunteers
3. Work on the collection
4. Develop services

Your ideas and suggestions on the goals I've presented or anything to improve the library are most welcome. Send your thoughts, ideas, suggestions via e-mail to me at library@nwmogenealogy.com. We have board meetings on January 10 and March 13 and I can present your ideas then. We need to work together to overcome the challenges that Northwest Missouri Genealogical Society faces.

Connie McCoy
NWMGS Librarian

Donations

Patricia Hollingsworth	The Robinson Index Vol 2
John Hutchcraft	Union Star, DeKalb Co., MO History to 1936
William Pease	Family Picture
Mary Hillis	St. Joseph High School Yearbooks 1893-94, 1907-08-09
	Central High School Yearbooks 1912,15,23,24,25
	St. Joseph Junior College 1923
	Robidoux Polytechnic High School Yearbook 1924
	University of MO Yearbook 1924
	Brenau College, Gainesville, GA Yearbook 1918
Sarah Waugh	Nodaway County, MO, A Pictorial History 1910-1994, Grassroot Reflections, Farming in Nodaway County 1845-1996
Elouise English	Benton High School Yearbook 1923
Berenice Cordry	1942 St. Joseph Junior College Yearbook 1941 Benton High School, St. Joseph, MO Benton High School Class of 1941 Booklet Bentonites Attending 1991 Reunion St. Joseph Junior College "Penny Whistles" May 1943 Benton High School Class of 1941 & 1943 Pictures
Joseph Gray	Michael Brown & Margaret Mackin, Descendants of by Mona R. Marsh
Lili Anderson	Office supplies
S.E. Williams	Muzzle Blasts Magazine
James B. Tannehill	Tannahill's, Tannehill's, Taneyhill's of the United States 1653-1900's
Margaret Welsch	15 Generation Pedigrees Charts, NW MO Journal 6 copies
Jim Jennings	Booklet in Memory of Gentry Co., MO Veterans Ruch-Carlock Pioneer Families of Gentry Co., MO
R.J. Sadlon	The Descendants of Creed T. Miller of Cumberland Co., KY and NW MO
Kenneth Cox	Short Histories of Trinity Methodist Church and Hundley Methodist Church St. Joseph, MO Weekly Gazette, April 25, 1845 to September 8, 1834.

Monetary Donations

Keith Nettle -- Dustin, Oklahoma

General Meeting: April 24, 2008 at 7:00PM, at the Northwest Missouri Genealogical Society Library, 412 Felix in St. Joseph, MO. Sarah Waugh will have a speaker (more details in the next newsletter).

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.

Show Me the Nation's Records

"Show Me the Way to Our Nation's Records" is the annual NGS Conference in the States and Family History Fair in Kansas City, MO. May 14 - 17, 2008. This conference will feature record types from across the country. Program topics include Adoption research, African American research, BCG skill building track, Computer topics, DNA lectures, Genealogical essentials, German research, Homesteading records, Land records, Midwest topics, Migration topics, National Archives records, Writing lectures, Native American lectures, Military records, Methodology, and a variety of workshops amongst many others. The full program will be available online shortly. You can go to www.NGSgenealogy.org for more information and online attendee registration.

The Genealogy library will be closed the months of January and February. It will reopen Tuesday, March 4, 2008, 2:00 - 8:00PM.

Please call the library in bad weather to see if the library is open. We will close if the weather gets too bad.

Ellis Island

(continued from last newsletter):

As the United States entered World War I, immigration to the United States decreased. Numerous suspected enemy aliens throughout the United States were brought to Ellis Island under custody. Between 1918 and 1919, detained suspected enemy aliens were transferred from Ellis Island to other locations in order for the United States Navy with the Army Medical Department to take over the island complex for the duration of the war. During this time, regular inspection of arriving immigrants was conducted on board ship or at the docks. At the end of World War I, a big "Red Scare" spread across America and thousands of suspected alien radicals were interred at Ellis Island. Hundreds were later deported based upon the principal of guilt by association with any organizations advocating revolution against the Federal government. In 1920, Ellis Island reopened as an immigration receiving station and 225,206 immigrants were processed that year.

From the very beginning of the mass migration that spanned the years (roughly) 1880 to 1924, an increasingly vociferous group of politicians and nativists demanded increased restrictions on immigration. Laws and regulations such as the Chinese Exclusion Act, the Alien Contract Labor Law and the institution of a literacy test barely stemmed this flood tide of new immigrants. Actually, the death knell for Ellis Island, as a major entry point for new immigrants, began to toll in 1921. It reached a crescendo between 1921 with the passage of the Quota Laws and 1924 with the passage of the National Origins Act. These restrictions were based upon a percentage system according to the number of ethnic groups already living in the United States as per the 1890 and 1910 Census. It was an attempt to preserve the ethnic flavor of the "old immigrants", those earlier settlers primarily from Northern and Western Europe. The perception existed that the newly arriving immigrants mostly from southern and eastern Europe were somehow inferior to those who arrived earlier.

After World War I, the United States began to emerge as a potential world power. United States embassies were established in countries all over the world, and prospective immigrants now applied for their visas at American consulates in their countries of origin. The necessary paperwork was completed at the consulate and a medical inspection was also conducted there. After 1924, the only people who were detained at Ellis Island were those who had problems with their paperwork, as well as war refugees and displaced persons.

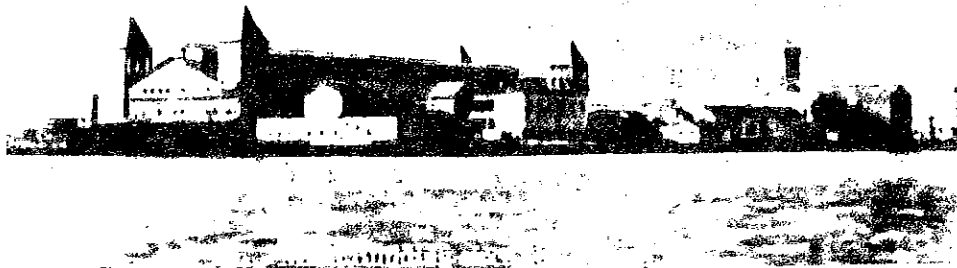
Ellis Island still remained open for many years and served a multitude of purposes. During World War II, enemy merchant seamen were detained in the baggage and dormitory building. The United States Coast Guard also trained about 60,000 servicemen there. In November of 1954 the last detainee, a Norwegian merchant seaman named Arne Peterssen was released, and Ellis Island officially closed.

(concluded on page 8)

(Ellis Island continued from page 7)

In 1965, President Lyndon Johnson declared Ellis Island part of the Statue of Liberty National Monument. Ellis Island was opened to the public on a limited basis between 1976 and 1984. Starting in 1984, Ellis Island underwent a major restoration, the largest historic restoration in U.S. history. The \$160 million dollar project was funded by donations made to The Statue of Liberty - Ellis Island Foundation, Inc. in partnership with the National Park Service. The Main Building was reopened to the public on September 10, 1990 as the Ellis Island Immigration Museum. Today, the museum receives almost 2 million visitors annually.

Source: The National Park Service (www.ellisland.org)



main building circa 1892 (from www.ellisland.org)

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