

GILA HERITAGE

Quarterly of the
NORTHERN GILA COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.
a non-profit organization
PAYSON, ARIZONA

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It's That Time Again!

All annual dues expire on the 31st of December so don't forget to renew your membership dues. Individual dues are \$15; family dues are \$25. Newsletter for February will be mailed only to those who have paid their dues for 2006. You don't have to worry about paying annually if you are a life member, a bargain at \$150; family memberships are \$200. Have you considered becoming a life member?



For our December meeting we are having a Christmas party and we are again bringing office supplies as presents for our Library. See you December 1!

**NORTHERN GILA COUNTY
 GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.
 A Non-profit Corporation
 Genealogy Library Facility
 302 East Bonita Street, Payson, AZ
 Payson, AZ 85541-5012
 (928) 474-2139
 New E-Mail Address: NGCGS@NPGcable.com**

WEB SITE: <http://users.rootsweb.com/~azngcgs/index.html>

Library Hours: Thursday, Friday, & Saturday, 9 to 4 p.m. Or By Appointment

We specialize in helping add branches to family trees!

OFFICERS IN 2004

President.....Grace Johns
 First Vice President.....Clarice Christensen
 Second Vice President.....Val Sullivan
 Secretary.....Judy Voran
 Corresponding Sec.....Lois Brice
 Treasurer.....Frieda Chittick

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

ILL Clerk.....Peggy Grey
 Historian.....Joan Savage
 Publicity.....Lettie Cale
 Telephone.....Viola Robertson
 Newsletter.....Val Sullivan
 Office Manager.....Joan Savage

And Judy Voran is Head Librarian

MEETINGS: Meetings are held at **1:30 p.m.**, the first **Thursday** of the month (unless a holiday) at:

**NGCGS Library
 302 East Bonita Street
 Payson, AZ 85541-5012
 (928) 474-2139**

Visitors always welcome!

CORRESPONDENCE: Please address all correspondence to:

**NGCGS Library
 302 East Bonita Street
 Payson, AZ 85541-5012**

Please include a long self-addressed, stamped envelope for inquiries.

MEMBERSHIP:

Individual.....\$15. Family (related, same address).....\$30.
 Individual Life.....\$150. Family Life (related, same address) \$200.
 Associate/Library.....\$10.

NEWSLETTER: The *GILA HERITAGE*, ISSN: 0893-7753, is published quarterly and can be read on line at our website (see above for address). The quarterly is not copyrighted. Reprint permission is given, (except for copyrighted material as noted) but please give us credit. Neither NORTHERN GILA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY nor the editor of *GILA HERITAGE* assumes responsibility for errors of facts or judgment on the part of the contributor. Errors will be corrected, however, when brought to our attention.

Gila County District One Supervisor Donates \$5,000 to NGCGS



Gila County District 1 Supervisor Tommie Martin was instrumental in getting a \$5,000 grant for NGCGS. This grant made it possible for the library's property to be paid in full. We are all so grateful to Supervisor Martin for this wonderful endowment to the Genealogy Society. When you see Supervisor Martin, give her a personal "Thank You". Presenting the check to President Grace Johns (left) is Jo Johnson, Administrative Assistant to Supervisor Martin, whose schedule did not permit her to attend the July 7th, 2005 meeting.



Deed of Release and Full Reconveyance

On 3 August, 2005 the property sold to the Northern Gila County Genealogical Society (NGCGS) by Robert and Sue Owen was registered in Globe as owned solely by NGCGS! The Society now owns both the building, its contents, and the land on which it sits free and clear! This is the result of much hard work by many members of the society, both current as well as those that have passed on. Pictured right is Sue Owens with President Grace Johns, holding the Deed to the property. The picture was taken at the Sept. 1, 2005 general meeting.



Payson Mayor Barbara Brewer Attends Celebration



Mayor Barbara Brewer was one of several who attended the Society's 25th Anniversary of its incorporation date back in September of 1980. Mayor Brewer spoke briefly of her interest in genealogy and voiced her congratulations on the accomplishments of the Society in recent years. Member Judy Voran then made a scintillating presentation to promote her October workshop on Analyzing Genealogical Data. A variety of refreshments were served and everyone enjoyed the affair.

World War II Data Base

Here's a wonderful new database at NARA. It's part of the ADD-Access to Archival Databases System. This particular database is the "Electronic Army Serial Number Merged File, ca 1938-1946". It has records for close to 9 million enlistees in the US Army for WWII. You can search for individual names, or by state and county, or a combination. Wildcards are permitted, too.

To search by state and county, start at:

<http://www.archives.gov/aadindex.html>

Click on SEARCH, then select ALL SERIES, the Army file is the sixth entry down.

From there it's pretty self-explanatory. Be sure to select the state and county codes from the code lists - don't type the place names in.

There are other databases in the ADD – check it out!!!

Some Ethnic Websites to Explore

These websites were contributed by Jim E. Salmon who can be reached by Email:

jim@saturdaymatinee.com

Native American Search Engines

<http://www.americanindians.com>

<http://www.nativeamericans.com>

Hispanic Search Engines

<http://www.latinos.org>

<http://www.hispanics.com>

<http://www.latinoamericanos.org>

African American Search Engines

<http://www.blacks.org>

<http://www.africanamericans.com>

Asian American Search Engine

<http://www.asianamericans.org>

<http://www.asianamericans.com>

<http://www.asians.org>

Three interesting websites for you to explore

<http://geonames.usgs.gov/redirect.html> to find the name of a county. The Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) program includes the automated names system and the National Gazetteer program and is a coordinated effort in the Branch of Geographic Names.

<http://www.segenealogy.com> Online source for free genealogical information on records and links for the Southeastern U.S. Including information on courthouse records, churches, cemeteries, societies, military records and units, vital records information & much more. States including Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia.

www.myviriniagenealogy.com provides information on families in Virginia. Most pre-Civil War county records are now housed at The Library of Virginia, with copies maintained in the county and independent city courthouses. Many early records have been microfilmed, with copies available at The Library of Virginia and at Family History Libraries. Each reel of microfilm must be ordered by its number, but first order Microfilm Reel #461. MF#461 includes the entire catalog of holdings for the Library of Virginia.

**Did your ancestors come through Ellis Island?
If so, the next few pages may be of interest to you.**

From: http://www.ellisland.org/genealogy/ellis_island_timeline.asp?SID=079

Ellis Island-History and Timeline:

Date	Description of Ellis Island Through History
1630	The Colonial governors of New Amsterdam purchased a small, 3.5-acre mudbank in Upper New York Bay, near the New Jersey shore. The Indians called it Kioshk, or Gull Island, after the birds that were its only inhabitants. The Dutch settlers called it "Oyster Island", after the many surrounding oyster beds. The Island barely rose above the surface at high tide.
1700's	During the Colonial period the Island was known as Dyre's, then Bucking. In the 1760's, after some pirates were hanged from one of the island's scrubby trees, it became known as Gibbet Island.
1776	By the time of the American Revolution, the Island was owned by Samuel Ellis, a New York merchant and owner of a small tavern on the island catering to fisherman.
1808	Samuel Ellis's heirs sold the island to New York State. The name Ellis Island stuck. Later in the year, the Federal Government bought Ellis Island for \$10,000.
1812	Shortly before the War of 1812, a battery of 20 guns, a magazine and a barracks were constructed on the island.
1834	By the terms of an interstate agreement, Ellis Island and neighboring Bedloe's Island (renamed Liberty island in 1956, site of the Statue of Liberty) were declared part of New York State, even though both islands are on the New Jersey side of the main ship channel. Ellis continued to serve as an arsenal until 1890. Nearby residents of Jersey City, Manhattan and Brooklyn worried for years about explosion of the powder magazines.
1890	The States turned over control of immigration to the Federal Government. The U.S. Congress appropriated \$75,000 to build the first Federal immigration station on Ellis Island. Artesian wells were dug, and landfill (from incoming ships' ballast and New York City subway tunnels) doubled the size of Ellis to over six acres. While the new immigration station was under construction, the Barge Office on the Battery on the tip of Manhattan was used for immigration reception. During 1891, there were 405,664 immigrants, or about 80% of the national total, that were processed at the Barge Office.
Jan. 1, 1892	The First Ellis Island Immigration Station was officially opened. The first immigrant to pass through Ellis was a "rosy-cheeked Irish girl," Annie Moore, age 15, from County Cork. She came with her two younger brothers to join their parents in New York City. That first day, three large ships were waiting to land, and 700 immigrants passed through Ellis Island. In the first year, nearly 450,000 immigrants passed through the Island.

- June 15, 1897 A fire of undisclosed origin, possibly faulty wiring, completely destroyed the Georgia pine structures on Ellis Island. No one died, but most of the immigration records dating from 1855 were destroyed. In five years, some 1.5 million immigrants had been processed. While a new, fireproof immigration station was being constructed on Ellis, processing was transferred back to the Barge Office.
- Dec 17, 1900 Opening of the present Main Building, an impressive, French Renaissance structure in red brick with limestone trim. It cost some \$1.5 million and was designed to process 5,000 immigrants per day. This was scarcely big enough for the surge in immigration in the pre-World War I years. The island was continuously enlarged with landfill, remodeling, additions and new construction.
- 1907 This was the peak year at Ellis Island with 1,004,756 immigrants received. The all-time daily high was on April 17th of this year when a total of 11,747 immigrants were processed.
- 1908 The Baggage and Dormitory Building was completed and capacity of the hospital was doubled. A dining room for 1,000 at a sitting was built on the top floor of the Kitchen and Laundry Building.
- July 30, 1916 Explosions believed set by German saboteurs at nearby Black Tom Wharf in New Jersey severely damaged the Ellis Island buildings. The most notable addition included in the repairs was the new ceiling over the Great Hall, a barrel vault constructed by the Guastavino brothers.
- 1917 When the U.S. entered the war in Europe, Ellis Island was used to detain crews from German merchant ships anchored in New York Harbor. Suspected enemy aliens throughout America were rounded up and brought to Ellis Island.
- 1918-1919 The U.S. Army and Navy took over most of Ellis Island for use as a way station and treatment of returning sick and wounded American servicemen. During the war, there was a sharp decline in immigration as the numbers of newcomers passing through Ellis Island decreased from 178,416 in 1915, to just 28,867 in 1918.
- 1921 Post-war immigration quickly revived and 560,971 immigrants passed through Ellis Island in 1921. The first Immigration Quota Law passed the U.S. Congress, adding to the administration problems at Ellis Island. It provided that the number of any European nationality entering in a given year could not exceed three percent of foreign-born persons of that nationality who lived in the U.S. in 1910. Nationality was to be determined by country of birth, and no more than 20 percent of the annual quota of any nationality could be received in any given month. The total number of immigrants admissible under the system was set at nearly 358,000, but numerous classes were exempt.
- 1924 The Immigration Act of 1924 further restricted immigration, changing the quota basis from the census of 1910 to that of 1890, and reducing the annual quota to some 164,000. This marked the end of mass immigration to America. The Immigration Act also provided for the examination and

- qualification of immigrants at U.S. consulates overseas. The main function of Ellis Island changed from that of an immigrant processing station, to a center of the assembly, detention, and deportation of aliens who had entered the U.S. illegally or had violated the terms of admittance. The buildings at Ellis Island began to fall into disuse and disrepair.
- 1930s Funds from the Public Works Administration permitted the landfill addition of recreation grounds on the Manhattan side of the Main Building. Works Progress Administration (WPA) labor added landscaping, new playgrounds and gardens on new landfill between Units 2 and 3. As a result of these efforts, Ellis Island reached its present 27.5 acres
- 1938-1945 During World War II, Ellis Island facilities were used by the Coast Guard to house and train recruits. After the U.S. entered the war in December 1941, Ellis Island was again used as a detention center for suspected enemy aliens and as a hospital for returning wounded servicemen. The detainees became so numerous that the immigration functions had to be transferred to Manhattan for lack of room on Ellis.
- 1946 Following the decommissioning of the Coast Guard Station, Ellis Island remained in use primarily as a detention center for aliens whose status was questioned.
- 1950 A brief flurry of activity occurred on Ellis Island after the passage of the Internal Security Act of 1950, which excluded arriving aliens who had been members of Communist and Fascist organizations. Remodeling and repairs were performed on the buildings to accommodate detainees who numbered as many as 1,500 at one time.
- 1952 As a result of the Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1952 and a liberalized detention policy the number of detainees on Ellis Island dropped to less than 30.
- Nov. 1954 Ellis Island, with its 33 structures, was closed and declared excess Federal property.
- 1954-65 Ellis Island was under jurisdiction of the General Services Administration.
- May 11, 1965 President Lyndon B. Johnson issued Proclamation 3656 adding Ellis Island to the Statue of Liberty National Monument, thus placing Ellis Island under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service.
- 1976 Ellis Island was opened to the public for visits. Sixty-minute guided tours were limited to the Main Building. Over 50,000 visited the island in 1976.
- 1984 Visitation had reached 70,000 per year when the current restoration began. The non-profit Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, Inc., chaired by Lee A. Iacocca, raised all the funds from private citizens, corporations, and other groups. In collaboration with the National Park Service, it also lets contracts for the work.

From: education@ellisland.org

Your Ellis Island Ancestors Are Waiting To Be Found

Welcome to The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation's free service designed to help you and your family uncover valuable clues contained in historic passenger arrival records at Ellis Island. In the four years since www.EllisIsland.org first enabled free online access to passenger arrival records, we have responded to more than a billion queries about immigrant arrivals through the Port of New York. This Search Tips Series is designed to share our experience with you, making it even easier for you to locate the records for each of your immigrant ancestors.

What Can You Expect To Find On An Ellis Island Passenger List?

Ellis Island Passenger Arrival Records are among the most valuable family history documents for tens of millions of Americans tracing their ethnic heritage. For many, these historic documents contain seemingly ordinary facts which now provide invaluable clues about the extraordinary events in the lives of our immigrant ancestors.

Depending upon the year of arrival, information for an individual passenger as recorded on a '**Passenger List**' (also called a '**Ship Manifest**' or '**Ship List**') can contain more than two dozen clues and can lead to significant breakthroughs in your genealogical research. In some cases, a careful review of other passengers recorded on the same manifest can also yield unexpected family discoveries.

Here's a helpful hint to make your search better at www.EllisIsland.org. Did you know that it was customary for many Europeans, and especially Italian, women to travel under their maiden names?

This may help explain why some searches can be more difficult than others. For instance, let's say you are looking for an ancestor whose married name was Teresa Orsatti. If you searched under that name, you would find no matches. But you could still find Teresa Orsatti if you're prepared to do a little detective work. If you begin by searching just the name Orsatti, you will find 82 references. The sixth of these references is for Anna Orsatti, which, in your hypothetical search, seems familiar. So you click on Anna.

Her manifest is intriguing. For on it you will find three Orsattis traveling together, namely Anna, Chiarina and Pietro Orsatti (ages 15, 11 and 9), who are listed on manifest lines 2, 3 and 4, aboard the ship Barborossa arriving from Naples on May 4th, 1906. Next to Anna's name is the word "Daughter." To the right of the 3 names there is a bracket linking those three names to line 1. Line one gives us Teresa De Cesare, the mother traveling with her three children under her maiden name. So there, in the details, you've finally found Teresa Orsatti! Further handwritten detail on the original manifest shows their final destination as Waterbury, CT and notes they will be joining 'son Giovanni, 24 Phoenix Ave, Waterbury Conn' (not visible on partial image above).

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

A young man named John received a parrot as a gift. The parrot had a bad attitude and an even worse vocabulary. Every word out of the bird's mouth was rude, obnoxious and laced with profanity.

John tried and tried to change the bird's attitude by consistently saying only polite words, playing soft music and anything else he could think of to "clean up" the bird's vocabulary. Finally, John was fed up and he yelled at the parrot. The parrot yelled back. John shook the parrot and the parrot got angrier and even ruder. John, in desperation, threw up his hand, grabbed the bird and put him in the freezer.

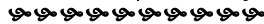
For a few minutes the parrot squawked and kicked and screamed. Then suddenly there was total quiet. Not a

peep was heard for over a minute. Fearing that he'd hurt the parrot, John quickly opened the door to the freezer.

The parrot calmly stepped out onto John's outstretched arms and said "I believe I may have offended you with my rude language and actions. I'm sincerely remorseful for my inappropriate transgressions and I fully intend to do everything I can to correct my rude and unforgivable behavior."

John was stunned at the change in the bird's attitude. As he was about to ask the parrot what had made such a dramatic change in his behavior, the bird continued,

"May I ask what the turkey did?"

**THE TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR NAMES**

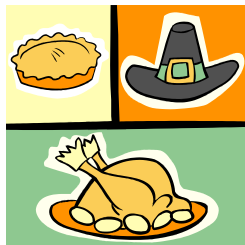
- (1) Thou shalt name your male children: Albert, James, John, Joseph, Josiah, Richard, Thomas, William
- (2) Thou shalt name your female children: Elizabeth, Mary, Martha, Maria, Sarah
- (3) Thou shalt leave NO trace of your female children.
- (4) Thou shalt, after naming your children from the above lists, call them by strange nicknames such as: Polly, Dolly, Sukey
- (5) Thou shalt NOT use any middle names on any legal documents or census reports, and only where necessary, you may use only initials on legal documents.
- (6) Thou shalt learn to sign all documents illegibly so that your surname can be spelled, or misspelled, in various ways: Hicks, Hickers, Hix, Hixie, Hucks, Kicks
- (7) Thou shalt leave NO cemetery records, or headstones with legible names.
- (8) Thou shalt leave NO family Bible with records of birth, marriages, or deaths.
- (9) Thou shalt ALWAYS flip thy name around. If born James Albert, thou must make all the rest of thy records in the names of Albert, AJ, JA, AL, Bert, Bart, or Alfred.
- (10) Thou must also flip thy parent's names when making reference to them, although "Unknown" or a blank line is an acceptable alternative.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Date	Topic
November 1, 2005	NGCGS Board Meeting
November 3, 2005	Genealogy Research in Scotland by Val Sullivan
November 19, 2005	AZ State Genealogical Society Annual Fall Seminar*
November 29, 2005	NGCGS Board Meeting
December 1, 2005	Christmas Party and Election of Officers
December 31, 2005	Membership Dues need to be renewed for 2006
January 3, 2006	NGCGS Board Meeting
January 5, 2006	Regular Meeting-Tina Terry on Hawaiian Genealogy
January 31, 2006	NGCGS Board Meeting
February 2, 2006	Regular Meeting- Apache Indian Heritage-Tentative
February 7-10, 2006	Trip to Salt Lake City for Genealogy Research*

* Sign-up Sheet and info are on the Genealogical Library Bulletin Board.

Have a Happy Holiday Season!



**Northern Gila Co. Genealogical Society, Inc.
302 E. Bonita St.
Payson, AZ 85541-5012**

