

50th Anniversary Cruise in support of THE ONTARIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

As part of The Society's 50th anniversary celebrations, a cruise in support of OGS was planned and conducted by "Champions" Mary Rossiter and Cathy Blackburn. On September 8, 2011, 36 avid genealogists from across Ontario and from as far away as Indiana and California met in New York City to join in the adventure. Arrangements had been made to spend time in the city prior to the departure of the "Carnival Glory" on the 10th.

Many took part in site-seeing tours and theatre performances. Figure 1 shows an evening scene of Broadway.



Figure 1

September 9th began with a pre-arranged guided tour. A walk through "The Garment

District" was followed by maneuvering the NYC subway system to Battery Park on the southern tip of Manhattan Island where preparations had been made for the 10th Anniversary of 9/11.

Figure 2 – The group braves the NYC subway, transfers and all.



Figure 2



Figure 3

Claudia McArthur and Karen de Vries in front of the hundreds of flags naming those who died the events associated with 9/11.



Figure 4

The anniversary memorial services were planned for the day after our departure so the group was unable to view the new memorial yet and there was a strong police presence due to heightened security. Travelling throughout the city was extremely slow.



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7

Castle Clinton or Fort Clinton (Figure 8), once known as Castle Garden, is a circular sandstone fort now located in Battery Park. It is perhaps best remembered as America's first immigration station (predating Ellis Island), where more than 8 million people arrived in the U.S. from 1855 to 1890.



Figure 8

From Battery Park, the group was ferried to Ellis Island (Figures 11-20.) En route, they were able to view the majestic Lady Liberty (Figure 10) and hear of her history from our guide, Tom Bernardin, author of *The Ellis Island Immigrant Cookbook: The Story of Our Common past told through the Recipes and reminiscences of Our Immigrant Ancestors* (Figure 9).



Figure 9



Figure 12



Figure 10



Figure 13



Figure 11



Figure 14



Figure 15



Figure 18



Figure 16



Figure 19 Registry Room



Figure 17



Figure 20

The afternoon offered more site-seeing opportunities or visits to the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society and the New York Public Library. Figure 21 shows Shirley Sturdevant in front of the NYPL.



Figure 21

The Carnival Glory set sail on Saturday, September 10, 2011 with 34 cruisers and our speaker, Dave Obee and his wife Trixie.



Figure 22

The Glory would be home to the cruisers for seven nights. Two at-sea days offered time to relax and enjoy onboard activities. Well-known speaker Dave Obee from British Columbia also provided informational sessions in genealogy for ½ day on each occasion. Cruisers valued the talks and shared with one another too.

Figure 23 - Lois Duggan and Joyce Quince in one of the ship's restaurants.



Figure 23

(Left) Jim and Barb Laflamme, Colleen and Louise Dean, (right) Jim Dukes and Mary Rossiter dine in the Platinum Room (Figure 24.)



Figure 24

Figure 25 – Marilyn Cross, Edythe Gerrard, Cathy Blackburn, Dave Obee



Figure 25

Figure 26 - Trixie Obee, John and Lee Brunner and Janice Harris



Figure 26

Figure 27 – Ken and Maryanne Bird, Carole Foshay



Figure 27

Due to whales migrating too close to shore on our first travel day, the captain had to

reduce the ship's speed. It was not until Monday that we reached Boston, Massachusetts where cruisers went to the Boston Public Library and some to the New England Historic and Genealogical Society. Figure 28 has Rick Heaslip at the BPL.



Figure 28

Tuesday brought the group to Portland, Maine. Cruisers took advantage of the Maine Historical Society which was within walking distance, a trip to the Lobster Bake and Historic Fort or a variety of other available tours.

Figure 29 – Barb Laflamme with hosts at the MHS.



Figure 29

When the Glory arrived in Saint John, New Brunswick, cruisers visited various sites within walking distance of the pier or took

day tours. Many also made a visit to the United Empire Loyalist Cemetery.



Figure 30 Reversing Falls

The last stop before returning to NYC was Halifax, Nova Scotia. Thanks to organizer Cathy Blackburn, members of the Genealogical Association of Nova Scotia (GANS) were on hand to welcome OGS cruisers at the Nova Scotia Archives. Figure 31 – Claudia McArthur, Kim and Anne O’Reilly, Mel Murray and Marjorie Mueller enjoy treats with the GANS hosts.



Figure 31

This brief time of socializing was followed with a computer session and research time. Many visited Pier 21 later in the day before returning to the Glory for the homeward trip. Little did they know that Tropical Storm Maria would accompany them most of the way.

Friday afternoon offered a last opportunity for the group to gather for a “party” in the lounge.

Figure 32 – Ann O’Reilly, Janice Harris and Barb Laflamme



Figure 32

Figure 33- Kim O’Reilly, Jo Geary, Barbara Gardner-Bray



Figure 33

Figure 34 – Wayne Vollmer, Lee and John Brunner, Jean Mazur



Figure 34



Figure 35

Figure 36 - Claudia McArthur and Karen de Vries disembark The Carnival Glory



Figure 36

On Saturday, September 17th, it was farewell to The Glory and good-bye for new friends, many of whom vowed to stay in touch.

Thanks, Cathy and Mary!! Now, for our next adventure...??

Many thanks to cruisers who contributed photos.