

The Noble Maritime Collection

Presents:

Annie's Journey To America

Pre and Post Visit Materials

- Vocabulary Sheet
- Ellis Island Excerpts
- Annie's Songs
- Irish Games for Children
- Coloring Pages based on the song "Rattling Bog"
- John Noble and New York Harbor Information

Annie's Journey Vocabulary

An Gorta Mór – Irish Gaelic words that mean “The Great Hunger”

Barque – a three-masted cargo ship

Black 47 – 1847 was the worst year of the Irish potato famine. It became known as “Black 47” because it was a very dark time in Ireland’s history.

Blight – a serious disease, or fungus, of the potato crops that turns the plants black.

Bog – a wetland that is spongy to walk on. It is composed of peat, a dead plant material, which is cut into logs, dried, and used as fuel. Many families burn the logs in the fireplace to heat their homes.

Brig – a two-masted square sail ship

Citizen – a member, resident, or native of a country. A person is a citizen of the country he or she is born in. An immigrant can become a citizen of another country by a process called naturalization.

Ceili – a folk dance that people in Ireland and Scotland perform at parties, weddings, and festivals.

Detained – Ellis Island’s officials did not let every immigrant into America right away. Some were held back, or detained, for more interviews and tests.

Detention – Immigrants who were in detention at Ellis Island had to stay in dorm rooms until officials decided if they would live in America or be deported, which means sent back to their country.

Dunbrody – An Irish barque that was built to carry cargo but was later used to transport immigrants from Ireland to America during the Irish potato famine in the 1840s.

Ellis Island – an island in New York Harbor that was used as America’s immigration station from 1892 to 1954. It is now a museum.

Exile – to be away from home.

Famine – a severe shortage of food, as through crop failure and farming problems, resulting in hunger and starvation.

Immigrant – a person who leaves the country where he or she was born and becomes a citizen of another country.

Immigration – the process of leaving one country to become a citizen of another country.

Innishfree – another name for Ireland

Ireland – a country in Northern Europe.

Irish Potato Famine – struck Ireland from 1846 to 1849. It was the result of blight on the potato crops which was the major food source for the Irish people.

Labor Contract – an agreement between a worker and an employer. Officials at Ellis Island detained immigrants if they already had a labor contract for a job in the United States. The law is that immigrants must first become a citizen before finding a job in America.

LPC – Liable to be Public Charge. An immigrant who was detained at Ellis Island or denied American citizenship because of disease, criminal record, or possession of a labor contract.

Native Land – the country a person is born in.

Naturalization – the process of becoming a citizen through paperwork, medical tests, and interviews.

New World – what immigrants called America.

Official – a worker with the authority to decide which immigrants were healthy enough to stay in America

Quarantine – an isolation, or separation, of anyone who had, or might of had, a disease that could be spread. The quarantine station was usually set up in a hospital, or sometimes on a secluded island.

SS Nevada – the steamship that Annie Moore traveled on from Ireland to America

Steamship – a ship powered by a steam engine such as the Titanic.

Steerage – the section of the cheapest, or third-class, berths on a passenger ship. It was usually in the rear of the vessel, close to the noisy propellers and steering mechanism.

A True Book
Ellis Island by Patricia Ryon Quiri

Excerpts

Moving Families

Moving to a new place can be exciting. The thought of making new friends and going to a new school is exciting. But it can also be frightening. Many questions go through the minds of the people who move. What will the new place be like? Will I make new friends easily? Today, families often move to different cities and different states. Sometime families even move to different countries. In the late 1890s and into the 1900s, many families from Europe decided to move to the United States. Europe was crowded. Many of the people were very poor. Some people wanted religious freedom. Others wanted political freedom. They left relatives, friends, and jobs to come to the United States. Such a big change was frightening for them, but they felt life would be much better if they moved. They had heard wonderful stories about life in the United States.

The people who decided to leave their countries to settle in the United States were called immigrants. Many immigrants thought that the United States was the land of riches and opportunity.

A Rough Journey

The immigrants crossed the Atlantic Ocean in steamships. It was a difficult journey. Most of the immigrants had little money. Saving ten dollars for one steerage ticket took months, sometimes years. Steerage is the basement of a steamship. Imagine spending three weeks in a cold, crowded, dark basement! That's how long it took to cross the Atlantic Ocean.

Other immigrants were luckier. They had enough money to buy first or second class tickets for the upper decks of the ship. These people were able to see the Statue of Liberty as they came into New York Harbor.

The Statue of Liberty was a symbol of hope and freedom to the immigrants. This statue, located on what was then called Bedloe's Island, greeted the millions of immigrants who entered the United States over the years.

First and second class passengers were asked lots of questions on the ship just before entering the United States. Steerage or third class passengers had to go through a more complicated process before being allowed to enter the country. They were taken by barge to a small island called Ellis Island. On Ellis Island, these immigrants had to face questions and medical exams.

Sometimes immigrants had to wait several days on the steamships before getting on the barge. That was because there were so many immigrants coming into the country.

Ellis Island

Hundreds of years ago, American Indians went to Ellis Island for oysters and clams. They called it Kioshk, or Gull Island, because so many birds hunted the oysters.

Over the years, the island had many different names. In the 1770s, a merchant and a fisherman named Samuel Ellis became the owner of the island. It was after Mr. Ellis that the island was named. The name stuck through the years.

Many years after Mr. Ellis's death, the island was taken over by the United States government. The government used the island as a place to store ammunition. The island was also used as a place to execute pirates.

On April 11, 1890, President Benjamin Harrison signed an important paper stating that all ammunition should be removed from Ellis Island. The island was going to be the new immigration center for the United States.

Its location in New York Harbor was perfect. The federal government built a beautiful large wooden building on the island. This building would process the thousands of immigrants who came to the United States every week.

Ellis Island Opens

The immigration center on Ellis Island opened on January 1, 1892. More than two thousand people came through on that first day. It was there that the immigrants would find out if they would be allowed to stay in the United States.

The very first immigrant to be registered at the new immigration center was an Irish girl named Annie Moore. She was fifteen years old. Immigration officials gave her a ten-dollar gold piece as a prize for being the first to pass through Ellis Island's doors.

For the next five years, thousands of immigrants passed through the immigration center. Annie Moore and every other immigrant had to go through medical examinations and questions. The immigrants had to wait on long lines.

The Immigration Center Burns

Five years after the immigration center opened, a huge fire raced through the wooden buildings at Ellis Island. The water around the island was too shallow for tugboats to put out the fire. The buildings burned to the ground. Luckily, no one died. The immigrants had been taken safely off the burning island.

Ellis Island's immigration center was rebuilt. This time, iron and brick were used to construct the buildings. Landfill was used to make the island larger. By this time, Ellis Island was seventeen acres. The new main building looked like a beautiful palace. Other buildings included a kitchen and dining room, a hospital, a bath-house, and a laundry building.

The Isle of Tears

Going through Ellis Island was an experience that no immigrant forgot. The process usually took three to five hours. When the immigrants went into the main building, they dropped off their bags in the main baggage area. Sometimes the baggage area was so full that people lost their belongings.

Next they went up a large staircase to get to the Great Hall, or registry room. When they finally got upstairs, doctors checked them for diseases. The medical examiners wanted to make sure the immigrants wouldn't bring any contagious diseases into the United States. The doctors also wanted to make sure that the immigrants were strong and healthy enough to make a living in America.

If a problem was found, the immigrants clothing was marked with a letter. "H" meant heart disease. "X" meant mental problems. "E" meant eye problems. If a disease could be cured, the immigrant was sent to the hospital on the island.

If immigrants passed the medical exam, they were given a legal exam: This was a bunch of questions. They were asked if they had money for a train ticket. They were asked where they came from and where they planned to go in the United States. In later years at Ellis Island, immigrants were asked if they could read and write.

If they passed the legal exam, immigrants were given a landing card. This meant they could enter the United States. They went back downstairs. They could exchange their foreign money and they could buy a train ticket if they needed one.

There was a post office on the first floor. There was also a telegraph office. Finally, immigrants picked up their baggage. They were ready to begin their new lives in the United States of America!

Some immigrants were not allowed to stay in the country. These were people who had contagious diseases or who could not prove that they would be able to support themselves in the United States. Sometimes some members of a family were allowed to stay while others were sent back home. About two percent of the total number of immigrants through the years was sent back to their original countries. That was about 250,000 people. That was why Ellis Island was sometimes called the "Isle of Tears."

Twelve million people were processed at Ellis Island. Nearly forty percent of the people living in the United States today had immigrant relatives who went through Ellis Island. Immigrants came to Ellis Island from many countries, including the Ukraine, Romania, Finland, and Guadeloupe.

Ellis Island Closes

In 1921, Congress passed a new immigration law. It limited the number of immigrants allowed into the United States. It also limited the number of immigrants allowed from each country. This was called a quota system. The number of immigrants coming into the United States dropped greatly.

Because of this, Ellis Island was no longer needed. On November 29, 1954, the federal government closed the island.

Over the years, the buildings became ruined. Ellis Island stayed empty until 1965, when President Lyndon B. Johnson put the National Park Service in charge of the island.

A New Museum

Ellis Island had been a symbol of the American dream. It represented hope and freedom. Millions of courageous people came to the United States in search of a better life. These immigrants built the United States into a powerful country. Because of this, the government decided to make Ellis Island a national monument. Millions of dollars were spent fixing up the island and its buildings and turning them into a museum.

On September 10, 1990, the Ellis Island Immigration Museum opened. The museum educates visitors about the immigrant experience. It is a self-guided tour that includes movies, many exhibits, artifacts, music, and photographs.

The United States has been a nation of immigrants seeking the American dream. For some, Ellis Island was the Isle of Tears, but for the great majority, it was the Isle of Hope.

Also read:

Ellis Island Cornerstones of Freedom, by Judith Jango-Cohen, Scholastic.

Annie's Songs

Isle of Inishfree

I've met some folks, who say that I'm a dreamer,
And I've no doubt there's truth in what they say,
But anybody's bound to be a dreamer.
When all the things she loves are far away.

And precious things are dreams unto an exile.
They take me o'er the land across the sea-
Especially when it happens I'm in exile
From that dear lovely Isle of Inishfree

And when the moonlight peeps across the rooftops
Of this great city, wondrous though it may be,
I scarcely feel its wonder or its laughter.
I'm once again back home in Inishfree.

I wander o'er green hills and lovely valleys
And find a peace no other land could know.
I hear the birds make music fit for angels,
And watch the rivers laughing as they flow.

And then into a humble shack I wander-
My dear old home, and tenderly behold
The folks I love around a turf fire gathered
With a pot of tea, and stories being told.

But dreams don't last-
Though dreams are not forgotten-
And soon I'm back to stern reality.
Though they pave the footways here with gold dust,
I miss my home on the Isle of Inishfree.

(Optional)

Oh Inishfree, my isle I'm returning
From all these years across the wintry sea
And when I go back to my dear old Ireland,
I'll rest a while beside my gradh mochroidhe (pronounced graw moe-hree
="love of my heart")

Rattling Bog

Chorus:

Oh row the rattling bog, the bog down in the valley-o

Oh row the rattling bog, the bog down in the valley-o

On the bog there was a wing, a rare wing and a rattling wing, and a

Wing on the bug

And a bug on the feather

And a feather on the bird

And a bird in the nest

And a nest on the twig

And the twig on the branch

And the branch on the tree

And the tree in the bog

And the bog down in the valley-o

Chorus

Isle of Hope, Isle of Tears

On the first day of January, 1892

They opened Ellis Island and they let the people through.

And the first to cross the threshold of that isle of hope and tears,

Was Annie Moore of Ireland, she was only 15 years.

Chorus

Isle of hope, isle of tears, isle of freedom, isle of fears,

But it's not the isle she left behind.

That isle of hunger, isle of pain, isle she'd never see again

But that isle of home is always on her mind.

In her little bag she carried all her past and history,

And dreams for the future in the land of liberty.

And courage is the passport when your old world disappears

But there's no future in the past when you're 15 years

Chorus

When they closed down Ellis Island in 1943,

Twelve million people had come there in search of sanctuary.

And in springtime when I came here and stepped onto its piers

I thought of how it might have been for a girl of 15 years.

Chorus

Irish Games for Children

Mr. Fox

One child is Mr. Fox and the other children line the wall. Mr. Fox stands about 10 feet away with his back turned. The children in the line say, "What time is it Mr. Fox?" He replies, "one o'clock." Then the children walk slowly toward the fox, repeating the question and answer until the Fox says, "Dinner time." The fox chases everyone back to the wall. If anyone is tagged, he/she is now the Fox.

The Letter

Children sit in a circle with one child on the outside holding a crumpled piece of paper (the letter). This child walks around the outside of the circle while everyone sings with their eyes closed... *I sent a letter to my mother and on the way I dropped it. Some one must have picked it up and put it in their pocket.* After the song, everyone looks behind them. The person with the letter behind them chases "it" back to the original seat.

It is like Duck Duck Goose.

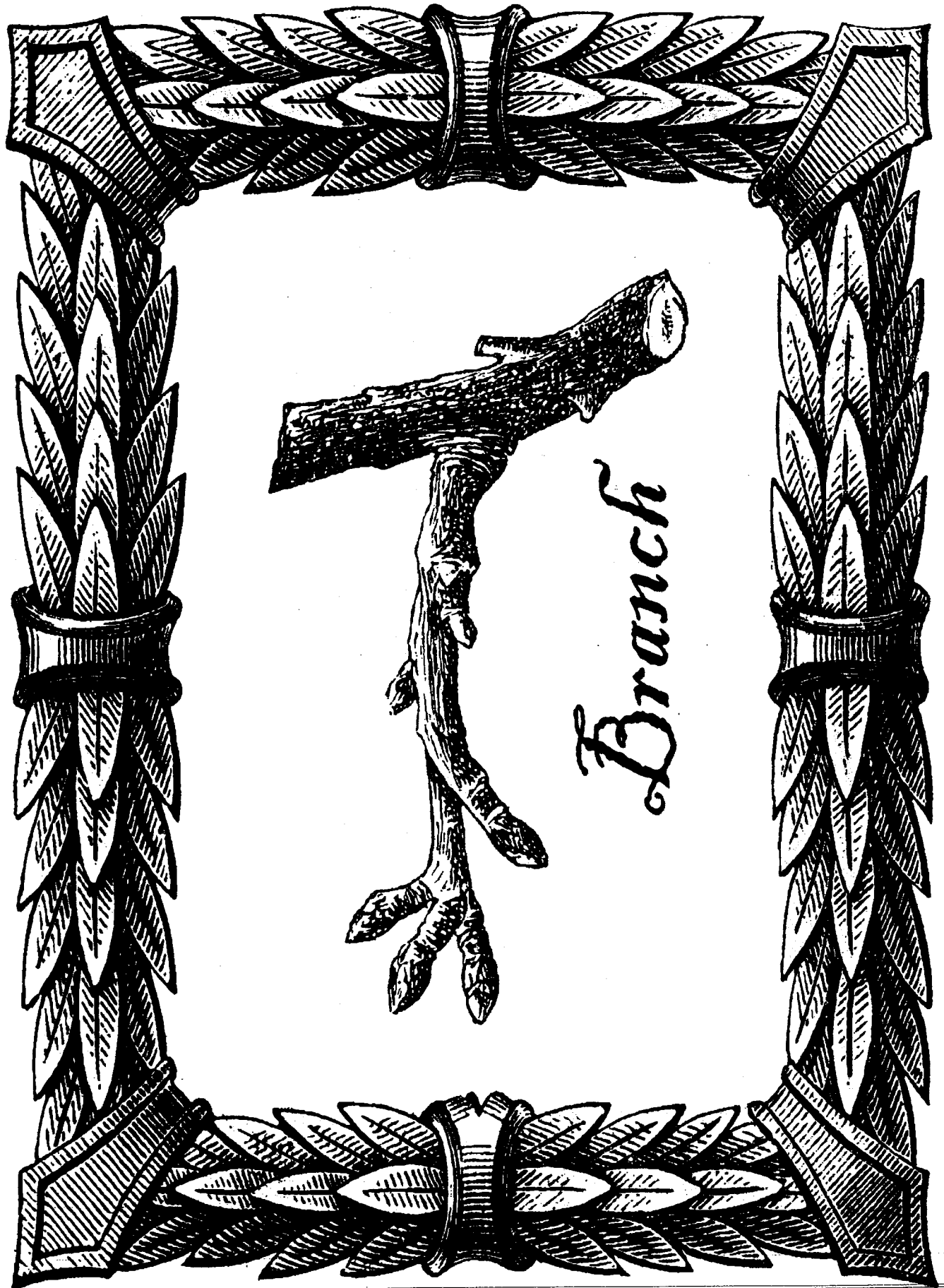
Rattling Bog

Coloring Pages

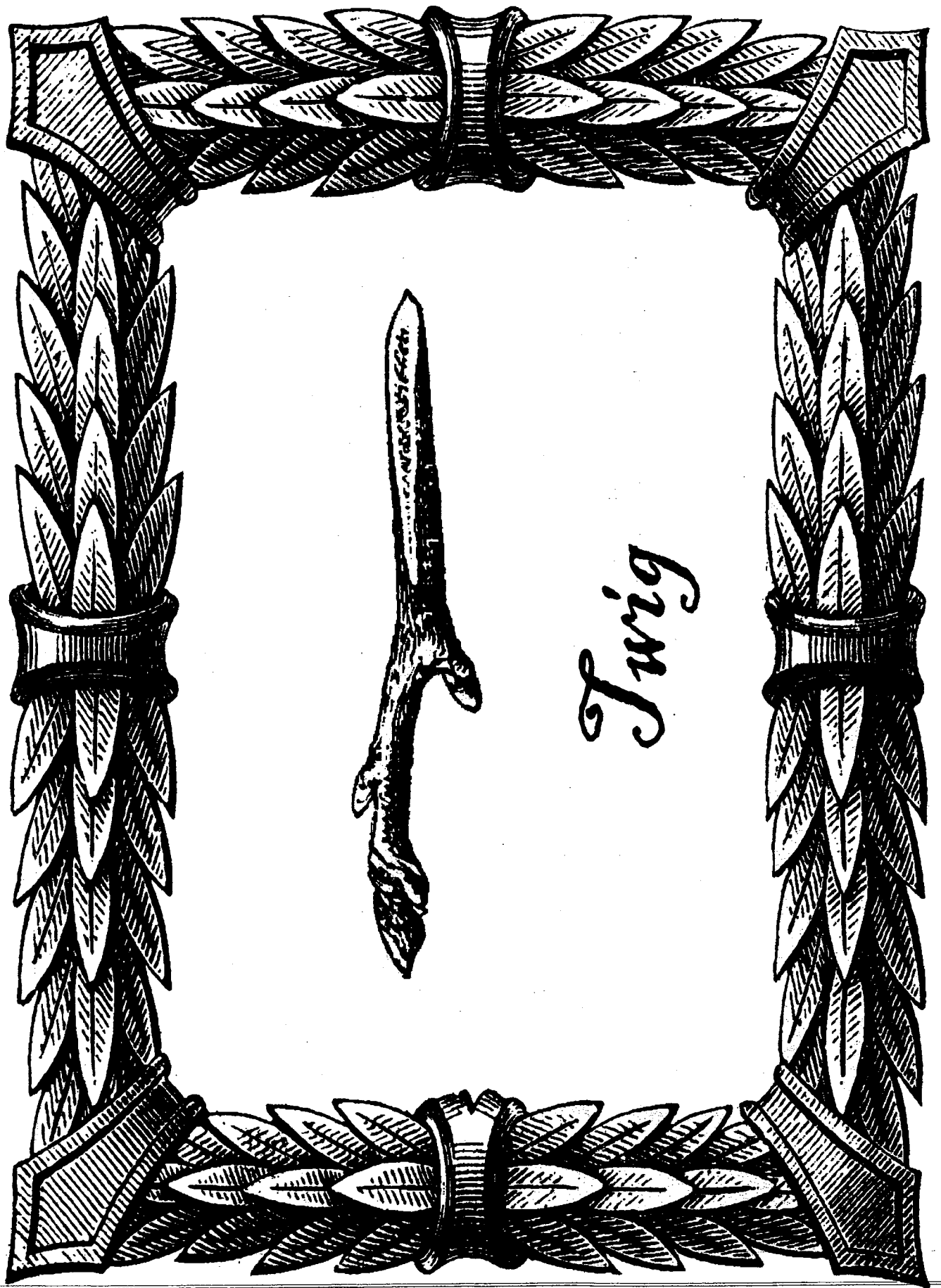
- Help Annie keep the musical traditions of her childhood alive!
 - Copy the Coloring Pages for your students. Give them one of each page.
 - Encourage them to color and decorate the images.
 - For a special project, have the students cut out the images and glue them to craft sticks so that they can act out the *Rattling Bog* song like Annie.
-



Tree



Branch



Twig



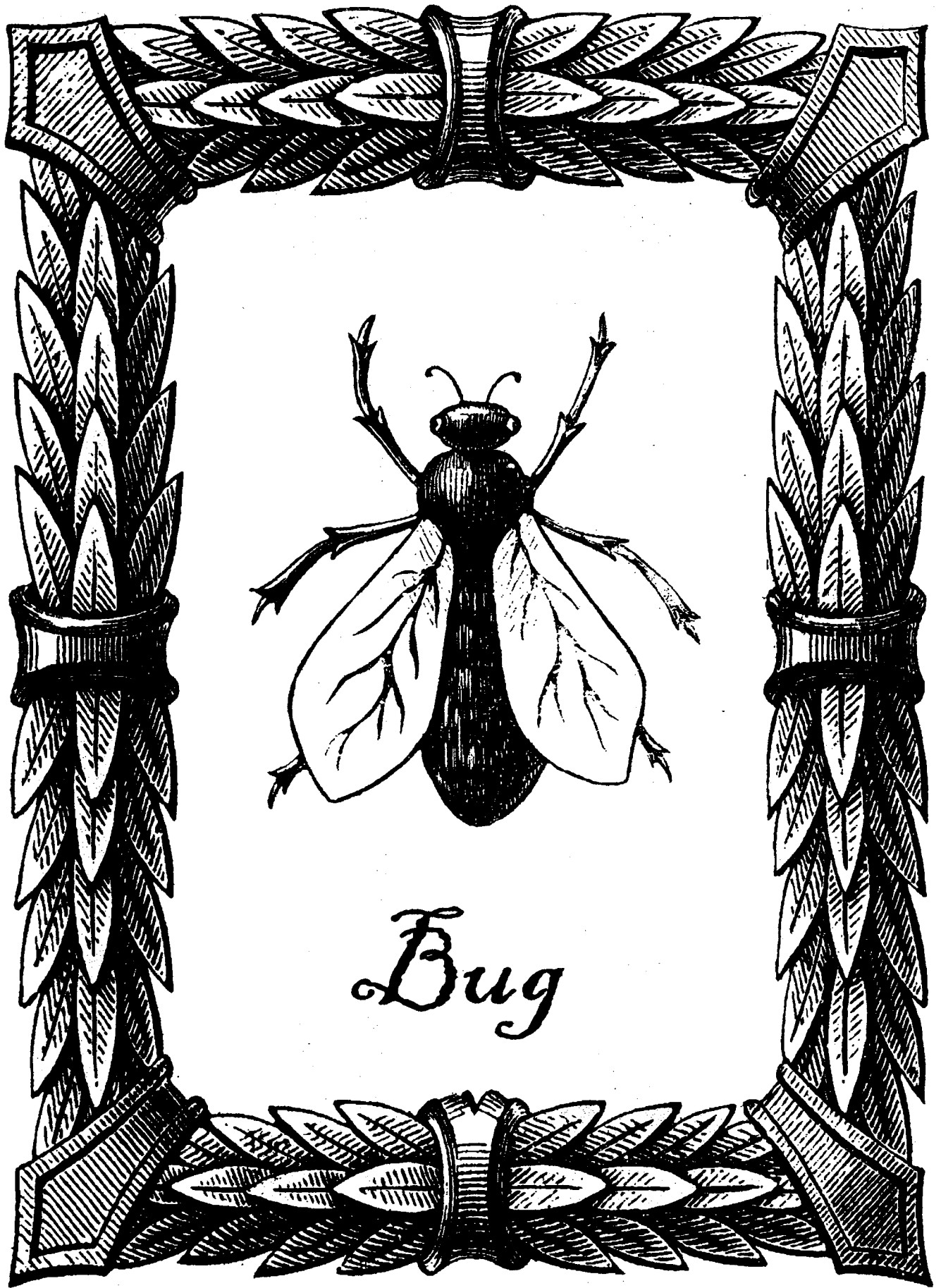
Nest



Bird



Feather



Bug



Bug Wing



NPS Collection - New York State Immigration Center - Castle Garden 1855-1890.

Ellis Island History -A Brief Look.

From 1892 to 1954, over twelve million immigrants entered the United States through 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 by landfill supposedly obtained from the ballast of ships, excess earth from the construction of the New York City subway system and elsewhere.

Before being designated as the site of one 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. 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 brave officer killed during the War of 1812.

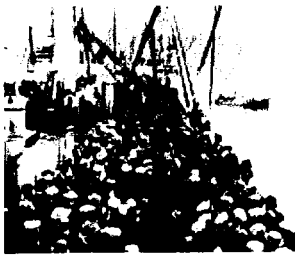
Prior to 1890, the individual states (rather than the Federal government) regulated immigration into the United States. Castle Garden in the Battery (originally known as Castle Clinton) served as the New York State immigration station from 1855 to 1890 and approximately eight million immigrants, mostly from Northern and Western Europe, passed through its doors. 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.

The Federal government intervened and constructed a new Federally-operated immigration station on Ellis Island. The new structure on Ellis Island, opened on January 1, 1892; Annie Moore, a 15 year-old Irish girl, accompanied by her two brothers, was the very first immigrant to be processed at Ellis Island. Unfortunately, after five years of operation, the Ellis Island Immigration Station burned down. The Treasury Department 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.

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. 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 or passenger list (filled out at the port of embarkation) contained the immigrant's name and his/her answers to numerous questions. This document was used by immigration 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)**.

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. 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.

As the United States entered World War I, immigration to the United States decreased.

Form 134
United States Immigration Service
 Ellis Island, New York Harbor

18
 17
 16
 15
 14
 13
 12
 11
 10
 9
 8
 7
 6
 5
 4
 3
 2
 1

DETENTION CARD

1 Name
 2 Vessel
 3 Date
 4 Cause of Detention
 5
 6
 7
 8
 9
 10
 11
 12
 13
 14
 15

Report Card
 JAN FEB MARCH APRIL MAY JUNE JULY AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC

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 "Red Scare" spread across America and thousands of suspected alien radicals were interned 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 had 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, Ellis Island was no longer primarily an inspection station but rather a detention facility, whereby many persons were brought and detained for various periods of time and for various reasons.

Although Ellis Island still remained open for many years and served a multitude of purposes, it served *primarily* as a detention center during World War II, for alien enemies, those considered to be inadmissible and others. By 1946, approximately 7000 German, Italian, and Japanese people (aliens and citizens) were detained at Ellis Island during the War, comprising the largest groups. 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. Changes in immigration laws and modes of transportation as well as cost effectiveness of operating the island all played a role in its closure.

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.



US Customs & Border Protection (USCBP)
U.S. Customs & Border Protection Officer at Port of Entry.

Immigration in the 21st century:

On March 1, 2003, the Immigration and Naturalization Service was re-structured and its functions separated into three bureaus as part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

For more information on these three bureaus and their missions, visit their websites at the following:

U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services - www.uscis.gov This agency is responsible for the administrative processing of visas, naturalizations, asylum and refugee applications.

U.S. Immigrations & Customs Enforcement - www.ice.gov This agency administers the law enforcement branches of the prior Immigration and Naturalization Service and U.S. Customs agencies which includes the detention and deportation responsibilities of the former INS.

U.S. Customs & Border Protection - www.cbp.gov This agency administers the inspection duties of immigrants and cargo of the former INS, Customs, and Agriculture. The functions of the U.S. Border Patrol are included in this agency.

U.S. Population Clock



The Statue of Liberty- Ellis Island Foundation, Inc.

▶ SIGN IN ▶ HOME
▶ SIGN OUR GUEST BOOK

▶ PASSENGER SEARCH ▶ ELLIS ISLAND ▶ GENEALOGY ▶ ABOUT US ▶ GIFT SHOP
▶ DONATE

IRISH IMMIGRANT ANNIE MOORE FIRST TO PASS THROUGH ELLIS ISLAND



For many Irish Americans, the month of March is an opportunity to celebrate their Irish family heritage.

From 1820 to 1920, more than 4 million people left their native shores of Ireland bound for the Port of New York and a new life in America. When Ellis Island officially opened on January 1, 1892, the first passenger registered through the now world-famous immigration station was a young Irish girl named Annie Moore. Just 14-years old and traveling with her two younger brothers, Anthony (11) and Phillip (7), Annie departed from Queenstown (County Cork, Ireland) on December 20, 1891 aboard the S.S. Nevada, one of 148 steerage passengers. The trio would spend 12 days at sea (including Christmas Day), arriving in New York on Thursday evening, December 31. They were processed through Ellis Island the following morning, New Year's Day and also Annie's 15th birthday. All three children were soon reunited with their parents who were already living in New York.

Today Annie is honored by two statues — one at her port of departure (Cobh, formerly Queenstown) and the other at Ellis Island, her port of arrival. Her image will forever represent the millions who passed through Ellis Island in pursuit of the American dream.

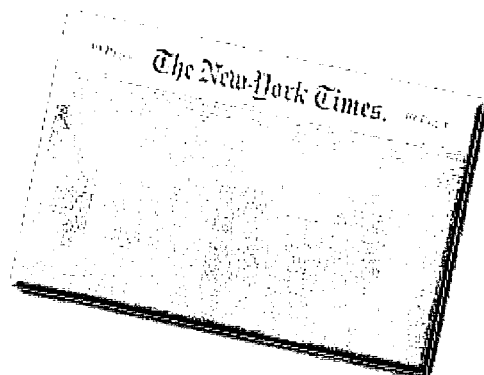
[Passenger Record](#) • [Ship Manifest](#) • [Ship Image](#)

The *New York Times* carried the following story on New Year's Day 1892:

GAVE ANNIE TEN DOLLARS

NEW YORK, Jan. 1. — Without any ceremony or formal opening the immigration officials of this city to-day settled down on Ellis Island, in the harbor, and the barge office is known to them no more. The steamship Nevada was the first to arrive at the new landing place. Her immigrants were put aboard the barge J. E. Moore, and amid the blowing of foghorn and whistles approached the pier.

Charles M. Hanley, private secretary to the late Secretary Windom, who had asked to be allowed to register the first immigrant, was at the registry desk when there came tripping up a fifteen-year-old-girl, Annie Moore, and her little brother. They had come from Cork to meet their mother, who lives here.



Col. Webber greeted Annie, and then presented her with a crisp new \$10 bill.

Historical Note: We know from other reports that Annie was, in fact, given a \$10 gold coin (not a bill). Although the manifest states she was 13, she was 14 upon her departure from Queenstown and celebrated her 15th birthday the very day she was processed through Ellis Island. Our thanks to sculptor Jeanne Rynhart for permission to use the image on our home page of her statue from Cobh, Co. Cork, Ireland, and out thanks also to the National Park Service for the image of Ms. Rynhart's statue of Annie Moore at Ellis Island (above left).

The article below appeared in the *New York Times* on January 2, 1892 and provides a more detailed picture of the process used to receive immigrants through Ellis Island.

LANDED ON ELLIS ISLAND
NEW IMMIGRATION BUILDINGS OPENED YESTERDAY

A ROSY-CHEEKED IRISH GIRL THE FIRST REGISTERED — ROOM ENOUGH FOR ALL ARRIVALS — ONLY RAILROAD PEOPLE FIND FAULT.

The new buildings on Ellis Island constructed for the use of the Immigration Bureau were formally formally occupied by the officials of that department. The employees reported at an early hour, and each was shown to his place by the Superintendent or his chief clerk. Col. Weber was on the island at 8 o'clock, and went on a tour of inspection to see that everything was in readiness for the reception of the first boatload of immigrants.

There were three big steamships in the harbor waiting to land their passengers, and there was much anxiety among the new-comers to be the first landed at the new station. The honor was reserved for a little rosy-cheeked Irish girl. She was Annie Moore, fifteen years of age, lately a resident of County Cork, and yesterday one of the 148 steerage passengers landed from the Guion steamship Nevada. Her name is now distinguished by being the first registered in the book of the new landing bureau.

The steamship that brought Annie Moore arrived late Thursday night. Early yesterday morning the passengers of that vessel were placed on board the immigrant transfer boat John E. Moore. The craft was gayly decorated with bunting and ranged alongside the wharf on Ellis Island amid a clang of bells and din of shrieking whistles.

As soon as the gangplank was run ashore, Annie tripped across it and was hurried into the big building that almost covers the entire island. By a prearranged plan she was escorted to a registry desk which was temporarily occupied by Mr. Charles M. Hendley, the former private secretary of Secretary Windom. He asked as a special favor the privilege of registering the first immigrant, and Col. Weber granted the request.

When the little voyager had been registered Col. Weber presented her with a ten-dollar gold piece and made a short address of congratulation and welcome. It was the first United States coin she had ever seen and the largest sum of money she had ever possessed. She says she will never part with it, but will always keep it as a pleasant memento of the occasion. She was accompanied by her two younger brothers. The trio came to join their parents, who live at 32 Monroe Street, this city.

Besides those of the Nevada, the passengers of the City of Paris and of the steamship Victoria were also lauded at the new station. They numbered 700 in all, and the many conveniences of the mammoth structure for facilitating the work of landing were made manifest by the rapidity with which this number was registered and sent on to their various destinations. It was quite a populous little island about noon, when the steerage passengers from the three big steamships

LANDED ON ELLIS ISLAND
NEW IMMIGRATION BUILDINGS OPENED YESTERDAY

A ROSY-CHEEKED IRISH GIRL THE FIRST REGISTERED — ROOM ENOUGH FOR ALL ARRIVALS — ONLY RAILROAD PEOPLE FIND FAULT.

The new buildings on Ellis Island constructed for the use of the Immigration Bureau were yesterday formally occupied by the officials of that department. The employees reported at an early hour, and each was shown to his place by the Superintendent or his chief clerk. Col. Weber was on the island at 8 o'clock, and went on a tour of inspection to see that everything was in readiness for the reception of the first boatload of immigrants.

There were three big steamships in the harbor waiting to land their passengers, and there was much anxiety among the new-comers to be the first landed at the new station. The honor was reserved for a little rosy-cheeked Irish girl. She was Annie Moore, fifteen years of age, lately a resident of County Cork, and yesterday one of the 148 steerage passengers landed from the Guion steamship Nevada. Her name is now distinguished by being the first registered in the book of the new landing bureau.

The steamship that brought Annie Moore arrived late Thursday night. Early yesterday morning the passengers of that vessel were placed on board the immigrant transfer boat John E. Moore. The craft was gayly decorated with bunting and ranged alongside the wharf on Ellis Island amid a clang of bells and din of shrieking whistles.

As soon as the gangplank was run ashore, Annie tripped across it and was hurried into the big building that almost covers the entire island. By a prearranged plan she was escorted to a registry desk which was temporarily occupied by Mr. Charles M. Hendley, the former private secretary of Secretary Windom. He asked as a special favor the privilege of registering the first immigrant, and Col. Weber granted the request.

When the little voyager had been registered Col. Weber presented her with a ten-dollar gold piece and made a short address of congratulation and welcome. It was the first United States coin she had ever seen and the largest sum of money she had ever possessed. She says she will never part with it, but will always keep it as a pleasant memento of the occasion. She was accompanied by her two younger brothers. The trio came to join their parents, who live at 32 Monroe Street, this city.

Besides those of the Nevada, the passengers of the City of Paris and of the steamship Victoria were also lauded at the new station. They numbered 700 in all, and the many conveniences of the mammoth structure for facilitating the work of landing were made manifest by the rapidity with which this number was registered and sent on to their various destinations. It was quite a populous little island about noon, when the steerage passengers from the three big steamships

were being disembarked but within a very short time they had all been disposed of. Those destined for local points were placed on board the ferryboat Brinckerhoff and landed at the Barge Office. Those going to other places were taken to the various railroad stations by the immigrant transports.

The first ticket sold by the railroad agents in the new building was purchased by Ellen King, on her way from Waterford, Ireland, to a small town in Minnesota.

Col. John J. Toffey and Major Edward J. Anderson, who have succeeded to the contract for the supply of subsistence, signalized the day by entertaining Col. Weber, the Superintendent of Immigration; Major Hibbard, the Superintendent of Construction; Surgeon Toner and staff, and all the employes of the station at a New Year's Day spread. Capt. Charles W. Laws, their chief, had prepared the board for 300 guests, and the throng had a merry time at the tables.

Col. Toffey and Major Anderson had planned to have a pretentious opening and their friends were to have been invited, but the authorities at Washington directed that the opening be made without any ceremony.

All connected with the Immigration Bureau expressed themselves as exceedingly well pleased with the change from the cramped quarters at the Barge Office to the commodious building on its island site. The railroad people were the only ones who were heard to express any dissatisfaction. Their grievance is that the building is so large as to involve much running about on their part in getting their various passengers together. Others said that when the tremendous number of immigrants who had to be handled in this building was considered finding fault with its size was like complaining of a circle for being round.

"We can easily handle 7,000 immigrants in one day here," said Col. Weber. "We could not handle half that number at the Barge Office. At the old place the greatest delay was in the baggage department. All that is now done away with, as the baggage department has the entire first floor and the arrangement is perfect."

The building was erected by the Federal Government at a cost of \$500,000. The wharves are so arranged that immigrants from two vessels can be landed at the same time. As soon as disembarked the passengers are shown up a broad stairway on the southern side of the building. Turning to the left they pass through ten aisles, where are stationed as many registry clerks. After being registered, those of the immigrants who have to be detained are placed in a wire-screened inclosure. The more fortunate ones pass on to a similar compartment where those going to the West are separated from those bound for New-England or local points.

There is an information bureau in the building for the benefit of those seeking friends or relatives among the immigrants. There are also telegraph and railroad ticket offices and a money changer's office.

Except the surgeon, none of the officials will reside on the island. The surgeon occupies the quarters formerly used by the gunner when Ellis Island was a naval magazine.