

LIBERTY HIGHLIGHTS

VOL.1, NO. 1

THE OFFICIAL 20TH ANNIVERSARY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2002

A Twentieth Anniversary Message from Lee Iacocca

Twenty years ago, in 1982, President Ronald Reagan asked me to head a citizen's group to raise funds for the restoration and preservation of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. **The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation** was soon founded.

As a supporter, you probably recall the image of Lady Liberty in disrepair, closed to the public, shrouded in protective scaffolding. After almost a century, weather, pollution, and sightseeing had left Lady Liberty badly in need of restoration, including a complete replacement of her famous torch. An army of architects, historians, engineers, and almost 1,000 laborers embarked on the project—which also involved the installation of new elevators and an informative Liberty museum in the Statue's base.

July 4th weekend, 1986, saw a gala four-day event celebrating the restoration. Fireworks filled the night skies; tall ships sailed into New York Harbor. "Liberty Weekend" was broadcast to 1.5 billion people in 51 countries. The Foundation, the National Park Service, and the American people had launched the most successful public-private partnership in the history of the United States!

We then turned our attention to the restoration of Ellis Island—the largest historical restoration in the nation's history. Ellis Island, our most potent symbol of the American immigrant experience, had become sadly disheveled. Again the American people responded with characteristic passion and generosity.



(left) Lee Iacocca, on his way to the Statue (under scaffolding) during renovation. (right) The Lady in all her glory during opening festivities—Liberty Weekend 1986.

When the Island re-opened in September of 1990—two years ahead of schedule—it boasted a restored Main Building and magnificent Great Hall. Some museum rooms appeared just as they had during the height of immigrant processing. Other areas housed theaters, libraries, and exhibits. In the 1990s, the Foundation restored two more buildings and expanded the museum space.

And as you know, a year ago saw the opening of the American Family Immigration History Center™ (www.ellisland.org), an award-winning celebration of our immigrant forebears, and one of the most popular and helpful sites on the Internet.

The American people figure dramatically in all that the Foundation has accomplished in twenty years. It is with pride

that I say thank you for all you've done for Lady Liberty and Ellis Island.

On this special occasion, please enjoy this Official 20th Anniversary Newsletter.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lee Iacocca".

Inside

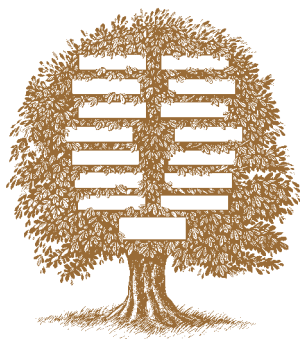
- **Ellis Island website—easier and more fun than ever!**
- **Genealogy Tips**
- **Famous immigrants who passed through Ellis Island**
- **Plan your next trip to Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty!**

Family History Center Website Reaches 2.7 Billion Hits!

The American Family Immigration History Center™ and its history-making website, www.ellisland.org, celebrated its first anniversary on April 17 and has attained the benchmark of 2.7 BILLION hits since its launch. The site continues to welcome over 150,000 unique visitors every week.

Its launch a year ago made a tremendous impact on the world of family history research. It immediately became the #1 search term on the Internet search engine, LYCOS, and generated thousands of broadcast and print media stories. According to *U.S. News and World Report*, “[it] may well be the most popular launch in Internet history, eclipsing Madonna and The Beatles.”

While its popularity made access difficult in the early months, the Foundation is happy to report that the server space has been tripled and that your access is now all but assured. So if you have ancestors who made the journey to a new life in America between 1892–1924 and entered through the Port of New York, we invite you to visit www.ellisland.org today. All you need is the immigrant’s name to begin your personal voyage of discovery!



Did You Know...

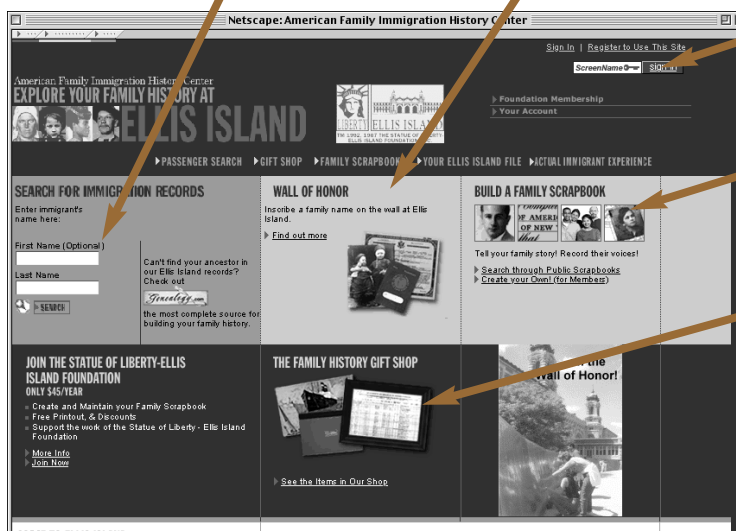
Family history research is one of the most popular hobbies in America, second only to gardening!



America Online Keyword
EllisIsland.org

Search for your ancestors

Add a name to the Wall of Honor®



Become a member

Create a family history scrapbook

Shop online for unique gifts and mementoes

What People Are Saying About www.ellisland.org

“Thrilling—I think the work is phenomenal. How wonderful it is to click right into your history. The website puts you on the edge. Without that guide you would have a much harder time searching.”

—Diane Speno of San Jose, CA

“My family is now in the process of communicating with our remaining relatives [in Italy] and are planning a visit to the family hometown and hope to meet them in person. All of this is a direct result of the Ellis Island database of manifests being placed online and accessible through my computer at home in California, without having to travel to New York to do the research in person! Fantastic! Thank you, Lee Iacocca!”

—Barbara Clark of Saratoga, CA

“The Ellis Island database is one of the most important databases in Jewish genealogy, because 95 percent of Jewish Americans owe their heritage to people who came to the U.S. since 1891. It is usually my starting point when I help Jews living in Russia find their American relatives.”

—Gary Mokotoff, Avotaynu Jewish Genealogy Journal of Bergenfield, NJ

“Your website is not only consumer-friendly, it provides a satisfying and entertaining experience. It is difficult to express my emotions when I was able to find my father’s name on a ship’s manifest

and to learn that he, as a 16-year-old, arrived in New York in 1920. I was equally thrilled to locate my mother’s name on the manifest of an earlier arriving ship, and to learn that she had arrived in New York as a nine-year old. I ordered photographs of both ships from your website. The photographs, along with my parents’ naturalization certificates, are being framed so we can display and treasure them.”

—Antoinette Wilson, Orange, California

“The feelings and respect that I have for the Foundation along with the website, can hardly be put into words. We knew that our Grandfather Giacchino, our Grandmother Theresa and Aunt Rosaria and Uncle Giorgio came across. As I was scrolling through the ship’s manifest, I saw someone we didn’t even know existed: [Aunt] Maria, 8 years, 5 months. We scrolled to the right-hand side, and it said ‘died.’ It ripped my heart out. They never talked about her. I started crying. I now have taken Maria’s memory as a part of my life and I am attempting to learn more about this little angel. Without the Foundation, the website and its professional staff, none of this would have been possible. I am forever indebted.”

—Martin J. Napoli, Jr.,
President of Napco Steel, Chicago, IL

Tell us what you think! Send your comments to: feedback@ellisland.org

Helpful Hints for the Amateur Genealogist

The American Family Immigration History Center™ website (www.ellisland.org) is the most exciting new tool you can use in searching for your ancestors. Thousands of people have found relatives on this site. Did you? If so, congratulations! If not, here are some helpful hints on how to make your search easier, and get closer to the match you've been looking for.

www.ellisland.org helps you open up the past in ways you never imagined possible, but sometimes it takes a little finesse to get where you need to go. A **Ship's Manifest** is a piece of history and history is rarely an easy thing to decipher. When you search the manifest records, you're really playing the role of detective, searching for clues to the past.

For instance, is your ancestor's name spelled correctly? Can you think of alternate spellings?

Hint: Some names may have been misspelled at the time the manifest was recorded, which always took place at the port of departure in the Old World and sloppy data entry work was to be expected. If you don't find a match for the exact spelling, the American Family Immigration History Center's database offers alternate spellings.

Even if you know the person's first name, try searching with just the first initial and last name, or perhaps don't use a first name in your search at all.

Hint: Not only were last names changed by immigrants, often first names were anglicized from the original spelling. Irving Berlin's name, for instance, was actually "Israel Beilin"—and you can find his original manifest in our database!

Most manifests are actually two pages filled with information. The most important is the first page, with the passenger's name on the far left side.

Hint: Sometimes the second page of the manifest turns up on your computer screen first. Make certain you are looking at the proper page. There is a button you can click to enlarge the screen view of the manifest. You'll find the button in the center of the search results page when you click to view the manifest; the button, in fact, looks like a magnifying glass!

These historic records, which have been translated into electronic format from microfilm copies in the National Archives, are not a perfect collection.

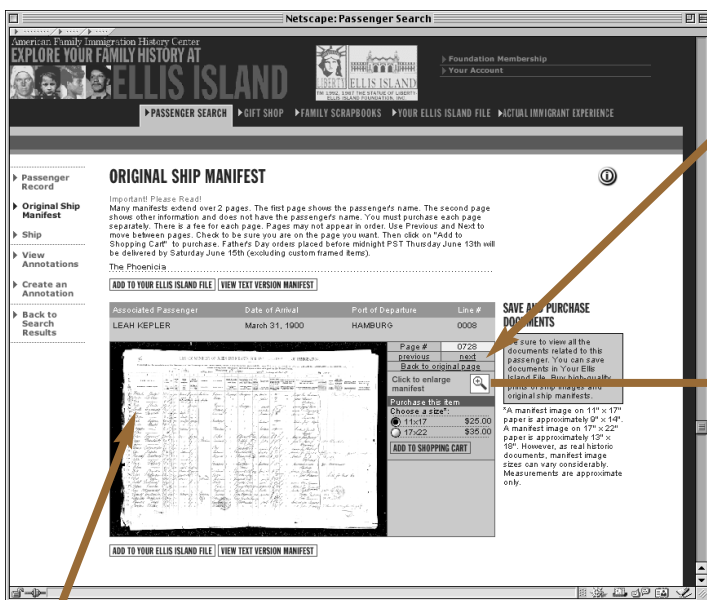
Hint: Sometimes you may not find an ancestor's name where the database says it should be on a particular page; if that

is your case, try clicking "Previous" or "Next" on the search results page to expand your search. You might very well find the name on a manifest located nearby in our collection.

Don't be discouraged! No one ever said genealogy was going to be easy. Although the American Family Immigration History Center™ is the most efficient way to find an ancestor's arrival record to this country, it might take a few tries to get your match. And don't assume too much about family lore. Oftentimes, information passed down over the generations can prove unreliable. Perhaps Grandmother did not actually arrive in 1905, but another year. Or the name was spelled differently than anyone in your family can recall. Or Great-Grandad was listed as a laborer, not the lawyer he turned out to be in the New World. There are all sorts of possibilities. Be creative, and keep at it!

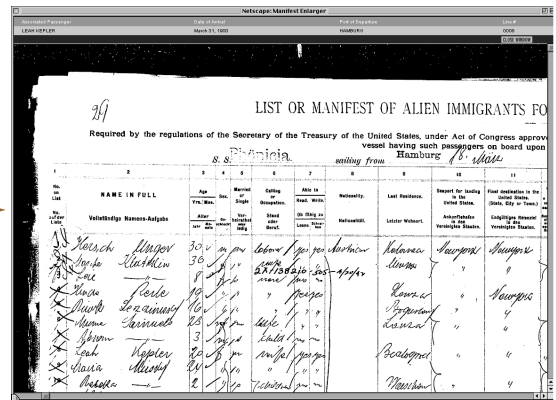
To further your search for an ancestor, try visiting our partner, **Genealogy.com**. They have a great collection of other records that might help you.

Most importantly, keep trying. Remember, it costs you absolutely nothing to search our database for as long as you wish.



When you find a listing for a family member, you are shown a printed listing. Click on "Original Ship Manifest" and you are shown a page similar to the one above.

There are multiple pages to the manifest—sometimes the second page turns up on your computer screen first—if so, click on "next" or "previous" to view all the pages.



Click on the magnifying glass icon and you can get a close-up view of the manifest in a pop-up window. Scroll around until you find the name you're searching for.

AMAZING FACTS ABOUT THE LADY

The severed chain at the Statue's feet represents the broken shackles of tyranny.

The Statue's ancient Greek dress symbolize Greece as the birthplace of democracy.



©Peter B. Kaplan 2002



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Seven rays of the Statue of Liberty's crown represent the seven continents and seven seas of the world.



©Peter B. Kaplan 2002

The tablet held by the Statue bears the date July 4, 1776 in Roman numerals which recognizes America's Declaration of Independence.



©Peter B. Kaplan 2002

The Lady's index finger measures 8' in length.

All photographs ©Peter B. Kaplan, 2002. All rights reserved.

www.ellisland.org — Easier & More Fun To Use!



From the Kulm family online scrapbook

After surviving the extremely successful launch of the American Family Immigration History Center's website, The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, which was responsible for the development and operation of the site, set its sights on improving the online experience for its millions of visitors. In addition to tripling the server space to readily accommodate all its eager entrants, the Foundation has redesigned and streamlined certain elements of the site, including the homepage, to make it easier and faster to navigate.

Another important addition has been the introduction of e-commerce, allowing

individuals who have located immigration records to order and purchase online actual reproductions of the historic ships' passenger manifests that document their ancestors' voyage to America. You can also order a picture of the ship that brought your family on their life-changing journey. Both of these items are reproduced on archival quality paper, making them perfect additions to your growing family history archive.

Another new feature, which is much-anticipated and highly interactive, is the Family History Scrapbook. This feature allows Foundation Members the unprecedented opportunity to create a digital scrapbook for storing immigration documents discovered in the Ellis Island database, as well as entering other precious family photos, records and even audio recordings. The Center on Ellis Island is equipped with 10 state-of-the-art recording studios for the creation of scrapbooks, or you can build your scrapbook at home online. It's easy, it's fun and it's a great way to bring your family history to life for your children or grandchildren.

Look for the "Scrapbook" link on the homepage at www.ellisland.org.

That's Incredible!

¥ The Ellis Island database contains over 3-1/2 million pages of ships' passenger manifests

¥ www.ellisland.org has received over 2.7 billion hits since its launch April 17, 2001.

¥ The images of over 800 passenger ships that carried the immigrants to America are available at www.ellisland.org



FAMOUS FOLKS

For a little fun, search ellisland.org for the names of the following individuals who first set foot in America at Ellis Island...



© Charles Atlas, Ltd.

www.CharlesAtlas.com

Charles Atlas, the famous bodybuilder, arrived as Angelo Siciliano from Italy in 1903 at the age of 10. He was often picked on as a boy because of his slight build, and later traced his transformation to two New York spots he visited: the Brooklyn Museum, where he saw a statue of Hercules; and the Prospect Park Zoo, where he was captivated by the sight of a lion stretching his muscles.

Claudette Colbert, the famous and beloved Hollywood actress, arrived as Lily Chauchoin, from France on October 9, 1911 at the age of 8.

What You'll Find On Your Visit to Ellis Island

Looking at the buildings on Ellis Island from downtown New York City, or out on the Harbor, is a breathtaking experience. And the closer you get, the better it is. As you approach, to the south you will see Lady Liberty, just as immigrants arriving by steamship witnessed for the very first time her awe-inspiring presence early in the last century.

Ellis Island was the gateway for millions of immigrants entering the U.S. between 1892 and 1924. Closed to public tours in 1984, it was reopened in 1990, following a \$160 million restoration. Since 1990,

more than twenty million people have visited the Ellis Island Immigration Museum, nearly the number that were once processed as immigrants so many years ago! If you weren't

one of our guests in recent years, we would love to have you visit us. Making plans is easy. See the back page of this newsletter for directions and suggestions.

Here are some highlights of what you'll find when you visit:

The historic Great Hall, the beautiful room where millions once waited anxiously for medical or legal inspection.

Embracing Freedom—dramatic reenactments of immigrant experiences

based on actual recordings from the Ellis Island Oral History Project, performed by professional New York actors.

A collection of artifacts donated to the museum by descendants of the immigrants who brought these "Treasures From Home" to America. The collection includes priceless family heirlooms, religious artifacts, family photos, rare and beautiful clothing and jewelry.

Exciting graphic displays which chronicle the "Peopling of America" from Native Americans to the present day,

and an all-new Census Map, a museum favorite, with updated information from the 2000 Census.

And of course **the American Family Immigration History Center™**, which can be found in the west wing of the Immigration Museum, first floor.

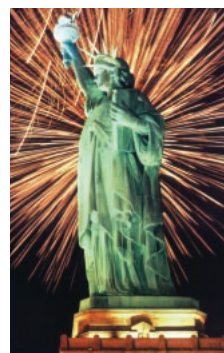
These wonderful exhibits were created by The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, Inc., in partnership with the National Park Service, with funding made possible by the American public.



Embracing Freedom



The Great Hall now looks much as it did in the early 1900s.



Liberty Weekend 1986 Weekend in 1986, and the launch of ellisland.org in 2001

Working on Behalf of Liberty

There are projects that make a big splash—Liberty Weekend in 1986, and the launch of ellisland.org in 2001 are obvious choices—and some that the public never hears about. Whether high-profile or no-profile, The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island



Tom Brokaw—the master of ceremonies at the launch of the American Family Immigration History Center™ and website: ellisland.org.

Foundation is busy making Liberty National Monument even better, in ways you might never have imagined.

Each year, the Foundation contributes funding from a special Foundation Endowment to the National Park Service to provide for essential upgrades and repairs on Liberty and Ellis Islands. These two sites experience significant wear and tear, with millions of tourists visiting each year, often harsh environmental conditions, and the simple fact that they are both more than a century old. Our funding goes to a range of needs, from one that reflects a sign of our times, such as purchasing explosion-resistant trash receptacles to protect visitors and buildings, to the odd project that no one could anticipate, such as paying for a sheep dog to control the huge numbers of Canada Geese that have found the islands a great haven.

Over the years, the Foundation's Endowment has been at work behind the scenes to make your time spent at Liberty National Monument an even better experience. The Foundation works closely with the National Park Service on special projects to ensure that Liberty National Monument is in its best shape for our thousands of daily visitors.

Did You Know...

- Over **100 million people** have ancestral immigration records in the Ellis Island database (that's over 40% of Americans!)
- If stacked flat, the **3,678 boxes of microfilm reels** that supplied the immigration information for the Ellis Island database would exceed three times the height of the Statue of Liberty, from the hem of her flowing robe to the top of her torch.





Liberty for All

Photographs by Peter B. Kaplan
Text by Lee Iacocca



Liberty for All

She is recognized the world over as America's beacon for freedom, hope and opportunity. The Lady, of course, needs no introduction, but what she did need, twenty years ago, was a major restoration to keep her fresh and strong for future generations. Today, Lady Liberty's entire history is being retold by the Founding Chairman of The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, Lee Iacocca, along with photographs from the Statue's most prolific photographer, Peter B. Kaplan, in a new book titled *"Liberty for All."* This handsome collector's edition volume brings to life the Statue's humble beginnings in France as a gift to America, through the fascinating rebuilding of a 305-foot tall copper statue in the middle of a busy harbor. Never-before-seen photographs capture the intricacies of reconstruction, the dizzying views from atop the world's highest freestanding scaffolding, the thrilling fireworks of Liberty Weekend, and finally Lady Liberty's enduring beauty. The Foundation will make *"Liberty for All"* available as a special premium in our Fall fundraising letter. Look for it in your mail in late October!

What's Cooking at Ellis Island?

When families immigrated to America, they brought with them their family treasures—linens, jewelry, native costumes, household necessities and of course, recipes (and native spices when possible). These recipes, handed down from generation to generation, formed the heart of family meals. They brought the flavors and comfort of the homeland to these newcomers trying to make a new home in America.

Traditional family and ethnic recipes continue to play an important role in family menus today and have made American cuisine one of the most interesting, eclectic and exciting in the world. If you'd like to expand your repertoire of ethnic menu possibilities, we have just the book for you: *The Ellis Island Cookbook* by Tom Bernardin. Containing more than 200 recipes along with family anecdotes as well as a brief history and photos of Ellis Island, it's a real crowd-pleaser.

"...a one of kind collection of heart-warming stories and authentic recipes that you'll want to have for your cooking library... these recipes recall special moments of far away lands or of dearly loved relatives... much more than a recipe compilation, it is a personal journey with stories and reminiscences that will touch your heart."

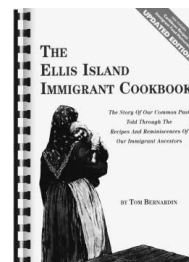
—Better Homes & Gardens
Cook Book Club

Available in our Gift Shop at ellisland.org. In the meantime try this favorite Finnish cookie recipe. Happy Baking!

CARDAMOM COOKIES

These are fragrant, crisp little cookies that I loved with cold milk as a child. Finns are partial to cardamom. I still recall how my mother took the little seeds from their pods, wrapped them in a linen napkin and pounded them with a hammer.

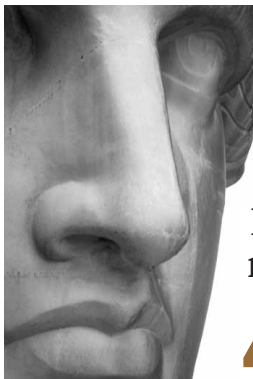
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 large egg
- 1/4 tsp. baking soda
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 8 tbsps. (1 stick) butter, melted
- 1 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1 tsp. ground cardamom



Preheat the oven to 350°. Grease and flour one or two baking sheets, tapping off the excess flour. In a medium bowl stir together the flour, baking soda, cinnamon

and cardamom. In a large bowl, whisk the egg until frothy. Whisk in the sugar and butter. With a spoon, stir in the dry ingredients to make a batter. Using 1 tsp. of the batter for each cookie, spoon it onto the prepared baking sheet, about 2" apart. Bake about 12 minutes, or until lightly browned. With a spatula, transfer to a rack to cool. Use cooled sheets, lightly greased and floured as before, to bake the rest. Makes 5–6 dozen.

MORE FACTS ABOUT THE LADY



Her nose
measures
4'6"

©Peter B. Kaplan 2002



Her waist
measures
35'

©Peter B. Kaplan 2002

Frequently Asked Questions About The American Immigrant Wall of Honor



Is the Wall only for Ellis Island immigrants?

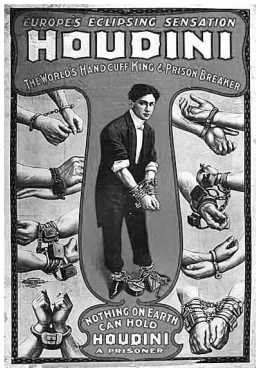
No, the Wall is for everyone and includes immigrants from all historical periods. Regardless of when your ancestors came to America or through which port they entered, you may honor their names on the Wall. You may register your family name, the name of an ancestor, relative or even yourself.

May I place more than one name on the Wall?

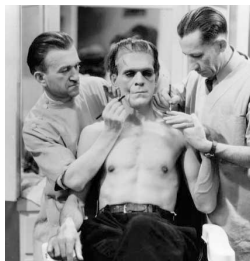
Yes! But remember, there is a minimum gift of \$100 for each name registered.

Famous Names You Can Find on the Wall

MARLENE DIETRICH
ALBERT EINSTEIN



HARRY HOUDINI
AL JOLSON



BORIS KARLOFF
SOPHIA LOREN

Shouldn't your family name be here, too?

What is the Wall?



The American Immigrant Wall of Honor® is a permanent exhibit of over 600,000 individual and family names featured at Ellis Island in New York

Harbor. Ellis Island is part of the Statue of Liberty National Monument. It is the only place in the country where an individual can honor his or her family's heritage at a national monument. Names are listed alphabetically.

How can I place a name on the Wall?

Call 212-561-4500 to request a registration form; designate a name and return it along with your gift of \$100 or more, or register online at www.wallofhonor.com/family.

For a contribution of \$1000, the name will be displayed on a special plaque of Ellis Island Leaders; for \$5000, the plaque of Ellis Island Benefactors; for \$10,000, the plaque of Ellis Island Patrons.



How will I know that the name has been registered?

You will receive an 8-1/2" x 11" Certificate displaying the name you choose to honor. Suitable for framing, your Certificate serves as a constant reminder of your family's contribution to America's heritage. You will also be able

to see your family name listed on the Virtual Wall at www.wallofhonor.com/family which is updated on a quarterly basis.

How will my contribution be used?

Your tax-deductible contribution will be used to help The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation to maintain

and preserve the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island for generations to come.

A Few Words From the Superintendent of the Statue of Liberty & Ellis Island



The Statue of Liberty National Monument has gone through some very trying times in the last ten months. The tragic events of September 11 shook our nation and set the

world of lower Manhattan reeling. Our two great monuments to freedom were immediately closed to the public, with Ellis Island serving as a refuge and triage facility for those escaping the horror of the World Trade Center disaster. Americans looked to Lady Liberty—our nation's premiere symbol of freedom, hope and peace—for solace and inspiration during those difficult days.

The Islands remained closed for the next three months as appropriate security measures were reviewed and implemented. On December 20, 2001, with full airport security measures in place at both Battery Park in New York City and Liberty State Park in New Jersey, Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton officially reopened both Liberty Island and Ellis Island to the public. For safety reasons visitors are not allowed within the Statue herself. However, all are welcomed to stroll the beautiful grounds of Liberty and Ellis Islands and the Immigration Museum is once again totally accessible to the public.

On behalf of the National Park Service I would like to take this opportunity to personally welcome you back to Liberty and Ellis Islands. Now, more than ever I urge you to bring your family and friends to visit these most beloved of national monuments which, through your

generosity, you helped to restore. We can assure a most interesting, informative and inspiring experience for you and your loved ones.

*Diane H. Dayson, Superintendent
The Statue of Liberty National Monument*

TIPS FOR VISITING THE STATUE & ELLIS ISLAND

Visitors can once again enjoy the grounds of Liberty Island, and experience the Statue of Liberty up close. The visitor center, bookstore, gift shop and restaurant are fully open. At the present time, there is no access to the interior of the Statue of Liberty Monument. The monument and the museum at its base remain closed temporarily as a security measure.

- **Ellis Island is currently fully open.** Visitors can experience the Ellis Island Immigration Museum, including its thousands of square feet of exhibit space, movie theaters, LIVE theatre presentation, the American Family Immigration History Center™, as well as its gift shop and restaurant.
- **New security measures are now in place.** All passengers will be screened before they board the Circle Line-Statue of Liberty Ferry boats, and there will be restrictions on backpacks and luggage. Visitors are advised to arrive early, leaving up to one hour for processing through the new security system. Visitors are also advised to leave backpacks and luggage at home.
- **The islands are open daily**, except Christmas, from approximately 9:30 A.M.–5:00 P.M. with extended summer hours.
- **Access to both islands is by the Circle Line–Statue of Liberty Ferry** which leaves from the Battery in Lower Manhattan and from Liberty State Park in New Jersey. Ferry service runs between the Statue and Ellis Island.
- **Boats leave daily**, approximately every half hour, from 9:30 A.M. until 3:30 P.M. For specific departure times call: (212) 269-5755 or visit www.statueoflibertyferry.com.
- **Current ticket prices** (includes both monuments) are \$10.00/adults; \$8.00/seniors; \$4.00/children (ages 4–12); under 3/free.

Official sponsors of ellisisland.org: Compaq, Discover Card, Genealogy.com, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Kodak, Oracle, and America Online.



**The Statue of Liberty-
Ellis Island Foundation, Inc.**

P.O. Box 5200 • New York, New York 10163-5191

LIBERTY ENLIGHTENING THE WORLD