

The Tri-County Genealogical Society
(Vernon – Cedar – St. Clair Counties)

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October: National Family History Month

"It is only natural that we want to find out more about our ancestors, and what a better way to bring families closer together than by discovering more about the story of your own family." says Senator Orrin Hatch who co-sponsored the Senate resolution designating October as National Family History Month. Family history is currently the #2 hobby in the United States with more than 80 million Americans actively searching for information about their ancestors. The work we do as a genealogical society helps enable researchers to discover, preserve and celebrate their heritage, both now and for generations to come.

October 11 El Dorado Springs Meeting

The October 11 meeting was held at the Community Center in El Dorado Springs. Dorothy Foster reported that a check for \$58.01 was received from **Summer Fresh** grocery in the receipts for cash program. She also reminded everyone to turn in their **Best Choice** labels before the December meeting so they can be submitted for cash also.

It was voted to purchase the *History of Bates County* (\$74.50) and the *History of Cass County* (\$79.00), which are available from Higginson Books, for the Genealogy Room. An order will be placed.

It was agreed to donate the Society's various CDs (15+ items) and microfilm (16 rolls) to the Nevada Public Library and have the items catalogued and placed in the Genealogy Room to be readily available for use by researchers.

The program was presented on the information presented at the recent Ozarks Genealogical Conference in Springfield. Segments they covered were:

- Consider the Collateral Kin & Using Land Records to Find Ancestors
- Problem Analysis and Planning a Strategy
- DNA Testing – A New Genealogy Tool
- Missouri Circuit Court Records

Bill Denman to Speak at November 8 Meeting in Nevada

Bill Denman of Denman Land and Title Company, Nevada, will present our program at the November 8 meeting. Earlier this year, Denman posted a searchable 1903 Vernon County Plat Book on the Internet at www.denmantitle.com/platbook.htm He has been researching his family's history for a number of years and will provide insightful information regarding land records and genealogy research.

Additionally, Lynn Wade, Editor of the Nevada Daily Mail and Sunday Herald, will be in attendance. Lynn is interested in our local group and is gathering information with which to develop a feature story.

The November meeting will be held at the Nevada Public Library meeting room beginning at 10 a.m. (Enter from Walnut Street.) There will be a brief business meeting during which a Nominating Committee will be appointed to select officers for 2004.

Vernon County Cemetery Directory

Society members continue to work on the new Vernon County Cemetery Directory. It is anticipated that inputting data will be completed by next spring. When published, this will be a tremendous resource for family history researchers.

Kitchen Shower for Jewel Cooley

As you will recall, our Society member Jewel Cooley's home was destroyed in the May 4 tornados in this area. To further help Jewel recover from this tragedy, you are invited to bring a kitchen item as a shower gift for her on November 8. Thank you for your generosity in helping Jewel get back on her feet.

Heritage Quest Subscription

Two orientation/training sessions on accessing the Heritage Quest census records and history books have been held at the Nevada Library. Following our November 8 meeting, a brief 20-minute orientation will be held for anyone who was unable to attend the previous sessions. To access the Heritage Quest website, go to heritagequestonline.com on any

computer at the Nevada Library. Please note that to print a document from Heritage Quest, there are a couple of options:

1) Click the PRINT button on the web page of the image. (Do not use the dropdown menu at the top of the window.) This gives you a small copy of a census form; however, for books, this is the best way to print pages.

2) Click the DOWNLOAD button on the web page of the image. Then click the VIEW button and then use the print menu from within the window which you are in (not from the internet browser window).

Hopefully, Heritage Quest will soon have easier and better print options available.

Internet for Beginners

For Society members who have very limited (or no) experience using the Internet, a member will conduct a "Internet for Beginners" and will focus on genealogy. Please contact the society if you are interested, and a date in November will be set. The training will be held at the Nevada Public Library.

Genealogy Room Receives Donation of CD Rack

Following our last meeting, numerous CD and microfilm resource materials that the Society had purchased were relocated into the Library Genealogy Room to make them more easily accessible to researchers. To assist with shelving the numerous CDs, Norma Jean (library staff) donated a CD rack which enables the CDs to be at researchers' fingertips on the computer table. A tremendous *thank you* to Norma Jean for her donation. Dorothy Foster organized the CDs and labeled them ~ *thank you*, Dorothy.

Grant Application Workshop

The Missouri Secretary of State's office offers grant funding to eligible institutions, including historical societies, libraries, museums, etc., whose archival collections or records of historical value are open to the public of equal terms for everyone. Applications for the upcoming 2005 grant cycle must be received or postmarked no later than Feb. 16, 2004. A grant application workshop which will cover grant program requirements and the application process will be held in Nevada on Nov. 20, from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at the Vernon County Courthouse, Suite 6.

The Office of the Secretary of State has information about **2003 Digital Imaging Grant Opportunities** on its website at www.sos.mo.gov/library/develop

[ment/grants.asp](http://www.sos.mo.gov/library/develop/ment/grants.asp) There may be an opportunity at some time to partner with the Nevada Public Library and Vernon County Historical Society in the preservation and digitization of Vernon County records/resource materials.

Bulletin Board for Genealogy Room

It has been suggested that our group consider purchasing a large, 4'x6' bulletin board for above the computer table in the Genealogy Room. Presently, various pieces of paper and signs are attached to the wall and look messy and are ineffective. A bulletin board would enable us to arrange necessary signs and information attractively as well as display information about our group and upcoming meetings in which users of the Genealogy Room would be interested. This would also be an ideal location for a poster about our spring seminar! There is a small bulletin board at the north entrance to the room but is unsuitable for the kinds of genealogical information which could be displayed within the room. In checking costs for this size of board, the price range is from \$120 to \$200 (tax & shipping included).

From our Mailbox

(Corresponding secretary's report)

- Responded to request from Rae Woodruff, Tulsa, OK, for copies from several resource materials from the Genealogy Room. \$15 donation.
- Wrote and delivered letter to Vickie Erwin, Vernon County Courthouse, regarding the additional 49 roles of Probate microfilm which we would like to obtain for the Genealogy Room.
- Responded to inquiry from Melanie Howard, Sacramento, CA, requesting information on Tom C. Thomas and Rebecca Jane Grooms who married in Vernon Co in 1876 and their families. Sent copy of Courthouse marriage record and information from several census reports which show the family enumerated in Clinton, Pettis, and Putnam Counties in the 1870 and 1880 censuses. \$13 donation.
- Wrote letter to Annetta Green, Appleton City, MO, regarding the Bates County Genealogical Society which organized about 18 months ago. Invited their group to attend our meetings, use the Genealogy Room at the Nevada Public Library, and mark April 10, 2004 on their calendars for our spring seminar. Unfortunately, no response has been received and it is thought that perhaps the group disbanded.

➤ Responded to an Internet inquiry from Eric Franklin, Bourbonnais, IL, to the Nevada Library, asking for interlibrary loan of microfilmed Nevada Daily Mail newspapers. Susan McBeth, Library Director, asked me to respond and advise him that we do not lend our microfilm. I suggested to him that he contact the State Historical Society of Missouri Newspaper Archives in Columbia, MO, as their website says that they make interlibrary loan of their microfilm. I also explained that he should look at the Butler newspaper(s) as he is seeking an obituary from that area.

Items for Newsletter

If you have something that you would like to have included in the newsletter, please give the information to the society.

TIPS and TIDBITS

What's in the Genealogy Room?

If you conduct Vernon County research in the Genealogy Room you are probably very familiar with the 1887 and 1911 Histories of Vernon County, the Cemetery Directory, the Census Records the Probate File Index, etc. But have you taken time to explore the books on the north wall which are stored within the bookshelves with glass doors and those which are stored on the north side of the counter?

You can find a 1866 listing of "Qualified Vernon County Voters," by township, in the book, *Missouri Genealogical Gleanings, 1840 & Beyond*, Vol 1. A notation on the inside cover says this item was donated by Frances Hopkins to the DAR. **Thank you**, Francis, for your generosity.

If you have ancestors who were in Lexington, Kentucky, in the first half of the 1800s, you may find *Kentucky Marriages 1797-1865* helpful. This book was compiled and reprinted from the Register of the Kentucky Historical Society, and includes only Lexington newspapers.

Also of interest for early marriage records is *American Marriage Records Before 1699*, edited and compiled by William Montgomery Clemens 1979. Information from page 3 tells us that three distinct groups of colonists arrived before 1699:

1) the English in Boston and vicinity

- 2) the Dutch and English in New Amsterdam
- 3) the English in Virginia

A genealogist must also be an historian to track the movement of the family's ancestors!

Primary vs. Secondary Record Types

When evaluating records of your ancestors' lives, you must consider the source of the information. **Why** was it created? **When** was it created? **Who** created it? Is it truthful? Source materials can be grouped into two categories: *Primary Sources* and *Secondary Sources*. There are distinct differences which are important to understand.

Primary Sources were created at or very near the actual event being recorded and are likely to be the most accurate. **Secondary Sources** were usually created after the fact and because of the lapse of time and memory, tend to be less reliable than Primary Sources.

An example of a **Primary Source** would be an original or photocopy of a birth certificate. The information on this document was provided at or just after the time of birth and was completed for the purpose of recording the event. A delayed birth certificate which is issued years after the event (probably for someone born before birth certificates were issued, born at home, or whose records were destroyed in the courthouse or other repository) is a **Secondary Source**.

A document can be both a primary and a secondary source. A death certificate is considered a *Primary Source* for the death information but a *Secondary Source* for all other information such as birth date, birthplace, names of parents, etc. This is because the person who is providing the information (informant) may not have the knowledge or correct details.

Another consideration is whether the document you find is **Original** or **Derivative**. Have you found an original document or has the information been derived from some other source? Derivative materials would include information that was transcribed, extracted or abstracted from the Original materials; i.e., Marriage Record Indexes.



If you can't get rid of the skeleton in your closet, you'd best teach it to dance."

--George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950)

The Tri-County Genealogical Society (Vernon-Cedar-St. Clair Counties) newsletter is published monthly by the Society's corresponding secretary. Subscription is by Society membership; \$10 per year. Questions, comments, ideas, suggestions should be directed to the society.



November 11 ~ Veterans Day

As we celebrate Veterans Day 2003, please take time to honor and thank the veterans in your family who have served in our military. And please say a special prayer for those who are presently serving and also those who have gone before.

“Americans shall forever be indebted to the soldiers who had the courage to stand and fight for our great Country and for the rights and freedom that we have the opportunity to enjoy today. With respect and heartfelt gratitude, we will always remember and honor the sacrifices that our Nation’s soldiers have made.”

God Bless America