

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

P. O. Box B
Nevada, MO 64772

January 2004

TriCountyGenealogy@starband.net

January 10, 2004 Nevada Meeting

Neoma Foreman conducted the meeting at which she tabled the old business of obtaining the Vernon County probate files, microfilm rolls #107-154, which are needed in the Genealogy Room.

The Cass County and Bates County history books which the Society recently purchased for the Genealogy Room were presented for viewing. Labels were placed on the inside cover indicating they were donations from the Society. A copy of "From Dumfries to Drywood: The Story of James McKill and His Descendants" which is a published genealogy by Joe Yokley whose ancestors came to Vernon County in 1846 was also donated to the library. This is a very interesting work as it includes copies of civil war records and transcriptions of letters from that timeperiod. Additionally it contains information on McKill Chapel and Cemetery, which are located in Harrison Township.

It was also reported that the bulletin board had been installed in the Nevada Library Genealogy Room, and that a workshop on Internet for Beginners had been conducted. Another internet course will be scheduled and also a session on working with digital photographs.

It was reported that Jewel Cooley's new e-mail address is cooley@tri-lakes.net and that she will have an open house on Jan 25 from 2-4 p.m.

Dorothy Foster reported that the collection of Best Choice UPC codes for cash redemption continues to go well, and another \$30 bonus certificate has been received. A sign has been placed in the Genealogy Room inviting researchers to bring their labels and place them in a container on the file cabinet.

Neoma reported that she had presented a program for the Joplin Genealogical Society, focusing on what our society is doing, where we are at and where we're going, and what resources we have available here. She was thanked by our members for so ably representing our Society to a neighboring group.

Microfilming Courthouse Records

Neoma reported that she and Dorothy had attended a grant workshop at the Courthouse pertaining to

microfilming the old Vernon County records which are presently stored in the Courthouse basement. The cost of microfilming the records will be covered by the grant and the Society will spearhead the volunteers needed to prepare the documents for filming. This is an excellent opportunity for the Society to be involved "hands-on" in preservation of valuable county records. Vickie Erwin, Circuit Court Clerk, will be at our March meeting and explain the microfilming project and what will need to be done in preparing the records for microfilming. This is a joint project with the Missouri State Archives, the County, and the Society.

2004 Officers Installed

The following 2004 slate of officers was presented and accepted:

- President
- Vice-president
- Recording Secretary
- Treasurer
- Corresponding Secretary

Frances Hopkins conducted the installation ceremony.

**Acquisition of Wilma Lathrop's
Genealogical Library**

It was reported that Wilma Lathrop has indicated that she is planning to sell her genealogy materials and equipment because of health reasons. Wilma was asked if she would please allow the Society to have first option on the collection, and she indicated she would do so. Wilma has created many indexes and databases of records and newspapers from this region which makes her collection of immense value to the Society. The Society gave Neoma authority to begin discussions with Wilma regarding acquisition of her entire collection including all indexes, databases, and publication rights. It is hoped that perhaps a partial purchase/partial donation can be worked out. Various funding sources were discussed, including grants, public and private donations, etc. Due to the opportunity and urgency of the matter, a meeting is scheduled for next week to meet with Wilma. Update: Society representatives met with Wilma

Lathrop on Jan 26 and again expressed to her our desire to purchase her entire collection and reviewed some of her materials. Unfortunately, she has recently sold her Stockton newspaper microfilm collection. (Copies of micro-filmed newspapers are no longer available, so this makes her collection all the more important to us.) She does have the following microfilmed newspapers: El Dorado Springs, Jerico Springs, Lamar, Metz, and Sheldon. Wilma did not initially give us an asking price, so we are attempting to determine a fair and reasonable price and will continue talking with her. Hopefully by the February meeting, we will know what amount of money she feels she would need to have for the collection, and the Society can then make a decision regarding the purchase. Several purchase/donation options were suggested to her in our conversations. She desires to keep the collection together and in this area, as do we.

Additionally, it was approved at the January meeting to nominate Wilma Lathrop for the Missouri State Genealogical Association Award of Merit in recognition of her years of diligent research, transcriptions of records, and other contributions to genealogical research in this region. (Nominations are due June 1.)

2004 Dues are Now Due

If you have not yet paid your 2004 membership dues, please bring your \$10 check to the February meeting. If you will be unable to attend in February, please mail your check payable to Tri-County Genealogical Society to our treasurer, Jewel Cooley, at P. O. Box 161, El Dorado Springs, MO 64744 so it can be recorded prior to the March meeting. Our membership dues are very reasonable at only \$10 per year – that is a true bargain with the informative programs which the Society provides.

Annual Seminar – April 10, 2004, in Nevada

A tremendous seminar is shaping up for April 2004! Speakers will include:

Dr. Lyndon Irwin, Professor, Southwest Missouri State University

Ms. Patricia M. Luebbert, Senior Archivist, Missouri State Archives

Wayne Prewitt, University of Missouri Extension Service

Daughters of the American Revolution representative.

Mark your calendar now, as this is going to be an event you will not want to miss! Final details such as amount of registration fees and luncheon menu will be

finalized at the February meeting. Registration information and program details will be in next month's newsletter. We expect this to be the best seminar we have conducted.

Guest Speaker to be at February 14 Meeting

Marlene Moran will be our guest speaker at our February 14 meeting. She will talk about the *Migration Patterns of Early Immigrants*. Marlene is the history instructor at Bronaugh High School and also sponsors the High School Stock Market Team and the Academic Team. Additionally, she and her husband



participate in Civil War reenactments and Indian Pow Wows. Marlene is a very informative and entertaining speaker and will share interesting insights from her professional and personal perspective. **Please note that Marlene's presentation will begin at 10 a.m., prior to the business meeting.**

The February meeting will be held at the Community of Christ Church, 600 Grand, in El Dorado Springs, MO (basement entrance). Parking is on the north side of the building. If you would like to carpool at 9:10 a.m. from the Nevada Library parking lot, please e-mail the society. Visitors are always welcome at our meetings, and this will be a great program – *so bring a guest with you!*

2004 Programs

An entire year of tremendous programs has been planned for you, with each month being something special!

February 14 (El Dorado Springs): Guest speaker:

Maureen Moran, History Instructor at Bronaugh High School, Civil War reenactor, and Pow Wow participant. *Migration Patterns of Early Immigrants.*

March 13 (Nevada): Vickie Erwin, Vernon County Circuit Court Clerk. *Preservation of Records and Preparation of Documents for Microfilming.*

April 10 (Nevada): Annual Genealogy Seminar.

May 8 (Nevada): Guest speaker, *Cemetery Dowsing.* Bring a picnic lunch; we will go out to a cemetery.

June 12: All-day research trip to Mid-Continent Library, Independence, MO. This is the largest genealogy library in this region of the U.S.

July 10 (Nevada): Society members. ***Becoming Familiar with the Nevada Library's Genealogy Room.***

August 14 (El Dorado Springs): Guest speaker from the Stockton Courthouse.

September 11 (Nevada): Guest speaker from Fort Scott Community College, ***Preserving Photographs and Restoration Techniques.***

October 9 (El Dorado Springs): Guest speaker from a nearby genealogical society.

November 13 (Nevada): Guest speaker, ***How the Local Family History Center can Help in Your Research.***

December 11 (El Dorado Springs): ***Military Records*** video program and ***Installation of Officers.***

From our Mailbox

(Corresponding secretary's report)

- Request from Bonnie Ruebush for obit on Bertha BLISS, d. Sep 19, 1979, and Clarence BLISS d. Apr 4, 1961. Obit located and mailed.
- Received e-mail with photo from a Dorothy, asking for help in identifying the location of the photo. Solicited help with identifying it, and the Historical Society responded that it was on the Vernon Co Courthouse lawn by the Stone monument; I forwarded this info to Dorothy.
- Received request from Michael Burris asking for 1900-1905 city directory look-up on Henry Jacob BURRIS who farmed in the area. Sent 1892 newspaper info on the death of Henry Burris' father and the 1903-04 and 1905 directory information found.
- Follow-up on lookup for LeeAnn Nelson of Willmar, MN, regarding KIRK family in this region. No additional information located.
- Wrote letter to Norma Fritts, Amsterdam, MO, inquiring as to what compiled records transcriptions she currently had available for sale. Responded that she has not done any more than the Bates Co Obituaries of which we have a copy in the Genealogy Room.
- Received letter from the Old Fort Genealogical Society in Ft. Scott, inquiring about publications we have for sale. Referred her to the Vernon Co Historical Society's webpage, mentioned the new cemetery directory being produced, and advised her that in the future we may have some documents for sale.
- Responded to a phone call from Angie Scotten, Nevada. She is looking for someone to conduct research for free; advised her that we charge a fee and money is used to help procure additional resources. Invited her to use the resources available in the Genealogy Room.
- Responded to request from Edwin Thornton, Robinson, KS, for an obit for Doris BALK, d. Oct 2, 1991, a teacher in a county school which he attended. He is conducting research on the country school which he attended in the Frog Holler area near the state line.
- Responded to e-mail request from Janice George inquiring about fees for conducting research for her.
- Received phone message from a Cathy (area code 217) regarding research on the James LOUDERBACK family. Tried numerous times to return her call and the phone was always busy. Sent an e-mail to her with research information and fee schedule.
- Responded to e-mail from a Donna K. requesting information on a Lutheran Church in the area.
- Responded to a letter from Mary Jo Baker, Waldo, OH, requesting information on a death in the State Hospital in 1894. Located information in old funeral home records and provided some general information about the hospital. Advised her that death certificates were not required in Missouri at that time and referred her to Southwest Mental Health, El Dorado Springs, MO, for possible additional information.
- Responded to request from Bev Hartman, Vernon Co, to check the clarity of a specific census page on Ancestry.com. Looked up the census page and responded by phone to her.
- Responded to inquiry from June Henson, Vernon Co, regarding military records. Referred her to both state and federal websites on obtaining military records.
- Responded to letter from Johnita Turner, Oklahoma City, OK, for information on John Ross JACKSON and related families in this area. Conducted numerous searches and sent information from census reports, Missouri Pre-1906 Birth & Death Records, and Cemetery Records.
- Received a second e-mail request from an Eric Franklin, IL, requesting a free lookup when date

- of death was not given – advised there is a nominal fee for searches, copying and mailing.
- Responded to e-mail request from a Mary requesting information on how to find a marriage record when the woman's family is from PA and the man's family is from AL. I recommended she search for the family in the census records and see where the older children were born and begin there, ask older living relatives who may have knowledge, conduct internet searches, and perhaps try to work backwards from the area where they died.
 - Responded to obituary request from Jim Hartland, Sterling Heights, MI, on William M. HALEY, d. Feb 13, 1957. Obituary mailed.
 - Responded to request for obituary on Fred LEETH, d. May 1971. Advised that no newspapers are available here from 1881 when Mary Keys Leeth died. Searched Vernon Co Histories and other resources.
 - Conducted an Ancestry.com marriage record search for Marilyn Bond on a Thomas K. LATHROP. My search revealed that the single record which was at Ancestry.com was not her family.
 - Received obituary lookup request from Deb (area code 309). Obituary found and faxed from Library.
 - Wrote letter to Marlene Moran, confirming her speaking engagement with our Society in February.
 - E-mailed the Ozarks Genealogical Society, the Genealogical Society of Central Missouri, and the West Central Missouri Genealogical Society regarding possible speakers at our annual seminar or a monthly meeting. Also e-mailed the Missouri State Genealogical Association and the Missouri State Archives regarding seminar speakers. And lastly, contacted Lyndon Irwin regarding the seminar. Neoma also contacted the University of Missouri Extension Service and the DAR for seminar speakers, and Dorothy contacted the colleges at Fort Scott, Pittsburg, and Joplin regarding seminar or meeting speakers.

As you can see from the many items and programs highlighted in this newsletter, your membership in the Tri-County Genealogical Society is quite valuable to you...and you are a valuable asset to the Society. Thank you for your membership and helping to make the Society a very interesting and helpful organization.

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