

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

May 2004

P. O. Box B
Nevada, MO 64772

TriCountyGenealogy@starband.net

June 12 Genealogy Research Trip
Mid-Continent Genealogy Library

We will have an all-day Research Trip to *Mid-Continent Library* in Independence, MO, for members. Mid-Continent is the largest genealogy library in this region of the U.S. Listings of the library's holdings are available in the Nevada Public Library Genealogy Room in the documents entitled "Genealogy from the Heartland." Mid-Continent also has the full Ancestry.com-Plus internet subscription as well as other genealogy subscription databases. Good preplanning will help ensure you take full advantage of this research trip. You may take your lunch or there is a small café across the street from the library. To carpool, meet in the northeast corner of the Wal-Mart parking lot at 7 a.m. The trip to Independence takes about 1 ½ hours and helping with gasoline expenses will be greatly appreciated by those driving. If you will be carpooling, please contact the society so we can ensure everyone has a ride.

If you would like to take advantage of this research trip and have not yet paid your 2004 dues, we would be glad for you to join the Society and pay the \$10 fee that Saturday morning.

Cemetery Dowsing

Guest speaker, Bernard Daniel from Greenfield, MO, demonstrated his special skill of grave dowsing and explained how he utilizes dowsing in his work at our May meeting. Mr. Daniel also explained determining the gender of a burial and also how deep the burial is. This is a very interesting subject and one of which the "why's" cannot be explained.

The business meeting was held at the Nevada Library Meeting Room prior to the program. Several members enjoyed a picnic at Spring Street Park following the program at Moore Cemetery.

Acquisition of Wilma Lathrop's
Genealogical Library

Update on the status of the Lathrop acquisition: We continue to make progress toward the acquisition of the Lathrop genealogy collection. The Nevada Public

Library and the Vernon County Historical Society have agreed to co-sponsor a grant application to obtain funds for the purchase. The revised Moss grant application papers are being drafted and will be review by those two agencies prior to submission later in June.

In concert with this project, Neoma Foreman and Dorothy Foster have prepared and submitted an application for nonprofit status from the IRS.

Clip and Save Best Choice UPC Codes

Clipping Best Choice UPC codes is an easy way for our group to receive extra \$\$\$ for purchasing genealogy resources for our area libraries. Save and turn in the codes to Dorothy Foster at any regular meeting. There is also a collection box at the Nevada library for UPC codes.

Additionally, if you shop at the Summer Fresh grocery in El Dorado Springs, save your cash register receipts because we receive a percentage of the purchase price. Dorothy collects those also.

Heritage Quest Census Subscription
and Magazine Subscription

It was decided to recommend to the Library that the subscription to Heritage Quest Magazine not be renewed. It was agreed to again pay one-half of the Heritage Quest Census and Historical Books Internet subscription fee with the Nevada Library. The annual fee increased from \$500 to \$550 per year, and our portion will be \$275.

Workshop for Circuit Court Records

A workshop will be held in late August or early September. Additional information will be provided later in the summer.

2004 Programs

To keep you informed of upcoming programs, they will be listed each month in the newsletter. If you have a suggestion for a program topic or know someone who can present a genealogy-related program, please contact Neoma Foreman or Dorothy

Foster. Monthly meetings begin at 10 a.m. and are alternately held at Nevada and El Dorado Springs, at the following locations:

- Nevada Public Library Meeting Room, 218 West Walnut, Nevada (enter at South side of building).
- Community Church of Christ, 600 South Grand, El Dorado Springs (enter from North side).

Visitors and perspective members are always welcome. We have a great year of programs planned for you, with each month being something special!

July 10 (Nevada): Society members will present ***Becoming Familiar with the Nevada Library's Genealogy Room.*** Our local library has many resources which you can utilize whether researching your west-central Missouri ancestors or those who lived in Virginia. This program will focus on the materials in the collection, how the materials are arranged, and how to find information.

August 14 (El Dorado Springs): Brad Wommack from the Bolivar Monument Company will present an informative program on ***Cemetery Stones.***

September 11 (Nevada): A guest speaker will talk on ***How the Local Family History Center can Help in Your Research.*** This program will explain the resources available at the local Family History Center.

October 9 (El Dorado Springs): A guest speaker from a neighboring genealogical society has been invited to present this program.

November 13 (Nevada): Guest speaker from the Fort Scott Community College History Department will speak on ***Your Civil War Ancestors.***

December 11 (El Dorado Springs): Following the installation of officers for the 2005 year, a video program focusing on finding ***Military Records*** will be presented.

Missouri State Genealogical Assoc.

The Society renewed its membership with the Missouri State Genealogical Association (this membership had inadvertently lapsed). Annual dues are \$20 per year for societies. Publications are the quarterly "*Show Me*" *State Genealogical News* and the *Missouri State Genealogical Association Journal*. They will be on file in the Genealogy Room at the Nevada Library.

Case Study for Members

An idea for your consideration: In order for our Society to be of greater benefit to its members, I would like to try conducting case studies of members' "brick walls" to see if collectively we can help develop research strategies for each other. A written synopsis of the case under study would be presented in the newsletter. This would include what information is being sought (i.e., date of death or location of birth, etc.), all known details about the individual which have been discovered so far, and the resources which have already been researched (list of resources checked). It is often helpful to have "new eyes" look at a situation. This could be limited to about 10 minutes at a monthly meeting. If you have a "brick wall" which you would like to submit for study, please write out the details and send or e-mail to it to the society.

From our Mailbox

(Corresponding secretary's report)

- Pat Smith, Haysville, KS, requested obituaries on Guy Bloom (d. Jul 24, 1988) and Nancye Weaver Bloom (d. May 4, 2003). Obituaries were located and sent; \$6 received.
- Dennis Williams and Ronna Vincent, Topeka, KS, requested assistance in locating a person in a Nevada nursing home. Sent list of nursing homes from the phone book yellow pages.
- Phillip Caldwell, Dallas, TX, requested information on what cemetery was the closest to the old Longacre School. Advised that Bickett Cemetery is 1 mile south of the old school site.
- Dave Smitley, Shelbyville, IN, requested obituary for Lilith Lebaron who died in 1993 or 1994. Sent research fee information.
- Nancy Broeker, O'Fallon, MO, requested information about Clayton Brown who died June 1957 and was a State Hospital patient. Advised how to obtain a Missouri Death Certificate and referred her to the Southwest Mental Health Office in El Dorado Springs, MO.
- Gail Leonard, Montgomery City, MO, requested help with a date of death for Allie Ross who is buried in Virgil Cemetery. The Vernon County Cemetery Directory says she died in 1880; however, she was living in Vernon County in the 1920 Census. Neoma Foreman checked the cemetery stone/records and provided a correct date of death as Dec 1920. Advised Gail how to obtain a Death Certificate and that there was no probate

index listing. \$10 received. Following her receipt of the Death Certificate for Allie Ross, she requested obituary search; \$5 received.

- Responded to several e-mails from Judy Forth, Independence, MO, regarding how to conduct research and how to find the parents of and the burial location of a Nellie Gertrude Neagle who died Nov 8, 1971 in Neosho. Advised that she was not listed in the Cemetery Directory and how to obtain a Death Certificate which should have the information sought. Being too impatient to wait for the Death Certificate to arrive, she wrote that she would drive down to Nevada and try to find “something.” Later, after the Death Certificate was received, she informed me that Neagle was the maiden name and she was buried in Neosho.
- Cyndi Howells, the Internet authority of “**Cyndi’s List!**”, is seminar keynote speaker on Oct 16, 2004, at Grove Civic Center, South Main Street, Grove, OK. The seminar will include presentations by Cyndi, break presentations, catered lunch, door prizes, and vendors. Admission tickets will be issued by mail; prices are: \$30 by Jun 1 and \$40 by Oct 1. Registration at the door is \$60, if space is available (no lunch). For more information: gregathcompany.com/workshop. For those who do not have Internet access, a flyer is posted at the Library.
- Received request from Joan Phillips, Woodland Hills, CA, regarding obituaries for James B. Phillips (d. Jul 1, 1932) and Mary Elizabeth ‘Betty’ Phillips (d. Oct 26, 1943) who lived in Stotesbury and were buried at Ft. Scott, KS. Nothing was found in the Nevada paper, and Madge Baze did not find anything in the *Metz Times*. Advised Joan of this and suggested that the *Hume Boarder Messenger* and the Ft. Scott papers might have something; and since I was in Ft. Scott each week, I would check for her. Obituaries located and sent.
- Sent additional thank you notes for freebee items at the seminar.
- Received request from Carolyn Atkinson, Longmont, CO, for several lookups including marriage records for the following: Pearl Chloe Jones & Lee Roy Banta, Hannah Houisa Jones Taggart & Reuban Munn, William Dailey Taggart & Bessie L. White/Wright, Worthy Raymond Taggart & Carrie B. Ozenberger, and Marion

Wayne Taggart & Charlotte Schwanz, all early to mid-1900s. \$10 received.

This ‘n That

You’ll Never Know if You Don’t Ask

Do you know how your grandfather proposed to your grandmother? What do you know about your mother’s first date? How did your father feel about being a teenager? These are questions to which you may never know the answers unless you ask.

The best place to start your genealogy research is with the people who are still alive. Amazing, isn’t it? It’s not such a new idea, however. Most professional genealogists will encourage you to start finding information by just talking to your family. Most people have a wealth of information about their own lives, and they usually know at least something about their parents and brothers and sisters. What they know just might help you uncover some fascinating facts and heartwarming stories.

Interview with Jenni’s Dad

This past year I used a book from Tapis, Inc., called *Grandpa Remembers*, to interview my dad. I asked him questions that brought back many memories and recorded priceless moments from his life. My mom and I laughed out loud as he told about making a secret tunnel in a straw pile, as a boy, with a little den at the end. He said, “I put some boards around so it wouldn’t fall in on me and I kept my gum and lifesavers in there on a shelf.” He always did have a sweet tooth!

We understood more about dad’s great love for Christmas when he described the excited feelings it gave him as a child. His eternal optimism must have started early in life; he never did give up hope of finding the pony of his dreams on Christmas morning with “a white bally face, four stocking legs, and a flax mane and tail—a perfect little horse.”

Something in our discussion reminded Dad of how baling wire was the all-purpose solution of yesteryear; the same as duct tape is today. He never said much about his experiences in the Naval Air Corp during WWII, but the memory of baling wire prompted him to tell a hair-raising war story. He and his crew used baling wire to hold a vital cable in place after their plane had been shot full of holes. The baling wire held long enough for the plane to land in the ocean, after which two boats pulled up to rescue the crew moments before the plane sank. I gave thanks that his life was preserved so that his posterity, including me, could come to earth and be part of the family that I love.

Three months after our interview, my dad made an unexpected exit from this mortal life. When my mother asked me to speak at the funeral, I was delighted that I could tell stories from his life—in his own words! By that time, I had almost finished a small book about him, complete with pictures, and I presented copies to my

family at Christmas. They were thrilled and I was, too, because I was able to capture his story before it was too late.

Why Interview?

You can feel the same emotions stirring in your heart by discovering your family's memories. However, some approaches work better than others.

We have heard dozens of people complain, "I bought my mom a book to record her story in, but she never did it." Well, this approach isn't usually very successful. It might be hard for someone like your mom to tackle such a big project by herself, or she may be too shy to jump into telling her own story. The best thing to do is to have a one-on-one conversation, ask some questions, and record the answers. There are few things more fun and eye opening than interviewing people to find out about their lives.

Here are some sample questions from *Grandpa*

Remembers:

What were some of your mother's characteristics?

- How did you keep your house warm in the winter and cool in the summer?
- Where did you get spending money and how did you spend it?

- How did you propose to Grandma and what was her reaction?
- What was the most difficult part of raising your children?

Once you've caught the interviewing bug, you won't want to stop!

For more information on capturing memories through interviewing, visit the Tapis website at <http://www.tapisinc.com>.

Article by Jenni Johnson and Holly Hansen, used with permission. They are co-authors of 14 *Capture the Memories* interview books, 26 memory scrapbook pages, and the Family History Cookbook. They also provide research services, research retreats, and publishing tools to help you capture your family's stories.

#

If you do not want to receive the monthly newsletter from the Tri-County Genealogical Society, please contact the society.

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.