

**TRI-COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER**  
(Vernon - Cedar - St. Clair Counties in Missouri)  
P.O. Box B, Nevada, MO 64772  
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<http://www.rootsweb.com/~motcogs/>

March 2006

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**April 8, 2006 Meeting ~ St. Clair County  
Tour of St. Clair County Courthouse in Osceola  
and the Osceola Library Genealogy Department**

Our April program will be a field trip arranged by Derl Barnett to the St. Clair County Courthouse. We will meet at the courthouse in Osceola, MO, at 10 a.m. If you would like to carpool from El Dorado Springs, please meet in the Summer Fresh parking lot so we can leave there at 9 a.m. Following the courthouse tour, we will go to the library for an overview of the genealogy resources which are available there. (We will not have a business meeting in April.)

**Vernon County Circuit Court Records Project  
Weekly Workshop at Nevada Library Meeting Room**

Each Friday, volunteers work on the Circuit Court Records Project beginning at 10 a.m. at in the Nevada Library Meeting Room. This is the Bushwhacker Museum entrance on the south side of the Library building, ½ block off the northwest corner of the court square. With the additional workspace, more volunteers can now help prepare the documents for indexing and microfilming. If you can help, please come to the Meeting Room on any Friday; and we would be glad to show you how to open, flatten, separate, and clean the court case files. If you have questions about the workshop, please contact Ray & Darlene L, Neoma F or Richard J.

File drawers to process: 193

Number finished: 81

**Polk County, MO Genealogy Seminar April 1 @ Bolivar**

Tri-County Genealogy members have been invited to attend the April 1 seminar in Bolivar and set up a vendor table. The program includes Restoring and Digitizing Family Photographs, Scrapbooking, Dating Old Photographs, Using Ancestry.com, Land Measurements Used Through the Years, and Archiving Research and Family Papers. Registration begins at 9 a.m. There is no registration fee; lunch is on your own. An information sheet is posted in the Nevada Genealogy Dept and information is at

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~mopolkgs/meetings.htm#Conference> If you would like to attend and carpool from Nevada or El Dorado Springs, please email the [TriCountyGenealogy@starband.net](mailto:TriCountyGenealogy@starband.net).

**Family Tree Maker Training**

The Basic Family Tree Maker Training DVD which was used at the March meeting has been turned in to the Nevada Library to be catalogued so it can be checked out by patrons. A tutorial book on using Family Tree Maker can now also be checked out so you can take it home, turn on the computer, and follow step by step.

As a follow up on some of the discussion following the FTM program, the file extension on your data file is **.ftw** and the file extension on your backup file which Family Tree Makes automatically makes each time you close the program is **.fbk**. It is recommended that you frequently copy both of these files onto a CD or other portable storage device to ensure your genealogy research is not lost if your computer crashes.

### **Beginning Genealogy – How do I...**

If you have recently begun researching your family's history, you probably have a lot of questions such as, "What kind of information is out there that I can find, and where and how do I find it." It is well worth the time to educate yourself about researching by either reading some of the "how to" books in the Nevada Genealogy Dept or online. There are numerous websites, but a couple of free sites which have a lot of good, basic (and advanced) information on this subject are:

**RootWeb's Guide to Tracing Family Trees** at <http://rwguide.rootsweb.com/> where you will find 31 different guides that address a particular area of research.

**How to Start Your Family History** at

[http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Home/Welcome/frameset\\_information.asp](http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Home/Welcome/frameset_information.asp) by the LDS Church.

When you hit a brick wall, take time to refresh yourself with some of this information, and remember that if you use the internet in your research, new information and databases are coming online every day.

### **Library Genealogy Department**

A new resource in the Genealogy Department is a listing of microfilmed records available at the Vernon County Courthouse. This list of microfilmed records, which covers the period from 1855 to about 1990, is also available in the County Clerk's office where the microfilm is stored and researchers may access it. As many of you know, the bulk of the Vernon County records were microfilmed in the early 1990s after which the original records were offered for the taking to anyone who would haul them away.

### **Vernon County Cemetery Directory**

There is no new information to report as work continues on the new Vernon County directory of deaths/burials. The new book is scheduled to go to print later this year.

### **Tri-County Genealogical Society Internet Site**

The final details are still being worked out with the state coordinator, the county coordinator, and our Society for Vernon County to participate in the Family Group Sheet project. Once this is done, researchers can submit their FGSs, and they will be available for other researchers to view. The Cedar County FGS project is at

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~mocedar/cecofgs.html> and St. Clair County is at

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~mostclai/families.htm> If you have researched families in these counties, you are encouraged to submit family group sheets on them. Over 2,150 hits have been recorded on the Tri-County website.

### **2006 Genealogy Programs**

The following programs have been scheduled for the remainder of the year. Additional program ideas are always welcome – please give them to Etta W or Betty H at any meeting or via email. Each month's program will be announced the month prior, listed in the newsletter, posted in the Library Genealogy Department, and posted on the welcome page of our internet website. Additional details will be provided for each program prior to that month.

**May 13 – Nevada** – Tour of the Nevada Family History Center, 1101 North Olive Street, Nevada, MO. Please be at the Family History Center by 10 a.m. for the tour and program after which a brief business meeting will be held.

**Jun 10 – El Dorado Springs** – How to Conduct Genealogy Research by Helen Lodge, local expert in family history research.

**Jul 8 – Nevada** – Land Deeds in Family History Research by Betty H, member of Tri-County.

**Aug 12 – El Dorado Springs** – Field Trip to tour the “Hospital Home” of Dortha Swopes in Appleton City (Hospital building converted to private home). Will include a box lunch served at the home.

**Sep 9 – Nevada** – Field Trip to Ft. Scott, KS for Historic Trolley Tour and Museum Visit.

**Oct 14 – El Dorado Springs** – Stockton Courthouse Tour, arranged by Luella P.

**Nov 11 – Nevada** – Attend Bates County Genealogy Society meeting. Once we know what their programs are going to be, we can switch this program to another month as needed.

**Dec 9 – El Dorado Springs** – Installation of Officers, Video Program, & Christmas Luncheon.

**Jan 2007 – Nevada** – Printing Your Genealogy Book Using Family Tree Maker by Nancy Malcom.

*Again, this is a tentative list and some changes will be made as details are finalized.*

### Indexes for Sale

Tri-County now has the following indexes to community history books for sale:

INDEX to My Kind of Town: Butler (Bates Co.) Missouri History Book \$10.

INDEX to History of Ballard (Bates Co.) Missouri History Book \$7.

INDEX to HUME...Coal, Corn and Cattle 1880-1980 (Bates Co.) Missouri History Book \$5.

INDEX to Family/Community History Liberal (Barton Co.) Missouri History Book \$7.

INDEX to The Town That Coal Built: Rich Hill (Bates Co.) Missouri History Book \$7.

SUPPLEMENTAL INDEX to 1911 History of Vernon County, Missouri History Book \$7.

INDEX to Missouri History in Cedar County \$10.

Also available are every-name indexes to Marriage Books A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H Vernon County Missouri \$12 ea.

Metz Times Index Oct 1904-1906 (50 pages, \$8).

Metz Times Index 1908 (19 pages, \$5).

Metz Times Index 1909-12 (98 pages, \$12).

Metz Times Index 1913-15 (70 pages, \$10).

(If purchased together, the four Metz Times Indexes are available to members for \$30.)

Sale publications are listed on our website at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~motcogs/pubs1-15.htm>, and several items have already been sold through the site.

### Research for Others

We continue to receive requests for lookups and research from others. The small fees which we receive for this service helps support printing finding aids and purchasing protective sleeves and binders to make more records available for all researchers in our local Libraries.

Richard J is doing a fantastic job of fulfilling the research requests ~~ *thank you, Richard!*

Some of our recent requests have been interesting in that they involve court cases.

As a follow-up to the John Connor murder reported in the 1887 History of Vernon County, p. 772...a summary of the rest of the story: Connor was shot in the back on Nov. 2, 1866 (not 1865), lingered, and then died on Nov 5. An "armed mob" from Vernon Co went into Cherokee Co, KS, and got the men: James W. James, his 3 brothers, and a man named Hall. They were brought back and turned over to the Sheriff at Nevada. With the Civil War having just recently ended, no fair trial could be had in Vernon Co so it was moved into Cedar Co. But no fair trial was to be had there either. Numerous motions for continuances and other delays were filed from January to March to August, during which time one of the men was released, and then the widow Mrs. Connor died. Low and behold, James W. James, the shooter, then escaped from the Stockton jail where the James brothers were being held.

Then the case was finally called to trial in November at which time the prosecutor filed papers that he would not prosecute and the remainder of the James brothers were let go.

In following up the March 1863 Cpt. Augustus Baker murder reported in the 1887 History, p. 311, which ultimately led to the burning of Nevada: Frizzell, the shooter, was tried by



military court in Ft. Scott, KS, where men from St. Clair and Cedar Counties testified on his behalf. Upon the men's return home through Nevada, they were attacked by local Bushwhackers and 2 were killed. The next day, Nevada was burned in retaliation for the 2 shootings. The following day, Frizzell was hanged, May 27, 1863 for the murder of Baker and was buried next to the gallows. When the Ft Scott courthouse was to be built years later on that site, Frizzell's remains were disinterred and reburied in the Fort Scott National Cemetery -- the only convicted, executed murderer to be buried in a National Cemetery!! Cpt. Baker is buried in Coleman Cemetery, an abandoned Vernon Co cemetery in Richland Township near the MO-KS line.



Descendents would like to have his burial location moved to the National Cemetery, but there is not sufficient official military record available on Cpt. Baker to allow this under today's rules for burials. (Additional information furnished by Roslyn Coleman.)

Court cases can hold many interesting details for researchers – we hope you will want to participate in the Vernon Co Circuit Court Records Project to help make these files easily accessible to genealogists.

### Monthly Meetings

Monthly meetings of the Tri-County Genealogical Society (Vernon-Cedar-St. Clair Counties of Missouri) are held the second Saturday of each month and begin at 10 a.m. They 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). On Saturdays, there is not a 2-hr parking limit on the streets.

**El Dorado Springs** Community of Christ Church, 600 South Grand, El Dorado Springs (enter from North side). Carpooling from the Nevada Library is usually available; email [TriCountyGenealogy@starband.net](mailto:TriCountyGenealogy@starband.net) to confirm.

*All meetings are open to the public and visitors are always welcome!*

### **Tri-County Genealogical Society**

Membership in the Society is currently at about 60, and we use nametags at monthly meetings to help everyone get acquainted. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in family history research. Annual dues are \$10 for an individual membership (+\$5 for each additional member within the same household up to \$25 maximum), \$5 for a Student, or \$100 Lifetime, per person. We would be pleased to have you join the local society if you are not already a member, and you can do so at our next meeting or by sending a check to Tri-County Genealogical Society, P. O. Box B, Nevada, MO 64772.

2006 Society officers are:

Interim President: Nancy T

Vice Presidents: Etta W and Betty H

Secretaries: Luella P and Lynda B

Treasurer: Kathe R

Corresponding Secretaries: Darlene L and Richard J

You received this monthly newsletter because you are a member of the Society, have indicated an interest in our organization, or represent an area genealogy group. If you do not want to receive this email newsletter in the future, please email [TriCountyGenealogy@starband.net](mailto:TriCountyGenealogy@starband.net) and request that your name be removed from the email list.