



Nevada Library and Bushwhacker Museum

Tri-County Genealogical Society
(Vernon-Cedar-St. Clair Counties)
c/o Nevada Public Library
212 West Walnut Street
Nevada, MO 64772
TriCountyGenealogy@starband.net
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~motcogs/>



Vernon County Courthouse
Nevada, Missouri

NEWSLETTER

July 2007

August 11 Meeting – El Dorado Springs

The August 11 Society meeting will be held at the Church of Christ Fellowship Hall, 302 East Hospital Road in El Dorado Springs. Claud Hoffman will present a program on his book titled "Harmony Mission to Campbell's Mill Road." This pioneer-era road extended from Harmony Mission in Bates County, southeast through part of Vernon County, and into Cedar County, through El Dorado Springs to Campbell's Mill. Hoffman is a retired surveyor and will answer questions following his presentation.

Anyone needing a ride from Nevada to El Dorado Springs may contact the society.

New Mailing Address for Society

The official mailing address for Tri-County Genealogical Society (and the Nevada Public Library and the Bushwhacker Museum) has changed to 212 West Walnut Street, Nevada, MO 64772.

Best Choice UPC Labels and Summer Fresh Grocery Receipts

Collecting labels and receipts continues year round. Save and bring them to any monthly meeting – they will be redeemed for cash.

Dederick, MO.

P. K. Dederick, who is laying out the town of Dederick, in this county, is proceeding along lines that mark him as a public benefactor. He

has reserved one and one half blocks as a public square. He insists on a condition expressed in every deed that if liquor be sold on any lot that it shall immediately revert to the grantor. Mr. Dederick also offers to give a few lots to any one who will put up business houses on them. The town plot consists of 30 acres.

The Sheldon Enterprise, Friday, March 6, 1903.

Tri-County Genealogy Website

The following were added to <http://www.rootsweb.com/~motcogs/> website during July:

1908 Decoration Day Speech by Irl Hudson at Balltown Cemetery.

New biography pages on surnames BRYAN (with mention of Daniel Boone), MILLIGAN, and PRICE.

Information on the former community of Zodiac on Horse Creek in Montevallo Township.

Updated Mt. McGregor Post 252 G.A.R. (Metz) membership list.

Added 1917-1920 and 1936 Sheldon Enterprise Newspaper Indexes.

If you have information to add to the website, please email to TriCountyGenealogy@starband.net

Lord-Helper

A couple named Newton Lord and Jennie Helper married in Tuscola some days ago and editor of local paper was almost clubbed to death by indignant groom because he made use of the heading "Lord-Helper."

The Sheldon Enterprise Abstracted Index, Aug 14, 1903.

Renovations at Balltown Cemetery

(Vernon County's Oldest Cemetery) and Use of Ground-Penetrating Radar to Locate Civil War Veterans' Burials

Robert Seater, Metz High School Alumni, retired U.S. Naval officer, and member of the Balltown Cemetery Board, has spearheaded and personally undertaken major renovation and restoration work at the Balltown Cemetery near Horton, MO. Seater has family buried at Balltown.

This cemetery is Vernon County's oldest, being the burial place of 30-year-old Nathaniel



B. Dodge, Jr., who died March 23, 1838 from a gunshot wound received in a fight with Indians nine days earlier. (Read more on this in the 1887 History of Vernon Co, p. 159-161.) Dodge's burial is the first known adult burial in the area now Vernon County.

The planned cemetery renovations will include trimming trees, removing overgrown bushes, installing new chain-link fencing, leveling ground, repairing broken gravestones, straightening and leveling gravestones, and installing a monument to honor military veterans. Some of these projects have already been accomplished, and the gravestone restoration work may take four to five years to accomplish, according to Seater.

During the Civil War, Union soldiers stationed at Balltown who were killed or who died from disease were buried here. The cemetery board, first named the Little Osage Literary Society and later changing its name to the Little Osage Cemetery Association, officially donated a 58- by 42-ft. plot of ground
G.A.R. Lot, Balltown Cemetery



to the Mt. McGregor Post No. 252 Grand Army of the Republic on April 6, 1898. This plot encompasses the earlier Civil War Union soldiers' burials. Several additional G.A.R. burials were made in the years following the war as veterans passed away.

In researching the G.A.R. lot, it was learned that at one time a fallen gravestone had been re-set in line with other stones (possibly not its correct location) and also that there was no marked for James M. Bradburn, a Union veteran whose 1925 obituary reports that he was buried in the G.A.R. lot.

Seater engaged the engineering firm of



George Butler Associates, Inc., Lenexa, KS, to use ground-penetrating radar to locate burials in the G.A.R. lot. After several weather delays, the company was able to conduct its work on July 17, 2007. The official report of their findings should be available soon.

As part of his persistent cemetery research, Seater located the earliest cemetery records, which are a machine copy of an old ledger book. These records list burials in the oldest,

north part of the cemetery, which for many years was not maintained. Additional burials from these records will be included in the new Vernon County cemetery directory currently being prepared. Additionally, these records reveal that the original road into the cemetery was closer to the town of Balltown and cut east-west through the old north section.

If you are curious about this, go about two-thirds way into the old north section, and you can see the open space that was the east-west road. There are burials on the "left" and on the "right" of the access road, which was how they were designated in the early records!

The entire county is indebted to Robert Seater for the restoration and renovation work which he is doing at Balltown Cemetery.

Vernon County 1855-1900 Circuit Court Records Project August 10 Workshop

The first phase of the Circuit Court Records Project has been completed!! **Thank you** to everyone who helped process the case files which included opening, cleaning, reading, and marking them for indexing.

Linda Myers, Missouri State Archivist, will conduct a workshop on August 10 to explain the next step in preparing the records to be indexed and microfilmed. This step will include checking each case file against the index book to ensure correct case numbers.

If you think you might be able to help on this project now or in the future (i.e., this winter), please go ahead attend this workshop to learn the process.

We may be able to schedule additional or different weekly work days if Fridays have not been convenient for you to volunteer.

Recording Secretary

If you would like to record meeting minutes for the remaining few meetings this year, please contact Lynda Bishop, president.

May Correspondence Report

Five research requests were received in July: Idaho (3), Utah, and Virginia, with total research income of \$102. Sixty-four Society emails were received and answered.

Who are YOU Researching?

Members are invited to submit their name and contact information (email and/or mailing address) and surnames with location and years that they are researching for publication in the newsletter. Other members may be researching the same family, and this will enable members to contact each other and share information if they desire to do so. Please email your information to TriCountyGenealogy@starband.net or bring to any meeting.

Lynda Bishop, msbish@centurytel.net, 3245 South 451 Road, El Dorado Springs, MO 64744, provides the following information about her research: The family names I am researching are:

John & Mary Jane MARTIN: Botetourt Co, VA; and Montevallo, Vernon Co, MO.

The BRIGHT family: Montevallo, Vernon Co, and El Dorado Springs, Cedar Co, MO.

Walter Sidney BISHOP family: Botetourt Co, VA; Amoret, Bates Co; Montevallo, Vernon Co; and El Dorado Springs, Cedar Co, MO.

The Huckaby family: Columbia, TN; AR.

Lynda reports that she has been researching her father's family and found them last year in Columbia, TN, where her grandfather was born and raised. "The town and county are full of Huckabys, so I was able to get a lot of family history from them since most are older and like to pass on the old stories. They did have photos of my great-grandfather and my grandfather that they were willing to share with me." Although Linda went on to say that she did not think that she had discovered anything extraordinary in her search and hadn't made any great discoveries on her own, I think we will all agree that finding family and pictures of one's

grandfather and great-grandfather are extraordinary and great discoveries by any way we get them!

Missouri State Genealogical Assoc Annual Conference, August 3-4

Tri-County members, attended the 2007 MoSGA Conference in Jefferson City. In



addition to attending the sessions, they set up and maintained a vendor sales table for our Society during the conference.

Attendees enjoyed the "Show Us Where

You Live" map as part of our display. It invited them to mark their town on a roadmap with a map pin, enabling a quick snapshot of where attendees were from.

As part of the conference, the meeting and awards banquet were attended.

"Hidden Treasures" Ozarks Genealogical Seminar Springfield, MO September 7-8

Christine Rose is the featured presenter at this year's Springfield seminar. Brochures will be available at our Aug 11 meeting and are posted in the Genealogy Dept. Registration fee of \$50 includes lunch and should be postmarked by Aug 24. Our Society has scheduled to have a vendor sales table at the meeting.

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 Church of Christ Fellowship Hall, 302 East Hospital Road, El Dorado Springs. Carpooling from the Nevada Library to the El Dorado Springs meeting is usually available; contact the society.

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

Tri-County Genealogical Society

Membership in the Society is currently at about 70, 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. 2007 Society officers are:

President: Lynda B

Vice President: Kathe R

Recording Sec: **position open**

Treasurer: Ray L

Corresponding Sec: Richard J

All are area code 417. 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 contact the Society at TriCountyGenealogy@starband.net and request that your name be removed from the email list.

*You are cordially invited to support the work of the
Tri-County Genealogical Society with an annual membership.*

*We hope to see you on August 11 at 10 a.m. in El Dorado Springs
for the Claud Hoffman presentation!*