

Nevada Library and Bushwhacker Museum

Tri-County Genealogical Society (Vernon-Cedar-St. Clair Counties) c/o Nevada Public Library 218 West Walnut Street Nevada, MO 64772 <u>tricountygenealogy@centurytel.net</u> <u>http://www.rootsweb.com/~motcogs/</u>

NewsLetter

December 2008



Vernon County Courthouse Nevada, Missouri

# Jan. 10, 2009 Meeting & Program Genealogy Resources Workshop Nevada Library Meeting Room 218 West Walnut St., Nevada, MO

This will be a 'hands-on' working meeting. We have many resources in the Genealogy Dept. that need to be placed in protective sleeves and binders, have booklets that need spine labels made and applied, have deteriorated binders that need replacing, etc. What better way to begin the new year than increasing and improving the many resources that we have available for researchers! The sleeves and binders will be provided, and you are asked to bring any of the following tools that might be needed: staple pull, 3-hole punch, screw-driver, and regular or needle-nose pliers (to remove heavy-duty staples from booklets). Some extra tools will be available.

The meeting is open to the public. If roads are hazardous, the meeting will be cancelled.

# 2009 Membership Dues

Your 2009 membership dues are now due and should be paid no later than the March meeting. They can be brought to a monthly meeting or mailed to the society at 218 W. Walnut St., Nevada, MO 64772. Individual membership is \$10; lifetime membership is \$100. Memberships fund the publication of the newsletter and help purchase genealogy resources for the libraries. Your membership is greatly appreciated.

#### New Resources in Genealogy Department

**Family Maps of St. Clair County, Missouri.** Gregory A. Boyd, 2008. (Copy for El Dorado Library also.)

Family Tree Problem Solver: Proven Methods for Scaling the Inevitable Brick Wall by Marsha Hoffman Rising. 2005.

Although not "new," the following 3 indexes were previously miss-labeled. Researchers can now find them in date order on the shelf with other Nevada Daily Mail books.

Nevada Daily Mail 1939 Index to Births, Deaths, Marriages. Chronological listing; compiled by Neoma Foreman.

Nevada Daily Mail 1941 Index to Births, Deaths, Marriages. Chronological listing; compiled by Neoma Foreman.

Nevada Daily Mail 1949 (Jan. 1-Aug. 11) Index to Births, Deaths, Marriages. Chronological listing; compiled by Connie Palmer.

Our thanks to Tri-County members Neoma and Connie for their previous work in creating these finding aids!

# **Website Information**

The "FreeFind" search function on our website allows researchers to search within our website for specific words. FreeFind is "spidered" (updated) on the 12th of each month. This means that new information added to our website, such as the newsletter, will not be included in a search until after it has been spidered on the 12th.

## New Vernon County Addresses

Vernon County has switched to street addresses throughout the county beginning January 2009. This will make it much easier to give directions to locations within the county. If you receive our Newsletter via U.S. mail, please notify the Society if you have a new street address.

# **Civil War Related Court Cases**

Following the Civil War, many, possibly all, Civil War-related court cases in Vernon County and the area were dismissed. A typical statement found in the Vernon County court record books simply reads: "Now this day comes the Circuit Attorney who prosecutes for the State of Missouri on this behalf and says that he will not further prosecute said cause. Wherefore said case was dismissed."

## 1863 Civil War Burning of the Cedar County Courthouse

The following quote is from <u>Missouri History</u> in <u>Cedar County</u>, Clayton Abbott & Lewis Hoff, 1971. Chap. 4, The Post War Period 1865-1888 (p. 41): "While the trend of the war between the states clearly indicated that the northern forces would eventually emerge victorious, the books and records had been returned to the county, and the community seemed to be in no hurry to settle down. The last skirmish of the war in this state was in September of 1864.

The Court House had been burned, and the county officials were scattered. Governor Fletcher appointed Dennis H. Connaway as clerk of the county and circuit courts, and William Hulstone as probate judge to serve until the next election.

The circuit court, with Judge Burr Emerson presiding and J. D. Perkins as county attorney, convened in September 1865. Court was held on the lower floor of the old academy building. This was a turbulent session, and tempers and ill-will were exhibited freely.

The most important case filed at this time was that of Cedar County vs. Benjamin Walker, DeWitt C. Hunter et al for damages caused by burning the court house. The full list of the defendants contained 50 or 60 names. The county court, a few months later, ordered the name of Dr. Wm. Cantrell stricken from the list of defendants. The case was never tried, and no proof was presented which definitely linked any of the defendants with the actual burning of the court house.''

Editor's note: No case file can now be found in the Cedar County circuit court records for the above mentioned case. However, in processing the Vernon County circuit court records, some documents relating to this case were found; the documents had been sent to Vernon Co. The names of the men in the original cause of action are listed below and have been arranged alphabetically by the editor, who also checked each name against the 1860 U.S. Federal Census index for Vernon and Cedar Counties. A notation was added for names which were found in the census enumerations and may be the individuals listed. The census information is listed as: (name, township, county, approx year born, state where born). Multiple entries reflect more than one person by that name.

# Cornelius ACHORD

- Thomas ACHORD (Thomas Acord, Linn, Cedar, 1843, TN).
- Samuel ACHORD (Samuel Ackord, Linn, Cedar, 1839, TN).
- Burgess ADCOCK (Burgus Adcock, Box, Cedar, 1821, TN).
- **G. B. ADCOCK** (G. B. Adcock, Box, Cedar, 1818, TN).

# ANDERSON

James ARMSTRONG (James Armstrong, Benton, Cedar, 1814, KY; Center, Vernon,

1829, TN; or Clear Creek, Vernon, 1840, KY). Joseph ALLEN (Joseph Allen, Linn, Cedar, 1809, TN or Benton, Cedar, 1821, TN). **Denton ACREY** (Denton Acrey, Washington, Cedar, 1815, KY). William R. ALLEN (William R. Allen, Madison, Cedar, 1827, TN). Hamilton (ALLEN?) (Hamilton Allen, Madison, Cedar, 1825, TN). **Ebenezer ARNOLD** James BISHOP (James S. Bishop, Linn, Cedar, 1832, KY). Benjamin BAKER John BAKER (John Baker, Linn, Cedar, 1827, TN). Ancil BUCKNER (Ancil Buckner, Benton, Cedar, 1826, KY). William BOLTON Louis BOWERS **Benjamin BRADLEY** Joseph H. BRADLEY (J. H. Bradley, Box, Cedar, 1830, TN). Isaac N. BRADSHAW (Isaa N. Bradshaw, Washington, Cedar, 1840, KY). Isham S. BRASHER (Isum B. Brasier, Benton, Cedar, 1815, KY). Greenville BRASHER (Green Brasier, Benton, Cedar, 1818, KY). John H. BRASHER (John Brasier, Benton, Cedar, 1838, KY). G. W. BRAY Peter BRAY (Peter Bray, Benton, Cedar, 1830, TN). William C. BRAY (Benton, Cedar, 1839, TN). Dr. CANTRELL **G. T. CHAPMAN** (possibly George P. Chapman, Benton, Cedar, 1805, KY). **James CHAPMAN** Mastin CHURCH (probably Martin Church, Linn, Cedar, 1826, TN). James CLINTON (James Clinton, Center, Vernon, 1832, KY). Willis CLINTON Wiley CLOWSERS Cap CLOWSERS John T. COFFEE Isham EDGE (Isham Edge, Linn, Cedar, 1812, TN).

D. W. EDWARDS (probably Daniel W. Edwards, Box, Cedar, 1838, MO). John FERGUS (John Furgus, Box, Cedar, 1818, VA). William FUNGET(?) James GENTRY William C. GRAHAM John W. HICKLIN (John W. Hicklin, Linn, Cedar, 1818, TN). John HARDEN (John Hardin, Box, Cedar, 1831, TN). Smith HARDEN (Smith Hardin, Box, Cedar, 1836, TN). Masten HARDEN Joseph HARDEN (Joseph Hardin, Box, Cedar, 1828, TN). William S. HELM Calley HAMBLIN Edwin ? (possibly Edmund Halley brother to next man in list) William HALLEY (William Halley, Clear Creek, Vernon, 1839, VA). Joshua HIGHTOWER John HIGHTOWER (John Hightower, Clear Creek, Vernon, 1814, NC or John H. Hightower, Clear Creek, Vernon, 1840, MO). George HOPKINS (George Hopkins, Clear Creek, Vernon, 1832, KY). Willet HOWARD (Willet Howard, Clear Creek, Vernon, 1839, MO). John G. HOWARD (John G. Howard, Clear Creek, Vernon, 1835, MO). DeWitt C. HUNTER (Dewitt C. Hunter, Center, Vernon, 1831, IL). Lon JOHNSON William B. JOHNSON (William B. Johnson, Linn, Cedar, 1836, MO). William JONES (William Jones, Benton, Cedar, 1802, TN). Hiram H. LACY (Hiram H. Lacy, Linn, Cedar, 1825, KY). J. R. LINDLEY (possibly Jas R. Lindley, Benton, Cedar, 1830, KY). C. F. MERCER (possibly Charles Mercer, Clear Creek, Vernon, 1835 VA). Wilson MADDOX (Wilson C. Maddox, Montevallo, Vernon, 1821, TN). MADDOX (possibly William Maddox, Montevallo, Vernon, 1838, IL).

**MADDOX** (possibly E. S. Maddox, Montevallo, Vernon, 1836, MO). William MARCHBANKS (William Marchbanks, Henry, Vernon, 1835, TN). Robert MARCHBANKS (Robert Marchbanks, Henry, Vernon, 1837, TN). William M. MORRIS (William M. Morris, Benton, Cedar, 1836, MO). S. A. MOORE (Saml A. Moore, Linn, Cedar, 1824, KY). William McDANIEL (William McDaniel, Washington, Cedar, 1814, AL; Wm. McDaniel, Madison, Cedar, 1822, TN; or Wm. McDaniel, Jefferson, Cedar, 1813, TN). William McWATERS (William McWaters, Jefferson, Cedar, 1844, MO) James McKOOL (James McKill, Harrison, Vernon, 1830, NY). Hezekiah McPHERSON (Hezekiah McPherson, Linn, Cedar, 1810, TN). Morris R. MITCHELL ( Napoleon MORTON (possibly N. B. Morton, Jefferson, Cedar, 1840, VA). James MUSGRAVE (James Musgraves, Linn, Cedar, 1824, IL). Charles NOFFSINGER (Chas Noffsinger, Linn, Cedar, 1839, VA). John M. PACE (John Pace, Benton, Cedar, 1829, VA). E. M. PACE John PLUMMER (John Plummer, Clear Creek, Vernon, 1840, IN). Tilghman PLUMMER (Tilghman Plummer, Clear Creek, Vernon, 1825, OH). Lafayette PLUMMER Jesse RHEA (Jessee Rhea, Linn, Cedar, 1834, MO). John REGIONS (possibly John Riggins, Clear Creek, Vernon, 1828, MO). Robert REGIONS (possibly Robert Riggins, Clear Creek, Vernon, 1835, MO). William ROBERTS J. J. ROBERTS (possibly John J. Roberts, Linn, Cedar, 1814, TN). Joseph SHELBY **Clay SIMMS** John E. SMILEY (John E. Smiley, Madison, Cedar, 1816, VA). C. D. SMITH

**Thomas SMITH** (Thos A. Smith, Washington, Cedar, 1827, TN; Thomas E. Smith, Cedar, Cedar, 1818, TN; Thos W. Smith, Cedar, Cedar, 1827, MO; or Thomas Smith, Little Osage, Vernon, 1811, TN). James SMITH (James H. M. Smith, Linn, Cedar, 1834, IL; James Smith, Montevallo, Vernon, 1842, IN; James Smith, Clear Creek, Vernon, 1842, TN: James M. Smith, Little Osage, Vernon, 1830, MO; or James Smith, Henry, Vernon, 1837, OH). John E. SMILEY (John E. Smiley, Madison, Cedar, 1816, VA). J. F. STANLEY (possibly Jacob T. Stanley, Linn, Cedar, 1822, VA). J. W. THOMPSON (possibly Jno W. Thompson, Linn, Cedar, 1807, VA) William THOMPSON (Wm Thompson, Linn, Cedar, 1835, TN). J. W. TUCKER (possibly James Tucker, Deerfield, Vernon, 1817, VA). Henry TAYLOR (W. H. Taylor, Center, Vernon, 1832, MO). Benjamin F. WALKER (possibly B. F. Walker, Linn, Cedar, 1820, TN). John WALKER (John Walker, Linn, Cedar, 1814. TN). John H. WILEY Captain WILLIAMS E. T. WILLIAMS (E. T. Williams, Linn, Cedar, 1819, KY). S. G. WILLIAMS (S. G. Williams, Box, Cedar, 1827, NC). T. J. WILLIAMS J. W. WILLINGHAM (J. W. Willingham, Box, Cedar, 1823, KY). Jesse M. WRENN (Jessee Wrenn, Linn, Cedar, 1820, TN). Robert W. WRENN (R. W. Wrenn, Linn, Cedar, 1831, TN). J. M. WRENN (possibly James M. Wrenn, Linn, Cedar, 1825, VA). A. T. WILEY (A. T. Wiley, Linn, Cedar, 1830, KY). The cause of action shows (plaintiff) Cedar County vs. Benjamin F. Walker, DeWitt C. Hunter, et al (defendants), in the circuit court of Cedar County fall term civil action for damages. The document indicates that the

Cedar County courthouse was burned in October 1863 and that Confederates & Rebels without leave and wrongfully willfully and maliciously and feloniously set fire to and thereby destroyed the court house and a portion of the public records belonging to plaintiff by which plaintiff by her atty says she is damaged to the amount of sixty thousand dollars from which she ask judgment and for cost. J. P. Tracy, atty for plff.

Documents indicate that Vernon County Sheriff John Brown served writ by "readen a copy" to Thomas Smith and "seizen and attachen" his personal property. Additionally, writs were served by Sheriff Brown to P. Maxcey, administrator of James Clinton estate, John Hightower, Se Plummer, James Armstrong, and James Smith, all being dated in June 1866.

The Vernon County Circuit Court records are presently being microfilmed, and the microfilm will be available for research upon receipt from the State Archives.

#### Items of Interest from Area Newspapers

[The below newspaper articles were transcribed by society members.]

[Ed. note: please see the Nov. 2008 newsletter to put the newspaper articles in order by date, which will help clarify the Wilhite/Wilhoit story.]

#### **MORE HISTORY**

## The Story of Wilhoit's Tragic Death Told By an Eye Witness.

"I saw Wilhoite shot," said J. G. Bowen to a MAIL representative, "and I suppose, outside of the men belonging to the party who did the shooting, I am the only man who did see it."

"Indeed. Tell the readers of [the] MAIL about it."

"I was living in Drywood township at the time, where I still live. On the morning of April 4th or 5th, 1865, a party of men stopped in front of our house and hollered. The chickens were crowing for day. My mother went to the door and I ran out the back door and jumped over the fence and hid among some tall weeds. Those were ticklish times, you know, and a fellow had to keep a sharp lookout to keep from being killed.

"The men passed on down the road, after having asked my mother where old Joseph Copeland lived. I got my horse, which I had concealed in a thicket near by, and followed. Uncle Joe Copeland lived about a mile and a half from our place. I saw the crowd there and directly saw them come out and start ahead again. I took a circle around, keeping well out of view. After a little while I came out on the prairie just about sun up, and some distance away I saw the party stop, and directly saw them shoot. I had gotten off my horse and let him pick grass so as to make them think it was only a loose horse. But as soon as the firing was over two of the party dashed in my direction. They pursued me eight miles.

When I found I had given my pursuers the slip, I went back to Uncle Joe Copeland's, and told them what I had seen. He said that the party had taken a man from his house and that very likely they had killed him. The man was a soldier and had just set down to breakfast when his captors came up.

"Uncle Joe and I went over to the prairie where I had seen the shooting, and found the man lying there dead. He had been stripped to his drawers and shirt. We went back to the house got an ox team, a pair of pants and a blanket. On our return we were accompanied by my mother, two of Uncle Joe's daughters, his son, Joe, Uncle Jimmie Grace, Hugh M. Caton, and A. J. Longacre. We had to hurry and had no time to make a coffin. We put the pants on the body, wrapped it in the blanket and placed it in a sort of vault we had fashioned out of some loose burr-oak plank, covered him over and left him.

Wilhoite had dispatches from the militia, stationed at Stockton, to the commandant at Ft. Scott. These were discovered on his person, doubtless, by his captors, and led them to kill him. Besides this, the men had two of their number who had been wounded in an attack made by them the day before on James Moore's house here in Nevada. These men, with two women, were in a wagon and maybe they thought the best way to cut off pursuit was to kill Wilhoite and thus prevent information of their whereabouts being given."

*The Nevada Daily Mail,* Nevada, MO. Monday Afternoon, September 17, 1888, page 1.

## GEN. SHERMAN ON THE BURNING OF COLUMBIA.

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BY C. H. BRIGGS, NEVADA, MO.

On July 4, 1866, Gen. W. T. Sherman, Gen. John A. Logan, and Governor Oglesby were the speakers at the Fourth of July celebration held at Salem, III., with an audience of many thousands assembled to hear them. General Sherman was the first speaker, and his address was not long. He could be heard by only a small part of the crowd before him.

The writer, who then was about seventeen years old, made his way through the throng and stood directly in front of the speaker, near enough to hear distinctly every word. General Sherman's speech was an avowal and justification of the burning of Columbia, S. C., by his army as a military necessity. I do not remember definitely that he said he gave the order for the burning of the city; but the distinct impression made upon my mind was that he accepted the full responsibility for the destruction of the city, which he declared was necessary to terrorize the Confederates and help end the war.

[The foregoing was sent by Hon. George M. Jones, an active and ever-zealous comrade and formerly Commander of the Missouri Division, U. C. V., of Jefferson City, Mo. He inclosed with it a letter in which he wrote that Rev. Dr. Briggs related the matter to him in a private conversation, and he requested that he write it for the Veteran. He states that the author "is noted for his accuracy of memory in regard to dates and incidents." On other occasions General Sherman has been known to assume the responsibility for the destruction of Columbia, and his worst admission was when he stated that, to injure him politically at his home, he charged it to Gen. Wade Hampton.]

"Čonfederate Veteran" magazine Vol. XXII, No. 2. February 1914, p. 96. Nashville, Tenn. [Ed. note: Rev. Ancel C. Briggs, 1847-1937, is buried in McKill Cemetery, Harrison Township, Vernon Co, MO.]

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An effort is being made to secure a saloon at Bronaugh. County Clerk Gordon this week received a remonstrance signed by J. M. Yonkey, John Cohenour, Geo. P. Putman, R. Jones, E. W. Shanholtzer, H. H. Putman, J. L. Long, N. Satterlee, F. A. Dorris, I. W. Ray, Thos. Pfeiffer, Wade Purdam, J. F. Webster, Frank Sommer, C. Osman and I. N. Berry.

*The Nevada Noticer,* Nevada, MO. September 20, 1888, p. 3, col. 5

#### DIED ON THE ROAD. A Sad Case of Destitution and Death.

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This afternoon ten mover wagons pulled up on the vacant lots southwest of the Thornton Bank. In one of them was the body of a dead boy. His name was John Plumb, and he was 9 years old. His parents started from Hutchison, Kansas, for Nevada, with the hope of finding work. John was taken sick on the road about a week ago. From fever he grew sicker and weaker, day by day, and this morning death claimed him about 3 o'clock. The family was without means, and they drove from their camp near Deerfield to Nevada, accompanied by another family of movers who had accompanied them on their journey.

Application was made to the county officials, and a coffin was furnished. It is a sad case of destitution and death.

*The Nevada Daily Mail,* Nevada, MO. Saturday, September 29, 1888, p. 4, col. 4.

# Recorder Bridgford disposed of the following cases Tuesday morning: Maggie Williams, fined \$20.10 for keeping a house of ill repute; Alice Ward, fined \$13.10 for being an inmate of a bagnio; Caleb Ray, plain drunk, fined \$7.10; Ed Sawyer, drunk, \$7.10; Greenfield Thomas, drunk, \$7.10; Jessie Wright, fighting, \$10.10.

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The Nevada Noticer, Nevada, MO. Thursday, September 20, 1888, p. 5, col. 3.

Mrs. Robt. Ball died at her home in the Rich Hill mines at 12 o'clock last night of typhoid fever. She was aged about 25 years, was the mother of two children, one of whom is yet an infant. The remains will be buried in Green Lawn Cemetery at 5 o'clock this evening. The bereaved relatives have our heartfelt sympathy. Rich Hill Review.

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*The Nevada Noticer,* Nevada, MO. Thursday, September 20, 1888, p. 5, col. 3.

#### From Vernon County.

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NEVADA, MO., Oct. 15, 1877. EDITOR TRIBUNE:--As our Fair closed on Saturday, I thought I would give you an item connected with the only great exhibition of that character in the southwestern part of the opening of the Fair State. The on Wednesday, the 10th, was all that could have been asked by the most sanguine of its success. It was evident from the stock on the ground and the number that had been entered by letter with the Secretary, that the display would be one that would be a credit to the county, and speak well of the enterprise of the fine stock men of the Southwest.

The stables on the grounds were full of fast horses as well as the stables of the city. At 8 o'clock on the first day, when the race of one half mile and repeat was announced by the Marshal, seven blanketed horses made their appearance on the track, which was in splendid condition, as were also the stock.

The start was by the tap of a drum. The first and second dash was won by Red Bird of this place; however, the second heat was declared dead on account of foul riding by Red Bird's rider. On the third heat the horses got a good start and to the first guarter pole the four lead horses ran neck and neck, but at this point Red Bird shot ahead some 20 feet and was gaining distance every jump, when a dog ran on to the track, causing the mare to scare and bolting the track, dashed her rider against a tree, killing him almost instantly. The race was finally won by a horse from Joplin, on the sixth heat. The boy killed was 12 years old (colored), from Kentucky, and had rode some of the best horses of that State.

The Fair during the remainder was largely attended, each ring well represented, not less than four entries for any one prize, and as high as eleven. On Saturday, in the test of draft teams, one animal was ruptured and died from the effect of the strain caused by the weight drawn at, which was three Bain wagons coupled together and brakes on with 1,000 pounds weight on them. At the close of the Fair a Mr. Hackney, formerly of Cole county, had the misfortune of having his leg broken by a runaway team of Mr. Thomas. A boy was also thrown from his horse in a quarter race and had his jaw broken.

Col. Winston and lady, of Cole, were in attendance as well as other visitors from abroad. Our Fair was decided, by all the stock men present, to be the best they had attended this fall. Two cows on exhibit weighed 1,800 pounds each, also the two year old bull that got the blue ribbon at Kansas City. This Fair being the last held in the Southwest, we had collected together all the fast and thoroughbred stock of this part of the State and eastern Kansas. Financially the enterprise was a grand success.

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*Jefferson City Daily Tribune,* Jefferson City, MO. October 19, 1877, page 1, col. 3.

#### 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, 212 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 El Dorado Springs is usually available; contact the society at <u>tricountygenealogy@centurytel.net</u>.

#### Tri-County Genealogical Society

Membership in the Society is currently at about 75, 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, 218 West Walnut Street, Nevada, MO 64772. 2008 Society officers are:

President: Kathe R V. Pres: Gayle T & Neoma F Recording Sec: Janet J Treasurer: Ray L Corresponding Sec: Darlene L Newsletter & Website: Nancy T

You received this monthly newsletter notice 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 notice in the future, please contact the Society at tricountygenealogy@centurytel.net and request that your name be removed from the email list.

If you have enjoyed reading the Tri-County Genealogical Society's newsletter, you are cordially invited to support the work of the Society with an annual membership. \$10 dues to be paid before March.