



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
tricountygenealogy@centurytel.net
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~motcogs/>



Vernon County Courthouse
Nevada, Missouri

NEWSLETTER

September 2009

October 10, 2009 Program
302 E Hospital Rd, El Dorado Springs, MO
PROPERLY AND SAFELY
PASSING ON ASSETS
KENDALL VICKERS, GUEST SPEAKER

Area attorney Kendall Vickers will speak on properly and safely passing on assets, including information on handling family heirlooms and treasures, genealogy records, photos, etc., and planning nursing home care.

Please note that the meeting will be held in the auditorium of the building.

2009 Programs

The following programs are tentatively scheduled for 2009. Watch the newsletter and website for updated information or changes as programs are finalized.

Nov 14, Nevada: Computer Genealogy Research. Seminar presented by Helen Lodge. Meeting location: Cottey College Computer Lab.

Dec 12, El Do: Members are invited to bring 10-15 printed copies of a documented brick-wall research problem to be brainstormed by the group. Election and Installation of Officers and Christmas Luncheon.

Recommended Resources to Purchase

The Society continues to seek your suggestions on genealogy resources to add to the library collections in both Nevada and El Dorado Springs. Please give your written suggestions to Kathe Radar at any meeting

or email to the society, and your email will be forwarded to Kathe.

The Society will be donating two books to both the El Dorado Springs and Nevada libraries in memory of deceased members Judy Vinzant and Virginia Breeding.

Member Survey for Meeting Day

Information from the meeting day survey is being reviewed by Society officers.

Items of Interest from Area Newspapers

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

CHOUTEAU IN GREAT DEMAND. **The Notorious Vernon County** **Horse Thief Badly Wanted**

Jerry Chouteau, a former noted Vernon county horse thief and all around desperado, is in jail at Ft. Scott. Chouteau has spent much of his time in prison for various crimes, and in different asylums on the insane racket.

His history of crime is well known to the people of Lake township where he used to operate. On his last theft Monday's Fort Scott Tribune says:

"C. E. Newland and a brother, of Thayer, Kas., arrived here Saturday evening in search of a team of horses which was stolen from them at Thayer. Deputy Sheriff Bales had arrived from Rinehart, Mo., twenty minutes before with a team which Jerry Chouteau confessed having stolen and left at Rinehart in exchange for a team which he drove here. This proved to be Mr. Newland's team. The Thayer team was

stolen on the 15th and eight Newland brothers have been out looking for it since that time. They have hunted through the territory, southeast Kansas and southwest Missouri.

"It was their strong desire to take Chouteau to Neosho county and prosecute him, but he was already in court here, and was under \$500 bond. So anxious were they to get him back to Neosho county that they offered to furnish his bond. The officers agreed to this and they wired their bank at Thayer to secure the First National Bank here to the amount of the bond. The Messrs. Newland are wealthy farmers, and have suffered serious losses at the hands of thieves. They are convinced that Chouteau can give them valuable information concerning other robberies, and it is for this purpose that they want him.

"Chouteau is a morphine victim and craves the drug. He has used it so long and so regularly that it is thought to have affected his mind.

"At 4:30 o'clock this afternoon they had not given Chouteau's bond and he was still in jail. They may not get him, though the Thayer bank wired the First National, securing the amount of the bond."

***Nevada Daily Mail, Nevada, Missouri.
Tuesday, May 24, 1898, page 3.***

The Walker Herald says a man living near that town killed a snake last week that measured at least ten feet in length, fifteen inches in girth, weighed twenty-five pounds, and had a mouth large enough to hold the republican vote of Missouri next fall.

Twelve hundred Missouri mules were shipped to Cuba last week. Experts figure that in a single file they would have reached two and a half miles, and that the concentrated energy of their heels if let loose in one kick would knock twelve feet off the tallest building in the state.

***The Metz Times, Metz, Missouri.
January 17, 1908.***

**WAS AN OLD RESIDENT
AND AN EX-CONFEDERATE
Peter Campbell Died Sunday Afternoon
and Will be Buried Tuesday.**

Peter Campbell aged seventy-four years of age and one of the oldest residents of Nevada died Sunday afternoon, his death being due to the infirmities of old age. The deceased lived in Nevada for more than thirty years and enjoyed a large circle of friends and acquaintances. He was an ex-Confederate soldier, a member of the Nevada camp.

The deceased is survived by the following children: Mrs. John T. Lucas and Mrs. W. E. Wyatt of Nevada; Mrs. J. L. Munda of Great Falls, Mt. The funeral services will be conducted Tuesday afternoon by Rev. Shook at the residence of Mrs. Wyatt, 1204 North Main street. Burial at Deepwood.

***Nevada Daily Mail, Nevada, Missouri.
Monday, January 9, 1911, page 1.***

**Amos Beck
by Fawn E. Witten**

[The below family biography was written by Fawn (Eleanor) Beck Witten and is reprinted here with spelling and punctuation intact.]

Little was known to our family of my great grandfather Amos Beck. We do know that he was born in the Hills of Kentucky in 1804. An ancestor had come to the Colonies from Germany during the Revolution (along with a brother) as Mercenaries to fight for the Colonist. At which time their sir name was De Beck (or Le Beck). After the Revolution ended the brother returned to the Motherland. Our ancestor chose to stay and dropped the "De" (or Le) from his name. It is believed that he received a land grant in Kentucky as compensation for services rendered.

Although the details are un-known to us; Amos Beck met and fell in love with Mary Ann (Nansey) Lewis (b. 1813). She was a daughter of a slaveholder in the Kentucky 'Bluegrass' region. Her father considered Amos Beck 'just a hill-billy' and dis-owned her for marrying him: However as a wedding

gift he gave her a 'set' of slaves. (It is unclear as to how many constituted a 'set' if indeed it was any specific number but it seemed to be a family or possibly more. Daddy's father mentioned a beloved older woman whose name WAS *Nigger Ann, and her daughter Sarah. It seems there were at least two men and 'some' little children at the time my grandfather (Samuel Washington Beck) was a child. **At that time this was not considered an in-appropriate word as it simply meant Black, Negro, or colored (I don't use it). I assume she was so named to distinguish her from my Great-grandmother whose name was also Ann.*

Amos Beck was industrious (also a Hardshell Baptist minister). At sometime he migrated with his family to Pike Co. MO where my grandfather and his twin brother Amos were born. Later a daughter named 'Mattie' was born. Samuel had older brothers: Isaac, Joseph, Moses, and Thomas. Uncle Tom was killed in California; Uncle Joe was killed in battle at Cole Camp MO, serving in the Confederate Army. Uncle Ike was a carpenter, having built several houses in and around El Dorado Springs, MO in Cedar County. Later he moved to Montana and lived there until his death. I do not recall more data on Uncle Moze; it seems he also went to Montana.

Great Grandfather Beck was a kind man and abhorred slavery. He did not believe that one human being should own another human being. The thoughts of buying and selling a person or breaking up a family were even more abhorrent to him. He told the Negroes that they were free to go but they chose to stay with him because he was kind. They realized that someone else might enslave them. They worked for and with him. In exchange he provided homes, clothing and food. Naturally most of the food for all of them was raised. His son took pride in the fact that Amos bought shoes and adequate clothing for the Negroes as many Negroes had to work barefoot.

A man named Mr. Lee came with Amos Beck from KY. In 1857 they purchased land

in Cedar County. We have no record of what ever happened to Mr. Lee or what was his first name. They purchased Claire Springs and re-named it Lebeck, using both surnames. There they operated a store and perhaps a mill. They sold it (I don't recall to whom) and a few years later (1867?) it was purchased by August Schmidt. Today all that remains is a dwelling and the Lebeck cemetery in Cedar County about four/six miles east of El Dorado Springs. When I was a very small child in the late 1930's the store was still standing and operating. Many of Amos and Nansey's descendants are buried in the cemetery. Amos Beck then moved about *four or so miles southwest and founded Becktown on a small creek which he named Beck Creek at that time. (I don't believe it is known by any name at the present. It crosses the Old Lake Hill road.) This 'town' had a store, a sawmill and maybe a mill to grind grain. There was a house for the Beck family and a few cabins for the Negroes. As a small child I recall Daddy showing us where the foundations of the Negroes cabins were as they were never rebuilt after the War. The Union Army burned the entire town during the War. Someone rebuilt on or near the foundation of the Beck home. **This location is just east of the corner where Freddie Blystone lived on a farm that he had inherited from Mr. and Mrs. Rickard and on the Lake Hill Road extension. The last time I was there in 2005 there was still a house at the exact location on the south side of the road. At that time it was the only house along the south side of the road. It is probably two miles or so south-west of Coal Hill. Public Tax records at the Cedar County Courthouse in Stockton substantiate the ownership of Claire Springs/Lebeck by Amos Beck prior to August Schmidt. These records also substantiate the location of the Becktown property owned by Amos Beck. These records state change of ownership due to failure to pay the taxes (which would have been difficult since he had been murdered and the property burned.)*

Sometime before the start of the Civil War a slave trader [trader] came through the country looking for slaves to buy. He saw Great Grandfather at the store and asked if he had any slaves to sell. Great Grandfather told him that there were some Negroes there but he would not sell them. He told the man that if they wished to go with him they could. The man said he would go talk with them. Shortly thereafter Amos heard a terrible commotion down at the mill and heard the Negroes crying and screaming. He rushed down to see what was going on. They came running to him, crying and saying, "We don't want to leave Massy Beck. We don't want to go." Grandpa told them they did not have to go. They said, "But he told us that he had bought us and that we had to go with him." Great Grandpa was livid. He told them to stop crying and go on about their business. He turned on the slave trader with a vengeance. He told him to 'hit the road' and that if he ever saw him in that part of the country again he would SHOOT HIM ON SIGHT! Even though the Negroes considered that Grandpa OWNED them, he did not consider that he did. From what I understand, it seemed that he considered that he was their 'boss'. He took great pride in the fact that he never whipped one. He did punish a young girl, Sarah once for hitting her mother Niger Ann. In that day and age it was NOT tolerated that a child should hit their parent. Nigger Ann was always chiding Sarah to get her to help with the work. Sarah was very defiant to her mother. Her mother would say, "You lazy nigger, Massy Beck ought to sell you." Nigger Ann was the younger Beck children's 'Mammy'. Grandpa Beck loved that old lady very dearly, probably almost as much as his biological mother. (Her final days were spent at Clinton MO.)

Once a group of Union Soldiers caught Grandpa Samuel Beck (he was just a lad of 11/13) and asked him where the Rebel forces were camped. Grandpa replied, "Ask me no questions and I will tell you no lies." The Union Soldiers were going to whip him

until he talked. The Captain rode up and demanded that the troops release him. He said, "That little fellow has spunk! Now you turn him loose!"

Once when Uncle Ike Beck was trying to make it home for a short rest some Union Troops shot his horse from under him. He took off running. Ahead he spotted one of their horses. His name was Ceilum and he was notorious for being IMPOSSIBLE to catch out in the open prairie. Ceilum was grazing and looked up at Uncle Ike. Uncle Ike called to him and he came running up to him and stopped. Uncle Ike jumped on him bare-back and yelled, "Get up, Ceilum!" Old Ceilum took off like the wind and ran into Clintonville. The Union Soldiers did not pursue, as Clintonville was a strong Rebel holdout. They knew they would be outnumbered there.

During the Civil War Missouri was a terrible location. It was a border state and was constantly raided by Quantrill and his Jayhawkers. They would come in from Kansas and rob, kill and burn. When the War became so severe, Great Grandpa, Great Grandma, the three younger children and the Negro women went to Pea Ridge Arkansas, thinking it would be safe. I suppose the Negro men were fighting in the War. I really do not know. It is possible that they went to Arkansas, also. In Arkansas the War became very bloody. My Great Grand Parents could hear the roar of the cannons all day when the bloody Battle of Pea Ridge was fought. By now Great Grandpa was a man too old to go to battle. One night a group of twelve Union Sympathizers rode up to the house and knocked on the door. Great Grandma answered. One of the men said they wished to speak with Mr. Beck. She called Great Grandpa to the door. They shot him down in his own doorway and rode off. It was a 'gut shot' and he lived two weeks. The women took him into the woods and hid him and cared for him there. They knew if news got out that he was still alive, they would come back and finish him off.

The twelve men went on down the road and stopped at a house and asked the women there to cook them a meal. As they were eating they were bragging about just 'killing the Old Man Beck'. One of the women wrote the names of the twelve down. After the war, Grandma told the Negroes that the war was over and that they could now live wherever they wished. She told them they could stay with her or go as they chose. They thought it would be easy living on their own and chose to move to Clinton MO. After a little while, they found it was very difficult and one came back and asked if they could all come back. Great grandma told them that they had to live by their choice. If they had chosen to stay they could have but they must live with their decision.

Great Grandma and her three young children and a pair of skinny horses made the journey from Pea Ridge, Arkansas to Clintonville MO. When they arrived at Mrs. Eddlemon's home she said they were the most starved looking group that she had ever seen. Mrs. Eddlemon fed them and gave them a slab of bacon. They returned to find their home was burned to the ground. Their livestock was scattered. The boys tried to round up what they could. Grandpa (Samuel Beck) Beck had no shoes for his feet. He had to plow corn barefoot. It was a very lawless country at that time. Thieves stole horses and cattle until Vigilantes were formed. After hanging several rustlers the stealing stopped.

'The boys' got out of the service they set out to find the twelve men that had killed Amos Beck and avenge their father's death. Eventually his sons killed eleven of the men that killed Amos Beck. One night Uncle Tom was at a house eating dinner. A man rode up and asked to eat. The ladies fed him. Uncle Tom noticed that as he was eating he became very uncomfortable. As soon as he ate he left. Uncle Tom asked who he was and the woman told him that he was the TWELTH man. Uncle Tom grabbed his gun to get him but the women restrained him,

reminding him that if he were shot near their home that others would come and burn them out. He let him get away. Later he was told the man took off for California that very night. Uncle Tom immediately left for California. He was found dead by his campfire in California. He had been shot. It was reported that it looked like he was reaching for his gun. It was never known, but the family wondered if it was the TWELTH man that killed Uncle Tom.

Samuel Washington Beck went to Bakersfield CA in the 1800s and worked on a sheep range for a couple of Land Barons named Crocker and Wallace. He wanted Great Grandma Beck to come out here but she refused. Grandpa's twin Uncle 'Ame' (Amos) had died so Grandpa went back to MO.

When Uncle 'Ame' and Grandpa were very young, Uncle Ame got a finger cut off. Otherwise they were indistinguishable. They thought it great sport to take a girl to a dance. Then mingle around and switch dates. The young ladies caught on and soon refused to let either escort them home until they showed them their hand.

Samuel Beck worked very hard and saved. His desired was to give each of his four children a college education. Sadly, not a one of them even went to High School. It must have been a disappointment for him, since he married into a family of educated people. One of his brothers in law Henry J. Light was a lawyer in Cedar/St. Clair Counties and later a judge in Lemoore, California (being one of the founders of Kings County CA). Two brothers-in-law were school teachers. (Ferdinand Light taught at Coal Hill.) When Samuel Beck died he was considered 'well to do'. He was a generous man but never told the family of anything that he did to help others. At one time a rather poor family in the neighborhood had a tragic event. The three little Smith girls were home alone. They tried to start a fire in the cook stove using kerosene. It exploded and burned the girls so badly that they all three died within a few weeks. Mr.

Andes ran the store at Lebeck at the time. He later told Daddy that Grandpa was the only one in the entire neighborhood that he knew of that helped the family. Grandpa told Mr. Andes to take groceries to the family as long as the little girls lived and put it on his bill. Grandpa then paid for it. The three little Smith girls were buried toward the south side of the Lebeck Cemetery. If Mr. Andes had not told my father, the family would have never known of this kind act.

Nansey Beck died in 1878 and is buried in the (now abandoned) *Vandenberg Cemetery in Cedar County (just north of 54 highway) two of daddy's infant brothers are buried there also. Samuel Washington Beck and his wife Nancy Emmaline (Light) Beck are buried at the west end of the Lebeck Cemetery. **I believe it is also called Old Macedonia Cemetery.*

I was born (1934) in a two story white farm house (located about 2/3 miles west of Lebeck) that was built by Samuel W. Beck on 120 A of land that he bought from his father in law Samuel Dinwiddie Light. Samuel Dinwiddie Light had come to Missouri as an assistant to his brother Henry Lowe Light who was a surveyor when Missouri was being surveyed. Originally they settled at Osceola and were living there when Osceola was burned during the Civil War. Samuel D. Light 'entered' a fairly large track of land on the Lebeck/Coal Hill area after the war ended. (The Light ancestors were from Laubach Germany which had no bearing on the name of Lebeck MO) My father, Robbie Dinwiddie Beck was born (1894) in the same house, same bed, and same room. This house is long gone...After Uncle Lowell Beck sold this farm to Jim Welton (c.1949/50), they chose to build a home 'down on the main road' and abandoned the house so that it fell to ruin. The road that went past it to Lebeck was no longer maintained as a public road.

The above material is property of Fawn (Eleanor) Beck Witten, permission is granted

to Gayle Allen Teague to share with others interested in the Lebeck history. 9/1/09

Summer Fresh Grocery Cash Register Receipts and Best Choice UPC Labels

The Tri-County Genealogical Society continues to collect Best Choice brand UPC product labels and Summer Fresh Grocery Store receipts. Please note that the Summer Fresh receipts are void if the bottom portion of the receipt is removed. Bring these items to any monthly meeting. They are redeemed for cash used to purchase genealogy resources for our public libraries.

Using USGS GNIS To Find Vernon County Cemeteries

The [USGS GNIS](#) website is a great tool for locating any known geographic area and is particularly helpful to genealogists in locating cemeteries. With the upcoming publication of the new Vernon County Cemetery Directory, the following omissions and errors in the GNIS database were noted and have been forwarded for correction. Because so many email questions regarding the location of various cemeteries are received, the following information is provided to assist those who may be visiting this area prior to the database being corrected:

Beckman Cemetery (properly Beckmon Cemetery). The size, legal, and coordinates are incorrect. Beckmon Cemetery is less than one acre; legal description is Section 1, Township 34N, Range 33W; and coordinates are 37.764683, -94.450947. (The information given for Beckmon Cemetery is actually data for the Moundville Cemetery.)

Berea Cemetery should be added. It is the same information and coordinates as for Berea Church.

Bickett Cemetery should be added. Coordinates are 37.720305, -94.343977 Section 9, Township 34N, Range 31W.

Callaway Cemetery: The size and coordinates are incorrect. Callaway is 1

acre, and coordinates are 37.872677, -94.366250. Callaway is located on the east size of the Nevada State Hospital #3 Cemetery.

Carbon Center Cemetery should be added. Coordinates are 38.049916, -94.317670

Clark Cemetery should be added. Location is 38.040449, -94.506986 Section 36, Township 38N, Range 33W.

Coleman Cemetery: The size, legal, and coordinates are incorrect. Coleman is located at Section 30, Township 36N, Range 33W, and the coordinates are 37.878275, -94.612112 (The information presently given as Coleman is actually data for White Cemetery.)

Dunnegan Grove Cemetery should be added. Same information and coordinates as Dunnegan Grove Church.

Emery Cemetery should be added. Location is 37.788802, -94.409391 Section 25, Township 35N, Range 32W.

Greenlawn Cemetery is correctly "Green Lawn". This is rather important in this region because "Greenlawn" Cemetery is located at Rich Hill, Bates County, MO, just 10 miles north.

Nevada State Hospital #3 Cemetery should be added. It is 2 acres and coordinates are 37.8722599, -94.3677279. Nevada State Hospital #3 Cemetery is located on the west edge of Callaway Cemetery.

McKill Chapel Cemetery should be added. Same information and coordinates as for McKill Chapel.

McMullin Cemetery should be added. Location is 37.735121, -94.421461 Section 3, Township 34N, Range 32W.

Moundville Cemetery should be added. Location is 37.763989, -94.460524 Section 5, Township 34N, Range 32W.

Rosewood Cemetery should be added. Location is 37.701318, -94.370708 Section 18, Township 34N, Range 31W.

Virgil City Cemetery is located in Vernon County (not Cedar County).

Warkins Cemetery should be added. Location is 37.814836, -94.104466 Section 11, Township 35N, Range 29W.

White Cemetery should be added. Location is 37.874549, -94.568360 Section 28, Township 36N, Range 33W.

Worsley Cemetery should be added. It is the same information and coordinates as for Worsley Church.

Most of these cemeteries can be seen in satellite view on the maps. If you have questions about the location of a cemetery in Vernon County, please send an email or letter.

Wayback Machine

Have you often wanted to go back to a website that you had used previously, only to find that it is no longer available? There is a website which may be able to help you with finding that web page – it is www.archive.org. This website stores text of standard internet pages but may not have graphic images or other fancier pages. For more information, about this, please visit http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2009/09/the-wayback-machine.html

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 W. 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.

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, and \$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. 2009 Society officers are:

President: Kathe Rader
V. Pres: Gayle Teague & Neoma Foreman
Recording Secy: Janet Jones
Treasurer: Ray Lukenbill
Corresponding Secy: Darlene Lukenbill

Annual membership is only \$10 -- join today and support the work of the Society!

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(Vernon-Cedar-St. Clair Counties)
218 W. Walnut Street
Nevada, MO 64772
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED