



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](mailto:tricountygenealogy@centurytel.net)  
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~motcogs/>



Vernon County Courthouse  
Nevada, Missouri

## NEWSLETTER

March 2010

**April 20, 2010, 10 a.m.**  
Church of Christ Parking Lot  
302 E Hospital Rd., El Dorado Springs  
Genealogy Meeting & Program

***TOUR OF HISTORIC  
EL DORADO SPRINGS TRAIN DEPOT  
& OLD CONCORD SCHOOL BUILDING***

Please meet at 10 a.m. at the Church of Christ parking lot to carpool to Silverline Ranch for a tour of the historic El Dorado Springs Train Depot and the Old Concord School Building, both of which are being preserved at the Silverline Ranch.

The Concord School building previously stood at the corner of 84 and 801 Roads. According to a paper written by Jean Nipps Swaim, "it was taken into El Dorado Springs and used as a classroom during the years of reorganization before the new town building was ready to receive the outlying students that were being bussed into town. The Silvers have restored it, and it still has the writing on the blackboard from 1957."

The meeting and program are open to the public, and everyone with an interest in researching his or her family's history is invited to attend.

**2010 Tri-County Genealogical  
Society Membership**

Membership in the Tri-County Genealogical Society is on a calendar year basis, and memberships are welcomed and accepted throughout the year.

***Vernon County, Missouri  
Cemetery Directory 2010***

***ORDER YOUR COPY TODAY!***

The Society is excited to announce that the much-anticipated **NEW Vernon County, Missouri Cemetery Directory 2010** is presently at the printers! Copies are expected on or about April 14. This is a limited first printing of only 50 copies, and pre-ordering is required to obtain a copy. This is a fantastic resource for researching your Vernon Co, MO ancestors. Send your pre-order today! Additional details and order form are on our website at [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~motcogs/](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~motcogs/)

Hundreds of previously unrecorded burials from pioneer cemeteries are included in the directory. This is a 985-page, 2-vol. set which includes death/burial information on more than 51,000 persons connected to Vernon Co. The directory has an every-name index of burials with women's maiden names cross-referenced, plus numerous additional features. It is softbound with cardstock covers and comb binding.

Researchers will want to obtain a copy of the **Vernon County, Missouri Cemetery Directory 2010** for their personal library – the cost is only \$30 for the 2-vol. set (plus \$8 if by mail order). Order today to guarantee receiving a copy.

Local residents can take their orders to the Nevada Library Circulation Desk (sealed envelope with check; no cash please) and ask the librarian to place it in the Genealogy

Society's mail box. Mailed orders should be addressed to the Tri-County Genealogical Society at the address above. If ordering locally, you will be notified when your copy can be picked up. All pre-orders will be filled first, and additional copies will be printed as needed.

Many volunteers worked thousands of hours over the last six years to create a directory of this magnitude, and we know you will be thrilled with the publication.

***Reserve Your Copy – Order Today!***

### 2010 Programs

The following programs are tentatively scheduled for 2010. Watch the newsletter and website for updated information or changes as programs are finalized.

**May 18, Nevada:** “Using the Find-A-Grave Website.” This will be a hands-on workshop in the Library Computer Lab. Bring your research and learn how to look up burial memorials on this free website. Attendees will also be shown how to register and add memorials to Find-A-Grave.

**Jun. 15, El Do:** “Rural Schools of Cedar County” by Luella Phipps.

**Jul. 20, Nevada:** “Using the Computer in Your Research” by Helen Lodge, Cottey College. (Arranged by Neoma Foreman)

**Aug. 17, El Do:** Research trip or historical site tour; to be determined. (Arranged by Dorothy Foster)

**Sep. 21, Nevada:** “Brick Walls in Your Research” by Helen Lodge. (Arranged by Neoma Foreman)

**Oct. 19, El Do:** To be announced. (Arranged by Dorothy Foster)

**Nov. 16, Nevada:** “Group Solve Your Brick Walls” Helen Lodge at Cottey College. Members: submit completed form in advance to have your brick wall research case used. (Arranged by Neoma Foreman)

**Dec. 21, El Do:** “Sharing our Personal Research, Installation of Officers, and Christmas Luncheon. (Arranged by Dorothy Foster)

[Members who are coordinating and arranging programs are asked to provide additional details about their programs for the newsletter and the Society’s website. Thank you.]

### New Resources Added to Collections

Numerous additional items continue to be added to the collections in the (N)evada and (E)l Dorado Springs libraries.

--Geographic Index to Articles in Missouri Pioneers and Missouri Miscellany Books. Compiled by Kay Harper. [This index covers only the volumes of *Missouri Pioneers* and *Missouri Miscellany* that are available in the Genealogy Dept. This resources enables researchers to search by geographic location (by county) for published indexes of public records. *Thank you, Kay for creating this helpful index!*] (N).

--The Record of Alexander R. McDonald from 1789 to Aug 1, 1925 by the Descendant. Includes surnames Underwood, Munkers, Knight, Slade, Mitchell, McCurdy, Lykins, Brooks, Bermond, Osborn, Kessler, Miller, Roberts [Copy of family genealogy] (N).

-- Evans by Ethel E. Albert [Copy of family genealogy] (N).

--Historic Hotels of Missouri: Hotels, Inns and Taverns of 19th Century Missouri by David James. (Donation by author). [This is a very interesting resource which lists all known hotels, etc., and their proprietors. One can, for instance, look up Schell City and see how many hotels, inns, and taverns were in the city, their names, and who ran them.] (N)

--The Complete Book of Emigrants 1607-1660 by Peter Wilson Coldham. [This is a wonderful book of lists from English sources of emigrants to the New World. An example listing: “**1656 Sep 12.** Elizabeth Grim of Cheltenham, Gos, spinster, and Richard Adams of Winchcombe, Gos, shoemaker, bound to Daniell Washborne to serve 4 years in Virginia, and John Harris of Newland, Gos, to serve for 10 years. William Price of Whitney, Heref, mason,

bound to Patrick Browne of Bristol, shoemaker, to serve 4 years in Virginia. Elizabeth Iveson and Elizabeth Williams bound to David Warren, mariner, to serve 4 years in Virginia. Grigory Lluellin of Hanham, Glos, bound to Symon Wills, mariner, to serve 4 years in Barbados. Giles Daby of Whitminster, Glos, labourer, bound to Fortune Twitt, cooper, to serve 4 years in Barbados. Matthew Argile of Limerick, Ireland, bound to John Cherry, mariner, to serve 4 years in Barbados. **(BRO).** BRO stands for Bristol Record Office, City of Bristol Record Office, Bristol, England; references are to manuscript volumes entitled 'Servants to Foreign Plantations,' ref. 04220. This might be the place where you find your brick-wall ancestor. Member Rosemary N. donated this book to the collection – *thank you, Rosemary, for this tremendous resource!*]

(Items may not be immediately available because they are being cataloged.)

### Cemetery Work

A new shelter has been constructed at the Sheldon Cemetery, a donation of Catharine Alice Donaldson. It was dedicated May 23, 2009. The cemetery gateposts are being reset wider at the main entrance to enable easier entrance and exit. This is a very nice addition to the Sheldon Cemetery.



New entrance area of Sheldon Cemetery

A group of volunteers are spear-heading an effort to clean up and maintain Stepp Cemetery, located just east of Nevada on Northern Road. Watch the local newspaper for information on an upcoming work day, and bring your tools to help get this project

off to a great start. Please contact Randy Layher at 667-4445 if you can help:



Stepp Cemetery before cleanup begins

Fort Scott resident Charlie Cress undertook the task of cleaning up the old Summers Cemetery located southeast of Metz. He received some assistance from area residents including and George & Phyllis Liles. Volunteers will search for additional grave markers on Sunday afternoon, April 18 beginning at 1:30 p.m. If you



can help, please contact the genealogy society.

Charlie Cress at the hand-engraved river rock that marks the burial of pioneer settler Allen Summers

Clark Cemetery, northwest of Metz, has had a new entrance gate installed and the lane to the cemetery cleared of trees.



Clark Cemetery new entrance gate

*Thank you to everyone who helped with these cemetery improvements!* If you know of other



local cemetery improvements, please contact the society so information can be published in a future issues of the newsletter.

### **Cedar Co. Probate Records**

Volunteers report that their portion of the Cedar County Probate Records Project has been completed. The probate files are presently being indexed and microfilmed. *Great job by the volunteers who worked on this project -- thank you!!*

### **[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) Offers free Online Classes**

The FamilySearch website is offering free genealogy classes on a variety of subjects – Italy Research, Ireland Research, Germany Research, Research Principles and Tools, Research Logs, and numerous other subjects. Whether you are just beginning family history research or want a refresher, you will find something interesting in their list of classes. For those using computers at the Library, you will want to use a pair of headphones for the audio (bring your own headphones or check out some at the Library)

### **Metz...Its History and Pioneer Settlers**

The Vernon County Historical Society will hold its quarterly meeting on Sunday, April 11 at 2 p.m. at the Bushwhacker Museum, 212 W. Walnut St., Nevada. The program is titled, "Metz...Its History and Pioneer Settlers." The meeting is free and open to the public. If you have Metz memorabilia that can be displayed during the program, please bring it! The Metz School exhibit in the Museum will be open for viewing following the program.

### **Suggested Resources to Obtain**

Please submit your suggestions for additional research resources to obtain.

### **Member's Research**

Member Kenneth Weant, 3420 Viscount Dr., Arlington, TX 76016-2338 provides the

following information from his research: Several of my collateral family lines from Garrard Co, KY and Callaway Co, MO migrated to Vernon County in the 1870-1900 time frame. They were Elisha Johnson, William and Florence Ross Baugh, Benjamin and Martha Florence Wylie Baugh, and Jesse John and Elizabeth Wylie Baugh. In addition, a Hiram P. Bailey and Susan Boyce Bailey were found on the 1860, 1870, and 1880 Vernon County Federal Census. Anyone researching these family lines can contact Kenneth to share information.

### **Items of Interest from Area Newspapers**

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

#### **AN OLD SETTLER.**

#### **Mrs. Sarah A. Pryor Passed Away Monday Night.**

At half after ten o'clock last evening, after two months' of painful suffering, the spirit of Mrs. Sarah A. Pryor passed from the body which had, for 73 years been its home.

In her death Vernon County loses one of its oldest residents and the community at large, a woman of spotless character and true worth.

Mrs. Pryor was born in Ohio in 1829. When but a child, over sixty years ago, she moved with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Quay to what was then the wilds of Missouri and settled near Nevada.

Since then Vernon county has been her home. Here she was married and here she watched her children grow to manhood and womanhood.

For the last six months Mrs. Pryor has not been well and for two months she had been confined to her bed.

She leaves four children, Wm. C. Pryor, Chas. Pryor, Mrs. Margaret Ellison, all of Nevada and Mrs. Sweet of Sedalia. Her sister, Mrs. Richardson, mother of J. L. Richardson, also survives.

**Weekly Post, Nevada, Missouri  
Friday, June 27, 1902, page 4.**

-----

## OBITUARY

Lola Agnes Thompson was born Jan. 4, 1888, died July 21, 1918, aged 30 years and 7 months. She was married to Robert Leslie Defreece Feb. 26, 1907. Two children were born of this marriage, one of whom is now living.

The deceased united with the Free Will Baptist Church when a child.

The funeral was held at the Avola Baptist church Sunday morning at 11 o'clock by Rev. C. W. Wolfe and burial was at the Avola cemetery.

**Nevada Daily Mail and Evening Post, Nevada, MO.  
Thursday, July 25, 1918, page 8.**

## REINTERRED.

### **The Remains of W. C. Brooks, Jr., Brought to Nevada for Burial.**

#### **Closing Chapter of a Texas Double Tragedy.**

The remains of W. Clarence Brooks Jr., arrived here yesterday from Wharton, Texas, and this morning they were laid in their final resting place in Deepwood Cemetery.

The pall-bearers were W. I. Fisher, Justine Williams, W. C. Duren, Frank James, W. J. Jones and W. W. Templin.

At the Grave Elder E. B. Cake offered a short prayer, and song exercises were had.

Readers of the MAIL will remember the tragic death of young Brooks, which occurred at Wharton, Texas in July 1884. Briefly stated they are as follows:

Clarence Brooks was sheriff of Wharton county, Texas. A few moments before his death his brother Eugene Brooks and a man named Gibb engaged in a difficulty in which Gibb shot Eugene through the left arm. After the shooting Gibb entered a store and Sheriff Brooks followed to arrest him. Gibb crouched behind a show-case and as the sheriff entered the door he suddenly sprang from his concealment, with revolver in hand, and fired, the shot taking deadly effect.

Gibb still nursed his old grudge against Eugene Brooks, and made threats that he

would kill him, and a re-encounter then was apparent to all.

In April 1885 the two men met face to face on the public square and settled their difficulty with pistols, in which Brooks killed Gibb. Brooks was tried for the act, and a few days ago the case closed by the jury bringing in a verdict of acquittal.

After the close of the trial the parents of the two brothers decided to have the remains of their murdered son brought to Nevada for burial and the re-interment was in accord with their wishes. Clarence Brooks was about 38 years old at the time of his death, and unmarried.

**Nevada Daily Mail, Nevada, Missouri.  
Saturday, May 8, 1886.**

## **Dead Baby Thornton.**

Mrs. Judge Thornton arrived here last evening, accompanied by her children, and her sister, Mrs. Burton, James Jones and Dr. and Mrs. Rockwood, who had gone to meet the afflicted family at Parsons.

Mrs. Thornton's 19 month's old baby had died on board the cars at Chetopa that morning, and when the train arrived here Dr. Rockwood bore the remains of the babe on a pillow, in his arms, to the carriages which were in waiting for the party, and they were driven to the residence of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Harding.

A telegram was received from Judge Thornton this morning saying he would reach Nevada tomorrow morning on the early train. He was immediately telegraphed to go on to Clinton.

The corpse will be taken to Clinton this evening for interment in the family graveyard.

**Nevada Daily Mail, Nevada, Missouri.  
Saturday, May 8, 1886.**

The body of Jno. Hooper, the unfortunate man who was drowned Thursday on Old Town branch northwest of here, was found yesterday. The searching party used a drag-net, and pulled the body out about forty feet

from where Mr. Hooper sank. It was thought at first that when he was thrown from his horse that he was struck by the animal in some manner, as he did not rise after the first time, but no marks were on him to show that such was the case. The remains were interred in Berea church yard at 4 p.m. Friday.

**Nevada Daily Mail, Nevada, Missouri.  
Saturday, May 8, 1886.**

### **A LOST BOY.**

#### **The Little Stranger Found in Deepwood Cemetery.**

This afternoon Charles Haising came to the MAIL office with a little boy he had found at Deepwood Cemetery. The little fellow was about four years old and said his name was Willie Mitchell. He could not tell where he lived.

When found, the child was walking around the graves and crying as if his little heart would break. Mr. Haising took him and inquired through the neighborhood, but could learn nothing of his parents.

When brought into the office he was consoled with candy, but would every few minutes remember that he was separated (*sic*) from his mother, and with eyes full of tears would ask if anyone had seen her. As nearly as could be determined from what he said it is probable that his parents left him at home and he started out in search of them.

LATER

Just before going to press, Mrs. J. J. Mitchell, of Walker township came to the office and claimed her baby. He had slipped away from her while she was purchasing goods at Turnbull & Co.'s store, and started in search of his father. His search was evidently an earnest one as he had walked about a half-mile when found.

**Nevada Daily Mail, Nevada, Missouri.  
Saturday, May 8, 1886.**

### **Wayside Museum**

Wayside Museum in El Dorado Springs is needing volunteers for the front desk. The museum will be open Thursday through

Sunday from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. The Museum opens in a few weeks, and they also need help with minor renovations and cleaning. There will be a 25th anniversary celebration in June and volunteer workers will also be needed for that, especially if someone can do an old-time craft. If interested in volunteering, contact Lynda B. at (417) 876-2633 or Bob Coleman at (417) 876-5630.

### **Chapman Family Association Reunion**

The Chapman Family Assoc will hold its 10th annual convention Jun 11-12 at the Hilton St. Louis Airport Hotel, St. Louis. You do not need to be a Chapman Family Assoc member to attend; registration is recommended. For further information: [www.chapmanfamilies.org/](http://www.chapmanfamilies.org/) or [LCodding@aol.com](mailto:LCodding@aol.com) [The Chapman Family Association has a very nice association website—please check it out.]

### **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.

### **Monthly Meetings**

Monthly meetings of the Tri-County Genealogical Society (Vernon-Cedar-St. Clair Counties of Missouri) are held the third Tuesday 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). There is 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 68, and nametags are used 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. 2010 Society officers are:

President: Kathe Rader

V. Pres: Dorothy Foster & Neoma Foreman

Recording Secy: Janet Jones

Treasurer: Ray Lukenbill

Corresponding Secy: Darlene Lukenbill

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

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