

## Cedar & Vernon County Missouri Genealogical Society

218 W. Walnut St., Nevada, MO 64772

Email: [Cedar.VernonCoMO@centurytel.net](mailto:Cedar.VernonCoMO@centurytel.net)

Website: <http://sites.rootsweb.com/~movernon/>

### August 2022 Newsletter©

The August 17, 2022 Cedar & Vernon Co MO Genealogical Society meeting and program will be held at the Nevada Library Annex, 200 W. Walnut St, Nevada, MO, beginning at 10 a.m. Please note that the Annex doors will open at 9:30 a.m. and the meeting will begin at 10 a.m. Nancy will present the program on finding a Revolutionary War Patriot in your lineage: **How to Search in the Daughters of the American Revolution Online Databases.** If you would like to bring your laptop or device to follow along with some of the presented information, you may do so. Please ensure your device has been updated prior to the meeting (search “Check for updates” and download/install any found and then repeat the process until you do not find any updates twice in a row). The material will be presented rather quickly during the program, and a detailed handout with web links will be provided and also emailed to members following the meeting, along with a copy of the PowerPoint slides.

Following our July 15, 2022 program, additional information was provided by my Midwest Genealogy Center regarding a “Research Library Card” which is available from Midwest. The Research Card provides home access to the many subscription online websites listed at the below link except Ancestry.com. Library Edition, AmericanAncestors.com, and FindMyPast.com. The Research Card must be applied for in-person, and the fee is \$35 for 6 months and can be renewed. With the

Research Card, the remainder of the Midwest website is also available – e-books and audiobooks can be downloaded. Our thanks to Midwest for this service which has become available just within the last couple of years.

[https://www.mymcpl.org/research-and-learning/research-databases?interest\\_areas=483](https://www.mymcpl.org/research-and-learning/research-databases?interest_areas=483)

The Vernon County Historical Society is providing an **August Special** - a free gift



with each paid admission to the Bushwhacker Museum! For information about the Museum, days and hours of operation, please see <https://bushwhacker.org/> Small genealogical and historical societies depend on their memberships, and you are encouraged to support the societies where you research and where your ancestors lived.

***Join your local historical society today!***

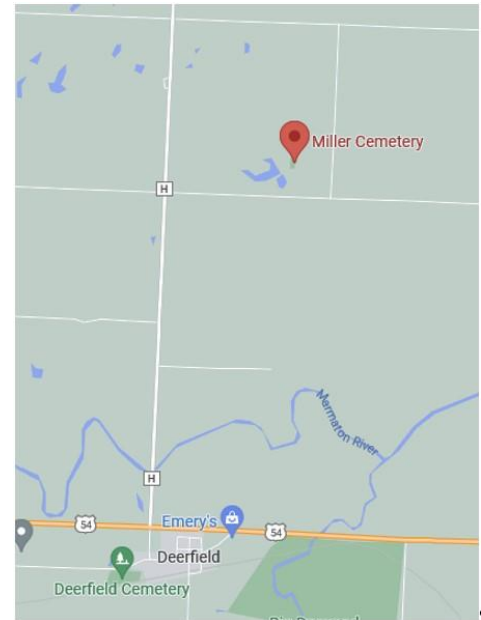
Did you have ancestors in Vernon County or any of the surrounding counties? Bates,

Barton, St. Clair, or Cedar counties in Missouri; Linn, Bourbon or Crawford counties in Kansas?

[http://sites.rootsweb.com/~movernon/other\\_links.htm](http://sites.rootsweb.com/~movernon/other_links.htm) Check the free research information provided at the MOGenWeb websites for these counties. Share information that can be published online with the coordinator to make it available for other researchers.

Would you like to share some details of your local research to be published in a future issue of this newsletter? Send a paragraph or two (or more) which can be included in the newsletter, and pictures can be included, too!

### Restoration of Miller Cemetery, located a couple miles northeast of Deerfield in Lake Twp.



Beginning cemetery clean-up. Photo credits Tom Hatfield and Tammy Bond.



The new owners of the land around Miller Cemetery are having the cemetery cleaned up, and it will be maintained. The owners are Richard and Betsey Breen, California, and the local farm manager is Tom Hatfield. A young man working towards his Eagle Scout is also involved in planning and accomplishing the clean-up project. Boy Scout Troop 42 will be cutting dead trees and brush at the cemetery on Aug 13—anyone can come

out and help. The plan is to clean up the overgrown vegetation, re-set headstones that have fallen, repair broken headstones, and clean all of the headstones.

The Miller School was established at this location some time prior to 1876 and was in operation until it was voted into the Richards School on August 15, 1951. The last school year (1951) had only 8 students enrolled in Miller School. The Stotesbury School was also consolidated into Richards at that time. The consolidation vote in these three school districts was

	Yes	No	
Richards	130	12	
Stotesbury	17	76	
Miller	<u>0</u>	<u>19</u>	
	147	107	Total (Complete but unofficial totals)

All of Missouri's rural county schools were consolidated following World War II. It was very common for a cemetery to be established in the school yard of a small community school because the school building was often also used as a meeting place and a church. The school building at Miller Cemetery, which was located on the north side of the cemetery, has now been gone for many years.

The first known burial in Miller Cemetery was Lydia Miller who died Aug 12, 1870. She shares a gravestone with John Miller, Apr 28, 1818 - Sep 9, 1889, presumed to be spouses. The last known burial was James Edward Ridgeway who died Jun 29, 1974. Aged 78, he had lived and farmed in Vernon Co his entire life and attended church in Ft. Scott, KS. No family or descendants were listed in his obituary.

At this time there are about 170 known burials in Miller Cemetery.

Area residents who have family buried in Miller Cemetery are very pleased that the cemetery is being cleaned up and will be maintained. The property manager explained that the folks buried there deserve to have it cleaned up, and the out-of-state property owners are fully behind getting it put back in shape.

Thank you to the people who are making this happen!

If you are traveling west of Nevada and in the Deerfield area, stop in and check the progress being made on this project. Additional research on the Miller school and church will be shared on the Vernon County, Missouri USGenWeb Project website.

### **Newspaper Items**

Digital newspapers: When researching your ancestors, do not limit your newspaper searches to only the area in which they lived. As you can see in the below newspaper articles, papers across the country often picked up stories published elsewhere and they may be from time periods for which there are no extant local papers.

#### **A WILD MAN OF THE WOODS.**

##### **Captured in the Timber Near Lamar.**

Last Friday morning Marshal Rice and J. W. Short went in quest of the supposed wild man, says the Lamar Democrat. They called at an old cabin in the edge of the timber east of the Ozark school house, and found that

which they were looking for was housed therein. They went to a window and began tearing off the paper and rags thereon in order to get an interior view. This the occupant objected to, and was soon on the outside with a good healthy club on his shoulder. One of the officers slipped up

behind him and caught him by the arms, while the other applied the bracelets. Upon investigation, this terror to the neighborhood was found to be only a dirty tramp, cracked enough in the upper story to be rather quarrelsome. He was dirtier than a hog, his hair was long and stringy, his clothes very ragged, he wore an old slouch hat, and had his feet wrapped in rags until they appeared as large as a gallon crock. The officers could get nothing sensible out of him. He said he was forty years of age, had no relatives and had been on the bum for several years, that he had been at the cabin for several weeks, and subsisted on corn and whatever else he could find.

**The Nevada Daily Mail, Nevada, Missouri; 6 Mar 1896**

Mrs. Libbie Yates, of Metz, Mo., is visiting at the home of her father, S. R. Moore. She contemplates moving out here.

**The Clearwater Times, Clearwater, Kansas; Friday 24 Dec 1886**

### **WENT GUNNING FOR A PANTHER A Virgil Farmer Shoots a Fine Colt by Mistake.**

William Hightchew, of Virgil township, claims to have heard the screams of a panther around his home Saturday night. He and his children went out in search of the varment (sic). In the darkness he saw an object which he took to be the panther, and taking bead on it with an old army musket, he pulled the trigger. After the shot Hightchew and his children went to their home and retired for the night. Monday morning he went out to make an investigation, and found that he had killed one of his fine colts. He is now a little sore on the subject of panthers.

**The Nevada Daily Mail, Nevada, Missouri; 3 Mar 1896**

M. M. Breeden of Golden City was in town Wednesday looking for a young man named Miller who stole a shotgun from him a few days ago. In company with the Liveryman he went out to Miller's house and arrested him. This is the same youth who so brutally assaulted his aged mother a short time ago.—Sheldon News.

**Nevada Noticer, Nevada, Missouri; 31 July 1890**

### **WANTS 2,000 DOLLARS.**

#### **C. J. Higgins Sues the Men Who Shot Him in the Leg.**

C. J. Higgins, through his attorney, W. M. Bowker, has instituted suit in the circuit court against C. O. Bussinger and Elmer Badger for damages to the amount of \$2,000.

The plaintiff's petition states that on November 19, 1895, while plaintiff was engaged in husking corn in his field on his farm, three miles northeast of Richards, defendants came into the field and willfully, negligently and carelessly shot and wounded the plaintiff in his left leg.

Plaintiff says that by reason of the wound thus inflicted he has suffered great pain and is wholly and permanently incapacitated for doing any sort of labor, besides incurring large expense for medical attention.

**The Nevada Daily Mail, Nevada, Missouri; 3 Mar 1896**

### **FOUND IN A WELL.**

#### **The Body of Russel Price Taken from its Watery Grave After a Burial of Three Years.**

From the Nevada Mail.

"There is something for the *Mail*" said Nick Winston, Wednesday morning, as he stood looking into the street from our office window.

"What is it?"

"Some one is dead. A coffin box is just being taken from the express wagon."



As the *Mail* man looked from the office window the box was being lowered to the sidewalk. Evidently it contained the mortal remains of man; and no time was lost in repairing to the scene.

Mr. J. L. Lockwood of Harwood this county, was in charge of the casket, and he freely gave the reporter what information he had, from which the following is written.

The casket contained the remains of Russel Price, who mysteriously disappeared from Humboldt, Kans., three years and a half ago. He had been there some months and was engaged in the collection business. The afternoon before he disappeared he had a conversation with an officer telling him that with his assistance he thought he could capture a notorious character named Gates, for whom there was a reward of \$4,000. That night Price disappeared, and no one knew what became of him. About the same time or a few days later, two or three other men disappeared in the same mysterious manner.

Law and order were almost complete strangers to Humboldt about that time, and but little was said by peace-loving people even though the law was being openly defied. The officers themselves shuddered from fear of the gang of murderous cut-throats that infected that section of country.

Those were trying times; but later the marauding gang was broken up. Several of them were killed, and as many more of them now languish inside prison walls. So much for law and order. Peace has again come to a troubled people, and justice again asserts her power at Humboldt.

About six months ago a newcomer to Humboldt was drawing water from a well when he noticed something floating in the water. He "fished" it out and found it to be a boot with a human foot inside. He took it to a doctor, and told his story. The doctor said it was out of reason for the foot to float. In

proof of his theory he had a tub of water brought in and dropped the foot into it, when it sank at once to the bottom. The man contended that he found it floating in the water, and on his return home began to drag the well. In a short time he drew up the remains of a human being, which were identified from the clothing and papers found in the pockets as the body of Russell Price. The skull had been fractured by a heavy blow, and a bullet hole was also in the skull. The body had been sunk by wiring stones to it. The water was drawn from the well—a depth of 30 feet—and heavy timbers were found closely fitted across the bottom. At the time nothing was thought of this, but now it is believed by many that the bodies of other victims of the murderous rascals that inflicted Humboldt a few years ago, are under this false work.

During the three years that the body laid in the well water was constantly used from it. Price was a brother-in-law of Mr. Lockwood. He was about 23 years old, and previous to going to Kansas lived in St. Clair county. His mother owns a lot in Deepwood Cemetery, which accounts for the remains having been brought here for interment.

**The Butler Weekly Times, Butler, Missouri; 4 Apr 1883.**

Married, on the 14<sup>th</sup> inst., at Walnut Grove church, by Rev. M. Adkinson, Dr. W. R. Abbott, of Metz, Vernon county, to Miss Mollie, youngest daughter of Dr. J. L. D. Blevans. Our kindest wishes attend the happy young couple.

**Tipton Times, Tipton, Missouri; 30 Sep 1886.**

# # #