

Cedar & Vernon County Missouri Genealogical Society

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

September 2023 Newsletter©

Society Meeting: Wednesday, 20 Sep 2023

The Cedar & Vernon Co MO Genealogical Society meeting will be held Wed, 20 Sep 2023, in the Nevada Library's Annex, 200 W. Walnut St, Nevada, MO. The doors will open at 9:30 a.m.; the meeting will begin at 10 a.m.



**My Husband's
Family was on
the Mayflower**

Free Program
by Judith

Sep. 20
10:00 a.m.

Nevada
Library
Annex
200 W. Walnut St

Monthly meeting & program
Cedar & Vernon Co MO Genealogical Society
Email: Cedar.VernonCoMO@centurytel.net
Website: <https://sites.rootsweb.com/~movernon/>
For more information call Valo (417) 667-2457

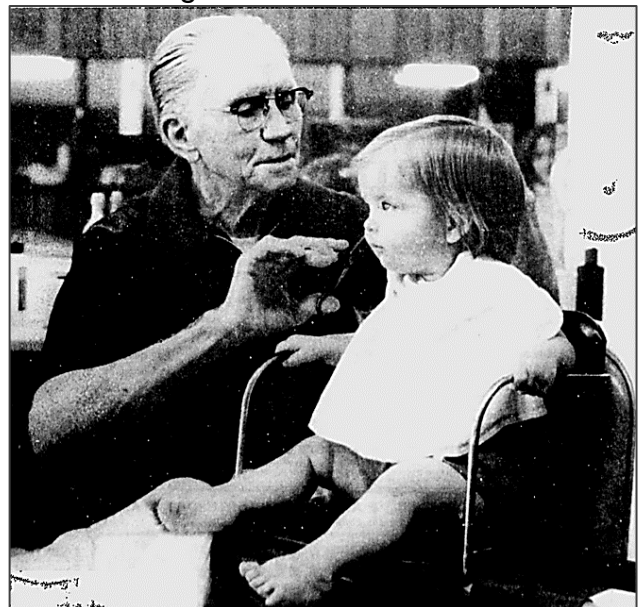
Everyone Welcome !

A \$1,000 21st Century Fund Grant was received by the Cedar & Vernon County Missouri Genealogical Society and the Vernon County Historical Society from the Missouri State Genealogical Association. The grant is to assist with publishing the new Directory of Vernon County Missouri Deaths and Burials.

Grants of up to \$1,000 are offered to Missouri historical and genealogical societies, libraries and archives for projects to compile, index, preserve and or publish local

records. Since 2009 MoSGA has funded several projects throughout the state.

A picture shared by Valo J. at the August meeting was from the Nevada Daily Mail newspaper, 6 Jan 1982 showing her son getting his first haircut. Mr. Whitehead cut hair for four generations of Jones men.



Chester Whitehead Danny Jones

Camp Clark, Vernon Co, MO has been added as a geographical location on the Find A Grave website. With this update, volunteers can now correct memorials which may be affected because Camp Clark and Nevada are two separate locations within the county. The memorials for the World War II Prisoners of War who died at Camp Clark have been corrected.

Top website searches include the surnames Withers, Caton, Nipp, Snyder, Moore, Bass, and Wilson. Many additional names and key

words were also searched.

After the website is moved from rootsweb/ancestry to the MOGenWeb platform later this year, the 2022 newsletters will be posted and available to search.

“Hot spots” available to check out. Patrons can check out an internet “hot spot” from the Nevada Library. A hot spot is a portable internet access device that can be used anywhere. The small device is turned on and any device such as your phone, laptop, notebook, etc., that requires internet can be wirelessly connected to it. A library card is required and check-out is for 2 weeks. There is a late return fee and a charge if the device is lost or stolen while in your custody. If you have data limits on a device, this is something which you might find helpful on occasion. Check with library staff for details.

All patrons of the Nevada Public Library have to obtain a new library card now that the new library system has been installed. This only takes a few minutes, so please stop in and take care of the change.

AncestryDNA Plus. If you tested DNA at Ancestry.com and do not have a paid subscription, some of the features to which you previously had access are now behind a paywall. Here is an article describing this change and how it affects those who do not subscribe. <https://thednageek.com/ancestrydna-plus-a-new-dna-subscription-tier/> Read article comments for pricing information.

Ancestry also now has a cancellation fee if you cancel before the end of your subscription and request a refund..

Researching Kentucky? Many Kentucky newspapers are available online. This link is for Russell County, and additional counties can be accessed by changing the name of the **county** in the link:

<http://russellcounty.advantage-preservation.com/>

Locked Image at FamilySearch.org.

Sometimes an image might be available even if the catalog shows that it is locked. If it is locked, you can access it at a Family History Center (usually limited hours), or at the Nevada Public Library, which is an affiliate library.

**Beckmon (Whitworth) Cemetery
A Once-abandoned Cemetery
in Harrison Township**

by Lyndon Irwin

Beckmon Cemetery is one of the older cemeteries in Vernon County’s Harrison Township. It is located in the middle of Section 1, Township 34N, Range 33W, which is in the northeastern part of this large township. It is so-named because it was founded as a family plot on the farm of Robert E. Beckmon. The first recorded burial was that of his wife, Minerva Kemp Beckmon in 1877. There are less than twenty known burials in the cemetery, but there are also several fieldstones placed on edge into the ground that almost certainly mark the graves of others who will probably remain unknown.



Since the last known burial in about 1932, the cemetery was largely abandoned for over a hundred years. It was fenced most of that time and brush and trees grew over the years. The fence was in poor repair 20 or 30 years



ago. However, the good news now is that an improved strong fence has been added by the current owners of the property. There have also been some efforts to clear the brush around the headstones. A long gravel lane leads through pastures but does go through private property.

Robert Ervill Beckmon had been born in Wayne County, Kentucky, November 15, 1817. When about four years old, his family moved to Hardin County, Tennessee, and eight years later moved to Scott County, Illinois. He grew to manhood and married Minerva Kemp there on November 3, 1836, and they had seven children. The family had been members of the Primitive Baptist Church, and they moved to Vernon County in 1873. They joined the Pleasant Ridge Primitive Baptist Church in 1878. Beckmon outlived his wife by more than 30 years. He was honored on his ninetieth birthday at his home 3 ½ miles southwest of Moundville, Missouri on Friday, November 15, 1907. Mrs. Kate Stephens provided music with her graphophone and in the afternoon, Rev.

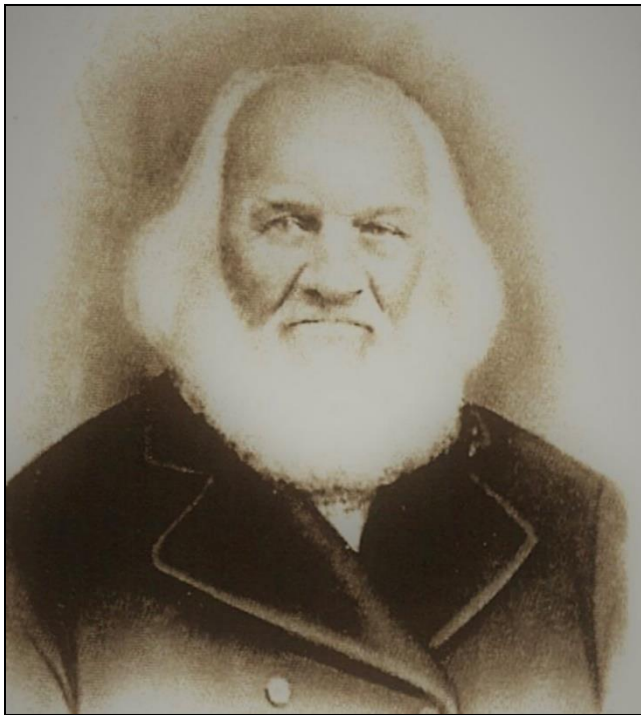
McCullom of Rich Hill, Missouri preached a sermon. Mr. Beckmon died on April 19, 1910, at the age of 92. He was buried beside wife Minerva who had died 33 years earlier. Their limestone gravestones are currently weathered but somewhat readable.

Two other Beckmon's share one of two granite marker in the cemetery. Hardin Beckman (1831-1909) and Roena Beckmon Kemp (1817-1896) were brother and sister. They were also siblings to R. E. Beckmon, all of them being children of David and Rachel (Eads) Beckmon. Hardin was a veteran of the Mexican War. He had married Mary Elizabeth Smith in 1851 Scott County, Illinois. She did not appear in future census records so she may have died early. Roena was the widow of Emanuel Kemp who had died in 1871 before she followed family members to Missouri. Emanuel Kemp was a brother to Minerva Kemp Beckmon.

John Souder DeCoursey was born in Campbell County, Kentucky and had married Sarah White in Preble County, Ohio in 1835. They then lived in Wabash County, Indiana, raising a large family before Sarah died. John and some of the family moved to Vernon County about 1877. John died April 28, 1884 at the age of 78. Dr. Robinson was the

attending physician. He was buried near his home at Beckmon Cemetery. His death record says Moundville Cemetery and lists his death date as April 21, 1884; however, his grave marker is definitely in Beckmon. It is readable but it fell over many years ago. It has been lifted enough times that it is still above ground.

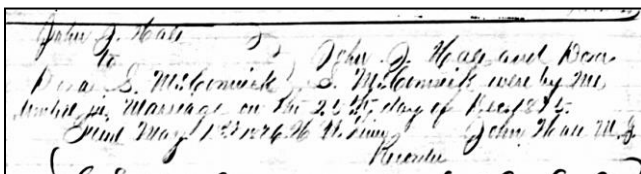




John S. DeCoursey
(photograph used with family's permission)

Six-year-old Rachel DeCoursey is buried near her grandfather. She was a daughter of John S. DeCoursey who lived southwest of Moundville in Harrison Township. Rachel died in mid-March of 1888. About the first of March, Mr. DeCoursey, a widower, had gone to help his brother move, leaving his children at home. While he was gone, Rachel's dress came too close to the grate on the stove and caught fire. The other children tried to tear the clothing off but were not able to do it before she was burned so badly that she did not survive. (Her father, John DeCoursey, is buried in Deepwood Cemetery, Nevada, Missouri).

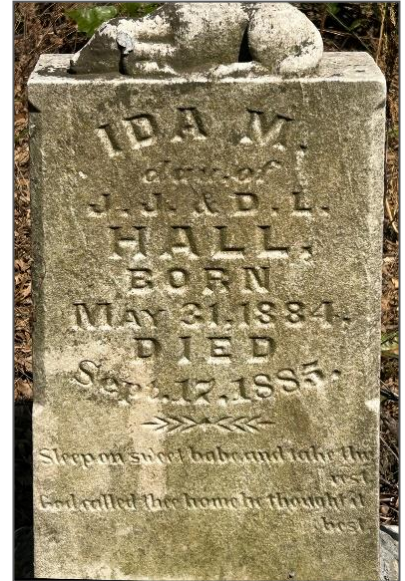
John Jefferson Hall had served in the Union army with Company B, 27th Kentucky Volunteer Infantry from 1861-1865. He moved to Vernon County in 1869. In 1875, he married fifteen-year-old Dora McCormick



Vernon County Missouri Marriage Book A, page 378

and they moved to a farm in Harrison Township. Two of their infants only lived a little more than a year. They were Hester Hall, 1882-1883, and Ida M. Hall, 1884-1885. Both were buried at Beckmon Cemetery and have attractive markers featuring lambs and are easily readable now.

The Halls soon moved to the new town of Bronaugh, where he was one of the first to have a store. Their next child was named Blanche Bronaugh Hall and was born August 12, 1886. Her



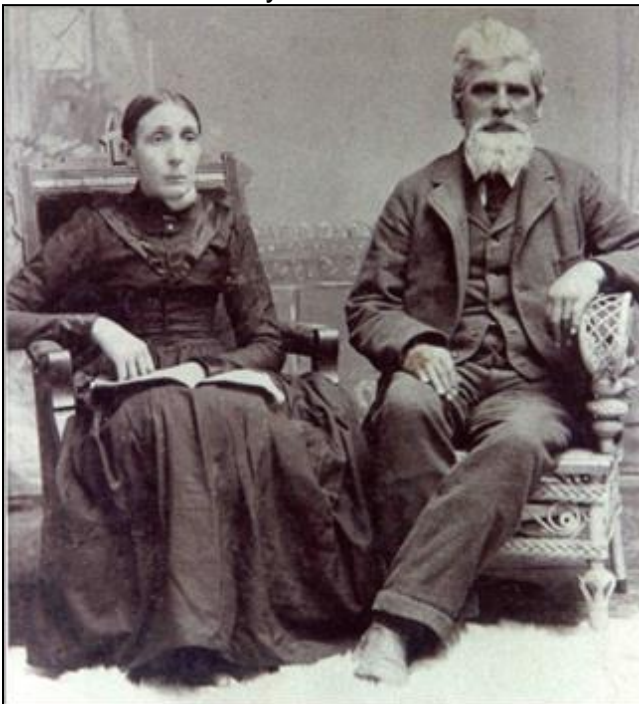
middle name was in honor of her being the first baby born in the town of Bronaugh. To commemorate her birth, she was given a town lot in Bronaugh. When Blanche was only six months old, her mother died of "quick consumption." The death occurred on March 6, 1887, and was brought on by a "hard case of measles." Dora McCormick Hall was buried beside her two infant daughters at Beckmon Cemetery. Hers is the tallest monument in the cemetery and is easily readable. John Hall subsequently married Ida Stark, whose mother ran the Bronaugh Hotel. They then moved to Carthage, Jasper County, Missouri where they raised several children and are buried.

The 1883 burial of Isaac C. Roach in Beckmon Cemetery has presented numerous challenges to researchers. That is because it appears that his last name is misspelled on his grave marker. The old stone says Isaac C. Rouch. However, in checking census records, Isaac Roach appears in the 1880 census in Harrison Township with his wife Nancy and son Isaac. Isaac Roach married Nancy Gregory in 1845 in Scott County,

Illinois. Nancy is probably buried beside her husband, but no gravestone has been found.

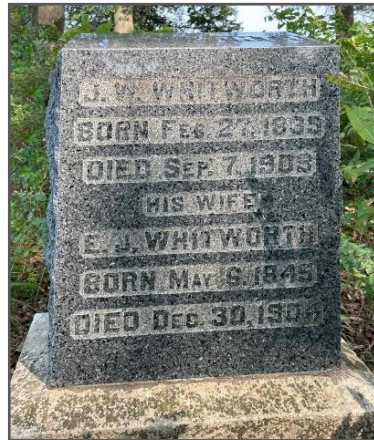
There are other Gregory burials in Beckmon Cemetery. Dinah Beckmon Gregory was a daughter of R. E. and Minerva Kemp Beckmon. She died in 1889. Her husband was Henderson Gregory and they had also been married in Scott County, Illinois. His death certificate shows that he died January 26, 1912. It tells that he was buried at "Whitworth Cemetery" which is an alternate name for Beckmon Cemetery. So he is most likely buried next to his wife, although no stone has been found for him.

James Wyatt Whitworth had married Elizabeth Jane Beckmon, in Scott County, Illinois on February 24, 1870. She was another of the daughters of R. E. and Minerva Kemp Beckmon. James had previously been married to Elizabeth Smith, and had one son, Charles O., surviving from that marriage. James and his second wife moved to Harrison Township in a covered wagon in about 1873, building a log cabin in 1875. In that cabin, they raised their four sons and a daughter. The property was just north of Beckmon Cemetery. James died in 1903 and Elizabeth Jane in 1904. They were buried at Beckmon Cemetery.



J. W. & Elizabeth Beckmon Whitworth.

At some point, the old cemetery started being referred to as Whitworth Cemetery. The Whitworth's have one of the two granite



gravestones in the cemetery, so it remains easy to read.

Roena Ellen Beckmon (March 26, 1848-August 8, 1932) was another daughter of R. E. and Minerva Kemp Beckmon. She never married.

Her 1932 obituary confirms that she was buried at the "family burial grounds." A readable gravestone has not been found but she is most likely the last known burial in Beckmon Cemetery.

As the cleanup of Beckmon Cemetery continues, perhaps other readable gravestones will be located. An old family list of burials suggests that there may be burials for the Meadows, Isaac Smith and Waddell families. These will require more research and probably some luck to figure out.

Acknowledgements: Thanks to Clifford and Jean Whitworth, Lindell Haverstic, and Nancy Thompson for being tour guides and for sharing good information. Thanks also to the Yokley family for allowing access to the property. This article is a result of a visit to Beckmon Cemetery for Gary Whitworth Pearson who was visiting from California in August 2023.

Who Are YOU Researching? Would you like to share some of your family history research with society members? Members are invited to submit articles about their research for publication in the newsletter.

Do you have a Brick Wall? Share information on your brick wall to be published in the monthly newsletter. Perhaps someone will have information or a suggestion on where you might find clues that can lead to documents which could allow you to climb

over that wall! Organizing the details of a brick wall can sometimes bring new research ideas to mind. Let us hear from you!

If you have an **Historic or Family Picture and Story** that you would like to share in a future newsletter, please email the picture and story to the society at the above email

address or bring it to a meeting to be scanned and published. We would like to share some in each newsletter.



Presented by Christian Church Sunday School to Cradle Roll on Mrs. Grimes' Sunday - October 5, 1952

“Presented by [Nevada, Missouri] Christian Church Sunday School to Cradle Roll on Mrs. Grimes’ Sunday – October 5, 1952” Mrs. Mae Grimes is the older woman in the center of the photograph holding a bouquet of flowers. See Mrs. Grimes’ obituary below. This photograph is from the Garret Henry Summers collection and provided by Tobie Brown, a descendant of the Allen Summers family, first pioneer settlers in the area which became Vernon Co, MO.

Newspaper Articles

MAE A. GRIMES

Mrs. Mae Allen Grimes, 88, 210 S. Ash, died Sunday night at Nevada City Hospital.

Born April 4, 1886 at Pratt County, Kan., the daughter of Elisha and Sarah Plowman Allen, she moved as a small child by covered wagon to eastern Kansas, settling in Ottawa. On April 24, 1907, she was married to Floyd H. Grimes, and moved to Nevada, at that time. Her husband preceded her in death in 1948.

Mrs. Grimes was a member of the First Christian Church, where she was a worker in the children's department. She was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star for more than 50 years, and a member of the ladies society to the Brotherhood of Fireman and Engineers.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete at this time and will be announced later by Milster Funeral Home.

The Nevada Daily Mail, Nevada, Missouri; 6 Jan 1975. (Additional funeral information published 8 and 9 Jan 1975.)



Newton Burial Park, Nevada, Missouri; Section 5.

Speaking of the prosperity of Nevada in the past few years, Dave Bateman, one of the first settlers in this section, said: "This town has grown wonderfully since we came here in 1866. The following year my father bought 160 feet fronting on Cherry, at the corner of North Washington, where Hotel-Mitchell now stands, and put up the old Nevada House. I think he paid Dr. Dodson \$200 for it. Afterwards our family came into possession of the whole front on Cherry street, from North Washington to the square. In 1868 or 1869

we sold the corner now occupied by the Citizens Bank to a man by the name of Adrian for \$75, and thought we were getting a fancy price. Why, only a short time before we sold a lot on the east side for \$60. After this my father sold the Nevada House, with the 160 feet front on Cherry, for \$3,500, and thought it a big trade. Now think of the change! Why the last lot sold in that block more than a year ago, brought \$3,500, and it has a frontage of only 20 feet. A big increase? Well, I should say it was, and the lot on the corner which brought \$75, sold for about \$8,000, more than four years ago. I don't know what it would bring now if it were bare. Then we built the Grier House, and the old gentleman subsequently sold it for \$3,000, house and all. Not long ago, I understand, Mr. Grier was offered \$10,000 for the ground with the privilege of taking the buildings off. Yes, the town has grown, and it will continue to go right ahead."

The Nevada Noticer, Nevada, Missouri; 1 November 1888.

MOTHER KILLS CHILDREN THEN SPLITS OWN HEAD

Columbus, Ky., April 18.—Mrs. Arnold Holt in a sudden fit of dementia at her home in Russel Springs, a village near here today slew two of her children, attempted to kill a third and then, fastening a hatchet in a fence with the blade toward her, backed off twenty feet and ran into it head-on. Physicians say she will die.

Capital Journal, Salem, Oregon; 18 Apr 1922 p1.

O. Duck states that Schell City has excellent prospects for being made a division point on this road when the M. K. & T. management takes control, November 1st. This would be a highly beneficial addition to our city's interests, and we feel confident that Mr. Duck will exert his influence in our behalf.—Schell City News.

Nevada Noticer, Nevada, Missouri; 1 Nov 1888

A Terrible and Shocking Murder.

Yesterday evening we received the news of a terrible and shocking murder committed at Avola, in Vernon county, Missouri, and just across the line from Arcadia. On Wednesday evening, about 4 o'clock, Rolla Baker, a bad and dangerous character living in the vicinity of Avola, is the murderer, and the name of the young man who was murdered was Bennett. Baker stabbed Bennett three or four times in the back, and then made a cut about a foot in length across the abdomen, and long enough so the young man's bowels fell out. After committing the dastardly and wicket deed he hitched up his mules and left, and had not been found up to 8 o'clock yesterday evening. About two hundred men are in pursuit of the infamous wretch, and if captured nothing will save him.

Fort Scott Daily Monitor, Fort Scott, Kansas; Friday 29 Jul 1881, page 4.

[Please let us know if you find any additional information regarding this Rolla Baker.]

A PLEASANT SURPRISE.

W.F. Lewis Caned by His Lodge Brethren.

A number of the brother Odd Fellows of W. F. Lewis gave that gentleman a grateful surprise. Thursday evening. When Mr. Lewis had dropped his coat and snugly ensconced himself in dressing gown and slippers and sat

himself down with the DAILY MAIL in hand to an hour's quite enjoyment the surprise began.

First one couple and then another and another dropped in unexpectedly, as if for a social chat, till the room was comfortably filled.

The genial host concealed his surprise and bestirred himself to make it pleasant for his visitors. But the chief surprise yet awaited him. The fact that the day was Mr. Lewis' 43rd birthday was accidently referred to, when Mr. E. P. Lindley stepped forward and in a brief but graceful and appropriate speech presented Mr. Lewis with an elegant gold headed cane as a testimonial of the high regard in which he was held by his brother Odd Fellows. The surprise was none the less appreciated by Mr. Lewis because it was so thorough and complete.

There were present on this pleasant occasion: Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Forderhase, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Davis, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Nichols, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Beagels, Mr. and Mrs. John Wallace, Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Lindley, Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Ming, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Sears, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Harmony, and Messers L. B. Sullivan, Kirkpatrick, and Wm. O'Bryan and W. F. Maring, of Schell City.

The Nevada Daily Mail, Nevada, Missouri; 24 August 1888, page 1.

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This newsletter is published by the Cedar & Vernon County Missouri Genealogical Society, a 501(c)(3) organization. 2023 Officers of the Society are

President, Valo J.
Recording Secretary, Lynda B.
Treasurer, Marty P.
Newsletter Editor & Webmaster, Nancy T.

Calendar year 2024 Society Dues are \$10 per person (\$15 per couple in the same household), and can be mailed to:

Cedar & Vernon Co MO Gen Soc
Attn: Membership
218 W. Walnut St.
Nevada, MO 64772

The monthly emailed newsletter and free lookups in the new cemetery database are benefits of membership.

*Thank You for your membership in support
of the work of the Genealogical Society*