

## Cedar & Vernon County Missouri Genealogical Society

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Website: <https://vernon.mogenweb.org/>

### March 2024 Newsletter©

#### Society Meeting: Wednesday, March 20, 2024.

The Cedar & Vernon Co MO Genealogical Society meeting will be held Wed, 20 March 2024, in the Nevada Library Genealogy Department, 218 W. Walnut St, Nevada, MO, beginning at 10 a.m. This meeting will be devoted to a WORK DAY to sort the many genealogical resources that the El Dorado Springs Library has given to the Genealogical Society because the library no longer has room for these items in their new library building. **Please note that this will take place in the Genealogy Department and not the Annex.**



## Work Day

10:00 a.m.  
Wed, 20 March 2024  
Nevada Library Gen Dept  
218 West Walnut St, Nevada

Monthly genealogy meeting & program  
Cedar & Vernon Co MO Genealogical Society  
Email: [Cedar.VernonCoMO@centurytel.net](mailto:Cedar.VernonCoMO@centurytel.net)  
Website: <https://Vernon.MOGenWeb.org>

For adults

***Help sort and categorize items !***

The Nevada Family History Center, 1101 N. Olive St., Nevada, MO, is regularly open on Wednesdays from 5-8 p.m. for on-line research. Many subscriptions websites are available at the FHC in addition to FamilySearch.org: Fold 3, Ancestry, Find My Past, MyHeritage, American

Ancestors, and more. Plan your research trip to the Nevada FHC to take advantage of some of the websites available there, and call Sally at (417) 529-9793 to confirm the center will be open the evening you plan to research.

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**Digitized Vernon County Newspapers.** The following newspapers have been digitized and are available at the subscription website newspapers.com. Many additional issues are now available for some papers which have been at newspapers.com for several years. These digitized papers will also be available without charge at

<https://shsmo.org/collections/newspapers/mdnp>

as soon as they can be processed.

- The Bronaugh Journal
- The County News (The Metz Times)
- Daily Democrat
- The Daily Mail
- The Nevada Daily Mail
- Nevada Daily Director
- Nevada Director
- Nevada Evening Post
- The Nevada Herald
- Nevada Noticer
- Popular Therapeutics
- Richards Chronicle
- The Schell City News
- The Sheldon Enterprise
- The Southwest Mail
- Southwest Mail and The Weekly Post
- Vernon County Democrat
- The Walker Herald
- The Weekly Post

Please note that The County News is actually The Metz Times. The Missouri Newspaper Archives will contact newspapers.com and request that the name be corrected.

Nearby community newspapers which are also available at newspapers.com include the following (some may have been overlooked for this list)

- El Dorado Springs
- Hume

- Jerico Springs
- Lamar
- Liberal
- Rich Hill
- Rockville
- Stockton

**Old 1887 German Letter**

Sometimes we end up with an item in our family collections that we just don't know exactly what it is. Having an old family letter can be an interesting puzzle! Such is the case with a letter of our member, JaWan T. The letter was written in 1887 in what was first thought to be "Swedish" but through research learned that most people from Sweden in 1887 spoke and wrote German, but not just German—"old German" it was soon discovered. The cursive could not be deciphered well enough to identify anything in translation websites other than the date August 3, 1887. In researching this letter and trying to discover who it was from and to whom it was sent, it was necessary to learn some things about how the German language had changed over the years. In the 1930s because some of the written characters looked similar to the written Jewish language, Hitler directed that the old German was not to be taught or used any more. So, where to begin with a letter written in 1887? How about a friend and neighbor who we knew had German ancestors and conducted German research. After reaching out to member Lyndon I., we were soon reminded that his family had hosted a German high school exchange student in Missouri several years ago. Lyndon promptly forwarded scans of the letter to his "German son" and we soon learned that the first line read Cincinnati O[hio] August 3 – 1887 and that the letter was from a Barbara Müller. But who was that?

We learned that the letter first had to be translated, letter by letter, from Sütterlin cursive handwriting, which is no longer used or taught and is difficult to read, into today's German language. After the first translation it was then translated from German into English. Whew...what a job for a volunteer to do for us!

Lyndon forwarded notes from his "German son" about the letter: Here is what his German doctor son said:

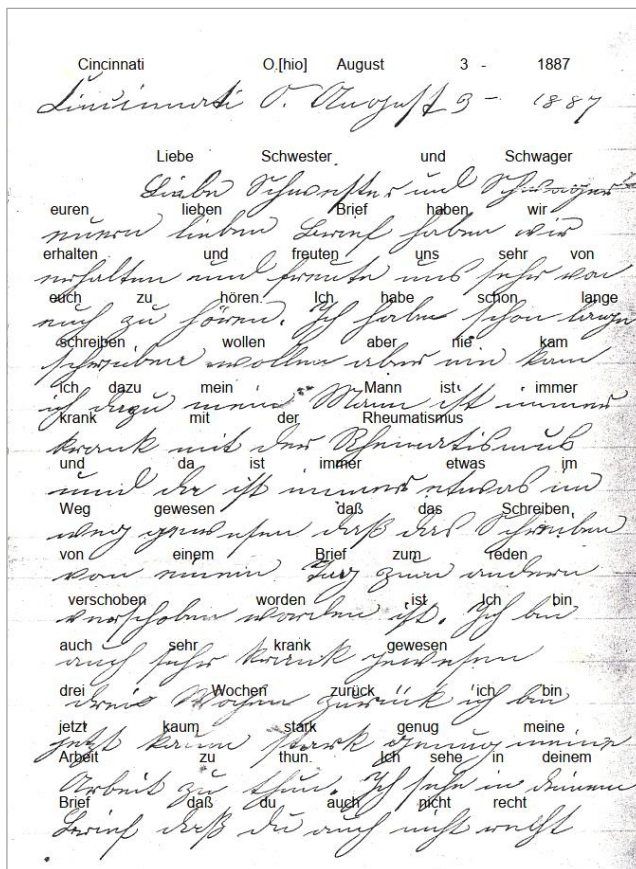
The letter is definitely in German but written with Sütterlin cursive handwriting which is a bit difficult to read. Even my parents didn't learn this in

school anymore. I remember having the same issue when I tried to translate letters or church transcripts for you before.

He also says that the letter was not written in Germany - he said that it appears to have been written in Cincinnati, Ohio.

He said, It is signed by a Barbara Müller.

Below is the letter with its translation into modern German.



Page 1

gesund bist. Liebe Schwester du  
 schreibst du wollst wissen was  
 unser Vater macht wir haben seit  
 dieses Frühjahrs nichts von ihm  
 gehört da war er krank gewesen  
 er war dieses Jahr [noch?] nicht  
 gewesen ich denke er wird bis  
 Spätjahr herein kommen. Du  
 schreibst dass du und der Heinrich  
 Wolf nach Meßsuri (Missouri) gehen wollt  
 und ich mitgehen soll welches ich  
 auch gern thun würde aber ich  
 bin jetzt nicht stark genug so  
 eine große Reise zu unternehmen  
 Wenn mein Mann besser wird  
 das wir miteinander gehen können  
 dann will ich mir die Reise vor-  
 nehmen. Wenn ihr hinget ehe wir  
 wieder voneinander hören so grüßet  
 sie alle herzlich von uns allen.  
 Neuigkeiten weiss ich weiteres  
 kaum zu schreiben ich hoffe bald  
 Krümm g. in separaten auf Joffers Brief

Page 2

gesund bist. Liebe Schwester du  
 schreibst du wollst wissen was  
 unser Vater macht wir haben seit  
 dieses Frühjahrs nichts von ihm  
 gehört da war er krank gewesen  
 er war dieses Jahr [noch?] nicht  
 gewesen ich denke er wird bis  
 Spätjahr herein kommen. Du  
 schreibst dass du und der Heinrich  
 Wolf nach Meßsuri (Missouri) gehen wollt  
 und ich mitgehen soll welches ich  
 auch gern thun würde aber ich  
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 Wenn mein Mann besser wird  
 das wir miteinander gehen können  
 dann will ich mir die Reise vor-  
 nehmen. Wenn ihr hinget ehe wir  
 wieder voneinander hören so grüßet  
 sie alle herzlich von uns allen.  
 Neuigkeiten weiss ich weiteres  
 kaum zu schreiben ich hoffe bald  
 Krümm g. in separaten auf Joffers Brief

Page 3

wieder von euch zu hören. Als  
 der junge Mann hier war der  
 Geor[?] Mclean der bei auch wohnt wollte  
 ich gleich schreiben bin aber nicht  
 dazu gekommen.  
 Viele herzlich Grüße von uns  
 alle an euch alle  
 Von deiner treuen liebenden  
 Schwester  
 Barbara Müller  
 Providence, Wis.

Page 4

The translation into English:  
**Cincinnati, Ohio. August 3, 1887.**  
 Dear sister and brother-in-law, we have received your kind letter and we were very thrilled to hear from you. I have been wanting to write to you for the longest time but never

got to it, my husband is always sick with rheumatism and something always got in the way so that the writing of [plan to write] a letter shifted to just talking. I was also very sick 3 weeks ago, I am now barely strong enough to do my work. I see in your letter that you also have not been entirely healthy. Dear sister, you write that you wanted to know what our father is doing but we have not heard from him this spring, he was sick at the time and he has not been here so far this year. I think he will be visiting later in the year. You write that you and Heinrich Wolf want to go to Missouri and that I should come with you which I, too, would like to do. But I am currently not strong enough to undertake such a big trip. When my husband is improving so that we can go together, then I would like to plan the trip. If you happen to go there before we hear from each other again, then do give our dearest regards from us all to them all. I can not think of any other news to report [but] I hope to hear from you again soon. When this young man Geor[ge?] McLean who lives with you was [visiting] here I wanted to write to you right away but did not get to it. Many dearest greetings from us all to you all. From your truest loving sister,  
**Barbara Müller**

Clues/questions from the letter:

- Barbara Müller lived in Cincinnati in 1887 and wrote the letter to her sister and brother-in-law. What is Barbara's maiden name, who is her sister, and where does the sister live?
- Barbara's sister and Heinrich Wolf want to go to Missouri. Who is Heinrich Wolf?
- a young man Geor[ge?] McLean lives with the person who received the letter. Who is George McLean?
- Give our dearest regards from us all to them all (family/friends already in Missouri). What family and friends were already in Missouri in 1887 and was it Vernon Co?

JaWan's great-grandfather Anders Petter (Andrew Peter) Selim, a shoemaker, immigrated from Sweden to the U.S. in 1879, and lived for a few years in Iowa. He married 6 Jan 1883 in Orient, Adair Co, IA to Maria Lovisa Blad, and their six children were born in Iowa before moving to Vernon County, Missouri in 1903. The 1887

letter was passed down through the Selim family to the Thompson's. Family story is that after being in the U.S. for just a few years, A.P. Selim wrote back to Maria Blad whom he had known in Sweden and asked her to come to America and be his wife. (The family would love to have that letter!)

The following was learned from Lars, a 3<sup>rd</sup> cousin DNA match on the Blad line who lives in Sweden: "I have now checked in the Church Books on birth, and moving between different places for Maria Lovisa Blad. ... An interesting discovery was that Anders and Maria must have met in 1878-1879 when they lived in the same village (Gottlösa). ... Maria Lovisa Blad was born September 20, 1856 and was the youngest child of the soldier Carl Gustaf Blad and his wife Anna Chatarina Carlsdotter in Boaryden, Malexander. She [Maria] moved in 1872 (16 years old) to Sandvik in Åsbo, and next year moved to Sjösaeter, Östra Tollstad where sister Matilda lived with her husband. There she stayed until 1878 when she moved to Gottlösa outside Mantorp. There, shoemaker Anders Petter Selim lived in the neighboring farm, which a year later [he] emigrated to North America. In 1882, Maria Lovisa also emigrated to North America and she married the following year with this Anders Petter [Selim]."

Lars provided many records from Sweden and additional family information on Maria's side of the family which was previously unknown. Information about the letter and the clues/questions from the letter will be email to other DNA matches in the Selim-Blad family line who may be able to answer some of the questions about the Müller, Wolf, and McLean families.

However, at this time the identity of Barbara Müller, George McLean, and Heinrich Wolf and their connections to the Selim-Blad family of Vernon County, Missouri, remain a genealogical mystery waiting to be solved!

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**Family Bibles.** If you have a Family Bible that could be published in the Newsletter, please send a scan of each page and accompanying transcription of the pages. Where possible, please include a picture of the front cover and also the copyright page to help date the Bible.

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**AUSTIN FAMILY BIBLE**

**Family Record  
Births**

William A. Austin bornd  
June 6th 1820

Maryann Austin was  
Bornd February 22nd 1819

Jonathan G. Austin was  
Born August 14th 1843

Nancy D. Austin was  
Born May 18(?) 1845

Mary E. Austin was  
Bornd March 11, 1847

Stephen H. Austin was  
Bornd June 6th 1849

Margarit Jane Austin  
Was born Dec. 3rd 1853

Louisa Elen Austin  
Was born December the 28, 1855

Thomas W. Austin  
Bornd July 26th 1860(?)

Florence E. Preshaw  
Was born Dec 11th 1874

Mary S. Preshaw  
Was born Oct. 16th 1876(?)

William H. Preshaw  
Was born Nov. 11 1878

Mable C. Preshaw  
Was born Dec. 26th 1881(?)

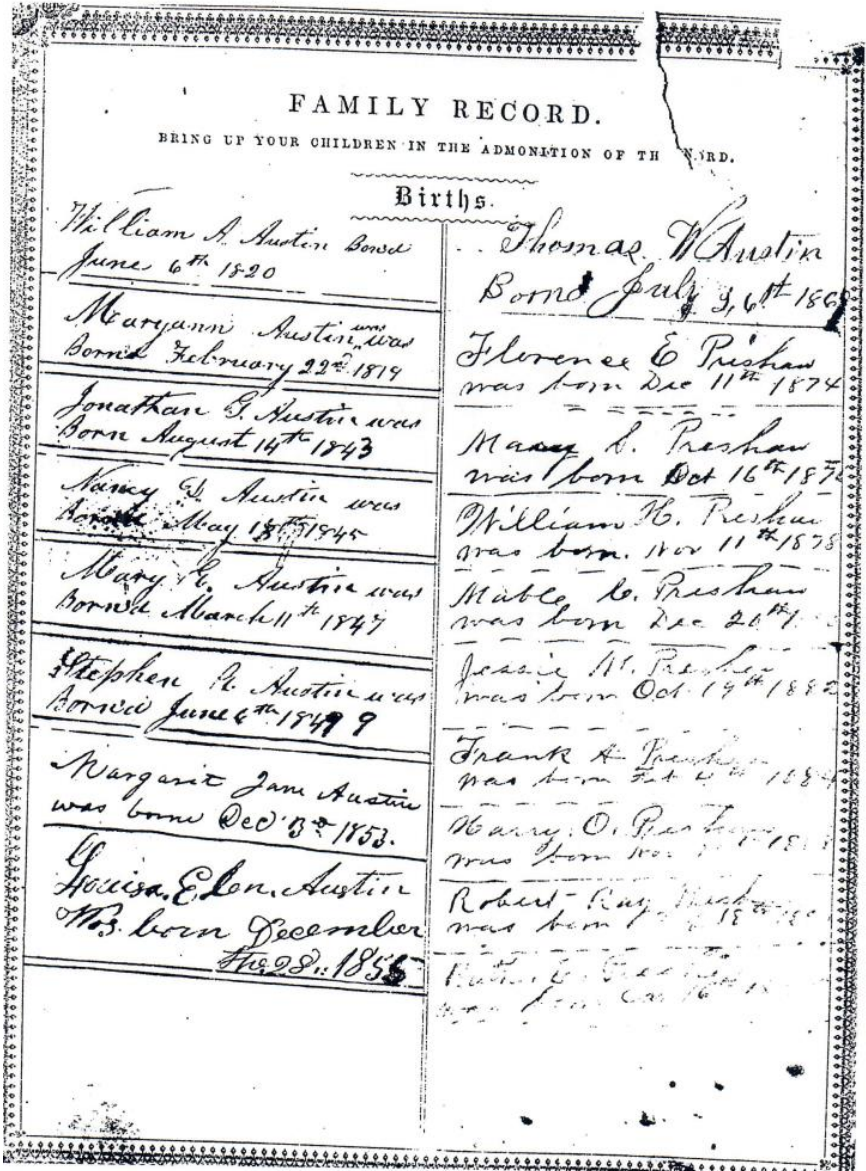
Jessie M. Preshaw  
Was born Oct. 19th 1882

Frank A. Preshaw  
Was born Feb. 4th 1884

Harry O. Preshaw  
Was born Nov. 19(?) 1887(?)

Robert Ray Preshaw  
Was born \_\_\_ 18th 18\_\_

Ruthie G(?) Preshaw  
Was born \_\_\_ 16th 18\_\_



**Family Record  
Births**

Notation: Probably recorded by Dru Austin Dawson

Probably recorded by Dru Austin Dawson.

Louisa Jane Dawson  
was born in the year  
of our Lord Aprile  
6th 1864

Minnie lola Dawson  
was born Oct. 27th  
in the year of our  
Lord 1865

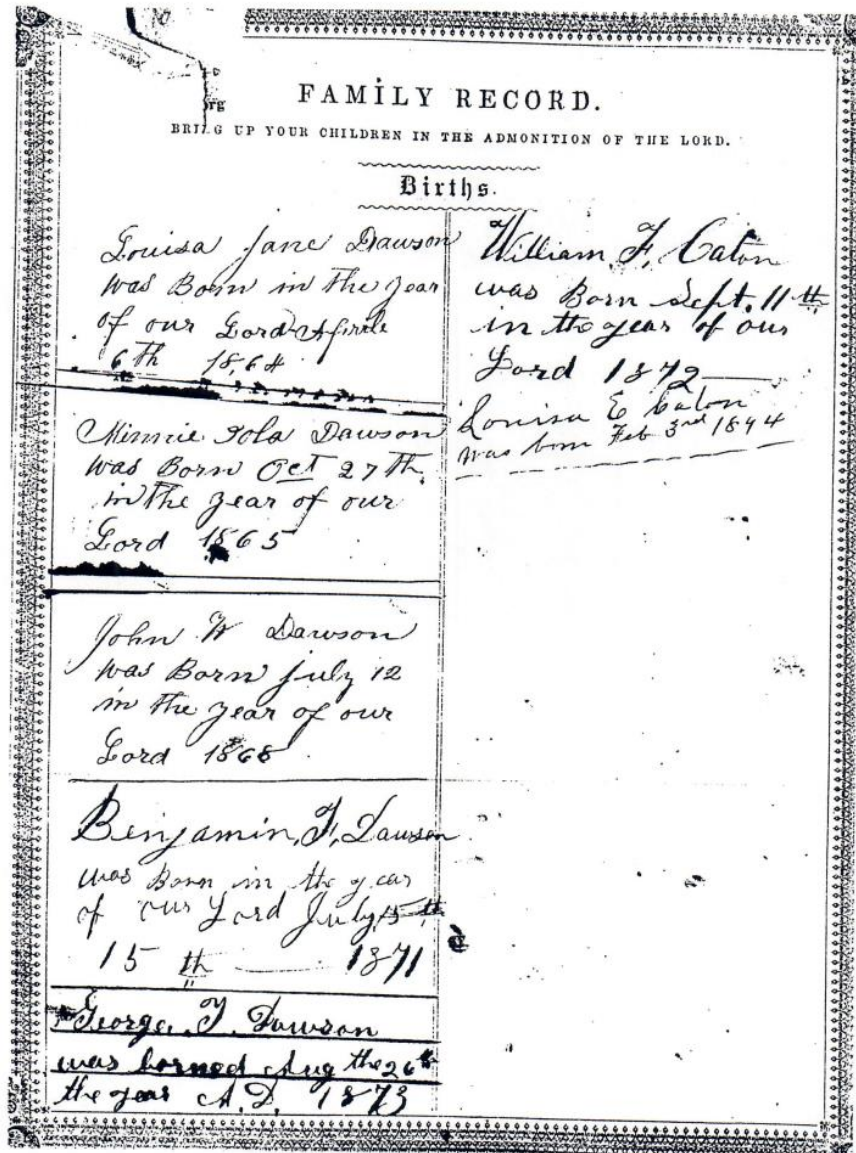
John W Dawson  
was born July 12  
in the year of our  
Lord 1868

Benjamin F. Dawson  
was born in the year  
of our Lord July  
15th – 1871

George T Dawson  
was born Aug the 26<sup>th</sup>  
the year A.D. 1873

William F Caton  
was born Sept 11th  
in the year of our  
Lord 1872

Louisa E Caton  
was born Feb. 3rd 1894



**Family Record  
Deaths**

Mary E. Austin died  
July 22nd 1848. Aged one  
year four months, eleven days

Wm. A. Austin  
1st day of April 1861 Aged  
41 years, 10 months, 24 days

Florance B Austin  
Died – September 9th 1872  
Aged

Oliver \_\_\_ Austin  
died Oct. 6th 1873

Margret Jane  
Caton died  
September 10th 94

Mary Austin died  
February 25, 1904  
age 85 years 3 day

William D. Austin  
Died Janary 2 1871

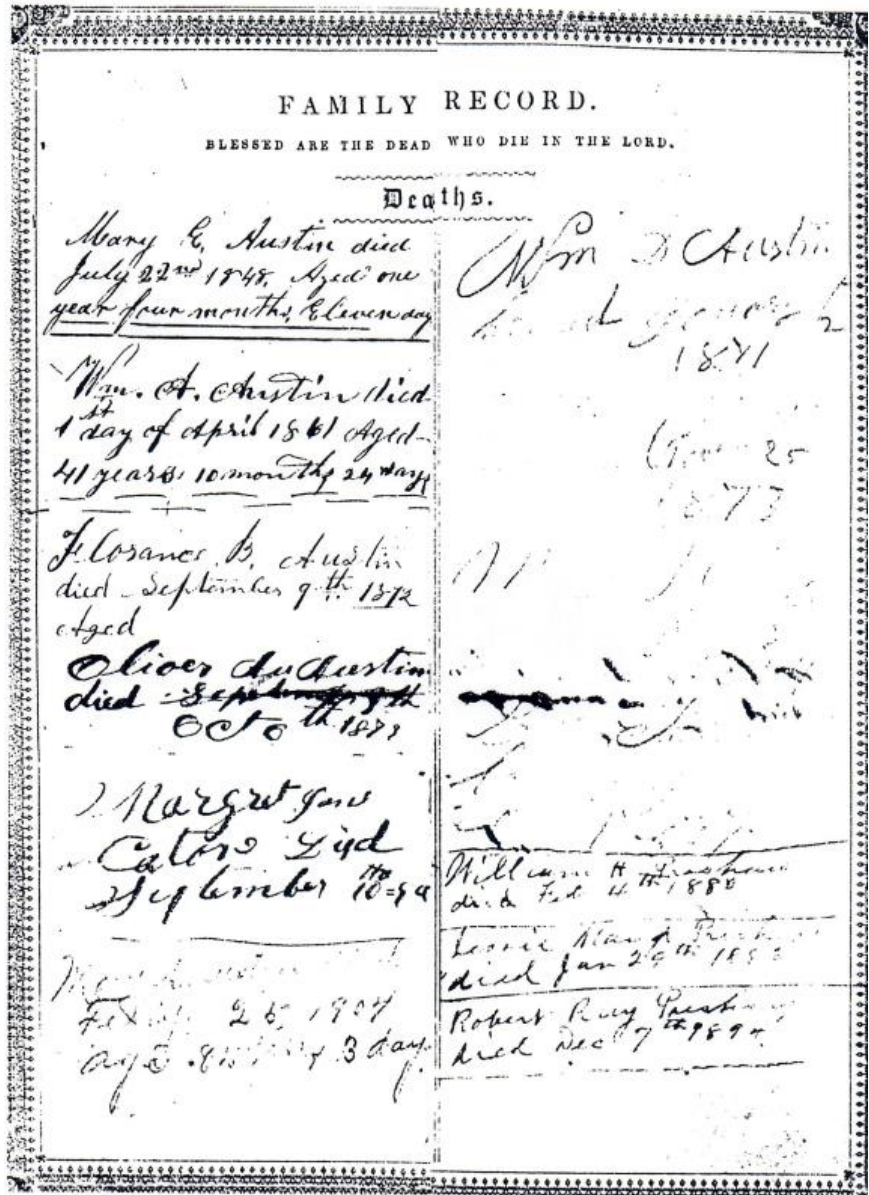
\_\_\_  
\_\_\_ 25th 1873

(Illegible entries)

William H. Preshaw  
died Feb 4th 1880

Jessie(?) M\_\_Preshaw  
died Jan 29th 1883

Robert Ray Preshaw  
died Dec 7th 1894



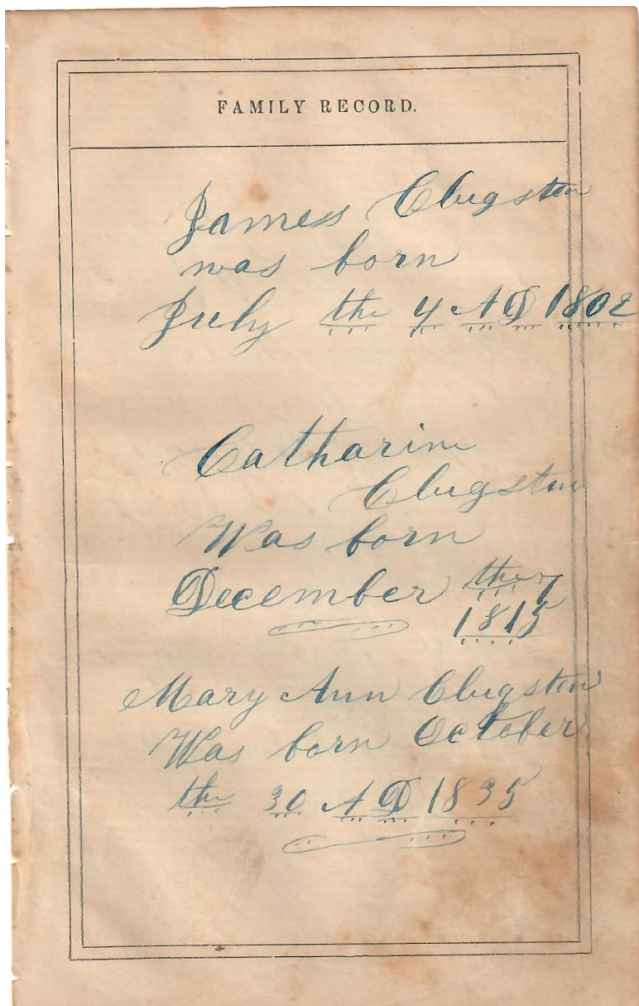
## CLUGSTON BIBLE PAGES

### BIRTH

James Clugston  
was born  
July the 4 AD 1802

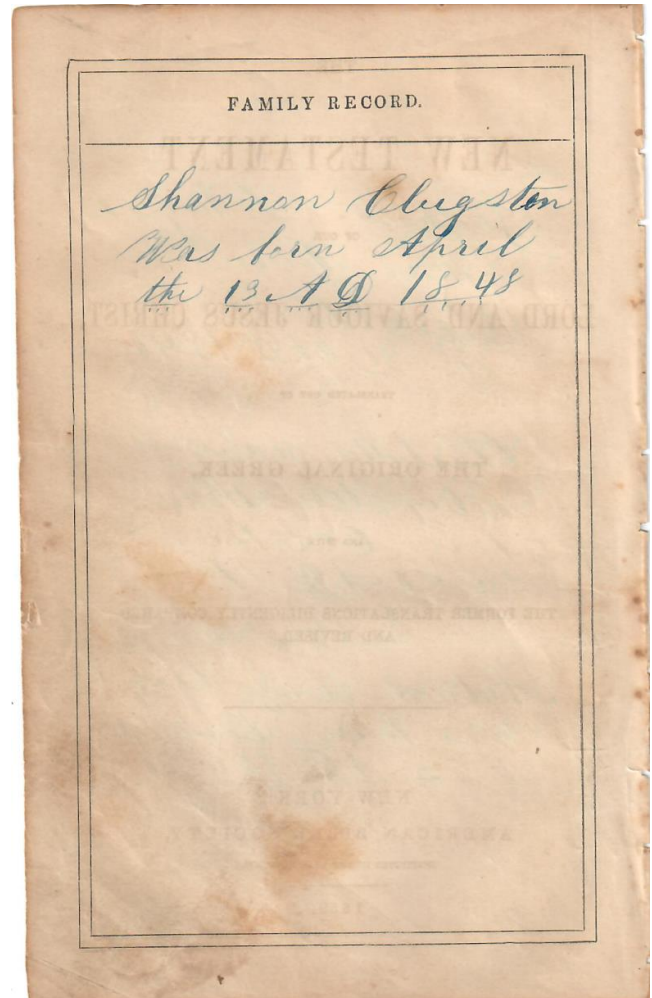
Catharine Clugston  
Was born  
December the 7 1815

Mary Ann Clugston  
was born October  
the 30 AD 1835



### BIRTH

Shannon Clugston  
Was born April  
the 13 AD 1848



## HIGGANBOTHAM LISTING IN BIBLE

Albert Higganbotham

Mary Higganbotham

Lola H.

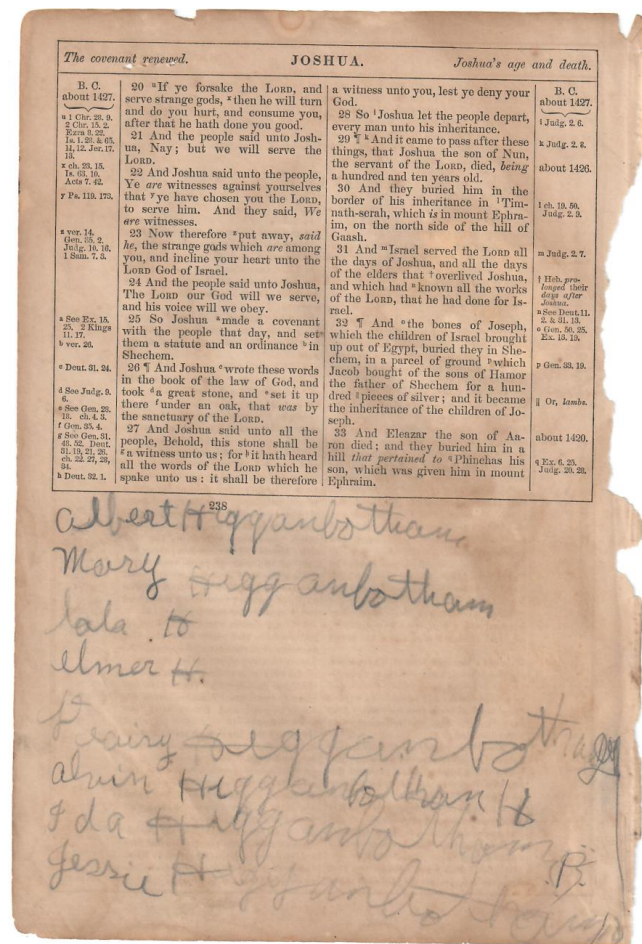
Elmer H.

Daisy Higganbotham

Alvin Higganbotham

Ida Higganbotham

Jessie Higganbotham



Transcriptions of the Bible records in this issue of the Newsletter were done by Linda Chesnut a few years ago. Our thanks to Linda (now deceased) for her interest in family history research and her work in transcribe these records.

**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.

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.

# # #

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

2024 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

Dues received Sep-Dec include the following year's membership. 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**