

Cedar & Vernon County Missouri Genealogical Society

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August 2024 Newsletter ©

Society Meeting: Wednesday, Aug 21 2024.

The Cedar & Vernon Co MO Genealogical Society meeting will be held Wed, August 21, 2024, beginning at 10 a.m. at the El Dorado Springs Library, 808 S. Main St., El Dorado Springs, MO. The scheduled program will be ***“...and the Person Simply Disappeared”***



...and the Person Simply Disappeared

10:00 a.m.
Wed, August 21, 2024
El Dorado Springs Library
808 S. Main Street

For Adults

Monthly genealogy meeting & program
Cedar & Vernon Co MO Genealogical Society
Email: Cedar.VernonCoMO@gmail.com
Website: <https://Vernon.MOGenWeb.org>

Everyone Welcome !

Do you have a person in your genealogy research who dropped out of sight and was never heard from again by the family? You are invited to write a short 3- to 5-minute story to read at the August meeting and then be published in the September newsletter.

Alvin Jerome Pugh

In February 2022, 60-year-old Alvin Jerome Pugh, seemingly vanished. He lived in New York City, far from his siblings in Pueblo, Colorado, but he always responded to texts and calls. Suddenly, he was silent. At first, his sister and

brothers thought Alvin had lost his phone, but as his absence dragged on, they grew more worried.

His siblings began contacting dozens of hospitals in New York City, including VA Medical Centers, because Alvin was an Air Force veteran.

They couldn't file a missing person's report with the NYPD because they didn't have Alvin's latest address. The family searched a database that lists missing and unidentified people. Nothing. No luck for two years.

But one Saturday in March, with a few minutes to spare before choir rehearsal, Alvin's sister engaged in what had become a habit over the last two years. Sitting at her computer she searched "Alvin Pugh" and "NYC." The Find A Grave website popped up: Calverton National Cemetery, section 51A, site 2098. The Department of Veterans Affairs had buried her brother in 2023. To read more about this story, go to <https://thewarhorse.org/va-problems-lead-veterans-who-die-alone-to-go-unclaimed/>

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Did you transfer your DNA test results to GEDmatch.com? We have had some requests for help with understanding DNA test results and how to identify matches. We will be scheduling some work days to focus on working with DNA test results. Watch the newsletter for scheduled events. We can figure this out!

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Artificial Intelligence and Family History Research...interesting possibilities

A lot is happening with Artificial Intelligence (AI) as it relates to genealogy research. You may have already taken advantage of the AI every-word search in deeds, probate, and other county records on the <https://www.familysearch.org/> website. If you would like to look into using AI in your genealogical research, conduct an internet search for videos/articles to learn how to do so. Consider sharing how you take advantage of this technology. Another interesting use of AI related to family history by a researcher is the below

video where an ancestor tells his own story— check it out and let me know what you think!

Thomas Cunningham the Story

An artificial intelligence assisted talking video about my Great Grandfather Thomas William Cunningham, by Mountain Goat Productions.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gW9Mgh6_bBQ

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Genealogy Programs at the Allen County Public Library at Fort Wayne, Indiana. If you are interested in free online learning, please sign up to receive the monthly free newsletter from ACPL. Take advantage of the opportunity to expand your research skills, including artificial intelligence (AI) and DNA research. Sign up at this link for the free Genealogy Gems monthly E-Zine newsletter with virtual program information.

<https://www.acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy/genealogy-gems>

Some of the remaining August programs include:

August 22, 2024, 6:30 p.m. Eastern Time. "Hidden Treasures in Ohio's Court of Common Pleas" with Tom Neel –

<https://acpl.libnet.info/event/11159606>

August 27, 2024, 2:30 p.m. Eastern Time. "The Grosvenor Room: The Gateway to Buffalo Research" with Rhonda Hoffman -

<https://acpl.libnet.info/event/11182649>

August 29, 2024, 6:30 p.m. Eastern Time. "Discovering More about Mystery DNA Matches" with Kelly Barrett –

<https://acpl.libnet.info/event/11182389>

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Douglas Coole & Wife, Mamie (Selim) Coole.

Mamie Alma Marie "Polly" Selim was born 7 June 1896 in Orient, Adair County, Iowa to Andrew Peter Selim and wife Maria Lovisa Blad. Andrew had immigrated to the U.S. in 1878 and Maria in 1882, both from Sweden. They were married 6 January 1883 following Marie's arrival.

By 1903 when the young Selim family moved to Moundville Township in Vernon County, Missouri, there were four sons and two daughters—Mamie Selim being the youngest.

The Selim children grew to adulthood in Vernon County and attended the local public schools and church.

Following is a transcription of an undated manuscript which gives the life of Douglas and Mamie (Selim) Coole as missionaries. The manuscript has been passed down through the family.



A young Mamie (Selim) and Douglas Coole.

Although not known for sure who wrote the following, it is believed to have been Mamie (Selim) Coole.

(1)

Douglas Coole received his elementary schooling from his missionary mother and learned Chinese from playmates. His High School was Baker University Academy in Baldwin, Kansas.

Mamie was Valedictorian at Moundville and on [the] honor roll at Nevada High School.

They met at Baker University and were engaged in the first minutes of 1922 at the Selim home. The wedding, August 21, 1924, was at the Welch (grape juice) home on Lake Chatauqua [Chautauqua], N.Y. Douglas' father, assisted by two Bishops, performed the ceremony.

While working at Goodwill Industries, Douglas achieved Theology Degree from Boston

University. Son, Paul, was born January 9, 1926. July 3, the family, commissioned as missionaries, sailed through the bridgeless Golden Gate across the Pacific to Foochow, after visiting his father and mother and brother and wife who were already missionaries in China. After a month's orientation, they sailed past Singapore up straits of Malacca to Sitiawan.

In Sitiawan, three acre plots of tapping rubber trees supported a family of seven. Douglas was made principal of the English school, where he taught geography. After school closed at two, he bicycled thru the rubber groves with local pastors visiting peoples homes.

Mornings, Mamie taught singing. Afternoons, she coached drama and speech items for classes to perform in evening programs to raise money for school supplies.

Other afternoons, she organized and attended women's societies.

Mamie and Douglas, supported teachers in evening youth fellowships.

Douglas organized Boy Scout Troops. As District Supervisor, he arranged for camps.

(2)

Mamie and Douglas returned to Sitiawan in 1932 after the first furlough. Son, Paul's hip joint was destroyed by infection from mosquito bites. He was treated for five months in British Hospitals. Declared unable to live in tropical heat, Paul was sent to his uncle Arthur's in Tientsin, China, where he attended the American School. On his uncle's furlough, Paul was left with Mamie's sister, Mabel, and attended Bronaugh School. Returning with his parents, to Malaya, in 1938, Paul attended the Kampar School. He became ill again. Mamie took Paul and Thomas, by boat to India to attend Woodstock School. Thomas had spent the previous year in Hebron school, in South India. They were both hospitalized. Mamie brought their lessons to them until the boys returned to their hostels. After six months, Mamie returned to Douglas and Andrew in Kampar.

The Japanese Army, having overcome the China Coastland, came through Thailand and invaded North Malaya. White women were ordered to evacuate so Mamie and Andrew went to Singapore. Andrew was taken to stay with a missionary friend in India, Phoebe Emery of Baldwin.

In January of 1940, Mamie went to India with three missionary wives. Mamie picked up vacationing Paul and Thomas; all four stayed with Phoebe Emery.

On Friday, February 13, a telegram arrived announcing that Douglas has left Singapore for safety in India.

Douglas taught old Testament in Leonard Theological School in Jubbulpore, India.

In early 1944, Douglas took the back route to his boyhood home in China, seeing Mt Everest on the way. In 1945, [when] ill he returned to America.

(3)

Paul having graduate[d] from Woodstock High School in December 1943, Mamie took the boys by ship around Australia through the Panama Canal landing in Boston. Thence to Baldwin, where Doug's mother helped them buy a house.

In 1946, Douglas, Mamie, Tom and Andrew landed in Foochow, China, and went up river to Kutien, living in the house Dr. Coole, M.D. built. Both Thom and Andrew studied with their mother, at home. Tom went to prestigious Shanghai, American School for most of a year.

Soon the Communist army, having overcome the Coastland of China, was half a days march from Kutien. Douglas loaded Mamie and Andrew into the Chevy carry all and drove to Foochow. Mamie and Andrew went by boat to Hong Kong, where they met Tom, who had been evacuated from Shanghai.

The three boarded a flying boat to England, and took a Constellation, jumbo jet, across the Atlantic to New York, then went back to Baldwin home. Both Tom and Andrew finished high school in Baldwin and entered Baker University.

Paul had finished Baker in 1948, and taught school in western Kansas. While he worked for Dun and Bradstreet, Cynthia Lynn was born, December 12, 1956, during a ten year marriage to Liz. Paul taught math in Shawnee Mission Schools.

(4)

Paul and the former Pat Queen, were married at Lenexa Methodist Church, August 9, 1970. They had two sons, Douglas Matthew, born Jan 29, 1974; Jonathan Scott born August 10, 1976. They attend Lenexa United Methodist Church. Doug attends MYF. Joanathan is in Children's Choir. Doug is in Middle School. Jon made straight a's in 5th grade. Both enjoy Boy Scouts,

especially camping. Doug is Patrol Leader. Pat had been a primary teacher in the Shawnee Mission schools. After the boys started school, she returned to teaching part time. Most of her work was with slow learners. She is now working in her second Master's Degree in that field.

Paul's daughter, Cynthia Lynn, and husband Alan Coffman, had a daughter born October 31, 1987. Christi Ann is Mamie's first great-grandchild.

Both Tom and Andrew soon enlisted in the Army, Tom in Korea, and Andrew in California. After service, they went back to Baker to finish.

Tom is now employed by Colgate Polmolive. Tom married Molly Anne Weathers of Boonville, Missouri, on July 28, 1960. Molly Anne is secretary for Meadowbrook Country Club. Their daughter, Molly Susan, was born June 7, 1963. Their son Thomas Weathers Coole was born May 11, 1965. Both children went to Shawnee Mission East High School. Susan was in National Honor Society. Susan graduated Cum Laude from Baker University in 1986. Her sorority was Zeta Tau Alpha. After graduation, Susan is employed by Owens Corning in Corporate Woods, Overland Park, Kansas. Their son, Thomas, is in his final year in Journalism in Kansas University.

(5)

Andrew started working for Hallmark. They put him through several computer programs. Andrew, and his wife, Pat; moved to Fort Worth, Texas, where he was employed by an engineering firm. Their daughter Tammy was born there December, 1962. Andrew worked for several comping [companies] doing computer work. His last job was at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Houston, where they discovered cancer. He died, and his body was sent to Hoge Funeral Home. The furneral and burial where in Baldwin, where he is intered beside his grandfather and father.

His daughter, Tammy, is finishing a Masters Degree in Computer Science, doing some teaching at U[niversity] of Houston.

Meanwhile, after four years, under the Communists, Douglas had returned to Baldwin in 1951.

In 1952, Douglas and Mamie flew to Sarawak, by way of Europe visting Sweden, England, France, Italy, and Greece. They arrived at Sibü, a city in the English speaking province of Sarawak, in Borneo. Doug was principal of the

2000 pupil high school where scouting thrived. He was appointed District Supervisor. He arranged an All-Sarawak Scout Camp which Lord Baden Powell, founder of Scouting visited. Douglas was founding President of Rotary Club of Sibü. Mamie helped in Girl Guides; she was president of the Board one year. Mamie taught music, and directed fund raising programs in the schools.

(6)

Among the students were six Sea-Dyak [Dayak] boys, sons of head hunters. They came in 1958. Their families lived in long houses, dotted along the bends of Rejang, up river and down.

In 1952, 35 of the nature worshipping Sea-Dyaks had become Christians. The number had doubled every year since.

The sea-dyaks boys were as bright students as the long civilized Chinese.

In 1966, after 40 years, the Cooles flew home, by way of Jersulam and Bethlehem and England.

We lived in our home in Baldwin [KS]. Douglas traveled with groups speaking on his missionary experiences. He was curator of Baker's Old Castle Museum. In 1970, Douglas suffered a massive stroke. After a month in a Lawrence Hospital, and five months in [a] Baldwin Nursing Home, he was recovered sufficiently, walking with help, to live in Lakeview Village Retirement Home, in Mamie's care. Nurses help was on call.

Lakeview provided the cake and punch for the 1974 celebration of the Coole's 50th wedding anniversary. The wedding ceremony was repeated.

Lenexa Methodist Church honored Douglas by naming him Pastor Emeritus. Son Paul, a very active member of the Church, assisted in preparation. Mamie's nephews Wendall and Dean [Garton] and niece Virgie [Thompson], from Bronaugh and freinds of Douglas from afar took part in a simulated tv program "This is your life".

After years of walking alone on neighboring roads and Lakeview streets, Douglas slumped over. He was confined to a wheel chair for several years before he died July 1979.

Mamie lives on in the apartment. She is active in Sunday School, Church, and UMW. At age 91, she is quite strong, with no real handicaps but dimmed sight.

End of Manuscript

Just Returned From The Orient

Moundville, June 7.—Just returned from the Orient, Mrs. Douglas Coole and her sons, Paul, Thomas and Andrew, arrived here Tuesday to visit her brothers, E. A. Selim and Elmer Selim, and their families. The Rev. Mr. Coole, her husband, remained in India where he has been the past two years, since the Japanese invaded Burma.

Previous to the Japanese invasion, the Cooles had been in Burma 17 years, moving to India just ahead of incoming Japanese troops.

Paul Coole has returned to America with the intention of enrolling in Baker University, Methodist school at Baldwin, Kas., soon.

Mrs. Coole, formerly Miss Mamie Selim, grew to young womanhood in Moundville.

The Nevada Herald, Nevada, Missouri; Thursday 8 June 1944, page 1

REV. DOUGLAS COOLE

The Rev. Douglas P. Coole, 80, Lenexa, Kan., a former Methodist missionary in Asia, died Sunday in Shawnee Mission (Kan.) Medical Center.

He was born in Lancaster, Kan., and had lived in the Kansas City area about 8 years. His wife is the former Mamie Selim of Moundville.

Coole was field treasurer of the Methodist Church in Broneo [Borneo] 15 years before he retired in 1966. He served in China from 1946-51; in India from 1941-46, where he was a professor at the Leonard Theological School, and in Singapore from 1926-41. He was in China from 1906-13 with his parents, where they were missionaries. Following his retirement, he served as curator of the Old Castle Museum at Baker University, Baldwin, Kan., from 1967-70. He was pastor emeritus at the Lenexa United Methodist Church, a member of the Baldwin Masonic Lodge and a former president of the Baldwin Rotary Club.

Survivors include his wife, Mamie, of the home; three sons, Paul S. Coole, Lenexa; Thomas H. Coole, Fairway, Kan., and Andrew B. Coole, Houston, Kan. [Texas]; a sister, Mona Ruth Mann, Grinnell, Iowa, and six grandchildren.

Services were held Thursday at the Lenexa United Methodist Church and at the First United Methodist Church of Baldwin. Interment was in Oakwood Cemetery, Baldwin.

The Nevada Daily Mail, Nevada, Missouri; Friday, July 20, 1979.

MAMIE POLLY COOLE

Mamie Polly Coole, 97, Lenexa, Kan., died Sept. 24, 1993. at Lakeview Village Health Center. Services were held at 10:30 a.m. at Lenexa United Methodist Church, with interment in Oakwood Cemetery, Baldwin, Kan.

Born in Orient, Iowa, she moved to Lenexa 25 years ago. Ms. Coole was a teacher in the missionary field of the church. She was member of the United Methodist Women of the church.

Survivors include two sons, Thomas H. Coole, Fairway, Kan., and Paul S. Coole, Lenexa, Kan., six grandchildren; two great-grandchildren.

The Nevada Daily Mail, Nevada, Missouri; 28 September 1993, page 2



Rev. Douglas Coole and wife Mamie (Selim) Coole

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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.

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Newspaper Articles

DEATH of WM. WHALEY.

Was an Ex-Confederate Soldier and Had Lived Here Five Years.

Wm. H. Whaley of this city died Thursday night at the home of his daughter, Mrs. J. B. Foster, on east Cherry street, his death being due to general debility. The deceased was an ex-Confederate soldier and during the days of the civil war proved to be a courageous and ardent champion of the confederacy. Nearly all of his life was spent in Jackson county but during the past five years had resided in Nevada. He was a splendid man and a kind and indulgent father. Mr. Whaley is survived by ten children, all of whom live in Nevada, with the exception of one Mrs. Irwin who lives in Kansas City, the others being Mrs. J. B. Foster, Mrs. Chas. Essig, Mrs. John Doerle, Mrs. May, Mrs. Etta Owens, Mrs. H. F. Dickey, Mrs. Grubbs, Miss Anna Mae Whaley and Wm. Whaley. The funeral services were held at the residence of Mrs. Foster Saturday afternoon under the auspices of the ex-Confederates. The services were conducted by Rev. Shook, pastor of the Centenary church.

The Southwest Mail, Nevada, Missouri; Friday 13 January 1911, page 3

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"I read recently of the pleas of the D. A. R. that Fort Scott's famous collection of historical relics be preserved for the city and placed in the Bourbon county courthouse for permanent exhibit. I know of several valuable and interesting war relics in the possession of Vernon county citizens which would add to this collection, among which is a six pound cannon ball which I found recently while plowing in a field on my farm. I also know of a woman who has a bugle which was used to call the soldiers to mess during the Civil War when they were stationed at Fort Scott, Kas.," says C. C. Yokley of Moundville, in a letter to the Mail and Post.

Southwest Mail and The Weekly Post, Nevada, Missouri; Friday 30 Mar 1934, page 5. Downloaded 23 Oct 2023
<https://shsmo.newspapers.com/image/589220993>

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CORN, CLOVER, BLUE GRASS—

Choice prairie farms in Vernon Co., Missouri; from \$35 to \$65 per acre. When writing please mention this paper. ESTILL & GRAY, Walker, Mo. **The Saybrook Gazette, Saybrook, Illinois; Wednesday 30 August, 1911, page 5. Downloaded 30 Aug 2023.**
<https://newscomwc.newspapers.com/image/942900970>

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-- Last Thursday a fellow called at Greditzer's store and talked for some time to Bob Ellis, the clerk. After he had left Bob missed a pair of pants, and sent Joe Baskett out to watch him, but he failed to find him or the pants. Saturday Joe came to the store and told the proprietor that he had seen the fellow at Dr. Lindsey's office with the pants on. Greditzer went over to the Doctor's office and brought the fellow and the pants into the store, where he was confronted by Ellis, who accused him of taking them. The fellow called Ellis a liar, whereupon Bob knocked him down. When he got up he agreed to pay for the pants. The fellow gave his name as Tom Smith and said he kept a grocery store at Deerfield.

Nevada Noticer, Nevada, Missouri; Thursday 27 March 1890, page 3. Downloaded 6 Jul 2024.

<https://newscomwc.newspapers.com/image/587615431/>

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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.

Vice President, Nancy T.

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*