

Cedar & Vernon County Missouri Genealogical Society

218 W. Walnut St., Nevada, MO 64772

Email: Cedar.VernonCoMO@centurytel.net

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

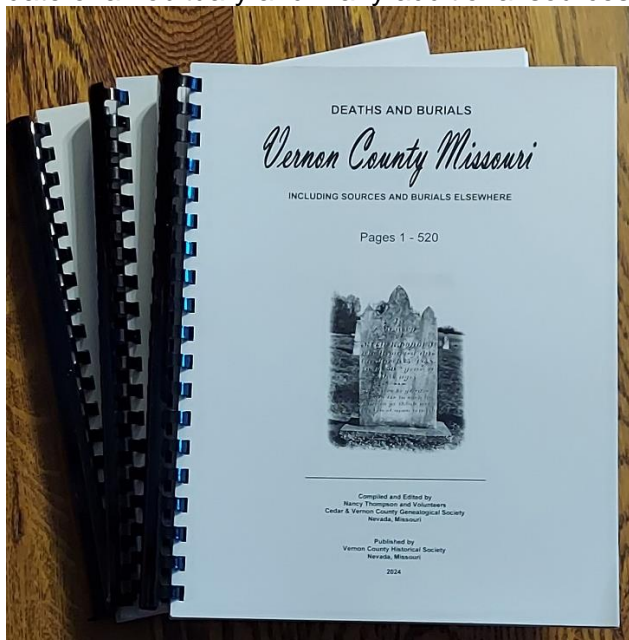
November 2024 Newsletter©

Society Meeting: Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2024.

The Cedar & Vernon Co MO Genealogical Society meeting will be held Wed, Nov 20, 2024, 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. **The program will be Maps, Maps, Maps.** In this program participants can learn how to find maps that they need in researching their families. There are thousands of various maps available to access from your home computer without cost. We hope to see you on the 20th!

- - - - -

The long-awaited, all-new **Vernon County cemetery directory** has been published and is available for purchase at the Bushwhacker Museum, 212 W. Walnut Street, Nevada, Missouri. The 1,563-page, 3-volume set of books includes full names and dates from gravestones, obituaries, and death certificates plus names of parents and spouses for many of the more than 72,000 deaths/burials included. Additionally, a source citation for the death/burial information is included, such as the newspaper and publication date of an obituary and many additional sources.



Active cemeteries were resurveyed, and those listings are in “map order” to assist in locating specific stones in the cemetery.

Every effort and resource were used to make the 2024 books as accurate and user-friendly as possible, but sometimes resources contained conflicting information and unintentional errors are made. Please feel free to report corrections to the Cedar and Vernon County Genealogical Society at the above email address and provide information on the source for the correction. A web page will be created to list corrections on the <https://vernonmogenweb.org> website.

What more could a researcher ask for than information on parents, spouse, and the source for that information!

- - - - -

Early Bird Sale. If you have been waiting for a DNA sale to either test autosomal or mitochondrial DNA, or upgrade a Y-DNA test, check out the Early Bird Sale at www.familytreedna.com. On sale for \$49, their FTDNA autosomal test results can then be transferred to GEDmatch.com and also to MyHeritage.com. The Y-37 male-only test (passed down from father to son) is only \$99 and Y-DNA upgrades can be purchased later, if desired.

- - - - -

New Books Coming Soon! Our Society purchased several books over the last year, and the Nevada Library asked that they be held until this fall when the Library system was switched over to the new Missouri Evergreen. New books are being taken to the library this week and will be soon showing up on the shelves! Several of these new resources will be coded to be checked out by library patrons. After 6 months, they can be checked out across the Missouri Evergreen system. Watch for them in the Nevada Genealogy Department and in your library's Evergreen searches!

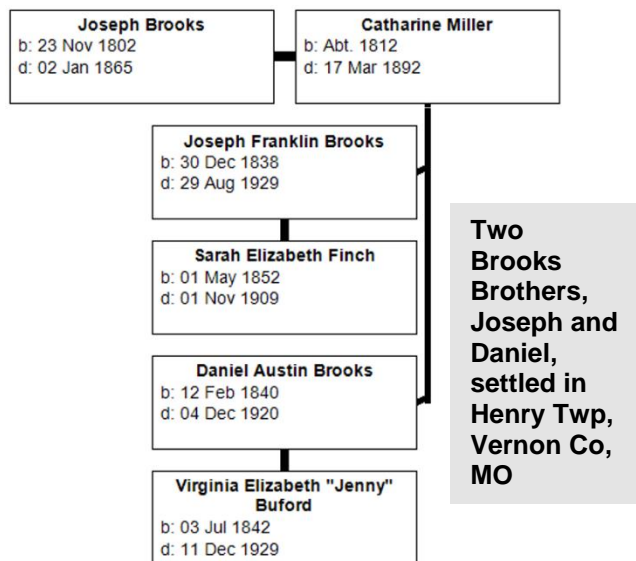
- - - - -

The Brooks Family in Henry Township, Vernon County, Missouri

By Billie Joe Brooks

My great-great-grandfather, Joseph Brooks, was born in England, 23 November 1802. He and his mother came to America in 1808. Joseph Brooks married Catharine "Kitty" Miller on 9 September 1827 in Frederick County, Maryland. They lived in the Weverton, Maryland area where he farmed and worked as a gunsmith at the U.S. Arsenal across the Potomac River in Harper's Ferry, Virginia. About 1844 Joseph and Kitty moved west. They started from Harper's Ferry, Virginia to Cumberland, Maryland on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, then to Wheeling, Virginia by stagecoach. From there they took a boat down the Ohio River and then up the Mississippi River to the Saint Louis, Missouri area. He was employed at the U.S. Arsenal at Saint Louis, Missouri. According to the 1860 Census, he and his family lived on a farm near Manchester, Missouri. He passed away 2 January 1865 and is buried in the Manchester Methodist Church Cemetery.

There were 8 children born to Joseph and Kitty; among them was my great grandfather Daniel Austin Brooks, who was born 12 February 1840. He married Virginia Elizabeth Buford on 11 April 1869 in Manchester, Missouri.

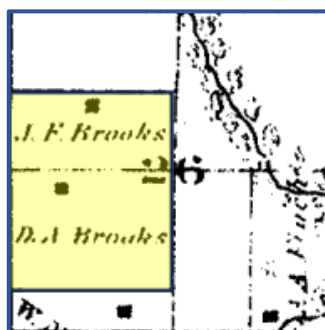


In 1869 Daniel Brooks and his brother Joseph Brooks bought 60 acres of land in Henry

Township, Vernon County, Missouri from the Abiel Leonard estate. Abiel Leonard and his brother Nathaniel Leonard were land speculators who bought up both War of 1812 Military Bounty Land Warrants and Indian Wars Military Bounty Land Warrants from veterans and widows who did not want to claim their land. They owned 4,000 to 5,000 acres of land in Missouri and land in Kansas and Iowa. As to why the Brooks brothers chose this area, oral history has it that Daniel passed through the general area with Sterling Price's Army during the Civil War. Henry Township is located in the northwest corner of Vernon Co.

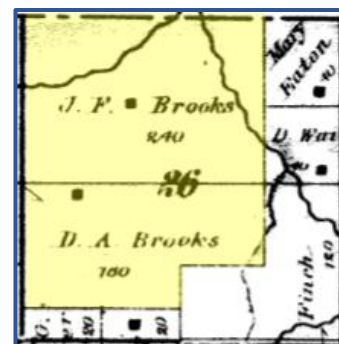
Daniel and his wife Virginia moved to Vernon County in 1869 following their wedding. They initially lived in a ½ dugout and ½ sod house and the nearest towns were Little Osage, Nevada, and Butler, MO and Fort Scott and Pleasanton, KS. Joseph Brooks was living with a brother in St. Louis County, Missouri according to the 1870 US Census and probably moved to Vernon County in late 1870 or 1871.

The widow Kittie Brooks was living with a son in Cooper County, Missouri in the 1880 Census. She either had moved to Vernon County or was visiting here when she died in March 1882 and is buried in Lawrence Cemetery.



The 1876 Plat Map shows that Daniel owned 120 acres and Joseph owned 80 acres in Section 26, in the northeast corner of Henry Township, Vernon Co, MO. (Click map for full township map.)

In 1886 Daniel's farm was 160 acres and Joseph had 240 acres. Their closest town, Hume, was established in 1880 in Bates County, about 5 miles to the northwest. (Click map for full township map.)





**Daniel Brooks
and wife
Virginia Buford**

The 1880 census listed Daniel, wife Virginia, three children, a farm laborer (nephew), and a female servant. Joseph's household included his wife Sarah Finch Brooks, two children, a female servant and three farm laborers.

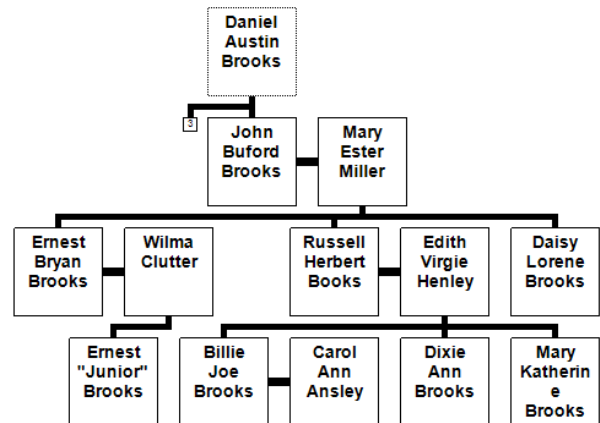
One of the three farm labors was Alphonso Miller, who later married neighbor Sarah Ryan; and in 1886 a daughter Mary Miller was born.



Front:
Alphonso Miller, Oran Miller, Sarah (Ryan) Miller
Back:
Mary Ester (Miller) Brooks, John Buford Brooks

In 1905, Mary "Ester" Miller (1886-1968) married John Buford Brooks (1884-1968), son of Daniel Brooks, and they are my grandparents. A major point of contention between them was that Ester wanted to get married in 1904. John's parents and John went to the 1904 World's Fair and Exposition in St. Louis, Missouri, but because they weren't married she could not go.

John and Ester had a daughter, Daisy Lorene, who graduated from the 8th grade at Brush College School. She wanted to go to High School in Hume, but John would not pay for her to board in Hume so she could attend High School. John and Ester's sons, Ernest and Russell, both graduated from Brush College School. Russell graduated from Hume High School in 1929. He rode a horse the 5 1/2 miles to school. He started at a business college in Kansas City, but when the stock market crashed he came home and started farming with his father and brother.



The below picture of the Daniel Brooks' home was probably taken c. 1897 based on the approximate age of my grandfather John Buford Brooks who was born 7 February 1884. Both Daniel and his brother Joseph had 2-story houses, probably built in the late 1870s or early 1880s. Brown's 1887 History of Vernon County says that the lumber for Joseph's house came from Pleasant Hill, Missouri. The lumber for Daniel's house probably came from the same place. Their yards had sidewalks of flat rocks with rocks turned on edge. Both houses had roses, daffodils, narcissus, blue iris, yucca plants, day lilies, and lilac and snowball bushes. Both farmsteads had cisterns for house water, hand-dug wells for livestock water, and cellars for food storage and storm protection. When they first built their houses there were no public roads, only trails. When the road between Daniel and Joseph's land was laid out, all of the land for the road was from Daniel's land because Joseph would not give up any of his land. The first fences were trimmed hedge rows of Osage Orange trees, and some of these hedge rows that my great grandfather Daniel had set out still exist today.



The Daniel and Virginia (Buford) Brooks home and sons (left) John Buford Brooks (born 1884) and Loyd Emery Brooks (born 1876)

Joseph Brooks was a county judge in the 1890s, now known as a county commissioner. It was a 50-mile round trip to Nevada and back with a horse and buggy. In the 1970s, my father Russell Brooks was also a county judge.

An interesting fact is that in 1898 Joseph Brooks and his family moved to Coleman, Texas, because of his wife's health. It was believed that the dryer climate would help her asthma. My grandfather Daniel rode a horse and spent the summer there with his brother in 1900, when he was 60 years old. Oklahoma was still only a Territory then, and this was a 650 mile trip.

The first school in the area was held in a log building that was also used by the Christian Church of Pryor Creek. Brush College School was a one-room school house that was built c.

1880 and used until 1952. Both my grandparents and my father attended school there. My father rode a horse to Hume to attend high school. I went to first grade at Brush College and then to Metz grade school and high school after Brush College was closed.



The Old Brush College School Building

Daniel and his wife Virginia went to Hot Springs, Arkansas in 1920 for her to take the baths to help her rheumatism. On the morning of 4 December 1920 after taking the baths, he was sitting in a rocking chair on the front porch of their hotel and died from a heart attack at the age of 80. His body was brought by train back to Henry Township for burial in Lawrence Cemetery. Virginia Brooks passed away 11 December 1929 at the age of 87.



John Buford Brooks & Mary Ester Miller Brooks on their 50th Wedding Anniversary

My grandparents John and Ester (Miller) Brooks passed away in 1968 after being married more than 62 years. I always wondered why grandma Brooks would get mad when Grandpa would start teasing her and would call her Ethel. Several years ago I found an announcement in *The Metz Times* newspaper published in 1905. It said that Mr. John Buford Brooks was going to marry Miss Ethel Ryan! Ethel Ryan was a first cousin to Mary Ester Miller.



My father, Russell Brooks, lived about 9 miles northwest of Metz, Missouri.



My mother, Virgie Henley, lived about 3 miles east of Metz, Missouri. They were married in 1935.

The Move

In the early 1940s Ernest Brooks sold his land to his brother Russell Brooks. Ernest then bought the Sartorius farm about three miles northwest of Metz, Missouri. The following newspaper article appeared in a Nevada newspaper. Of note is **The Metz Times** newspaper, which normally carried all of the local news, had closed down when its editor/publisher enlisted in the U.S. Navy during World War II.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Brooks and sons moved, last week, from Brush College community to the farm known as the Anthony Sartorius farm, which they recently purchased, northwest of Metz. [The Nevada Herald, Nevada, Missouri; Thursday 28 Dec 1944 page 3]

This is the story about my uncle Ernest and his family's move in 1944, as shared a few years ago by Ernest's son, "Junior," who was 6 years old at the time.

The day they moved, his dad (Ernest), and my dad (Russell), started loading belongs onto hay wagons in the morning. Then Ernest sat Junior on the seat with Russell, and Russell started driving the team of horses. They went about a mile and a half on the road going east. Junior was told that he was moving when they were about half way there. They then cut through the upper Pryor Creek bottoms and forded the creek to go east to the Sartorius place. By cutting through the bottoms, it saved two miles rather than going north to the county line and that road probably wasn't any better than the trail. The Sartorius house was two-story and had a staircase that went up half way then turned on a landing before continuing up to the upper floor. It had 10-foot ceilings, and the furniture that reached almost to the ceiling was still in it. Junior was really disappointed when he found out the tall furniture was being shipped to New York and the car that was there (a Maxwell?) was not theirs. A member of the Sartorius family drove the car to New York. The house had a mechanical doorbell that rang when you twisted it. When I was little, I thought it was wonderful. I was always fascinated by the 2-story house that had windows in the front door and a hand crank door bell.

In 1962 my father Russell had our house rebuilt. So in the competitive world of brothers, uncle Ernest tore down the old Sartorius house and built a new house the next year.

~ ~ ~ ~

My older sister Dixie Brooks Deister had part of the farm declared a Missouri Century Farm in

1983. Later, I had 160 acres of my farm listed as a Missouri Century Farm.



Missouri Century Farm
March 1869
Owned by:
Daniel & Virginia Brooks
John & Esther Brooks
Russell & Virgie Brooks
Dixie Brooks Deister

My wife and I own the farmsteads of Daniel Brooks and Joseph Brooks, and we live on and own the farmstead of John Buford Brooks. We also own part of the land which belonged to William C. "Bill" Ryan before the Civil War.

In the earlier days neighbors married neighbors. Modern transportation and the US Army are the reasons that my wife of 50 years, Carol Ann Ansley Brooks, is from Harlem, Georgia..



Our sincere thanks to Joe Brooks who submitted Brooks family information and photographs for the newsletter. Joe attended 1st grade in Brush College School and Metz Grade and High School. Joe graduated from (now) Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, Kansas, and was a Captain in the US Army and a Vietnam Veteran. Additionally, Joe and his wife, Carol, have personally cleaned up and maintained both Lawrence Cemetery and Clark Cemetery in Henry Township for several years.

- - - - -

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

Calendar year 2025 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.

If you are unsure if you have paid your 2025 dues, please email the society and our treasurer will let you know.

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