

The Tri-County Genealogical Society

(Vernon – Cedar – St. Clair)

P. O. Box B
Nevada, MO 64772

January 2003

Happy New Year to everyone connected to the Tri-County Genealogy Society! I look forward to serving as your corresponding secretary and editor of the monthly newsletter. An unofficial brief summary of the meeting is included to help keep everyone up-to-date on our many activities and projects. It is my hope that the newsletter will be helpful and interesting to you. Nancy

The January 11, 2003 meeting was held at Nevada with seventeen members present. The new officers of the Society are: Neoma Foreman, President; Dorothy Foster, Vice President; Virginia Breeding, Recording Secretary, Nancy, Corresponding Secretary, and Jewell Coeey, Treasurer. Neoma and all present expressed their thanks and appreciation to the outgoing officers who have faithfully served for several years.

2003 Dues (\$10) can be paid to the treasurer at the next meeting (if not already paid). You can, of course, drop a check in the mail to Jewel Coeey, PO Box 161, El Dorado Springs, MO 64744, if you will have to miss a couple of meetings.

Best Choice UPC Codes: Remember to clip and save all Best Choice UPC codes to redeem for cash. Turn them in at any monthly meeting.

Woods Grocery Receipts: You are also reminded to save Woods Grocery receipts from the El Dorado store only. Turn in monthly also.

April Seminar: Planning continues for our spring seminar. Contact Dorothy Foster with program speaker ideas you may have.

Vernon Co. Cemetery Directory: The Vernon Co Historical Society has asked us for help in updating the cemetery directory. Please list any corrections, additions, etc., and turn in to Neoma F or Nancy T. We will ask for volunteers to help type all data after we work out some formatting questions and locate the necessary computer software.

Bylaws: The Bylaws will be retyped and distributed for review and revision at the next meeting.

Society Directory: Neoma is asking all members to provide the following information to her: name,

address, phone, e-mail address, list of surnames being researched, and program ideas for our monthly meetings.

Updates on Personal Research: Members shared interesting stories about their personal research, successes, brick walls, etc.

Holdings in Vernon Co. Genealogy Room: Dorothy is to make a list of what's available.

The February 8 Meeting will be held at the Tri-County Bank Community Room in El Dorado, beginning at 10 a.m. If anyone from the Nevada area would like to carpool, please email the society. Bring your scissors to work on the Nevada Daily Mail obituaries following a brief business meeting—let's get a lot of these done! We will listen to an audio program, "**Beyond Obituaries: Using Newspapers in Family History Research,**" by Linda Herrick Swisher as presented at a Federation of Genealogical Societies conference, while we work on the newspapers.

TIPS and TIDBITS

If you use the Internet in your research, you may want to take advantage of the *Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness* site. Simplified, this is a researcher-helping-researcher site. If you need a records lookup in another geographical area, check the list to see if there is a volunteer for that state and county and contact him/her with your request. In turn, register your name/e-mail on the site to do a free lookup in your county. I have obtained several records this way and have provided Vernon Co. lookups for others. The site has all the details on how it works, and you may find it helpful. It is <http://www.raogk.org/listing.htm>

Do you have a friend or neighbor who might also enjoy genealogy work? Invite them to come with you to our next meeting!

See you in February.

Criss-Cross Directories A Little Used Resource

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For those of us whose ancestors were farmers and lived in rural areas it takes little time to read every line on a county census or check all the tax payer lists for a given area, but for those of us with ancestors in towns and cities it a much harder job to locate our lost families.

Criss-Cross Directories (or City Directories as they are sometimes called) are a life saver for those who must hunt their ancestors in cities or towns and many researchers do not know they even exist.

For many, many years the Polk Co. (and I'm sure other companies) have produced these directories and, at least in the past, Polk always donated a copy to the local library. The majority of the Criss-Cross Directories I have found have been in local libraries, but I understand that more and more of them are being moved to the local genealogy library or have been sent to the LDS for microfilming. There are some Criss-Cross directories that go all the way back to the 1700s so they have been around for a long time.

And now you're asking - What's a "Criss-Cross Directory" anyway and why the strange name? It's simple - because it is a Criss-Cross listing of all the people who live in a town by street address and by name. The publishers of these Directories attempted to list every adult person in the town or city. Thus almost everyone who lived in a city or town was found in these directories, either at their residence address or by their name. (Where do you think all the old junk mailers got their addresses before computers came along?).

The old Directories also included a list of businesses, schools, hospitals, churches, cemeteries, funeral homes, local societies and just about everything else you can think of. Most of these business type listings included, at a minimum, the address, a phone number (if one existed) and a owner or manager's name. Many also included a list of employees and usually their residence address. I have had no reason to check current directories so I don't know if they still list all of these or not.

The Directory is simple to use. To search for your ancestor look first in the name section which is in alphabetical order by surname and then first name. Next to the person's name you will find a home

address and many times an employer or occupation listed. Go to the "Cross" section of addresses and when you find the address you will find a list of all the adults living at that address. If any adults are employed the place they work or their occupation is usually listed. In many directories you will find women listed as widows with the first name of the deceased husband. ie: White, Virgie (wid Dan)

These Directories are excellent tools for locating a family in a large city or town. By looking at the family's neighbors you can many times spot relatives just as you can in census records. If you are having trouble finding your family in the census records for a large city using a Criss-Cross Directory can give you a location which in turn can give you an enumeration district to use to find your family on the census. Most Criss-Cross Directories did not list children so you will still need to research the census records to find your complete family.

If you are unable to locate your ancestor by name but you do know his occupation you can check the business listings to see if he is listed. Many times a person worked in a city or town and lived outside of the city area that was included in the address section. By locating the person in a business listing you will many times find a home address.

These Criss-Cross directories are "usually" published every year. By checking multiple years you can find where and when your ancestor moved, changed jobs, when a son came of age and became employed while still living at home, pin-point within a year when someone died and often times find a new son-in-law living with the family. This is an excellent and much under used resource.

To locate these Criss-Cross Directories start first with the local library, then check the local genealogy library, next the state archives and don't forget to check the LDS listings since so many of the old directories have been or are being microfilmed.

I've had several people ask me if the Polk Co. has back copies of their directories and I don't know.

Reprinted courtesy of Linda Haas Davenport
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