

*The Tri-County Genealogical Society*  
(Vernon – Cedar – St. Clair Counties)

P. O. Box B  
Nevada, MO 64772

March 2003

**The March 8, 2003 meeting** was held at the Nevada Public Library Community Room with 20 members and guests present.

**Susan McBeth** spoke to our group about the Nevada Public Library, her background, and her staff and their qualifications. Following her presentation, there was a question and answer session. One of the items discussed was that the Genealogy Room, being a part of the Library, was Susan's responsibility. (She previously thought that it belonged to the Genealogical Society.) Susan is going to dispose of the broken, unrepairable microfilm reader and connect a printer to the microfilm reader which current does not have printing capabilities. Additionally, she will make the book copier operational and provide instruction on its use (that's the large piece of equipment sitting in the corner). We discussed the possibility of getting a paid subscription for AncestryPlus.com (library edition), and Susan will look into that. She reported that we could obtain a Kansas City Public Library card (for free) and access Ancestry.com from our homes; however, upon checking further, she has found that that is not correct.

**April Seminar:** Details were finalized for the April 12 Seminar featuring Allen Perry, Archivist at the National Archives Center in Kansas City. He will speak on "Preserving Your Historical Records" and "Resources in the National Archives. Everyone was reminded to give their \$15 registration fee in advance to Jewel Cooley, treasurer, or pay \$20 at the door. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. and the program at 10 a.m. The seminar will be held at the Nevada Community Center next to the Library. Dorothy Foster and Frances Hopkins will coordinate the food. Charles Foreman is in charge of door prizes and welcomes your assistance in securing appropriate items. Dorothy Foster will prepare seminar packets for participants. An information

sheet will be prepared for the seminar packets with Society information and a membership form inviting participants to join the Society. Neoma Foreman and Dorothy Foster prepared and mailed seminar flyers to historical and genealogy groups in the region as well as libraries and individuals. There will be news articles in area newspapers. **This will be a great seminar.** Everyone's cooperation and work are greatly appreciated!

**\$60 from Best Choice:** Dorothy Foster reported that a \$60 check was received for *Best Choice* UPC labels which were redeemed. Thank you, everyone, for clipping and saving the labels...it pays off. Also, save *Woods* receipts from the El Dorado store. We receive cash for these, too!

**Society Directory:** Neoma Foreman distributed copies of the new membership list which includes surnames being researched in addition to members' name, address, phone, and e-mail. Please make the following pen & ink changes to the list: #10, Margaret Friedrich: correct e-mail address to read mlkf@ipa.net ; #5, Jewel Cooley: add phone (417) 398-2663; #19, Luella Phipps: e-mail address: lhipps@ipa.net; #22, Sheila Totten: e-mail address: crackshot357@aol.com.

**Vernon Co Cemetery Directory:** Work continues on determining which computer program to use and getting the formats set up for this project. Members were urged to turn in any corrections to the directory to the society by June 30. These corrections and additions would be on any burials prior to 1977.

**Bylaws:** Each member present received a copy of the revised Bylaws. Jewel Cooley has extra copies to give to new members when they join.

**Nevada Newspaper Obituaries:** Approximately 1,500 obituaries have recently been added to the card file in the Genealogy Room. Isn't that great! A tremendous *thank you* to everyone who helped

with this accomplishment. This is greatly appreciated.

**The April Meeting:** will be our seminar in Nevada. **The May Meeting** will be held at El Dorado Springs, and the program titled “Records at Risk.” **The June Meeting** will be a field trip for members to the Mid-Continent Genealogy Library in Independence, MO. Mark your calendars.

**Book Purchase:** It has been recommended the Society purchase *Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Censuses, 1790-1920* by William Thorndale and William Dollarhide at a cost of \$39.95. This reference book shows all U.S. State and county boundaries from 1790 to 1920, with old county lines superimposed over the modern ones to highlight the boundary changes at 10-year intervals. Research begins with identifying the correct county jurisdiction, and this book can help you do that. The Society approved purchasing two copies, one for Nevada and one for El Dorado if they did not already have the book. It was later reported that El Dorado Springs library did have a copy of this book, so a copy has been presented to the Nevada Library.



Neoma Foreman (left), President of the Tri-County Genealogical Society (Vernon – Cedar – St. Clair Counties), presents a copy of *Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Censuses, 1790-1920*, to Susan McBeth of the Nevada Public Library. The book is available for use in the Library's Genealogy Room.

**Internet Site:** Rick Williams, with AICON, an internet service provider company, proposed that

he design and host a webpage on his server for the Society at no charge to the Society. He explained that he was doing this for other Nevada civic groups. Neoma thanked Rick for his presentation; the Society would take his offer under advisement. Members can view samples of his work at <http://nevadalionsclub.org> and at <http://www.williamsgenealogy.com>

**Handouts:** Three handouts were available to members: Military Terms and Abbreviations, Research Assistance from the Federal Government, and Restrictions on the Use of Military Personnel Records. (Sorry, but I don't know who to thank for bringing the handouts).

**From our Mailbox:** (Corresponding secretary's report):

- The Ozark Genealogical Society is planning a trip to Allen County Library, Fort Wayne, IN, April 27 to May 1. If 40 or more people sign up, a bus will be chartered; otherwise, transportation will be furnished by willing drivers (nearly 1,200 miles round trip). Accommodations will be at the Holiday Inn, 300 E. Washington Blvd (219) 422-5511. \$50 deposit to sign up; cancellations accepted to Apr 21. For information, contact Frank Black, (417) 744-4541.
- Received obit request for Peggy Caruthers; obit located and copy sent.
- Updated our listing on three internet sites.
- Received and posted on Library bulletinboard: Topeka Genealogical Society's 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Genealogy Conference, featuring Birdie Monk Holsclaw of Longmont, CO. Sessions: 5 Documentation Myths, How to Turn a Clue into a Usable Source, Neighborhoods – Correlating Land and Census Records, and From Hypothesis to Proof – A Case Study. Apr 26 at Kansas State Historical Society, 6425 SW 6<sup>th</sup> Ave, Topeka, KS. Questions: (785) 233-5762.
- Thank you note sent to Susan McBeth, Nevada Library.
- Get well card sent to Neoma Foreman.

- Received and will post a flyer “Finding Your Roots – From the Back Roads to the Internet Highway.” ●Explore the resources of the internet as they relate to genealogy research ●Learn the resources available through the public library ●Discuss techniques with people who have published their family lineage. May 8, 6-9 p.m., Computer Lab, Nevada TeleCenter, 2015 N. West Street, Nevada, MO. \$25 per reserved computer (limited to 2 people per computer). Ed Browning, Instr. Sponsored by the Nevada University Outreach and Extension program.
- Received request for copies of obits for Orris O. Gragg (d. Nov 2, 1933) and Blanche May (Smith) Gragg (d. Jun 22, 1965). Obits copied from microfilm and mailed.

**Newsletter:** If you have information or suggestions for items in the newsletter, please feel free to pass them along to the society, and we’ll try to get them included as space permits.

**Research for Hire:** The society is putting together a list of members who conduct research for others on a fee basis. If you would like to have your name and contact information included on this list, please let the society know. The list will be provided to individuals who contact the Society looking for researchers.

### *TIPS and TIDBITS*

**Civil War Veteran:** If you will lend a photograph of a Civil War veteran to the Army, it will send you a free 8x10 copy. Write to:

Michael J. Winey  
Curator, Dept. of the Army  
US Army Military History Institute  
Carlisle Barracks, PA 17013-5008

### **What's Too Much? What's Too Little?**

From Everton.com (provided by Dorothy Foster)

When you write a letter or an email asking for help with your family history, you need to give

enough information to get a good response, without overwhelming the recipient with too much information. But how much is that?

Here are a couple of suggestions.

DO INCLUDE a precise definition of the person you're asking about. That means his or her full name, birth date or age, and the relevant date, event and place you are inquiring about.. If it's a question about military service, that would include when and where he served and his unit. If it's a question about her schooling, that would include when and where she attended school. If you don't know the exact details, provide your best approximations.

DO NOT INCLUDE an extensive family history. Few questions require three generations of the family's history or the minute details of a person's daily schedule. Unless it is essential to your question, don't go on at length about the multitude of family members. Keep your initial query focused on one person and one question, and offer to provide other details in a followup if needed.

### **And on the lighter side...a fellow researcher sends the following:**

Dear Abby:

I have always wanted to have my family history traced, but I can’t afford to spend a lot of money to do it. Any suggestions?

Sam

Dear Sam:

Yes. Run for public office.

Abby