

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

February 2004

P. O. Box B  
Nevada, MO 64772

[TriCountyGenealogy@starband.net](mailto:TriCountyGenealogy@starband.net)

## March 13 Meeting in Nevada

### Vickie Erwin, Vernon County Circuit Clerk



Vickie Erwin, Vernon County Circuit Clerk will speak to our group at the March 13 meeting. She will address *Preservation of Records and Preparation of Documents for Microfilming*. The Society will be working with the Circuit Clerk's office in preparing the older court records to be microfilmed. It is not

often that we have an opportunity to join in a preservation project of this magnitude and importance. If you have had an opportunity to research in some of these old records, you know that there are treasure mines of "stories" and information, just waiting to be found: "J. M. Hull, Prosecuting Attorney within and for the County of Vernon, and State of Missouri, on his oath of office and best information and belief informs the Court that Fred L\_\_\_ on or about the 1 day of April 1914, at and in said County of Vernon and State of Missouri, did then and there willfully, unlawfully cut down, steal, take and carry away a certain quantity of wood and timber, to-wit, one Bois d'arc tree, of the value of one dollar of the property of J. B. M\_\_\_, standing and growing on the land of J. B. M\_\_\_..." Ms. Erwin will explain records retention and explain the microfilming project and what is needed to prepare the many documents for microfilming. The program will begin at 10 a.m. at the Nevada Public Library Meeting Room. Entrance is on the south side of the Library at the Museum entrance. The business meeting will follow the program.

## Acquisition of Wilma Lathrop's Genealogical Library

The Society voted to purchase the Wilma Lathrop genealogical collection. To acquire this extensive private collection is a unique opportunity for our Society and this entire region. As researchers, we all know the value of having all of the information in one place, and having it readily available to the general public. Included with this acquisition are the publication and sale rights of all of the documents that Mrs. Lathrop created. A grant application for funds to make this purchase has been prepared and will be

submitted to the Finis M. Moss Charitable Trust this coming week. Additionally, a preservation grant has been applied for from the State of Missouri, which will enable the purchase of acid-free sleeve protectors, binders, etc., needed to prepare the Lathrop collection for the Genealogy Room.

## Annual Seminar – April 10 at Vernon County Fairground in Nevada *FINDING YOUR ROOTS*

Four outstanding sessions have been planned for the spring genealogy seminar: Wayne Prewitt, *Find the Records, Find the Land*; Dr. Lyndon Irwin, *Finding the "Stories" in Family History Research*; Patricia Luebbert, *What can You Find at the Missouri State Archives?* and Jenise Burch, *How to Find Your Ancestors in DAR Records*. Brochures and registration information will be handed out at our March 13 meeting. If you are not at the March 13 meeting, a brochure will be mailed to you. Several vendors and genealogical and historical societies will have genealogy-related products available for purchase. This is going to be a tremendous day of genealogy – you will want to be there! Numerous door prizes will be awarded during the seminar, and members are asked to **BRING ITEMS FOR DOOR PRIZES TO THE MARCH MEETING.**

## *Migration Patterns of Early Immigrants Program at February 14 Meeting*

Marlene Moran, area history teacher, presented a program on *Migration Patterns of Early Immigrants* at our February meeting. She has provided copies of two maps, Steamboat Routes 1860 and Major Roads 1820-1850, and these will be available at the March 13 meeting.

## Microfilm Equipment in Genealogy Room at the Nevada Public Library

Good news: Work has been done on the microfilm equipment in the Genealogy Room. Both microfilm printers should be in good working order by the time you receive this newsletter.

## 2004 Programs

To keep you informed of upcoming programs, they will be listed each month in the newsletter. If you have a suggestion for a program or know someone who can present a genealogy-related program, please contact Neoma Foreman or Dorothy Foster. We have a great year of programs planned for you, with each month being something special!

April 10 (Nevada): Annual Genealogy Seminar

***Finding Your Roots***. Vernon County Fairgrounds, Nevada, MO, 8:30 a.m. – 3:45 p.m. Lunch is provided; preregistration and fee are required.

May 8 (Nevada): Guest speaker, Bernard Daniel from Greenfield, MO. ***Cemetery Dowsing***. Mr. Daniel will demonstrate his special skill of grave dowsing and explain how he utilizes dowsing in his work. Mr. Daniel was featured in the *Joplin Globe* last November. Bring a picnic lunch; we will go out to a cemetery for the program following the business meeting and enjoy a picnic following the program.

June 12: All-day research trip to Mid-Continent Library, Independence, MO. This is the largest genealogy library in this region of the U.S. Listings of the library's holdings are available in the Genealogy Room of the Nevada Public Library. Begin making your list of things which you need to look up. Mid-Continent also has the full Ancestry.com subscription.

July 10 (Nevada): Society members will present ***Becoming Familiar with the Nevada Library's Genealogy Room***. Our local library has many resources which you can utilize whether researching your west-central Missouri ancestors or those who lived in Virginia. This program will focus on the materials in the collection, how the materials are arranged, and how to find information.

August 14 (El Dorado Springs): A guest speaker from the Bolivar Monument Company will present an informative program on ***Cemetery Stones***.

September 11 (Nevada): A guest speaker will talk on ***How the Local Family History Center can Help in Your Research***. This program will explain the resources available at the local Family History Center.

October 9 (El Dorado Springs): A guest speaker from a neighboring genealogical society has been invited to present this program.

November 13 (Nevada): Guest speaker from the Fort Scott Community College History Department will speak on ***Your Civil War Ancestors***.

December 11 (El Dorado Springs): Following the installation of officers for the 2005 year, a video program focusing on finding ***Military Records*** will be presented.

## From our Mailbox

(Corresponding secretary's report)

- Copied and mailed Eales probate file to Jack Revare, Leawood, KS. Received \$30 donation.
- Received a phone request from John White, Mount Rainier, MD, to conduct research on Masterson and Judy surnames without charge. Sent him our fee information and wished him luck with his research.
- Received request from Leon Bishop, Golden City, MO inquiring about the Leander Bratton family in the 1890 census. Replied with explanation about the 1890 census and sent him information from the 1920 census on that family. Offered to conduct additional research and sent the fee information.
- Received request from BJ Lagerquist to copy a page from the cemetery directory. Copied and sent page; \$2 donation received.
- Received request from Ginger Thomsen, Post Fall, ID, for location information on Eve, MO and two marriage record lookups of Dodd surname. Searched 6 marriage indexes and no record found; advised her of location of Eve and sent fee information if additional research was requested.
- Received e-mail request to search Nevada newspaper microfilm for any possible articles in the 1880s and 1890s by a Robert M. Spencer. Advised that we would be glad to conduct the research and sent fee information.
- E-mailed Patty McCrery regarding her Hulse research and invited her to the Society monthly meetings.
- Received a request from Penny Brown, Dodge City, KS, asking for a free look-up and copying of obituary for a Jesse Kennedy. Advised we would be glad to conduct the search for her and sent fee information.
- Received request from Linda Horn, Yucca Valley, CA, for research on the David & Nancy Morris probate file. Advised that we would be glad to conduct this search for her and sent fee information.

- Received e-mail request from Kent Taylor asking how to get a copy of a marriage record. Responded that we would be glad to research a Vernon County marriage record for him and the search, copy, mail fee is \$5.
- Received e-mail from Joyce Pearce asking how to find death records. Explained our cemetery directory, state death certificates, pre-1909 Missouri death records, and other considerations in finding a date of death. Advised that we would be glad to conduct Vernon County research for her and sent fee information sheet.
- Received e-mail request from Carla Anders requesting an obituary lookup. Upon receipt of \$5 fee, located, copied, and mailed 1944 Houdeshell obit to her.
- Sent updated Tri-County Genealogical Society information to the Vernon County RootsWeb page coordinator.
- Received a request from Alice Tharp, Nickerson, KS, for an obituary lookup on William H. F. Tharp who died December 21, 1946. Searched 6 days of newspaper and did not locate an obituary; advised that none had been found within 6 days and sent fee sheet for any additional research she might need us to conduct.
- Received a notice from the Chapman Family Association and posted it on the Genealogy bulletin board at the Nevada Library.
- Received an e-mail request from Janice Weakley for research: looking for dates and locations of deaths, family members names, marriage records, etc. Advised that we do not presently have an every-name index of deaths/burials in Vernon County but would have one probably within a year; also advised that we would be glad to assist with her research and sent a fee information sheet.
- Received a notice that the following book has been published: *La Charrette: Village Gateway to the American West*. It is available at amazon.com, bn.com (Barnes & Nobel), or the publisher at 1-877-823-9235.
- Corresponded with and met with Bernard Daniel, Greenfield, MO, regarding presenting a program at our May meeting.
- Received an e-mail request from Ruben Soto requesting research on marriages and family of James Williamson Moore in the 1870-1880s. Advised that we would be glad to assist with his research and sent fee information.
- E-mailed "Finding Your Roots" seminar information to the Bushwhacker Museum for inclusion in their upcoming publication.
- Sent inquiry e-mail about obtaining a copy of the index to the Confederate Magazine. Was referred to the Library of Congress.
- E-mailed "Finding Your Roots" seminar information to the Missouri State Genealogical Association to be posted on their Events Calendar. See <http://mosga.missouri.org/Events.html>
- Received request from Wendell Walker, Pikeville, TN, for 6 obituary lookups: 3 with date of death and 3 with only month and year of death. Sent fee information sheet and explained that we conduct research only after the fee has been received.
- Received information on Carter Surname DNA Project. If interested, contact Janet Carter-Kessler, P. O. Box 516, Otto, NC 28763.
- Received request from Heidi for research on the "ghost of Rosemary Hall" at Cottey College for a school project. Conducted searches of microfilmed newspapers and advised her that I had found information and the copying and mailing fee would be \$5 for the 4 pages. She replied that she would drive to Nevada and make the copies herself.
- Finalized and printed the Finding Your Roots seminar brochure. Mailed over 100 brochures to area libraries and genealogical and historical societies.
- Meet with representative from EDCO of Springfield, MO, on behalf of the Nevada Library to help coordinate the repair of Minolta equipment in the Genealogy Room.
- Responded to a membership inquiry from Jerry Garrett, Pleasant Hill, MO. Membership fee received and welcomed to the Society.
- Received inquiry from Truett Crumley, Forest Park, GA, requesting information on Jefferson Boone & Hattie Smith Crumley: names, birthdates, occupations, deaths, and burials of their children. Advised that we would be glad to assist with his research and sent the fee information sheet.
- Information booklets on the Sep 8-11 Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference, "Legends Live Forever" was received and placed in the Genealogy Room for anyone interested. This conference will be held in Austin, TX.

- Received request for financial support for the restoration and preservation of Quinette Cemetery in the St. Louis area. A fundraiser book, "Gone but not Forgotten" is available for \$19.95 from YIA Book, 1269 Avery Ct, Kirkwood, MO 63122.
- The Topeka Genealogical Society and the Kansas State Historical Society will hold their annual conference on April 24 in Topeka. Registration is \$24 if by Mar 24 and \$28 if after Mar 24. No lunch is provided. Featured speaker will be Lloyd Bockstruck and his session titles are Colonial Land Records, Colonial Military Records, State Bounty Lands for the Revolutionary War, and Discovering the Origins of American Colonists. For more information or to register, see <http://www.tgstopeka.org/conference.html> and the flyer will be posted on the Genealogy bulletin board.
- Received and filed the State Historical Society of Missouri Newsletter. Of note are the following articles: A generous bequest has enabled the purchase of 10 new microfilm readers and one new reader/printer for the Newspaper Library. [The last time this researcher was there, only about 6 machines out of approximately 30 were working, and only 1 of those 6 had a bright light.] The Historical Society's extensive Missouri

newspaper collection is now included on the University of Missouri's MERLIN Library Catalog. Access the online catalog at <http://laurel.lso.missouri.edu/> Information on borrowing microfilmed newspapers on interlibrary loan can be found at <http://www.umssystem.edu/shs/newspaper.html> or by calling (573) 882-7083.

- Wrote Finis M. Moss Grant Application for the acquisition of the Lathrop collection and secured letter of support from the Vernon County Historical Society.
- Met with Dorothy Foster and conducted a site inspection of the Vernon County Fairground Home Ec Building in preparation for the Society's spring seminar.

Again, this has been a very busy month. Please remember when requesting research from a distant genealogy group that a nominal contribution sent with your request will usually yield results and a self-addressed, stamped envelope is appreciated.

The Tri-County Genealogical Society (Vernon-Cedar-St. Clair Counties) newsletter is published monthly by the Society. Subscription is by Society membership; \$10 per year. Questions, comments, ideas, suggestions should be directed to the society.

Tri-County Genealogical Society  
(Vernon - Cedar - St. Clair Counties)  
P. O. Box 8  
Nevada, MO 64772