

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

P. O. Box B  
Nevada, MO 64772

March 2004

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

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

- 8:30 a.m. **Registration**
- 9:00 a.m. **Welcome**  
Neoma Foreman, President  
Tri-County Genealogical Society
- 9:15 a.m. **Find the Records, Find the Land**  
Wayne Prewitt, Agriculture Business  
Specialist for University Outreach and  
Extension
- 10:30 a.m. **Finding the “Stories” in Family History  
Research**  
Dr. Lyndon Irwin, Professor, Author,  
Speaker, Genealogist
- 12 noon **Lunch and Door Prizes**
- 1:30 p.m. **What Can You Find at the Missouri State  
Archives?**  
Patricia M. Luebbert, Senior Archivist,  
Missouri State Archives
- 2:45 p.m. **How to Find Your Ancestors in DAR  
Records**  
Jenise Burch, Daughters of the American  
Revolution
- 3:45 p.m. **Adjourn**

This is going to be a tremendous day of genealogy, which is sure to inspire each of us to look at our research anew. If you need additional brochures for friends and neighbors, you can pick them up in the Genealogy Room at the Nevada Library or call or e-mail Dorothy Foster or Neoma Foreman to have them mailed to you. Several commercial vendors as well as area genealogical societies will have exhibits and sale tables to browse between speaker sessions. If you want to donate a door prize and have not yet done so, please contact Dorothy Foster (417-876-2976) as soon as possible. Time is ticking away...if you have not sent in your early registration for the seminar, please do so immediately as the deadline for early registration is April 7. **To help set up tables and chairs, please be at the Fairgrounds at 1 p.m. on Friday, April 9.**

**Vickie Erwin, Vernon County Circuit Clerk**

Vickie Erwin, Vernon County Circuit Clerk, was guest speaker at our March 13 meeting. She spoke about the various records at the Courthouse and the project of microfilming the Vernon County Circuit Court records which are presently stored in the basement of the Courthouse. The State of Missouri is providing funds for this project, and volunteers are needed to prepare the 517 drawers of documents for microfilming. A workshop will be scheduled in the near future to explain to us exactly what to do and how to do it to prepare the documents. The workshop will be held at the Courthouse and once it is scheduled, e-mail and postcard notices will be sent to all members. If you cannot attend the workshop, other members who attend will be able to show you what to do. A work area will be set up in the Courthouse, and members will go in and work on documents as their personal schedules permit. Once microfilmed, a copy of the microfilm and index will be provided to the Nevada Library. You can find additional information about the local records program at <http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/localrecs/program.asp> For those who really enjoy reading, the Revised Missouri Statutes are at <http://www.moga.state.mo.us/STATUTES/STATUTES.HTM> This is a wonderful opportunity for everyone in our group to help with a records preservation project. Having these records indexed and available in the Genealogy Room will be tremendous!

**Acquisition of Wilma Lathrop’s  
Genealogical Library**

Update on the status of the Lathrop acquisition: Our Society is not recognized by the IRS as a nonprofit entity (the appropriate papers were not filed after organizing in the 1980s). Because of this, we cannot directly apply for certain grant funds. Therefore, we are working in conjunction with both the Vernon County Historical Society and the Nevada Public Library to submit a joint grant application to the Finis M. Moss Charitable Trust to make this acquisition.

Because the full purchase amount may not be available from the Moss Trust, additional funding sources are being sought. If you have connections with an area business or entity which helps fund nonprofit projects, please coordinate this information with Neoma Foreman before contacting them regarding funds.

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

**Please note:** The digital microfilm machine makes exceptionally clear copies, and they are only 15¢ -- this is from either newspaper or probate film. The laser printer is on the pull-out tray below the reader, and the copy comes out into the tray on the top of the printer. If you have not used this machine, you should try it. If you have a problem with the equipment (get an error message), there is a help sheet on the right side of the reader – and when all else fails: turn it off, wait a couple of seconds, and then turn it back on. This worked to clear the “paper size error” message that which came up the other day. We are very fortunate to have this quality piece of equipment in the Genealogy Room, and it is great that it is now working!

### Heritage Quest Census Subscription and Magazine Subscription

The Nevada Library is asking about these two subscriptions. Do we recommend continuing the Library’s subscription to Heritage Quest Magazine? Do you use this magazine? Does the Society desire to again pay one-half of the Heritage Quest Census and Historical Books internet subscription fee (\$250 would again be our portion)? These items will be on the agenda at the May meeting.

### Members Listing

Dorothy Foster distributed a listing of members, their addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses. Please contact her for any corrections needed or if you did not receive a copy. *Thank you, Dorothy.*

### Maps of Early Migration Routes

Copies of the maps provided by Marlene Moran from her presentation at our February meeting were distributed. If you did not attend the March meeting and would like a copy of the maps, please contact The Society.

### Free Internet Sites

Several people have asked for a list of free internet sites for genealogy research. Everyone who uses the internet has her/his favorite sites, so please e-mail a list of your favorite sites to the society. Later this summer the lists will be compiled and published in the newsletter and also posted at the Library. You may use a site that another member would find helpful if they were aware of it, so please take time to share your list.

### 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!

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. We will go to an area cemetery for the program following the regular business meeting at the Library. Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy 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 library 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): Brad Wommack 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)

- The Greater 4-State Genealogy Fair will be June 19 in Miami, OK. This is genealogy and history book vendors, genealogical societies, museums and library displays open to the public. \$2 admission. For information: (918) 674-1168 or [beejay@neok.com](mailto:beejay@neok.com)
- The Grand Lake Ancestor Fair will be May 8 at the Grove Community Center, Grove, OK. Three speakers are on the schedule. Admission is \$18. For additional information: Delaware County Genealogical Society, 1140 NEO Loop, Grove, OK 74344 or [dcgsinc@hotmail.com](mailto:dcgsinc@hotmail.com)
- The 2004 Missouri Conference on History will be Apr 22-23 in Jefferson City. For additional information: <http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/projects/mch/>
- Missouri State Genealogical Association's Annual Conference will be August 13-14 in Columbia MO. J. Mark Lowe, Certified Genealogist, will speak on *Finding Your Kentucky Ancestors; Tennessee: The Road to the West; and My Ancestor, the Farmer: Shaping a Profile for Your Rural Ancestor*. Seven supporting speakers are also on the schedule. For information: [www.mosga.org](http://www.mosga.org) or MoSGA, P.O. Box 833, Columbia, MO 65205-0833.
- \$328.00 was received in 2003 for research fees. Expenses for handling general and research correspondence was \$97.49. The cost for copying and mailing the newsletter and meeting notices was \$92.49 (about half of our members receive information via e-mail).
- Received e-mail inquiry from Brent Helmick regarding the location of Tilley, Missouri and

Moore Cemetery in Cedar County. Referred inquiry to Dorothy Foster who suggested to the researcher that it was a misprint and the town was Filley. Offered to conduct additional Cedar County research for a small fee.

- Received an e-mail from Richard and Joan Bradley from Texas who were here researching their Clinton family in the Walker area. They had visited Mound Cemetery and wanted to provide better directions to the cemetery and were concerned with the lack of upkeep. They suggested that the county take over and maintain Mound Cemetery. I explained that Vernon County has over 50 pioneer cemeteries and some of the considerations are that many are on private property, lack of road for access, liability, labor costs, etc., and inquired as to how abandoned cemeteries in Texas were maintained. They said that interested volunteer groups maintained a few of them. The Bradley's provided information on Vernon County burials to include in the new cemetery directory.
- Responded to letter from Rosella Cline, Fairbury, NE, asking for an obituary search for a Fred Shields who died in 1942. Offered a lookup when the new cemetery directory was completed later this year.
- Responded to letter from JoRetta Lewis, Edgewood, TX, for a copy of Lewis/Prior marriage record which was copied and sent; \$5 received.
- Received and responded to follow-up e-mail from Dorothy Graves, Cole Camp, MO, regarding Mallow family burials in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery.
- Received and responded to request for research on the Fulkerson family from Janice Weakley; \$60 received. Sent e-mail response with dates of death and other information which had been requested. Will copy and mail probate file, obituary, etc., and take requested photos.

### This-n-That

To get more from your Internet searches, you may want to try using Google's "Advanced Search" feature. On the [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) page, click on **Advanced Search**. To learn how to fully use the search capabilities of this screen, click on "**Advanced Search Tips**" and print out these 3 pages of "how to's" and keep as a handy reference beside your computer. With Advanced Search, you can increase

the accuracy of your searches by learning to use search “operators” such as + - ~ **OR** “ “ and the other tips given. (Most all search engines have an advance search option; however, Google is considered by many to be better.) Once you are familiar with using the operators, you can conduct many advanced searches from Google’s main page. Another

advantage of using Google as your search engine is that Google offers a free pop-up ad blocker. You can check it out at <http://toolbar.google.com/> It’s pretty easy to install and set the preferences that you want. If you would like to use it on your home computer but can’t get it setup, please contact the society.

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.

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