



Nevada Library and Bushwhacker Museum

Tri-County Genealogical Society
(Vernon-Cedar-St. Clair Counties)
c/o Nevada Public Library
218 W. Walnut St.; P.O. Box B
Nevada, MO 64772
[TriCountyGenealogy @ starband.net](mailto:TriCountyGenealogy@starband.net)
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~motcogs/>



Vernon County Courthouse
Nevada, Missouri

NEWSLETTER

January 2007

February 10 Meeting “Exploring Probate Records”

The Feb. 10 meeting will be held at the Church of Christ Fellowship Hall, 302 East Hospital Road, El Dorado Springs, beginning at 10 a.m. The program will be **Exploring Probate Records**, a program on video which explains how to find probate records and what genealogical information might be contained within those records. Probate records are key to all of your research. Often a Will is in the probate packet; and all heirs will be listed, often with information on where they lived. Inventory lists will show if your ancestor was rich or poor. Final distribution and settlement will show who got what and how much from the estate.

If it is snowing, sleeting, or the roads are bad, the meeting will be cancelled.

2007 Officers

The nominating committee is looking for members who would be willing to serve as president and vice-president in 2007. Kathe R, Lynda B, and Dorothy F agreed to serve on a nominating committee to present a slate of officers at the February meeting. Kathe R, Lynda B, and Richard J volunteered to serve in their same positions in 2007. The newsletter editor will continue publishing the newsletter and maintaining the website. The president and vice-president will conduct the monthly meetings and arrange for a genealogy or history program at each meeting, with the help of the other officers and

members. Please contact the nominating committee if you would be willing to serve for a year. *Your assistance in this regard will be greatly appreciated.*

2007 Membership Dues are Due

Annual Tri-County membership dues for 2007 are now due. If you joined the Society just this past fall, your dues were credited to 2007, and we are glad to have you as members! Individual membership is \$10, two people in the same household is \$15, and lifetime membership is \$100 per person. Please make checks payable to Tri-County Genealogical Society and turn in at the Feb. meeting or mail to Tri-County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box B, Nevada, MO 64772, if you have not already done so. Kathe Rader, treasurer, has a list of those who have paid.

Update: Missouri Death Certificates Online

Missouri death certificate **images** are now on the internet for the years 1910-1930 **and 1950-1956**. The on-line death **index** is complete from 1910-1956. A copy of Vernon Co entries in the index is available in the Genealogy Dept. Certificate images are coming online very quickly.

Members who do not use the internet and would like a copy of any Missouri death certificate(s) which is online may obtain the copy by contacting Rachel Harmon or Richard Johnson who are frequently in the Genealogy Dept at the Nevada Library. If you stop in at the Genealogy Dept and they are not there, please leave a note for them listing the death

certificate(s) names you are wanting and your name—ask the librarian at the circulation desk to put the note in the Genealogy Mailbox. The death certificates will be printed for you—you will pay the library for the number of copies made.

Vernon County Circuit Court Records Project

Linda Myers, Archivist with the Missouri State Archives, would like to train a volunteer in to learn how to flatten extremely curled or rolled documents using archival techniques. This volunteer can then work weekly on the particularly large court files which need to be flattened. Work continues on the overall Court Records Project, and we can always use more help to complete this large undertaking. Come to the Nevada Library on any Friday ~ work begins at 10 a.m. Most volunteers take a lunch break from 12 noon until 1 p.m., and then work continues until about 3 or 3:30 p.m. If you cannot work a full day, please work any portion that fits *your* schedule. The more people who help with this project, the sooner we can have these records available for researchers. **In case of inclement weather, please listen to the Nevada radio station to ensure the Library is open.**

2007 Genealogy Programs

Your suggestions are needed to help plan programs for 2007. Please take time to list subjects, speakers, etc., that you would find interesting or helpful in your research. We want to have a variety of programs for both beginner and advanced researchers. Additional program ideas are always welcome – please give them to any officer or your newsletter editor, and they will be forwarded to the appropriate people.

Each month's program will be announced the month prior, listed in the newsletter, posted in the Library Genealogy Department, and posted on the welcome page of our internet website.

Mar 10, 2007 – Nevada: ?? *Submit ideas.*

Apr 14, 2007 – El Dorado Springs:

Best Choice UPC Labels and Summer Fresh Receipts

Collecting labels and receipts continues year round. Save and bring them to any monthly meeting – they are converted to cash.

Genealogy Conferences

2007 Aug 3-4: Missouri State Genealogical Assoc. annual conference in Jefferson City.

2008 May 14-17: National Genealogical Society Conference in Kansas City.

“Where to Look – Who to Ask” April 14 in Bolivar

The Polk County Gen. Society's annual conference will be April 14 in the Citizens Memorial Hospital Community Rooms, from 9 a.m. Registration until 4:30 p.m. No fee; lunch is on your own. For additional information you can call Bunny Jones (417) 326-5032, www.rootsweb.com/~mopolkgs/, or email pcgs@alltel.net. Our society has been invited to set up a vendor table (no charge).

Back Issues of Newsletters: 2003-2006

If you would like to read back issues of the Tri-County genealogy newsletter, they are available to copy in the Nevada Library Genealogy Dept. If you want to copy them, the cost is 15¢ per page. Each of the newsletters which are available in digital file will be converted to Adobe pdf files and uploaded to the internet. When this process is completed, a notice will be in the newsletter to let you know. The Adobe pdf files will have “hot links” which you can click.

Tri-County Genealogical Society Website

Researchers continue to benefit from the Tri-County website, with over 7,300 “hits” being recorded on the home page since its creation in December 2005. Newest features on the site include a Biographies link on the Resources page. This has links to more than

200 surname pages, some being Lyndon Irwin's surname pages and other researchers, in addition to some pages from the 1887 Vernon County History biographies. Another Nevada newspaper index (1898) has been placed online as well as the index to the Nevada State Hospital #3 book, copies of which we offer for sale. Placing these indexes online enables researchers to know if their ancestors were in the newspaper and they can for a small charge then order copies of specific articles for their research. *Many thanks to Rachel H. and Richard J. for looking up the hundreds of articles which have been requested! \$\$*

Members are invited to help with the website by providing text which can be used to create additional web pages or added to existing pages. Please submit information in a Microsoft Word, Microsoft Works, or Word Perfect file. It can be emailed as an attachment, but not as the body of an email, or leave a floppy disk or a CD in the Genealogy Mailbox at the Nevada Library. If you do not use a computer, members will type the article which you submit either hand- or type-written.

If you have an area of local interest or local surname(s), please check similar pages on our website and provide information which can be shared -- Cedar County information is particularly needed!

Internet Search Engine Tips

If you use the internet for research, please take time to read this article on how to get better results with your searches. This article was written by Mike Jarvis for rootsweb.com.

As genealogists in today's high-tech world, the importance of using search engines properly is ever increasing. With genealogy related web sites making up a huge part of our World Wide Web, we would like to share some search engine tips that perhaps a few you will find helpful. There is much that could be written about this, but we will focus only on a few tips that we find most helpful. We use [and] to indicate terms that would be written in a search box.

First - The use of quotation marks. When using a combination of words in the search box, the search engine results will include every web page where these words occur anywhere on that page regardless of whether these words are immediately next to each other. Using the search term of [family history] will result in 109,000,000 hits while ["family history"] within quotations will result in 5,400,000 hits. This is because in the second instance it is only finding pages where the words are actually next to or immediately touching each other. Try this with a family name. For example, my grandmother is named Flora MacDonald. If I search [Flora McDonald] in Google it returns 251,000 hits. Putting ["Flora MacDonald"] in quotations results in 29,600 hits. This is far too many hits and primarily relate to a prominent woman in Scottish and American history. This is not my grandmother. However, knowing that my grandmother's middle name was Hermosa, it makes sense to put ["Flora Hermosa MacDonald"] in the search box and I get two hits related specifically to my grandmother. Success!

Second - The use of the minus sign. This is my second favorite search tip. Using any combination of words in a search box with the minus sign directly next to a word that you DO NOT want to find is also helpful. Using the search term ["Flora MacDonald" -Scotland -Scottish -"North Carolina" -NC] will eliminate any pages from my search that includes the words next to the minus sign. So I will get only those pages that have my grandmother's name and do not have Scotland or North Carolina on the site. This effectively reduces the number of sites by more than half, from 29,600 to 12,800 hits. Using quotation marks and the minus sign in combination greatly improves your search results.

Third - The use of the plus sign. The plus sign has the effect of instructing the search engine to give special emphasis to any word where the plus sign is against it. My

grandmother's father was Alexander MacDonald. However, not the Alexander MacDonald who was prime minister of Canada. Using the search term [Flora MacDonald -Scotland -Scottish -"North Carolina" -NC +"Alexander MacDonald" -Canada] gives me 1 hit that directs me to a site about my grandmother. Here we have combined quotation marks with the minus sign and the plus sign

Fourth - The site search. Let's say that I would like to find Alexander MacDonald, however, I only want to search a particular domain. I would simply use the search phrase ["Alexander MacDonald" site:rootsweb.com]. Rather than thousands of hits I get 204. Similarly, you could put a minus sign in front of rootsweb.com so that it searches all domains except Rootsweb.

Fifth - The intitle search term. Suppose that you would like to find every site on the Web with the word genealogy in the title. The search box would need the term [intitle:genealogy], which would result in 943,000 hits. Similarly, use the term [intitle:genealogy -site:ancestry.com] and you eliminate 3000 sites related to ancestry.com. One more: try using the term [intitle:genealogy -site:.com] which will have the effect of eliminating all domains with the .com extension (commercial sites).

Sixth - The related search term: If you like to know which sites are similar to your own then use the term as follows: [related:USGenWeb.org]. Results will vary with Google providing 31 similar sites and Yahoo serving up 35,000 related sites.

Nearly all of these terms will work in most search engines. If you'd rather not type in the shorthand for many of these tips, the search engines will typically have an advanced search page which will do essentially the same thing. Try: http://www.google.com/advanced_search?hl=en Good hunting! Source: USGenWeb Project News; Vol. 2; Number 5; September 2005. Reprinted with permission.

If you need a copy of an obituary or an article from any extant Missouri newspaper, please let the society know because a member plans to be at the Missouri Newspaper Archives in March. Please provide the following on a full sheet of paper: the nature of the article (i.e., obituary, marriage, family event, etc.), the full date of the event, or at least the month and year, and the Missouri town for the newspaper. A search for the article will be made as time permits. Microfilm is filed by town at the Archives, so providing this information is essential; you can look up the town in the newspaper index book which is located on top of the microfilm cabinet in the Nevada Genealogy Dept. Cost will be \$1 for each page printed. Mail, email, or hand deliver to the addresses at the top of the newsletter.

If you are a "long-distance" member, please provide the event date and location – we will look up the town and newspaper if you do not have that information.

Monthly Meetings

Monthly meetings of the Tri-County Genealogical Society (Vernon-Cedar-St. Clair Counties of Missouri) are held the second Saturday of each month and begin at 10 a.m. They are alternately held at Nevada and El Dorado Springs at the following locations:

Nevada Public Library Meeting Room, 218 West Walnut, Nevada (enter at South side of building). On Saturdays, there is not a 2-hr parking limit on the streets.

El Dorado Springs Church of Christ Fellowship Hall, 302 East Hospital Road, El Dorado Springs. Carpooling from the Nevada Library to the El Dorado Springs meeting is usually available; contact the society of TriCountyGenealogy@starband.net to confirm.

All meetings are open to the public and visitors are always welcome!

Membership in the Society is currently at about 70, and we use nametags at monthly meetings to help everyone get acquainted. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in family history research. Annual dues are \$10 for an individual membership (+\$5 for each additional member within the same household up to \$25 maximum), \$5 for a Student, or \$100 Lifetime, per person. We would be pleased to have you join the local society if you are not already a member, and you can do so at our next meeting or by sending a check to Tri-County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box B, Nevada, MO 64772. 2007 Society officers are:

President:
Vice President:
Secretary:
Treasurer:
Corresponding Secretary:

You received this monthly newsletter because you are a member of the Society, have indicated an interest in our organization, or represent an area genealogy group. If you do not want to receive this email newsletter in the future, please contact the society at TriCountyGenealogy@starband.net and request that your name be removed from the email list.

*You are cordially invited to support the work of the
Tri-County Genealogical Society with an annual membership.*

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