



Nevada Library and
Bushwhacker Museum

Tri-County Genealogical Society
(Vernon-Cedar-St. Clair Counties)
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Vernon County Courthouse
Nevada, Missouri

NewsLetter

July 2008

My Mother Rode an Orphan Train to Missouri

Rita Wagner, Guest Speaker
August 9, 2008, 10 a.m.

Church of Christ Fellowship Hall
302 E. Hospital Rd, El Dorado Springs, MO

More than 100,000 orphaned, abandoned, or neglected children were sent on 'orphan trains' from New York and Boston to the farming communities of the mid-west between 1853 and 1930. The dream was that America's Christian farmers would welcome the homeless children, give them work, and treat them as new sons and new daughters. This would remove the children from the streets and orphanages of the large cities. Many came on orphan trains to Missouri. The children were given to families, and no formal adoption was required. Many were taken in by good, kind and caring families. Some children were not as fortunate.

Rita Wagner's mother was an orphan train rider. Come hear Rita tell her mother's story and see the dress that her mother wore on her orphan train journey west. Rita has traveled to New York in search of information about her mother and will share her story of that search.

The public is invited to the August 9 program, and there is no fee. Please email the Society if you have questions.

[Please see "A Young Horse Thief" newspaper article below. Note that he was an orphan from New York and that he was selected by the area farmer from pictures of the children.]

Reception to Honor Volunteers who worked on the Vernon Co. Circuit Court Records Project Friday, August 8, 10 a.m. Courtroom in Vernon County Courthouse

The Missouri State Archives Administrative Archivist John Korasick and State Archivist John Dougan will be in Nevada on August 8 to officially thank all of the many volunteers who helped with the Vernon County Circuit Court Records Project. A reception will be held August 8 at 10 a.m. in the Courtroom at the Nevada Courthouse to thank the volunteers. If you helped with this project at any time or in any way, we hope you will attend this special event to help celebrate the completion of our portion of the project.

Linda Myers, field archivist who coordinated and directed our project, will also be in attendance. Linda is presently preparing the index for the court records

Society Programs in 2008

The following excellent selection of programs has been arranged for the remainder of 2008:

Sep 13, Nevada: *The World Renowned Weltmer Institute of Nevada, Missouri*, by guest speaker Melissa Earll, premier Weltmer researcher and creator of the *Rediscover Nevada, MO!* website.

Oct 11, El Do: *My Family Came to Cedar County and We Lived in a Log Cabin*, by Dale Goodman, local historian, author, and member of the Cedar County Historical Society.

Nov 8, Nevada: *What to Look for and Where to Look when the Research gets Difficult*, by Helen Lodge, noted local genealogist and speaker.

Dec 13, El Do: Election and Installation of Officers and Christmas Luncheon. Members are to bring a photo or historical item of interest to show and share highlights of their genealogy research.

Visitors and guests are always welcome at genealogy meetings and programs.

Researching in the Missouri Death Certificates

Death Certificates (DC) were required in Missouri beginning in 1910. Those which are now at least 50 years old are available on the internet on the Missouri State Archives website.

Robyn Burnett, State Archives Reference Archivist who spoke at our July meeting, explained that we can submit corrections (i.e., mis-transcription of name; link to incorrect DC, etc.) for the DC Index to the State Archives. She also said that all DC images have been placed online and that if you receive a message to "Request Photocopy," there is a technical problem that needs to be corrected. If you cannot access an image and have tried a couple of times, please also report that. When reporting a problem/correction, please include the following information:

Name (as spelled in index):

Date of Death:

County:

DC Number:

What the problem/corrected information is

If you would rather not submit information yourself, you can forward the above information to the Tri-County Genealogical Society and it will be forwarded to the State Archives for correction. **Please note that all Vernon and Cedar county DCs which have the notation "Request Photocopy" have been submitted for correction just this week.** As you research other counties, please take time

to note and submit a correction to help other researchers.

There are 20,691 Vernon County Death Certificates and 6,690 Cedar County Death Certificates currently available online.

Who are YOU Researching?

Members are invited to submit their name and contact information (email and/or mailing address) and surnames being researched in this region with details such as location, years, pictures, etc. Others may be researching the same family, and this will enable researchers to contact each other and share information if they desire to do so.

Luella Phipps and her brother Merl's research includes the LONGACRE family of Vernon County. If you research this family and have additional details to share, please contact Luella and Merl at 307 S. Belisle, El Dorado Springs, MO 64664. The following is a family letter which Merl has previously transcribed. It is from David M. & Delilah (Majors) Longacre. David Longacre was the son of Benjamin, Jr., and Judith (Perkins) Longacre. (Spelling and punctuation were corrected in the transcription for readability.)

Cass County, Mo.

March the 21th 1858

Dear Cousins

It is with pleasure I embrace the present opportunity of writing you a few lines to inform you that we are all well. The [family] connection is all well and hope these lines may find you all well and doing well. We have had the prettiest and warmest winter I ever saw in any country. There was but one snow. Barely enough to track anything and that was only about four inches deep and lay on the ground about ten days and there was but very few days but what a man could do any kind of work he wanted to. The corn was injured in this country by the frost and that made bread corn somewhat scarce and it sells for \$2 per barrel and corn to feed on \$1.50, pork was \$4 per hundred, cows and calves is selling at \$20 a piece and a yoke of steers from \$60 to \$90.

Horses are in the same proportion. I have bought 120 acres of land, the place where Peter Majors lived when you left here. I gave 1,000 dollars for the one hundred and twenty acres and put my 2 mules in at three hundred dollars and you know that leaves me seven hundred dollars in debt and I am offering to sell again to get out of debt and if I sell I know not where I will go for there is no land in this country that I can get that I will live on. I asked ten dollars per acre and expect to get it soon. Dock King has sold the prairie that I let him have for fifteen dollars per acre and twenty acres in building the house and grove at fifty dollars per acre. Mumford Smith has sold Sam Perrine's old place for twelve and a half dollars per acre. I know of nothing else that I think will interest you.

J. B. Chapman was in the settlement last Friday night a duck hunting. They was all well. I want you to write to me as soon as you get this and let me know where you are living and how you are doing and where John J. Bradshaw is and Ishmel Lee and Aunt Polly Lee. Tell Maldrene(?) Lee that when I got tired of Kansas I had not time to send for him to help a way for I left with a come quick. I was in this settlement when the Miami Indians took their Reserve and they took my place and I wanted to make a crop and it was too late in the spring to settle another place and so rented a place before I went home. I got home on Thursday night and started to move the next Monday(??) us dead. Fail not to write to me as soon as you get this and let me know all about the old neighbors in that country. So farewell.

D. M. and Delila Longacre

To Jackson and Lucinda Vickers and
Madison and Rhoda Vickers

Cedar County Probate Files Project

The Cedar Co. Probate Project is about one-third complete. Additional help is needed, and you do not have to be a Tri-County Genealogical Society member to volunteer. If

you can help, please contact the society and you will be put in touch with one of our members to coordinate your volunteer work.

Resources in Nevada Library

The following Bourbon County, Kansas cemetery directories have been obtained from the Old Fort Genealogical Society of Southeastern Kansas and will be available in the Genealogy Department:

Barnesville Cemetery
Chapel Grove Cemetery
Clarksburg Cemetery
Evergreen Cemetery with updates through June 2005 (includes Pine Lawn (Jewish) Cemetery)
Large/Pleasant View Cemetery
Maple Grove Cemetery
Memory Gardens Cemetery
Oak Grove Cemetery
Saint Mary's Cemetery
Seldom Used/Abandoned Cemeteries
West Liberty Cemetery

James Longstreth has provided a copy of his compiled research, "The LONGSTRETH Family in America. A History, Records and Memorabilia Collection on CD" (Second Edition, 2008).

"FULL JUSTICE" The Story of Richard Gentry and his Missouri Volunteers in the Seminole War. (A Long-Forgotten Episode of Missouri History) by William Richard Gentry, Junior (great-grandson). 1937.

"Metz High School Alumni Association Newsletters." 2005-present. By Metz High School Alumni Assoc.

The First Three Generations of John SUMMERS of Prince George's County, Maryland by Rosemary B. Dodd and Helen Summers Holweck.

If you have resources to donate or suggestions on resources to purchase for either the El Dorado Springs or Nevada libraries, please contact the Society.

Items of Interest from Area Newspapers

AN AERIAL DISASTER.

Fearful Descent and Probable Fatal Injury of a Plucky Aeronaut.

NEVADA, MO., Sept. 19.—When Prof. J. Brice, the aeronaut, was about 1,000 feet above the Fair Grounds yesterday the balloon burst on one side and began descending with great rapidity. The wind suddenly refilled the balloon and its downward rush was retarded. While the fearful descent was being made Brice stood up straight on the bar, with a hand grasping each rope, and when the tree-tops were reached he caught the bar with his hands and hung from it. When near the ground he swung himself clear from the wreck, landing on his feet, but the force of the fall doubled his legs up and he fell upon the lower part of his back, which seems to have been seriously injured. Brice was married only a few weeks ago. He was an accomplished aeronaut. During the excitement attending the accident a man named Henry Moorehouse was badly injured by falling from a fence during the rush for the spot where the balloon fell.

*Missouri Statesman, Columbia, Missouri
October 3, 1884, page 5.*

The sheriff of Vernon county, Missouri, passed through the city [Fort Scott, KS] on Friday with three horse thieves arrested at Kansas City for stealing horses near Nevada, Mo. Two of the offenders named Baily and Cain have figured often and extensively in the Police Courts here, and they are now prominent candidates for situations at Jefferson City, Mo.

*Fort Scott Monitor, Fort Scott, Kansas
Sunday, April 1, 1877, page 4.*

It was reported that three horse thieves, Kane and comrades, were hung in Missouri while on their way to Nevada.

Fort Scott Monitor, Fort Scott, Kansas

JAIL BREAKERS.

Two Prisoners Who Picked a Hole in the Wall.

During the recent cold weather it has been Sheriff Hill's custom to allow the prisoners in the jail to leave the iron cage to warm themselves at the stove. This exercise of humanity, was a pearl thrown before swine.

Last night the sheriff was attending a meeting at the courthouse and during his absence two of the prisoners picked the mortar away from one of the stones in the wall, and pulling it out made their escape. A poker was used in breaking the mortar, and it was then used as a lever to pry the rock out. When the stone protruded a few inches, the men pulled it out and let it down to the floor in a blanket.

The two men who escaped were from Bates and were kept here on account of the bad condition of the jail at Butler.

John Nortman is probably the man who managed the escape. He is rather a shrewd fellow, and a very bad character. He is charged with the theft of a trunk. His age is about 30 years; he is about 5 feet 8 inches in height and has dark hair and eyes. He wore light jeans pants and coat, and a black hat.

J. E. Wadkins, the other fugitive, is about 21 years old; 5 feet 9 inches in height; dark hair and large full dark eyes. He had a well worn overcoat and black hat. He is charged with forgery. Both men wore boots.

The escape was discovered soon after it was made, and Sheriff Hill, Prosecuting Attorney Blanton, Constable Traylor and others immediately started in pursuit.

The three gentlemen named above went together and traveled toward the Iron Bridge. Soon after leaving town the Sheriff left his companions and walked across the fields. When Messers. Blanton and Traylor reached the school house a mile northwest of town, one of them suggested that in just such a place as the little building their men would be

found. Then they dismounted from their horses and rapped at the door. A slight noise was heard on the inside, but there was no answer. The officers called once or twice and then Mr. Blanton threw his weight against the door and forced it open. There were two men in the room. The officers drew their revolvers and commanded the men to throw up their arms. They were not long in doing it.

The captors had no doubt that the two men whom they had arrested were the jail birds, but Sheriff Hill soon arrived and dispelled the illusion. They were strangers, and of that order of beings known as the common tramp. They had built a fire and were quietly enjoying their comfortable quarters.

Late in the night the officers returned to the city without finding any trace of the fugitives.

This morning while coming from his home in Moundville to Nevada, Joshua Whitesides met a man answering the description of Norman. The man was walking very rapidly, and did not raise his head to speak to Mr. Whitesides or John Zilliox who also met him.

Sheriff Hill has offered a reward of \$50 for the capture of both jail-breakers or \$25 for either.

*The Nevada Daily Mail, Nevada, Missouri
January 27, 1885.*

A YOUNG HORSE THIEF. He Steals From the Man Who Befriended Him.

Harrison Hayner was brought here yesterday by Squire Terrill of Blue Mound township and incarcerated in the county jail.

Hayner is a boy not much over 15 years of age, who has been appropriating another man's horse.

About 4 years ago Mr. Still, one of the best citizens of Blue Mound took young Hayner from an orphan's home in New York. It is said that he selected him from a number of others by a comparison of their photographs.

Mr. and Mrs. Still have been very kind to the boy, too kind the neighbors say, and their indulgence has been repaid by ingratitude.

The wayward young fellow has made several attempts to run away, and it is probable that Mr. and Mrs. Still would have done the best thing for themselves if they had permitted him to remain away instead of bringing him back.

On the nineteenth of last March, a horse was taken from Mr. Still, but the next day it came home dragging a halter.

Last Monday the same horse was missing and after a vigorous search was found on the Dedrick place tied to a tree in the orchard.

It was presumed that Hayner had hitched the animal there, during Sunday night, expecting to leave with him the ensuing night. He was accused of the theft and after confessing it, stated that he had been employed by John Skinner to steal the horse and was to be paid five dollars for the job.

"Skinner has been at work for me for sometime," said John Collett "and I have found him perfectly reliable. He was arrested however, and after a jury trial was discharged. I am confident that Skinner did not meet Hayner at the time or place which was claimed."

*The Nevada Daily Mail, Nevada, Missouri.
Saturday, April 15, 1893, page 3.*

POOR FARM TO LET.

The Vernon County Poor Farm will be let for the ensuing year on the 9th day of February, 1885, the party renting to have the use of the team and farming tools belonging to the farm and one-half the increase of stock on the farm, and be paid by the week for boarding and caring for the paupers, and will be required to keep the farm fenced and buildings in repair, and to furnish good and wholesome provisions for the inmates of the Poor House. Or the farm will be let as heretofore, a salary paid to the overseer, and the county furnishing all provisions; parties can bid either or both ways.

The contract for medical attendance will be let at the same time, the physician receiving the contract will be required to visit the Poor House once per week, and to make extra

visits when in his judgment necessary, or when called by the overseer, and to report quarterly to the court as to condition of the Poor House and inmates, and be paid by the year for the whole service. Court reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

By order of the Court.

A. CUMMINS,

No163td

County Clerk

The Nevada Daily Mail, Nevada, Missouri.
Saturday, January 31, 1885, page 2.

Found A Giants Foot.

What is supposed to be the petrified foot of a giant was recently exhumed by Charles Baldrige, a coal miner at Dodson coal bank near Walker. In reference to the discovery the Walker Herald says: The foot measures 23 inches in length 20 inches in circumference at the instep. The great toe is 7 inches long the smallest one four inches. As we looked at that great pedal appendage, the effluvium peculiar to some feet seemed to pervade the air and numerous fanciful conjectures flitted through our mind. Perhaps that cold clammy thing had been the foot of some fond father, and may be he had taken great pleasure in elevating the coat tails of numerous young Alexanders. Perhaps it was the tiny foot of some reigning belle, and may be she had encased it in a silk stocking and a toe slipper a yard long, and perhaps it had reclined on a foot stool the size of a wagon box. But let this suffice. It is a perfect foot and our scientific men have inspected it with profound interest.

The Nevada Noticer, Nevada, Missouri.
December 4, 1890.

TURNED THE GUN ON HIM.

How Ed Williford Met His Death at Cripple Creek

It appears from a Cripple Creek dispatch that Ed E. Williford (formerly of Nevada, mention of which was made in Saturday's DAILY MAIL) was killed by his wife. It is alleged that she attempted suicide and when he interfered she turned the gun on him. The ball

took effect in the back of his head. Mrs. Williford is in jail. Some years ago Ed Williford conducted a restaurant on the North Side of the square in this city.

The Nevada Daily Mail, Nevada, Missouri.
Monday, February 12, 1900.

[The Saturday paper, unfortunately, had some torn pages and at least one page was not microfilmed – of course, the one page not microfilmed was that with the Williford article. The page in front of it was partially torn and the only other details that can be read from a portion of that article are that W. T. Thorp received a telegram the day before (Friday), the full name of the deceased was Edward Everett Williford, and that he had been murdered.]

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, 212 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 at tricountygenealogy@centurytel.net.

Tri-County Genealogical Society

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, 218 West Walnut Street, Nevada, MO 64772.

2007 Society officers are:

President: Neoma F

V. Pres: Janet J & Nancy T

Recording Sec: position open

Treasurer: Ray L

Corresponding Sec: Darlene L

You received this monthly newsletter notice 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 notice in the future, please contact the Society at tricountygenealogy@centurytel.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.*

Two Upcoming Dates to Remember:

August 8 – Reception for Volunteers - Nevada Courthouse Court Room

*August 9 – Monthly Meeting & Program - El Dorado Springs Church of
Christ Fellowship Hall*

Bring a Friend!