



Nevada Library and  
Bushwhacker Museum

**Tri-County Genealogical Society**  
(Vernon-Cedar-St. Clair Counties)  
c/o Nevada Public Library  
218 West Walnut Street  
Nevada, MO 64772  
[tricountygenealogy@centurytel.net](mailto:tricountygenealogy@centurytel.net)  
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~motcogs/>



Vernon County Courthouse  
Nevada, Missouri

# NEWSLETTER

## February 2009

**March 14, 2009 Meeting & Program**  
**Nevada Library Meeting Room**  
**212 W. Walnut St., Nevada, MO**  
***FREEDOM'S FRONTIER***  
***NATIONAL HERITAGE AREAS***

Terry Ramsey, Bushwhacker Museum coordinator, will explain the Freedom's Frontier initiative and how it pertains to Vernon and other border counties' Civil War stories. A tour of the Bushwhacker Museum will follow the program. There is no fee to attend this meeting and tour. Please note that the meeting will be held downstairs in the Bushwhacker Museum.

### 2009 Membership Dues

Don't let this be the last issues of the newsletter that you receive – send 2009 Tri-County Genealogical Society dues of only \$10. Membership support of the Society's work is appreciated. Thank you.

### 2009 Programs

The following programs are tentatively scheduled for 2009. Watch the newsletter and website for updated information or changes as programs are finalized.

**Apr 11, El Do:** *The Burning of Osceola Missouri.* Richard Sunderwirth, columnists for the *St. Clair Courier*, author, and historian will be guest speaker.

**May 9, Nevada:** Basic Genealogy Conference: "Start Here and Do This" for individuals who want to begin their family history research. Presented by Tri-County Genealogical Society members.

**Jun 13, El Do:** An American Soldier who served in Iraq will be our guest speaker.

**Jul 11, Nevada:**

**Aug 8, El Do:** How to Prepare for a Research Trip to the Midwest Genealogy Center in Independence, MO. Guest speaker.

**Sep 12, Nevada:** Trip to the new Midwest Genealogy Center, Independence, MO.

**Oct 10, El Do:** Basic Genealogy Conference: "Start Here and Do This" for individuals who want to learn how to begin their family history research. Presented by Tri-County Genealogical Society members.

**Nov 14, Nevada:** Computer Genealogy Research. Seminar presented by Helen Lodge. Meeting location: Cottey College Computer Lab.

**Dec 12, El Do:** Members are invited to bring 5-10 copies of a documented brick-wall research problem to be discussed. Election and Installation of Officers and Christmas Luncheon.

### Website Information

[www.rootsweb.com/~motcogs/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~motcogs/)

To find previous issues of the Tri-County Genealogical Society newsletters on our website, click on the **Contact Us** button at the top of one of the web pages. Near the bottom of that page, you will see: "Previous issues of our newsletter: **Click here.**" Although not all prior issues are available, those for 2007 and 2008 are. All information contained in the newsletters is included when using the FreeFind search function on the Home page. Some indexes on our website must be viewed manually because

they are not included in the search function. They are so noted on the Genealogy Dept page.

The Tri-County website is completely searchable using Google search. Be sure to add Vernon County Missouri in the search field with your key words.

### New Resources Purchased

**Fire and Sword: A Missouri County in the Civil War** by Patrick Brophy has been purchased by the Society and copies placed in the Nevada Library Genealogy Dept and the El Dorado Springs Library.

### Indexing Records

We have got the details worked out and will schedule training in March for volunteers who would like to help index marriage records. Volunteers can work on either Vernon or Cedar County records. We hope to have training on two different days to accommodate everyone's schedules. Please email [TriCountyGenealogy@centurytel.net](mailto:TriCountyGenealogy@centurytel.net) if you would like to help with this project.

***Sign up now to help!***

### Cedar County, Missouri Probate Records

The project of processing Cedar County Probate Records continues with dedicated volunteers. It is noted that of the files processed, only three were from the late 1840s. Having these records indexed and filmed will make them much easier to research. **Thank you** to the wonderful volunteers working on this project!

### FamilySearch Update: 6 million New Indexed Records & 1.4 Million New Images Since January 5, 2009

The following article is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright by Richard W. Eastman. It is re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at <http://www.eogn.com>. (You may want to subscribe to the free newsletter.)

The following was written by FamilySearch:

Familysearch added over 6 million new indexed records and 1.4 million new images since January 5, 2009, to its Record Search pilot (see chart below).

The West Virginia birth, marriage, and death records, and the South Dakota state censuses for 1915 and 1925 are now complete. Many thanks to the thousands of online FamilySearch Indexing volunteers who helped make these wonderful records available. See the chart below for more details. The new records can be searched for free at FamilySearch.org (Click Search Records, then Record Search pilot).

Record Search visitors might also notice the following changes to the pilot site after the latest update.

1. Region map flyover now lists the number of collections in a region
2. Rotate an image clockwise or counter-clockwise in the viewer
3. New full screen view in the image viewer
4. Search form now displays the collection being searched
5. Image navigation- moved previous, next & go to buttons to the bottom of the page
6. Collection list page is now a single column
7. Image only collections are identified
8. Changes to print selected area

Collection Name	Indexed Records	Digital Images	Comments
1920 US Census	3,652,688	77,119	Added Calif.
1915 SD Census	613,769	613,769	New & complete
1925 SD Census	705,319	705,285	New & complete
Wva. Births	68,391		Updated – 3 new indexed counties (Brooke, Kanawha, & Upshur). Collection should now be complete.
Wva. Deaths	184,426		Updated – 3 new indexed counties (Brooke, Kanawha, & Upshur). Collection should now be complete.
Wva. Marriages	275,877		Updated – 3 new indexed counties (Brooke, Kanawha, & Upshur). Collection should now be complete.
Ill., Cook Co Birth Certificates	924,602	910,059	New
Ill., Cook Co Birth Registers	63,933	1,844	New

To go directly to the search page: <http://pilot.familysearch.org/recordsearch/start.html#start>

**Browse the Digital Collections  
at the Library of Congress**

Thousands of resources are now online at the Library of Congress website. Browse the collections beginning at this address:

<http://www.loc.gov/library/libarch-digital.html>

**Items of Interest from Area Newspapers**

[The below newspaper articles were transcribed by society members.]

**JUDGE LYNCH**

**HOLDS COURT IN LAMAR**

**Swift Punishment for a Terrible Crime.**

**The Murderer of Mrs. Joseph Goodley and Her Little Boy Meets His Death at the Hands of a Vigilance Committee.**

**Peace and Quiet Reign, Notwithstanding 1,000 People Were Present.**

**No Noise or Drunkenness in the Crowd.**

**A STATEMENT OF THE CRIME.**

**THE HISTORY OF THE LYNCHING**

**THE CORONER'S INQUEST.**

[Excerpts from lengthy detailed articles regarding the Sunday, January 17, 1892 gruesome murder of Mrs. Goodley and her son by Robert Hepler at Kenoma, south of Lamar in Barton County, Missouri.]

"On Monday evening, Sheriff Garrett, fearing that the enraged people of Kenoma would attempt to lynch his prisoner, Helper, he conveyed him to the Missouri Pacific depot in a closed cab, and took him to Nevada, and placed him in jail. Since then he has endeavored to commit suicide in his cell by hanging himself. He tried to do this in the Lamar jail, on Monday last, before he was moved away. The prisoner is still at Nevada, and under a close watch. ..."

**The Lamar Democrat, Lamar, Missouri  
Thursday, January 21, 1892.**

"At 7 o'clock p.m. on Friday, January 22nd, 150 determined sober men went to Nevada and marched directly to the jail. The officers, among them Sheriff Garrett, were taken by surprise. An attempt was made to hide the prisoner in a smoke house, back of the jail, but some one saw him, and in a few moments, the crowd started with the prisoner for the depot. Not a shot had been

fired, scarcely an unkind word had been said. The crowd was orderly and well behaved. An attempt was made by the authorities of Vernon county to recapture the prisoner. The militia was called out, but when they arrived at the depot they learned that the prisoner had been taken to Nassau Junction. The rescuing party then went to Nassau Junction, but the prisoner had been taken to Milo. When the midnight train reached Milo, the prisoner and his guards boarded the train for Lamar. Telegrams announcing these facts had been received by the officers here [Lamar], and fully 500 people had assembled at the depot to note the result. The prisoner was near the front of the crowd, who quietly walked up Pacific street to the northwest corner of the square, and then turned south, as if to go to the Gulf depot, but after going south a few blocks, the crowd right about faced and on arriving at the court house square, entered the west gate and went to an elm tree near the northeast corner of the square..."

[Nassau Junction is located southeast of Nevada (west of Camp Clark), at the junction of railroad tracks to Moundville and tracks to Milo.]

-----

**Crime In Vernon County.**

NEVADA, MO., Sept. 16, 1877.

EDITOR TRIBUNE:--It will be remembered but a short time ago the Sheriff of this county killed one Boisey in attempting to arrest him on a charge from Allen county, Kansas. On last week the Sheriff of Allen county, Kansas, came over to see our Sheriff, and gave him papers to arrest one George Walton, indicted for incest. Walter has practiced his hellish crime upon his own daughter for eighteen months, and when discovered fled to our county to evade the law of his own State. Sheriff McGinnis found Walton in the neighborhood of Clayton, in the western part of the county, and made the arrest without any trouble, as he knew the Sheriff's reputation for shooting. The Sheriff of Allen county, Kansas, received his

prisoner and started back with him on the night train.

#### ON THE SHOOT.

This morning the Constable of Walker, a station on the M. K. & T. Road, 8 miles east of this place, brought to the jail a man named Lon Porter, charged with assault with intent to kill. Porter is a painter by trade, and resides in Walker. He has a wife. He spends the most of his time in this place. This morning he went out to Walker from here, and when arriving at home his wife told him that one Bryant Thornhill, a cattle dealer of Walker, had made improper proposals to her. Porter armed himself with a navy pistol and started on the hunt for his victims. He met Thornhill at Edmond's drug store and told him what his wife said, drawing his pistol. Thornhill started to run, when Porter fired two shots at him without any fatal results. The Constable of Walker, C. L. Fulkerson, being near by, ordered Porter to desist, who refused, when the Constable covered him with his pistol and told him he would shoot him if he made any effort to resist. Porter then handed his pistol to his wife, who tried to shoot Thornhill. The general impression is that it was a trumped up charge against Thornhill.

When Porter was placed in jail, your correspondent went inside with the sheriff and learned the following: On yesterday Mr. McGinnis noticed that something was wrong; not saying anything, he took a position so he could see through a window and not be seen on the inside. He had not long to wait, for Bob Virgar, the road agent, went to work on the iron bars with a saw in the cage over the sewer of the jail. The sheriff went to the door and opened it and demanded the tool, but they were too quick and had hit it. He told them that they would receive nothing but water for a ration until he got possession of it. One of the weak ones squealed, and he found it in the bowl of the sewer. It had been made from a truss worn by one Jackson. The ring leaders he gave a hearty supper of water and locked them in their cell; repeated the ration this morning, but the "water was

good." We asked the birds for what their feathers were plucked? The nine responded as follows: Dan Edwards for stealing 40 acres of land by deeding it to parties in Kansas; Peter Doyl and Joe Everman for hanging Simson Nelson last spring; Bob and Bill Virgar for bull-doing Coyner two weeks ago out of \$30.00; old man Jackson for cohabiting with his step-daughter; Big John for converting his neighbors mules into; Joe Huffman for dealing with cattle without any capital invested, and Porter whose case I have given, constitute the happy family in our county jail.

The crops here are all the farmers could ask for. Thousands of bushels of flax and castor beans are being shipped daily. The largest acreage of what ever sown in this county is being put in this year. PAT

**The Daily Tribune, Jefferson City, Missouri  
Wednesday, September 19, 1877, page 1.**

#### SOUTHWESTERN NEWS.

On Tuesday night the north bound train on the Sedalia division of the M. K. & T. Railroad met with a serious accident at the bridge over the Osage, north of Schell City. The locomotive and tender broke through the bridge, carrying the engineer along, who was drowned, the fireman and engineer's son saving their lives by jumping. As a result the trains have been more irregular than usual, if such a thing is possible. *Nevada Criterion.*

**Springfield Express, Springfield, Missouri.  
November 4, 1881, page 2.**

For the Army Argus.

#### A NEW REGIMENT FOR THE SOUTH.

Capt. Emmet McDonald is now securing volunteers for a regiment of mounted men to support and act with the flying artillery in the service of the Confederate States of America. The term of service to commence immediately and end duly when the enemy is forced from every foot of soil that is sacred to a Southerner. The men will be mounted on fine horses of the best bloods of



Kentucky and Tennessee, and uniformed in the most splendid manner. Two companies will be armed with breach loading rifles and pistols. Two with double barrel shot guns and pistols; and two with double barrel shot guns and Polish Lancers. The regiment will be designated the "Saint Louis Legion," and will, when fully organized and complete, be the most efficient corps engaged in the service or the South. No man of disreputable (*sic*) character will be allowed to serve in this regiment. To those who wish to win fame for themselves, as well as render efficient aid to their country, we would say man the guns of the Saint Louis Legion and follow where leads our brave and gallant warrior, Gen. Sterling (*sic*) Price. X.

*The Missouri Army Argus, Camp Near Osceola, Missouri.*

Saturday, December 7, 1861.

### Society Receives Another 'Thank You'

Hello this morning

I recently received a [paid research] packet of information on the Yelton family. Was I ever surprised at how much you were able to send. It was greatly appreciated. Yes, I do have access to ancestry.com. I received a letter in the package from Darlene Lukenbill, and would like to thank her for all of her work and research. In that letter, she noted that you apparently have access to cemetery records. I am interested in finding the burial sites of my ancestors, in the hopes that maybe this coming summer I will be able to visit Mo. My main interest would be of Amelia Yelton Thomas and of Samuel Thomas, the name of the cemetery and any other cemetery records that might be available for genealogical purposes. Information on other Thomas and possible Yelton' family members that might be buried there, would be of interest too. Please let me know what the cost would be for this search and I will send a check immediately. Incidentally The death date for Samuel Thomas was 1882, according to family records and not 1872 as indicated in the news article. So,

Darlene is correct about that assumption. Again I, do thank all of you .

Sincerely, Marlene Versluis

Ed: And our 'thank you' to Darlene, also, for all of the research she does on behalf of the Society!

### 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 W. 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.

### Tri-County Genealogical Society

Membership in the Society is currently at about 75, 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. 2008 Society officers are:

President: Kathe Radar

V. Pres: Gayle Teague & Neoma Foreman

Recording Secy: Janet Jones

Treasurer: Ray Lukenbill

Corresponding Secy: Darlene Lukenbill

***We hope you have enjoyed reading the Tri-County Genealogical Society's newsletter.  
You are cordially invited to support the work of the Society with an annual  
membership. \$10 dues can be paid at this time.***