



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
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~motcogs/>



Vernon County Courthouse
Nevada, Missouri

NEWSLETTER

May 2009

June 13, 2009 Meeting & Program
302 E Hospital Rd, El Dorado Springs, MO
"FLAG DAY PROGRAM BY
IRAQ WAR VETERAN ROGER FLOYD"

The genealogy society's June 13 meeting will feature a special Flag Day 2009 program to honor our flag and all veterans who have fought for the freedoms our flag represents. The public is invited to hear Roger Floyd, a 22-year Army National Guard veteran, tell about some of his experiences in the Guard and while serving in Iraq. Floyd's program will include a slide show, and items from Iraq will be on display. There will be opportunity for questions and answers, and further visiting with Floyd following the program.

This will be a very interesting program, and everyone is encouraged to invite a neighbor or friend to attend. There is no fee. If you have questions about this program, please email the society or call Gayle at 417-876-6340.

2009 Programs

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

Jul 11, Nevada: "Just the Basic Facts" presented by society member.

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

Sep 15, Nevada: Trip to the new Midwest Genealogy Center, Independence, MO.
PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS FIELD TRIP IS

SCHEDULED ON A TUESDAY RATHER THAN THE SECOND SATURDAY. THERE WILL NOT BE A SEP 12 MEETING.

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.

Seasonal Exhibit Featuring the Metz Community and Schools at Bushwhacker Museum

The Metz Alumni Assoc. has set up an exhibit at the Bushwhacker Museum in Nevada which features the town, schools, and community of Metz. Once a thriving town boasting 500+ residents and numerous businesses, Metz presently has about 41 residents and 3 businesses. Several historical pictures of the town, interesting facts about the community, and various school memorabilia and sports and academic trophies are on display through the end of October at the museum. The town of Metz was originally called Pleasant Valley and was located 1 1/4 miles east of the present location of the town. In 1829 the first white settlers in what is now Vernon County, located near the Osage River in

Metz Township. Open 10:00–4:00, Tue. through Sat., the Bushwhacker Museum is located 1/2 block off the northwest corner of the Nevada Square at 218 W. Walnut Street; adult admission is \$5. The Museum will be closed July 4th. For additional information about the museum and membership in the Vernon County Historical Society, please see their website at www.bushwhacker.org.

New Resources

"There Will be a Wreck! An Account of the 1904 World's Fair Missouri Pacific Train Wreck" by Lyndon Irwin has been placed in the Nevada Library Genealogy Dept. and in the El Dorado Springs Library.

Balltown Cemetery Search for Old Stones Sunday, June 28, 1:30 p.m.

Balltown Cemetery is the oldest cemetery in Vernon County with the first white adult settler's recorded burial being in 1834 as a result of wounds received during a skirmish with Indians. This burial is located in what is now commonly referred to as the "north section" of Balltown Cemetery. Restoration work has begun in this section of the cemetery, and grave markers are being repaired and reset.

Volunteers are needed to search for gravestones which have fallen over or sunken and now lie beneath the top few inches of soil and grass. The way this is done is to prod the top few inches of soil with a metal rod. When a stone is found it is then carefully uncovered and recorded. The stone will then be ready to be repaired and reset.

The work day will be held on **Sunday afternoon, June 28, beginning at 1:30 p.m.** to search for stones, and with enough volunteers, this can be done in one afternoon.

Volunteers are asked to come prepared with tick spray, mosquito spray, sunscreen lotion, straw hat, drinking water, and some type of metal rod or implement to use in searching for the buried stones.

Microfilming Bronaugh Journal

The State Historical Society Newspaper Archives is microfilming approximately 680 additional issues of the *Bronaugh Journal* newspaper, which were located a couple of years ago. The Tri-County Genealogical Society will obtain a copy of the microfilm for the Genealogy Dept.

Indexing Marriage Records

The project to index Vernon Co Marriage Records from 1900-1950 is progressing thanks to our great volunteers, Gennie, Anna, Sybil, and Rosemary. The first two books have been input, and four books are presently in process. Cumulative indexes, each covering several years, will be printed once additional books have been input. Typing is from the original marriage record book at the Recorder's office at the Vernon County Courthouse. There are still some openings in the schedule if you would like to help - email TriCountyGenealogy@centurytel.net

The marriage indexes will be made available online so that researchers can then order a copy from the original record for only \$1 + self-addressed, stamped envelope from the Vernon County Recorder of Deeds. See specific instructions on ordering a copy of marriage records on our website at

www.rootsweb.com/~motcogs/research.htm

Cedar County, Missouri Probate Records

Volunteers continue working weekly on the Cedar County Probate Records and have completed more than half of the records. If you are researching Cedar Co. ancestors, this project is sure to help you! Our thanks to the great volunteers working in Stockton on this.

Free Photo Editing Software Picasa at Google

Google, the internet search engine that so many of us use, now offers free photo editing software. This is great for genealogists and something you will want to check out if you would like to edit or touch-up photos! The website is

<http://picasa.google.com/> Our thanks to our member Gayle for this information.

Items of Interest from Area Newspapers

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

A MIDNIGHT BLAZE

Ice House Destroyed by Fire Tuesday Night.

A few minutes before 12 o'clock Tuesday night fire broke out in the old ice house, located on the rear end of the lot just south of Morrison's restaurant. The blaze was discovered by Dr. C. W. Musser, who was on the way from his office to the Commercial Hotel. The alarm was given by telephone and the M. E. church bell aroused many.

The fire, fed by a quantity of straw in the building, gained such rapid headway that the only thing to do was to give attention to nearby property. Morrison's restaurant building was in great danger, but with a bucket brigade that rendered splendid service and a wind from the southeast it was saved. But windows in the rear end of the building were broken and the wood work was considerably scorched.

The flames spread to Mr. Morrison's poultry house and storage shed. Most of the poultry escaped. A small structure used by L. A. Robinson as a storage room for oils, paint, etc., was next for the flames and it burned rapidly. The Noah Cox store building caught fire a number of times, but prompt work saved it.

The ice house was the property of Miles Hutchinson. It was built several years ago at a cost of \$350. It was insured for \$200. W. G. Morrison's loss was in the neighborhood of \$100, with no insurance, and L. A. Robinson's loss was about \$25.

During the progress of the fire a small tent in C. C. Jennings' yard, more than a block away, caught from sparks and burned

rapidly. It had been erected by boys as a playhouse.

The Metz Times, Metz, Missouri.
Friday, April 4, 1913, page 1.

MORE LYNCHING.

One Tom Box, an ex-convict and a horse thief of Cedar county, was caught by a vigilance committee of that county a few days ago with two fine farm horses in his possession, making off south with them, and hung near Clintonville. Thus the county is rid of a horse thief, but her citizens are guilty of the blood of the man, that is, those of them who constituted themselves judges, jurors, and executioners, in his case. After the Kesaler affair in Callaway, we had hoped that the universal denunciations of mob law, with which the papers of every shade of politics abounded, would have impressed the public mind with a sacred regard for law and order; and that we should hear no more of lynch law for horse stealing, or for anything else. The laws of the lands have provided ample punishment for all kinds of crime, and as we value the safety and protection of law, every citizen should see to it that it shall have its fair application in all cases. Our statutes provide for the hanging of men who unjustifiably take the lives of their fellow men. We approve of this, and agree to come personally within its operation; and as we would be dealt with for any violation of our part on of the law and so we should be willing to see all other men dealt with in the same manner. Bad men have rights under the law, as well as good men, and a crime which has been adjudged worthy of the Penitentiary, by the law, can never with safety be punished with death, by the outraged parties. A judge of the Court would be impeached and degraded, if in a momentary fit of passion or resentment, he

should sentence a horse thief for a single day longer than the largest term mentioned by law, as a punishment for that offense. So it is risking too much for citizens of a county, although they may operate under thick disguises, and be convinced that public sentiment will justify them, to deliberately commit an act which, if proven upon them at any time, would consign them to the gallows. The friendships of this world are of so unstable a character that men combined together for the perpetration of high handed lawlessness, under cover of masks and darkness, have no assurance that in the future some one of their number, for some real or fancied grievance, or for a reward in dollars and cents, will not hand them over to justice. It often happens that revenge becomes stronger than the common danger which hangs over violators of the law, and should bind them to secrecy for life, and the man is very foolish, who places himself in a condition of such tormenting apprehension for his personal safety, to say nothing of the troubles of conscience which cannot be escaped. A case within the last two years occurred in the Cole Circuit Court, of a man named Dawson, who killed a man in a row at Russellville eighteen or twenty years ago, under circumstances of great provocation. He fled to the State of Arkansas, and having lived there so long in perfectly security, was at last, for a reward of a few hundred dollars, arrested and brought back to this county, tried, convicted, and sentenced to the Penitentiary. It is no uncommon thing to read in newspapers of arrests of parties for offenses committed years and years ago. So that a man who has committed a crime, it would seem, cannot hide on the face of the earth so securely, that for money or revenge, he will not be discovered. The young men who were identified as having taken part in

the Kesaler tragedy, are now and will continue to be refugees from home, and kindred and friends; and as long as they elude arrest, will see in every strange face they meet, a detective on their track; bearing a double load all the time of remorse and distrust. The people of Missouri have become heartily sick and tired of such mob violence, and the disposition to hunt down those who engage in it, manifestly is growing with every recurrence of such scenes. It is a far more hazardous experiment now than it was once in Missouri. Offenders may escape for a season, but a large standing reward is sure, sooner or later, to be claimed by somebody for their arrest.

*People's Tribune, Jefferson City, MO.
November 5, 1873, page 2, col. 4.*

**THAT NEW BANK [IN METZ]
Probability that it will be Organized.**

The new bank proposition is still alive, but what is being done is not made public. It is learned from a reliable source, however, that those who are behind the enterprise are still pushing and expect to see the new bank doing business within a few months. It is said that the capital stock will be \$10,000, and not \$20,000 as stated in the TIMES a couple of weeks ago. It is also said that \$7,100 of the stock has been sold. Purchasers for the balance can be found by going to the cities, but it is the desire of the promoters to interest home people.

*The Metz Times, Metz, Missouri
Friday, March 28, 1913, page 1.*

**Summer Fresh and
Best Choice UPC Labels**

The Tri-County Genealogical Society continues to collect Best Choice brand UPC product labels and Summer Fresh Grocery Store receipts. Bring them to any monthly meeting. These are redeemed for cash.

History Goes Digital at the Library of Congress

The Library of Congress, the world's largest library, has begun placing some of its collection online through a digitization project to enable more people to have access to the materials. Approximately 25,000 books which are at least 75 years old (out of copyright) are already available to read or download. Maps, photographs, and other materials will also be available. Some of these materials have genealogical significance and may be of interest to you. The website is <http://archive.org/details/texts>

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, and \$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. 2009 Society officers are:

President: Kathe Rader

V. Pres: Gayle Teague & Neoma Foreman

Recording Secy: Janet Jones

Treasurer: Ray Lukenbill

Corresponding Secy: Darlene Lukenbill

You are cordially invited to support the work of the Society with an annual membership of \$10.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Tri-County Genealogical Society
218 W. Walnut St.
Nevada, MO 64772