



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

## June 2009

**July 11, 2009 Meeting & Program**  
**Nevada Library Meeting Room**  
**212 W. Walnut Street, Nevada, MO**  
**"JUST THE FACTS, MA'AM"**  
**BY SOCIETY MEMBER**

Society members will present a program on conducting research for "just the facts." This will include finding birth, marriage, and death records and using the U.S. Federal and State Censuses to locate a family. Information on lineage societies will be distributed. A handout will be provided to those in attendance.

This will be a back-to-basics program on researching one's family history to find documentation of the basic facts of birth, marriage, and death. Open to the public; there is no fee. Invite a neighbor or friend to attend also. If you have questions about this program, please email the society.

### 2009 Programs

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

**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.

**THIS EVENT CANCELLED DUE TO EXTREMELY HOT WEATHER**

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

This event will be rescheduled when the weather is milder.

### New Resources in Genealogy Dept.

Society member Albert Powers has donated a copy of his genealogy research on the Madison M. WALKER family that lived in the Schell City, Vernon County, MO area. Thank you, Albert!

Early American Roads and Trails by Beverly Whitaker has been donated by Helen Lodge. Studying these early routes can help determine where your ancestors came from. Thank you, Helen!

### Member's Research

Members Ruth Mische and society members recently went on a field trip to clean and photograph the gravestone of Jane (Copeland) Barnett. Ruth is researching the Copeland family side. Our thanks to the

previous assistance of member Richard Johnson who had discovered that Jane Barnett was buried in the Howell Cemetery in Barton Co., MO. This cemetery is located about three miles south of Milford, MO.

Jane Copeland, the daughter of Joseph and Martha (Nipper) Copeland, was born 18 June 1849. In the 1850 Census, the family



Ruth Mische balances the top portion of the broken Jane Barnett gravestone for a picture in Howell Cemetery, Barton Co, MO.

was living in Jackson Township, Osage Co, MO. In the 1860 Census, the Joseph Copeland family was living in Drywood Township, Vernon Co., MO.

Francis Marion Barnett was born about 1839 and was the son of James H. and Elizabeth 'Bessy' Harrison Barnett. (His brother's son, William Polk Barnett, married Maria Theresa Caroline Caton, daughter of Hugh McDermid and Nancy Ann (Harvey) Caton.) Francis Marion Barnett married Jane Copeland 12 Nov 1874 in Vernon Co., MO (Marriage Bk. A,

p. 342). This was the third marriage for Francis Barnett. His first two wives, Elizabeth Perrine and Susan Perrine, sisters, having died.

The tablet-style gravestone is broken through the word "died." After washing the two pieces as best they could, the top piece was balanced on the lower portion in order to obtain photographs. Additional pictures can be seen on the Society's website at [www.rootsweb.com/~motcogs/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~motcogs/).

### Items of Interest from Area Newspapers

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

#### **THE CYCLONE AT CISCO. Judge David Redfield Writes of Its Fury. Instances of its Terrible Power and Some of Its Queer Pranks.**

There are but few of us who do not feel a deep interest in the details of a great storm, especially when narrated by an eye witness.

The disastrous tornado at Cisco, Texas, which practically devastated the town, was of peculiar interest to the people of this section by reason of the fact that several former citizens of Vernon were involved in the general ruin.

Of the terrible experience, Judge David Redfield, who was at one time a member of the Vernon county court, writes to his brother-in-law, William Requa of this place:

"While sitting with the family out on our front porch, clouds gathered and continual flashes of lightning disturbed us some, though we had no suspicion of danger. At 9 p.m. a flash of lightning was so vivid it blinded us and we expected to hear a tremendous roar of thunder but none came. We retired into the house. Soon the glass in our windows began to break. I felt seriously alarmed, and we all huddled together in one room. A sudden quivering, a terrible crash and it was all over—not lasting over two minutes. I saw my house was jostled a little but judge of my surprise on opening the door to see the house opposite me down. I knew then that we had been in the whirl of a cyclone.

"I hastily went down town and found fire breaking out in one of our largest mercantile firms, and almost the entire business part of the town completely wrecked. The cries for help from the wounded and dying came from every quarter. Everything was wild excitement. Two drug stores, the rooms of which were not wrecked, were quickly filled with the dead and wounded.

"We commenced digging the people out from the debris. Mrs. Whitesides was calling

loudly for help. She and her daughter came out of their 2-story stone building badly hurt. Her son John, 12 years old, covered up deep, called out that he was all right if they were careful. We got the little fellow out finally but his father, about six feet distant was crushed beyond recognition. Mrs. Whitesides, formerly Thankful Ewell and a pupil of yours when you taught at Balltown is still in a critical condition.

"N. R. Wilson had his house and all his effects entirely blown away, but none of his family was injured. Mrs. Wilson is a sister to my good friend Fine Ewing, well known, in Vernon county. It leaves them in destitute circumstances, as their nice home had not entirely been paid for and he has but little means.

"The strange part is that there was not more killed—only 21 as yet buried. Not a single building escaped entirely. The buildings would seem to raise up and go off and the inmates follow. O. T. Maxwell laid down on his two children, catching the mattress on each side. The house went and he followed, whirled around awhile and finally lit without a scratch. One babe, 4 days old, blown from its mother's arms, was found some distance away, unhurt but very muddy. Two babies, only three days old were separated from parents and carried some distance and let down unhurt. It would take a volume to tell the peculiar antics of our cyclone.

"The loss is estimated at \$350,000. My individual loss is not over \$600 or \$700. My business building is very badly damaged.

"Contributions have been coming in grandly. The state remits one year's taxes and appropriates \$10,000. We had as donations to date, over \$33,000 besides provisions and clothing. Surrounding towns have sent in large numbers of free laborers who have gone into camp and it reminds one of war times. The whole thing is under the management of an executive committee, of which J. F. Patterson is president and I, vice-president.

"Our beautiful Presbyterian church, worth about \$1,500 was blown into kindling wood, as were all the other churches—Baptist, Methodist and Christian—and also both school houses.

"I must close and go to work. I begin early in the morning and quit at 11 or 12 o'clock at night.

*The Nevada Daily Mail, Nevada, Missouri  
Wednesday, May 10, 1893. 1:3.*

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**From the Far West.**

We are really apprehensive of serious difficulties arising between the settlers on the frontier and the Osages [Indians], it will be seen by the annexed letter from one of our correspondents in Jackson that a commencement has already been made. Blood has already been spilt, how the matter will end we have not the remotest idea, but we hope every thing from the promptness and efficiency of the U.S. Dragoons, they deserve credit for the celerity and dispatch which they have repaired to the scene of the conflict; the Indians we are informed are in a state of absolute starvation, but this is no reason why our citizens should suffer their families and themselves to be placed in the [unreadable] situation, by their robberies, something ought to be done for the Indians, if they are in the condition represented to us.

Independence Mo., March 18, 1938.

Messrs. Editors:--We learn from a gentleman who has just returned from Little Osage River that some 8 or 10 of the citizens of Bates County collected together a few days since for the purpose of removing a band of Osage Indians, say 20, who had been within the limits of the State for some time stealing and driving off the stock of the citizens. On reaching the Indians the party asked an Indian who seemed to be "solitary and alone," who it was that had been stealing the killing their stock, to which he replied, "I am the man, and I'll make some of you feel bad as soon as I load my Gun." The party waited until he was in the act of drawing out his gun-stick saying that he

would shoot, when one of them shot him down. The Indians then raised from their place of concealment and discharged their guns at the party, but we are happy to be able to state that none was killed, only two being wounded; one in the arm and one slightly in the body. After the Indians fired they retreated over a point, but were fired at by the party, and it is said they killed 6 or 7 Indians. An express was [sent] by their new agent, Dr. James, who arrived there the same day, forthwith despatched (*sic*) to Fort Leavenworth which reached there on the evening of the 16th inst., and next morning two Companies took up the line of march for the scene of action. It is said the Indians intend to fight.

Yours most obediently.

OSAGES.—We are informed that two additional companies of Dragoons have been sent for by express. We are extremely afraid that the Osages are determined to bring ruin on themselves and the people of the frontier, we are in anxious expectation of further news concerning them.

*The Missouri Argus, St. Louis, Missouri.*  
April 5, 1838, page 2

[Nathaniel Dodge, Jr., died on 23 Mar 1838 of his wound. His is the first recorded death and burial of a white settler in what is now Vernon County, Missouri; burial was in Balltown Cemetery.]

**FORTY YEARS OF  
HAPPY MARRIED LIFE.**

**Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Foland, Pioneers,  
Celebrated their Fortieth Wedding  
Anniversary on Yesterday.**

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Foland celebrated their fortieth wedding anniversary at their substantial home, six miles north of this city on Friday, the 5th inst. A number of their neighbors joined the family in celebrating the occasion. "Uncle Jake," as he is well and favorably known, and his estimable wife received the warmest congratulations. They are most worthy, substantial, plain yet noble

people, and have passed through experiences that tested their sterling worth.

It was indeed a happy occasion, not only to Uncle Jake and his wife but to their dear friends and neighbors. The day was spent in social reminiscences supplemented by a bountiful dinner. There was no elaborate preparations made for the anniversary, nevertheless it was a most happy occasion.

Mr. Foland was born in Rockingham county, Virginia, May 9, 1833. His wife, whose maiden name was Sarah E. Jones, was born in Scott county, Virginia, July 21, 1838. They were married in Jefferson county, Tennessee, February 5, 1857, by Thomas Hodges. They emigrated to Vernon county, Mo., in August following, residing here ever since. They have two living children, Esau and C. C. Foland.

At the anniversary yesterday Uncle Jake and wife received several very handsome presents, testimonials of the high esteem in which they are held. Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Anderson presented a silver sugar shell; Mr. and Mrs. John Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Seifker, Prof. and Mrs. Teel, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Debond a handsome rocker; Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Foland, set of silver spoons; Esau and C. C. Foland, handsome willow rocker; Ida W. Foland, silver butter knife; Floyd E. Foland, silver thimble; Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Teel, linen towels; Mr. and Mrs. John Teel, handsome picture.

Mr. Foland presented his wife with a handsome gold watch.

Among those present, were Mr. and Mrs. Robert Shields and daughter Myrtle, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Debond, Prof. and Mrs. Teel, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Seifker, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Teel, Mr. and Mrs. John Teel, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Foland and daughter Ruby and son Dewitt, Esau Foland, Mrs. Ida Foland and daughters Edna and Trixie, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Foland, Miss Ota Hamersley and Wm. McPeters.

All present and their friends everywhere, wish this venerable couple many more years of usefulness and happiness.

*The Nevada Daily Mail, Nevada, Missouri.*  
Saturday, February 6, 1897.

### **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 to purchase genealogy resources for our public libraries.

### **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

***Annual membership is only \$10 -- join today!***

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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218 W. Walnut St.  
Nevada, MO 64772