



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



Vernon County Courthouse
Nevada, Missouri

NEWSLETTER

October 2009

November 14, 2009 Program, 10 a.m.
Cottey College Computer Lab,
Rubie Burton Building, Room 109

COMPUTER GENEALOGY RESEARCH ***HELEN LODGE, GUEST INSTRUCTOR***

The November meeting will be a special 2-1/2-hour seminar focusing on using computers and the Internet in genealogy research. Sessions will include record-keeping programs such as RootsMagic or Family TreeMaker and effectively using Internet resources such as Ancestry, Family Search, Cyndi's List, and US Gen Web.

This hands-on computer workshop/seminar is open to all persons interested in family history research. It is suggested that attendees have a familiarity with computers and the internet to get maximum benefit from the workshop, but non-computer users are also welcome.

The program will be held in Room 109 of the Rubie Burton Bldg. on the Cottey College Campus. From U.S. 54 / W. Austin Blvd. at the east side of the campus, turn south onto South Chestnut Street. The Rubie Burton Building is immediately on your right. Parking is available in the lot south of the building. Directional signs will be in place from the parking lot into the building.

There will not be a business meeting at the November meeting to allow more time for the seminar. Attendees should plan on a late lunch. There is no fee to attend, and there is plenty of room. If questions, please email the society or contact Neoma at 417-465-2389.

2009 Programs

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

Dec 12, El Do: **Members are invited to submit a documented brick-wall research problem to be published in the November newsletter and brainstormed by the group in December**—let your fellow society members help with strategies for your research. In your research problem, please outline what information you are searching for, where you have researched, your conclusions, etc. Election and Installation of Officers and the Christmas Luncheon will be held.

Recommended Resources to Purchase

The Society continues to seek your suggestions on genealogy resources to add to the library collections in both Nevada and El Dorado Springs. Please send them to any officer.

New Resources in Genealogy Dept

The following resources have recently been added to the collections in the Nevada Library Genealogy Dept.

A Census of Pensioners for Revolutionary or Military Service with their Names, Ages, and Places of Residence, as Returned by the Marshalls of the Several Judicial Districts, under the Act for Taking the Sixth Census in 1840. 1967 reprint of the original edition by Genealogical Publishing Company.

Clarion County, Pennsylvania Will Abstracts 1841-1876 by June Clover Byrne and Ann Brinkman Aniello.

The Austin Genealogy by Jack Borland (Great-Great Grandson of William A. Austin). Including timelines, census records, photographs, notes, gedcom and documents.

The Children of the Shenandoah: Hensley Descendants Vol. 1 and 2. 2008. By Kathy Hensley Caswell. (Donated by Ms. Caswell.)

Confederate Agent: A Discovery in History. 1954. By James D. Horan.

The Wild Riders of the First Kentucky Cavalry: A History of the Regiment, in the Great War of the Rebellion 1861-1865, telling of its origin and organization; a description of the material of which it was composed; its rapid and severe marches, hard service, and fierce conflicts on many a bloody field. Pathetic scenes, amusing incidents, and thrilling episodes. A regimental roster. Prison life, adventures and escapes. 1894; 1969 reprint edition. By Sergeant E. Tarrant, a headquarter clerk.

Reveille in Washington 1860-1865. 1941. By Margaret Leech.

The Osage War of 1837. Originally published in the April 1991 issue of TRUE WEST magazine. By Steve Cottrell.

Southwest City (McDonald County, Missouri) History Centennial.

The History of Goodman, McDonald County, Missouri. 1978. By Blanche & Cheryl Cook.

Life in the Powell-Cyclone Community, McDonald County, Missouri. June 1973. By J. E. Cowan.

Sketchbook of Kansas Landmarks. 1936. By Margaret Whittemore.

Ozarko. 1976. Southwest Missouri State University Yearbook.

Education for Service: Centennial History of Central Missouri State College. 1971. By Leslie Anders, Professor of History, Central Missouri State College.

Hugo LaFayette Black: Memorial Addresses and Tributes in the Congress of the United States. 1972.

2010 Memberships Due - \$10

Memberships for the calendar year 2010 are now being received. The annual membership fee remains at \$10 with \$5 additional for a person in the same household. Please make checks payable to Tri-County Genealogical Society and indicate that it is for 2010 membership dues. Dues can be mailed to the address above or taken to a monthly meeting. Members receive some special benefits including free lookups in the new cemetery directory database.

I'll Never Forget Her— She Opened the Door for Me (DAR Essay)

She was in her 90's, and I was only 10. I do not remember her as old. I remember her as captivating and charming. She was my grandfather's aunt. She came often from what we called "North Missouri," and spent time with my grandparents. Since I only lived half a mile from my grandparents, I was able to spend much time there too. Any visitors at Grandma and Grandpa's house were exciting to me. This aunt of my grandfather could recite poetry. Her mind was sharp. The poems were very long. I was intrigued with her ability to memorize such long verses. I loved the cadence and rhymes of the words. But I was fascinated by another thing this aunt said to me. She told me every time she came to visit, "You can be a DAR when you turn 18."

I didn't know what the DAR was, but I could tell it was something very special to this aunt. She died long before I turned 18, but I never forgot her words. I grew up in the country. I did not know anyone who was a DAR, but I read in the newspaper every month about the local DAR meetings. Every time, I would say, "I, too, could belong to the DAR." The names of the members were strangers to me. One day I read a name I recognized. This person had been a hostess at the DAR meeting. I had

been to her house which was elegantly decorated. The gleaming silver tea service on her dining room table always caught my eye. The next time I saw her, I mentioned the DAR to her, and told her that my mother and I were eligible to join. Two months later our invitations to join the DAR arrived in the mail. This was in 1967.

It was in filling out the application for the DAR that I learned just how much this great, great-aunt had opened the door into the DAR for my mother and me. This aunt was the first of our family to become a DAR. We obtained her record copy and were able to use that information and her national number on our applications. She left even more. She left a journal written in the early 1940's about our Patriot and his family and the following two generations. She also left a copy of a book published in 1935 about our ancestor who landed in Ipswich, Massachusetts in 1635. This book detailed the lives of five generations from 1635 to the Revolutionary War. The book and the journal she left provided me the information needed for membership not only into the DAR, but also Daughters of the American Colonists, and Colonial Dames of the XVII Century. With all the information this aunt left, I have been able to travel to Ipswich, Massachusetts and find the land owned by my earliest ancestor who lived in America. I traveled to New York and found the grave of my Revolutionary War patriot. This aunt's journal put stories to the names of my ancestors. As one genealogist put it, she gave "flesh to the bones" of my ancestors. What a legacy this aunt provided for future generations. This aunt truly opened the doors for me and my family to become DAR and more. I'll never forget her.

[Congratulations to Tri-County Genealogical Member Betty Garton who won first place in the Missouri State DAR essay contest. Betty

is also Regent of the Elizabeth Carey Chapter DAR, Nevada, MO.]

New Content on Website

The following resources have recently been added to the Tri-Genealogy website:

Indexes to Vernon County, Missouri Marriage Record Books A through G, 1855-1900.

1886 and 1887 *Lamar Democrat* abstracted newspaper indexes

Biography page for Theophilus Rimbey.

Errors in 2005 Plat Book Road Names

It has come to our attention that there are several road name errors in the Vernon County Missouri 2005 Plat Book. Likewise, the free fold-out 1-page county road map being distributed at various businesses in the area is in error.

To obtain a map of Vernon Co. with the correct 9-1-1 road names, you must purchase the **2008 Road Maps: Official 9-1-1 Release** book which is available by mail from the Tri-County Genealogical Society or in person at the Vernon County Treasurer's Office at the Courthouse in Nevada.

Thank You Received

Tri-County Genealogical Society

Our conference was a great success! Thank you for the great door prize you contributed.

Fran Black
Ozarks Genealogical Society
Springfield, MO

Items of Interest from Area Newspapers

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

The recent death of Elcany Grace, postmaster at Milo, has occasioned a vacancy to be filled in that office. Petitions favoring Mrs. Baker and A. W. Jones have been signed and forwarded to Washington for the appointment.

The Nevada Daily Mail, Nevada, MO.
Monday, April 4, 1887.

GRACE.—Elkahah E. Grace, son of James and Mariem Grace, was born near Sparks, White county, Tenn., November 19, 1827, and died at his home in Milo, March 31, 1887.

Mr. Grace came to Vernon county about 36 years ago, and was well known by the old settlers of this county. In his death the wife has lost a loving companion, the children a kind and indulgent father, and the community a religious and highly esteemed citizen.

The funeral was preached by the writer to a large and attentive congregation in the church at Milo, April 1st, after which the remains were conveyed to the Bickett graveyard, five miles Southwest of Milo for interment.

Wm. A. Smith

*The Nevada Daily Mail, Nevada, MO.
Tuesday, April 5, 1887.*

[Thanks to member Ruth M. for sending these Grace articles and identifying his burial location on the Bickett Cemetery owners plat map.]

**Old Montevallo
1855-1862**

Editor's Note: Mrs. Herbert Cooper has compiled the following historical account of Old Montevallo. Sources of her information were the Vernon County History, her grandmother, Matilda Ball Mallory, M. A. Pinkerton, Mrs. Mary Smith, W. S. Kokendoffer, the Whitley Family, Mrs. Rose Moffatt, a great, great aunt, Miss Hattie Mallory, Harry Van Swearingen, John W. Stuermer, R. V. Holmes and Miss Isabell Taylor. Mrs. Cooper has had portions of this historical sketch for years.

In the autumn of an October day we went for a drive, taking a southwest road and returning around by the site of the old Arbor Grove church, west of Montevallo. We crossed the McCarty Creek bridge and I looked toward the north side of the narrow road across the wooded green valley. Trees were dressed in glowing hues of red, yellow

and orange, with enough green to accent their brilliance.

We were in the center of the Old Montevallo acreage, which was destroyed during the Civil War. A cow bell tinkled. A bird twittered. The afternoon sunshine cast a silent gold shroud over the lowland and I thought of the long-ago town, the population and industries. What might it have been?

On January 15, 1843, Benjamin Piper applied to the U.S. Patent Office in Washington, D.C. for an 80 acre tract in section 5, paying \$1.25 an acre for the land which lay west of Lipe Branch and east of McCarty Creek. The President, William McKinley, issued the patent, April 4, 1846.

The site of Montevallo was owned by Joseph Martin, who settled upon it in the year 1840. He was known as the "Old Grindstone Maker". The founder of the town was William Withers, who built a store in 1850. In a short time J. M. Gatewood and the Hon. William Blanton came to the site and the town was laid out. The location was one-half mile north and one mile west of the present town of Montevallo. It was built in the valley between the creek of McCarthy west and the Lipe Branch on the east. Years after, the same branch became known as Mill Branch. The main street was the road from Ft. Scott, Kansas, through Nevada City, thence to Old Montevallo and on to Springfield. The street ran diagonally from northwest to southeast, with the business section built on either sides of the main street. Lines of the building pattern were unlike some Missouri settlements. The eastern, southern, and northern citizens, who established the town of Old Montevallo called it "Western". Houses were erected on either sides of the street, scattered out to the north and south. Some few residents located farther west beyond the creek on the hillside. Other houses on the outskirts of town were built east of Lipe Branch, extending toward the location of the present town. Old timers told of several farms in the area, whose owners kept slaves.

There were many wooded sections in the location, especially along the banks of McCarthy Creek and the old Lipe Branch. Meadows were green and crops were produced in abundance.

Vernon County records show that in Nov. 1855, Asa Elliott was a merchant and William Withers and Thomas W. German were his sureties. In June 1856, George Pape built a Dram Shop, commonly called a saloon.

Mr. German, a scholar, christened the town from two Spanish words, Monte Vallo, meaning the combination of hill and valley. The little town, located in a vale or valley between two ranges of hills, was appropriately named "Montevallo", to most folks one of the prettiest names in the county of Vernon.

Besides a number of stores, shops and dwellings, there were three hotels and a one-story frame building, which was chartered by a special act of Congress on Dec. 12, 1855, and called the Montevallo Academy. The Academy stood on a grassy knoll across the Lipe Branch at the corner of the Montevallo cemetery on the southeast outskirts of the town. The board of trustees were: R. P. Walker, Robert Crockett, James H. Mulkey, D. H. Martindale, R. T. Morgan, and C. L. Clark. The building, not completed until the year, 1857, employed two teachers.

Families of wealth, refinement and excellent social position were staunch supporters of the educational venture and the Montevallo Academy served a wide area in the township. Religious services were also held there as no churches had been built. The first Principal was Thomas W. German and another teacher, a Kansas City lady, named Miss Ladd. There was also Prof. Page and a young northern woman, Miss Stanwood. At least two-hundred students were enrolled for the nine month school terms, which began Sept. 1.

From an excerpt of Vernon County History published in 1911, Old Montevallo was officially incorporated by the Vernon County Court, Feb. 9, 1860. on petition of F.

M. German, William T. Maddox and others. The first board of Trustees were: F. G. Reavis, John Dada, Jesse Griggs, W. B. Randolph and William James. All records were destroyed during the Civil War.

My Grandmother, Matilda Ball Mallory, born 1862, the only daughter of southern pioneers, Lt. Wesley L. Ball and Matilda Standley Ball, who located in northwest Virgil Township, learned many stories of Old Montevallo, the Civil War, and the building of the new Montevallo. The Ball family made numerous trading trips to Old Montevallo for supplies and it was only a few hours drive across the country with a wagon or one-horse carriage. All members of the family went along, including Great Grandfather and Grandmother Ball, her aged aunt, Sally Standley and two southern cousins, Elizabeth and Anne Weir. They also took along their seven year old son, Lewis, who liked fording Clear Creek and visiting the long row of stores. The hotels were over run with travellers. Another road ran from northeast to southwest from Jefferson City to Joplin. The mail route from Ft. Scott, Kan., came through Nevada City and Old Montevallo to Springfield.

At the out break of the Civil War, my Great-Grandfather, Lt. Wesley L. Ball, left his 700 acre farm near the Sulphur Springs vicinity, and signed up at Old Montevallo in Capt. Gatewood's Confederate Regiment. I have his Civil War letters and his diary. He was a veteran of the Mexican War with Government land grants to Missouri from his plantation in Greenwood, Mississippi. He arrived in Vernon County in 1853 and built a low, rambling rock house, which he called "Western".

Beginnings of the war found Old Montevallo with three leading stores, Brown's, Reavis', and Weidemyers, the hotels of Scoby, Drake and Mattox. The livery stable was run by Joe Woods. There were fifty houses and a population of 350.

Overnight the Academy was used to shelter Southern Troops and the school and church services closed.

The winter of 1861 and the spring of 1862 brought heavy fighting between the Confederates under Capt. Coffee and Capt. W. H. Taylor and the Federals. Skirmishes occurred in all directions, threatening residents in the Old Montevallo area and they suffered countless encounters with regiments from Iowa, Wisconsin, Ohio and Kansas. "Bushwhackers" struck out for both defense and plunder. All northerners left the town at the first rumble of the Civil War. The First Iowa Calvary, bent on establishing a Federal Garrison in Old Montevallo, entered the town with much speech-making and courtesy. They took over one hotel and several vacant dwellings. As they lay sleeping, they were promptly bushwhacked by Confederate citizens and no further attempts were made by the Federals to capture the town. The 3rd Wisconsin won a battle on Horse Creek, southeast of Montevallo. Many graves are on farms, here, with markers put up later by friends and relatives. Some have only a bit of sand rock carved by comrades. A few graves of Civil War Federals from the 1st Iowa skirmish are among the grasses of the Montevallo cemetery.

In 1857, F. G. Reavis had arrived from Henry County and built a store and a carding machine. German, Withers and Keithley set up a steam mill on Mill Branch, east of town, and later added a corn cracker. These and the rest of the town of Old Montevallo were burned in the spring of 1862. Before it went up in flames, some frightened families fled into the southwest, facing the Indians rather than the Federals. Some lived to reach Arizona and two or three returning after the new Montevallo began in 1866.

Only a few brick chimneys and unfilled wells remained of the western influential settlement, constructed by eastern, southern and northern men. The lonely grave of Miss Standwood, Academy teacher, from the north, rests among the wildwood Montevallo Cemetery spring flowers. The vicinity is still wooded, much of it in crops on improved farms. Farmers in the little valley are the

Delbert Flemings, the Martin Andersons and the Otis Garbers and Lloyd Stones.

A book, "Baron of Arizona" was written from the history of the Reavis family and the movie of the same name portrays fictional interest.

We brought home an old yellowed millstone from the site of the steam mill and will use it for a flower bed or the rock garden.

We were nearing the little rock bridge at Mill Branch, our drive nearly over. I looked up the hill across the stream toward the Academy site by the cemetery rock fence. I had walked it in my childhood. A bird twittered. A cow bell tinkled. The autumn breeze caressed the silence. Old Montevallo lived, flourished and died in seven years.

The El Dorado Sun, El Dorado Springs, MO.

Thursday, June 11, 1964

[Ed. Note: Our thanks to member Kathe R. for sharing this article for republication. The article is reprinted as originally published in the newspaper. The Bureau of Land Mgt. website at www.glorerecords.blm.gov/ shows that Benjamin Piper received two Land Patents in Vernon Co., MO: June 1, 1845, Springfield Land Office, 40.12 acres, W 1/2 4 NW S5 T34N R29W 5th PM and April 4, 1846, Springfield Land Office, 80.83 acres, 4 NE S5 T34N R29W 5th PM. James K. Polk, President, and Land Patents signed by J. Knox Walker, Secy; S. H. Laughlin, Recorder of the General Land Office.]

Summer Fresh Grocery Cash Register Receipts 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. Please note that the Summer Fresh receipts are void if the bottom portion of the receipt is removed. Bring these items to any monthly meeting. They are redeemed for cash used 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 and support the work of the Society!
Free lookups in the new cemetery directory database for members!***

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