



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

## April 2010

**May 18, 2010, 10 a.m.**  
**Nevada Library Meeting Room**  
**212 West Walnut St., Nevada, MO**

### ***USING THE FIND-A-GRAVE WEBSITE IN YOUR FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH***

This will be a hands-on workshop in the Nevada Library Computer Lab. Attendees are to bring personal research information to use in learning how to look up burial memorials on this free website. Attendees will also be shown how to register and add memorials to the Find-A-Grave website. A business meeting will be held in the Library Meeting Room prior to the program.

The meeting and program are open to the public, and everyone with an interest in researching his or her family's history is invited to attend.

### ***Vernon County, Missouri Cemetery Directory 2010***

***ORDER YOUR COPY TODAY!***

Copies of the new *Vernon County, Missouri Cemetery Directory 2010* are being received from the printer, and orders are being fulfilled in the order in which they were received. Thank you for your cooperation with pre-orders which have enabled us to provide the directory at this low cost. Additional details about the directory and an order form are available on our website at [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~motcogs/](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~motcogs/) The 2-vol. comb-bound set is only \$30 (plus \$8 if by mail order). Local residents can take their orders to the Nevada Library Circulation Desk (envelope with check; no cash please)

and ask the librarian to place it in the Genealogy Society's mail box. If sending your order by mail, please address it to the Tri-County Genealogical Society at the address above. If you will be picking up your copy, you will be notified when it is available. Many volunteers worked thousands of hours over the last six years to create a directory of this magnitude, and we know you will be thrilled with the publication.

***Order Your Copy Today!***

Researcher's comment:

***I just received my copy of the 2010 Vernon County Cemetery Directory and its Index. It's remarkable how much this listing has grown since the previous directory with its many revisions. The organization is easy to follow and will be helpful to almost anyone with a Vernon County connection. To have an every name index, to have directions and geo-codes for the known cemetery locations, to have well-written and brief descriptions of each cemetery and to be able to find a woman's gravesite listed under her family name and, when known, their married name as well is impressive. This sets a high standard for other communities developing such directories.***

***This has obviously been a passion for the developers of this directory. That you have enlisted so many good and resourceful people to bring it all to fruition is commendable.***

***Bravo!***

***Cordially,  
Dan Russell  
Nashville, TN***

[Ed.: Thank you, Dan, for your comments!]

## 2010 Programs

The following programs are tentatively scheduled for 2010. Watch the newsletter and website for updated information or changes as programs are finalized.

**Jun. 15, El Do:** "Rural Schools of Cedar County" by Luella Phipps.

**Jul. 20, Nevada:** "Using the Computer in Your Research" by Helen Lodge, Cottey College. (Arranged by Neoma Foreman)

**Aug. 17, El Do:** Research trip or historical site tour; to be determined. (Arranged by Dorothy Foster)

**Sep. 21, Nevada:** "Brick Walls in Your Research" by Helen Lodge. (Arranged by Neoma Foreman)

**Oct. 19, El Do:** To be announced. (Arranged by Dorothy Foster)

**Nov. 16, Nevada:** "Group Solve Your Brick Walls" Helen Lodge at Cottey College. Members: submit completed form in advance to have your brick wall research case used. (Arranged by Neoma Foreman)

**Dec. 21, El Do:** "Sharing our Personal Research, Installation of Officers, and Christmas Luncheon. (Arranged by Dorothy Foster)

[Members who are coordinating and arranging programs are asked to provide additional details about their programs for the newsletter and the Society's website. Thank you.]

## New Resources Added to Collections

Numerous additional items continue to be added to the collections in the (N)evada and (E)l Dorado Springs libraries.

2009 Vernon County Plat Book (N) and (E).

Opening the Ozarks 1835-1839: First Families in Southwest Missouri by Marsha Hoffman Rising. 4 Vol. (N) and (E).

## The Missouri State Archives... where history begins

The "Archives Afield!" essay in the spring 2010 issue highlights the Cedar County Probate Processing Project. Excerpts from

the article are reprinted here with permission to enable all to read it. The article explain that Cedar County was predominantly agricultural land in the 1860s and 1870s. According to census records, of the 6,637 county residents in 1860, 72 were slaveholders, and they held 211 slaves which comprised approx. 3% of the county's population. Given the relatively low number of slaves in the county, it is of special interest when a volunteer comes across an estate file that mentions slave-related topics.

"A sale bill found among the papers of Edmond P. Smith's 1856 estate shows the January 1860 sale of "the black woman" for \$1,400 to James Cawthon. Benjamin W. Smithson's May 1861 estate listed two African-American girls on the inventory and shows that Mary Smithson, Benjamin's widow, gave Colon James Johnson power of attorney to hire out a slave named Mariah. In March 1863, John W. Montgomery's estate inventory included six slaves (three male, two female, and one child unidentified) ranging in age from two years old to 40 years old.

"Also of interest are allusions to the Civil War. In the case of the Benjamin Smithson estate, the administrator reported that much of the property was lost during the war, except for an 120 acre land warrant. The John W. Montgomery estate listed \$120 in Confederate money. Dr. Samuel Bender had claims against the Montgomery estate, but could not produce the original claims because at the time the claims were held in the clerk's office (1862), the area was raided by General Joseph Shelby and Colonel John Coffee. The claims were lost or destroyed during the raid. Papers in the estate of John E. Ross referenced notes being stolen by bushwhackers during the Civil War.

"Something else that has come to light while processing these files are the bequests by aspiring philanthropists within the county. In September 1864, David S. Stapleton's second will stipulated that the bulk of his estate was to be given to a school and be called Stapleton's College (He also wanted a 12-foot monument erected on his gravesite!). There is no record as to whether these requests came to fruition or not.

“W. W. Graves’ November 1897 will had 31 stipulations, which included several nieces and nephews listed as heirs/beneficiaries. He also requested that a \$700 note and part of the proceeds from the sale of his property, including land in Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas, Michigan and Florida, go to William Jewell (Baptist) College for ministerial education and that additional proceeds went to Webb City College.

‘These examples illustrate the type of information that can be gleaned from probate files to enhance both family and general history projects. A major part of all Local Records processing projects is the creation of a database containing detailed information drawn from the files, which is made available to the public through the Missouri State Archives website once the project is completed. As a result, researchers interested in topics other than family history can search probate files without having to know about the individual beforehand.

“This project, like many other Local Records projects, relies on volunteer labor. In Cedar County, Janet Jones, volunteer coordinator of the project, has been with the project since the beginning. Jones especially enjoys records from the 1860s and 1870s that involve information relating to the Civil War and was excited to find her great-grandfather’s probate file among the records being processed. ... Because of the work of Jones and other volunteers, a unique part of Missouri’s history is available to the public.

Volunteers have completed processing the Cedar County probate files, and they are presently being indexed and microfilmed. Our thanks to Tri-County member, Janet Jones for spearheading this tremendous project!!

### **Survey of Summers Cemetery**

Twenty-nine volunteers and supporters gathered on a pleasant Sunday afternoon to search for gravestones in the Summers Cemetery, located about 1 1/2 miles southeast of Metz, MO. Armed with custom-designed and fabricated metal rods, the volunteers prodded the top several inches of soil in search of grave markers that had

fallen over as many as 150 years ago and were now covered with layers of soil and leaf debris. The workers were rewarded with several fantastic “finds.” Perhaps the most significant discovery was a river rock with the hand-carved initials “E S” This rock marks the final resting place of one of Vernon County’s very first pioneers, Elizabeth (Wright) Summers (1808-1856) who was the wife of Allen Summers. The rock with initials that marks the gravesite of Allen Summers was found in 2004 during an earlier survey of the cemetery. Some gravestones that were not previously recorded were found, and several stones which were found were as much as 8-inches deep and they set upright again. (Rocks which have not yet been found include those of Moses and Celia (McDermid) Summers and of Jesse J. and Charlotte (McDermid) Summers. A tremendous **THANK YOU!** to members of the community, Cottey College, Elizabeth Carey Chapter of the DAR, Vernon County Historical Society, and the Tri-County Genealogical Society who helped with this survey.

### **Virginia Records Online**

Additional records of genealogical and historical interest are coming online every day. Those researching ancestors from Virginia may find interesting items at [www.virginiamemory.com/collections/chancery/](http://www.virginiamemory.com/collections/chancery/)

### **Suggested Resources to Obtain for Library Collections**

Please submit your suggestions for additional family history research resources to obtain for the genealogy departments of the El Dorado Springs Library and the Nevada Public Library.

### **Member Research**

Members are invited to submit summaries of their Vernon or Cedar County research for publication in the newsletter. Please mail or email to the Society at the address on page one of the newsletter.



## Items of Interest from Area Newspapers

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

[Ed.: The following article is from the *El Dorado Springs Sun* newspaper and was originally published in the *Walker Herald*.]

Col. H. McPherson and Chas. B. Pearson came in Thursday evening from El Dorado Springs to consult our business men in regard to the building of El Dorado's railroad. They briefly and plainly stated, that neither Harwood or Schell City had any promise of the road being built to either of their places, and that Walker stood a good show of getting the road. They invited our citizens to make an effort to secure the road as they considered this route the most feasible one from El Dorado to connect with the M.K.&T. They also consulted Squire Oliver Calvin about his coal land. It is the general belief that the projectors of this road are after Col. Ed Brown's old grade, and if it can be bought for \$15,000 or \$20,000 that the road will be finished through and the cars running between here and El Dorado by Christmas. They both left for St. Louis on the evening train.—Walker Herald.

*El Dorado Springs Sun, El Dorado Springs, MO.*  
Thursday, September 5, 1895, page 4.

### Lawless Doings in Kansas.

The Jefferson City Examiner learns from a reliable source that Fort Scott, Kansas, on the night of the 15th, was attacked by the outlaw Montgomery, at the head of 200 men, and the town taken and some five or six persons killed. The object of the attack was the release of one of Montgomery's men, who was confined under an indictment for murder. It is feared that the town was entirely destroyed.

It is reported that a band of thieves and assassins from Kansas entered Vernon county, Missouri, and killed David Cruise, and stole a lot of cattle and horses. About the same time two parties, under Brown and Montgomery, entered Missouri, on little Osage River, and stole a negro woman, took

Wm. Lane prisoner and carried him into the Territory, but released him the following day. An express had been sent to the Governor of Missouri for assistance to protect life and property.

*Atlanta Weekly Intelligencer, Atlanta, GA.*  
January 6, 1859, page 2.  
<http://atlnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/>

### The Rebellion in Kansas.

A despatch received in St. Louis from Kansas city states that a gang of Gayhawks, under Brown, have entered Bates county, Mo., and stole four horses from Jesse Jackson and burned his house. It is stated on good authority that Gov. Medary has ordered four companies of dragoons to that region, and has also ordered four companies of militia to be raised in Bourbon county, the officers for which are already commissioned. He has telegraphed to the Secretary of War to send arms and amunition per St. Louis. Reliable persons from the vicinity of Camp Scott report the whole country to be divided into two parties, formed to commit all kinds of crime, and openly upheld by some Methodist preachers.

The Ossawatamie correspondence of the St. Louis Democrat states that Capt. Hamilton, the leader of the party who committed the atrocious murders at the Chateau trading post last May, has taken the field in Southern Kansas, with a large body of desperate men, and already committed many outrages.

Mr. Bailey, a free States man, who was charged with stealing negroes from Vernon county, Missouri, has been killed, and the house of Mr. Bloomfield, a wealthy free State man residing in Vernon county, has been attacked and burned.

It is reported that Mentgomery is raising a party to repel the invasion by Hamilton, and that both parties are determined to fight.

*Atlanta Weekly Intelligencer, Atlanta, GA.*  
January 13, 1859, page 2.  
<http://atlnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/>  
[Ed.: Spelling is copied from newspaper article.]

Miss Mamie Brand of Lamar spent last week at the springs.

Walter Glick of Schell City was visiting El Dorado friends Thursday.

C. H. Dallas came in this week from an extended business trip abroad.

Will Dawson, left Sunday for Springfield, where he will remain one week.

H. Trow has returned from his farm in Vernon county, where he has been for several weeks.

Miss Elsie Danley of Milo has secured a four months' term of school at Kader, Cedar county, Mo.—Nevada Post.

John Birch and Harry Mickey spent Sunday or a portion thereof with friends east of town. They spun out and back on their bikes.

T. M. Montgomery of Akard moved his family to El Dorado last Monday. He has moved there to school his children.—Stockton Journal.

Mrs. A. F. Brand of Lamar, who has been stopping at the Park hotel and drinking the water of the Wonder spring the past week, departed for home Monday morning.

Huse Walker attempted to ford the Osage river near Osceola Friday with his team and both mules were drowned. In the same river on the same day Nathan York's two boys drowned their horses in attempting to cross the stream at Musgrove ford near Osceola. The river had risen three feet since the parties forded it in the morning.—Butler Times.

Albert Henderson was slashed across the breast with a knife in the hands of a young man whose name could not be learned, at the picnic grounds last Friday night. The wound was about a half inch deep and six or seven inches long, but is not considered dangerous. The would-be murderer escaped. The trouble grew out of some words passed between the two.—Stockton Journal.

J. F. Smalley, who was struck in a saw mill at El Dorado about two weeks ago, and reported fatally injured was able to attend the circus here to-day. If any thing will bring

a man out of his shell a circus will. Mr. Smalley appears to be a long ways from being dead. He has almost entirely recovered from his injuries.—Nevada Mail.

Dick Clemmons was mixed up in the affair that occurred at the picnic grounds Thursday night of last week and has skipped the country to avoid arrest for making threats and flourishing a revolver in the faces of parties who were camped there. It is understood that he has gone to the Indian country.—Stockton Journal.

William Elgin, the 6-year-old son of Isaac Martin, who lives just north of the city, died Wednesday evening of congestion of the bowels. The remains were buried at the Martin cemetery Thursday at 2 o'clock, the funeral being preached by Rev. R. H. Love of the Christian church. The evening previous to its death the child was well as usual and it was ill only a few hours.

The Kansas City Journal takes the proper view of the race riots which have been in progress between the colored and foreign miners of Spring Valley, Ill., and as it says, only serve to emphasize one of the greatest dangers which now confront the United States. The United States has continued to allow the uninterrupted emigration of ignorant and vicious foreigners to compete with our American laborers. They work for wages on which domestics would starve. But when it comes to rioting, taking possession of towns, and shooting down without mercy, American citizens and their families, it is time to rid our country of this scourge.—Cedar County Republican.

F. A. Garee and son, Ed, who have been in Oklahoma and Indian Territory several months advertising a patent wide bridge are home again. Ed says he met several ex-El Doradoites, who are prospering in the new land. Among them are Al Wilcoxon, who owns a watermelon patch near Perry, Attorney Horace Smith at Perry; \_\_\_ Yeager family near Stillwater; \_\_\_ Buzan's folks at Pawnee; and \_\_\_ Beasley, who was in the saloon business here at one time, was another of those he met at Perry. He was

near Mr. Gerome's place, but did not meet the owner. Ed says all who went from El Dorado to the Oklahoma country and secured claims are doing well and seem to be satisfied with their circumstances.

Miss Lucy B. Lyon is visiting relatives in Cass county.

Attorney R. N. Banister has been retained to assist City Attorney Jake L. Babler in fighting the court house injunction case which will be heard at the October term of the circuit court. The injunction was issued by Stockton parties to restrain the deputy court officers from performing their duties at this place, the said parties claiming that the bill passed by the legislature to divide the courts is illegal. There is no doubt but that El Dorado will be victorious.

*El Dorado Springs Sun, El Dorado Springs, MO.  
Thursday, September 5, 1895, page 4.*

#### **MUSTERED IN.**

##### **The Nevada Soldier Boys Sworn In for Three Years' Service.**

According to announcement Col. C. C. Allen, of the Fifth Regiment, National Guards of Missouri, Quartermaster Hillyer, Lieutenant Harrington and Sargent Deutsch, of Carthage, arrived here last evening, to muster in the Nevada Company.

A meeting was held at the Robinson Rink and thirty-seven answered to roll call.

The oath was administered by Notary Jerry Lovell, and the boys were sworn in for three years' service, subject to the State's call, three being absent.

After the oath was administered Col. Allen addressed the company in a very pleasant manner, in which he said the company was composed of as fine a body of men as he ever stood before.

At the conclusion of Col. Allen's remarks, Harry Mitchell was sworn in as Captain; James Atkinson as First Lieutenant, and I. V. Seymour as Second Lieutenant.

After this Lieutenant Harrington took the boys through an hour's drill.

The company will be equipped as soon as possible, and be put under thorough drill for the state encampment at Sweet Springs.

*Nevada Daily Mail, Nevada, Missouri.  
Friday, May 7, 1886, page 6.*

#### **ANOTHER DROWNING.**

##### **One of Vernon's Treacherous Streams Claims a Victim.**

Thos. Cassady came to this city this morning and brought news of the drowning of John Hooper in Old Town Branch.

Late yesterday afternoon, Mr. Cassady accompanied by Mr. Hooper and Jerry Rucker rode down to the branch with the intention of crossing and driving over some cattle belonging to Mr. Rucker. The stream was very high and Messrs. Rucker and Cassady decided that it would be dangerous to cross. Mr. Hooper said he would try it, and his companions could not dissuade him from the attempt. He urged his horse into the water and the animal swam to the middle and commenced plunging. The rider fell off and went under. His head quickly appeared above the surface, and it is thought that the horse struck him either with his head or foot, and the man disappeared.

Mr. Cassady swam to the place where he was last seen and attempted to find the body, but failed. The neighbors soon afterward commenced a search but it was futile.

The accident occurred at a point about one mile from the point where the branch empties into the Marmaton, but it is thought the body will lodge in the drift wood and be found when the water subsides.

Mr. Hooper was about 27 years old, and leaves a wife and one child. He has resided in the county since he was a boy.

The place where he was drowned was about ten miles northeast of Nevada, near the residence of Jeary Rucker.

*Nevada Daily Mail, Nevada, Missouri.  
Friday, May 7, 1886, page 6.*

## Webinars on Preservation

Leslie James, Field Archivist with the Missouri Secretary of State's Office provides the following information on free preservation webinars offered during Preservation Week, May 9-15, in which you may be interested. ("Webinar" is short for Web-based seminar and is a presentation, lecture, or seminar transmitted over the Internet.) No fee is required to attend the webinars, however registration is required in order to receive the link to the presentation.

### **Archival 101: Dealing with Suppliers of Archival Products. Tue, May 11, 1 p.m. CDT.**

Do you need to purchase archival supplies for your organization or even yourself? Are you confused by the terminology and not sure about what the differences between the various vendors are? Not finding exactly what you are looking for and unsure about adapting different products? Archival 101 is designed to demystify the archival product market for the layperson and non-preservation specialist. The presentation will provide an overview of the conservation and preservation issues facing libraries, cultural organizations, and individuals, describe the terminology in use, discuss products and offer buying tips on the different ways these can be used. Archival 101 is designed for individuals with little or no experience and will also provide the more experienced user with helpful hints. Archival 101 is presented by Peter D. Verheyen, Head of Preservation and Conservation at Syracuse University. To register for the Archival 101 session see: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/419803921>

### **Mold Prevention and Remediation. Thu, May 13, 1 p.m. CDT.**

This webinar will introduce attendees to the basic types of mold, and describe the environmental conditions that promote mold growth in home and library collections. Prevention as well as remediation should mold growth occur will be covered. This webinar is geared to participants with little experience, but with lots of questions and concerns. Presented by Michele Brown,

book conservator at Cornell University. To register for the session on Mold see:

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/731036672>

## 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 third Tuesday 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). There is 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 Tri-County Genealogical Society is on a calendar year basis, and memberships are welcomed and accepted throughout the year. Membership in the Society is currently at about 70, and nametags are used 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. 2010 Society officers are:  
President: Kathe Rader

V. Pres: Dorothy Foster; Neoma Foreman  
Recording Secy: Janet Jones  
Treasurer: Ray Lukenbill  
Corresponding Secy: Darlene Lukenbill

***Annual membership is only \$10 -- join today to support the work of the Society!***

Tri-County Genealogical Society  
(Vernon-Cedar-St. Clair Counties)  
218 West Walnut Street  
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED