



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 2010

Nov. 16, 2010, 10 a.m.
Nevada Library Meeting Room
218 W. Walnut Street, Nevada, MO
“TIPS AND TACTICS”
Video Program by Gary Toms

In this video program Gary Toms explains observations and ideas that he and a friend compiled from their many years of genealogy research experience. Toms shares lessons learned, special approaches, and other useful information in family history research. An 8-page handout accompanies the program.

A business meeting will be held prior to the program. Monthly meetings and programs are free and open to the public ~ visitors are always welcome!

2010 Programs

Watch the newsletter and website for updated information as programs are finalized.

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

Society Membership Dues for 2011

It is time to renew your membership in the Tri-County Genealogical Society for 2011. Calendar year dues are \$10 for an individual (+\$5 for each additional member within the same household up to \$25 maximum), and \$100 Lifetime, per person. Please bring your membership fee to the next meeting or mail a check to Tri-County Genealogical Society,

218 West Walnut Street, Nevada, MO 64772.

*Thank you for your membership
in support of the Society's work
of preservation and making records
more accessible to researchers!*

Above-Ground Vault at Sheldon Cemetery

Does anyone remember the above ground concrete vault that was in Sheldon Cemetery from about 1910 until into the 1960s?

John Calvin Smith was born Dec 8, 1837 in Virginia. He died Oct 8, 1911 in Sheldon, Vernon Co, MO and was buried in an above-ground vault which he had constructed sometime earlier.

His wife, Mary E. Davis Smith was born Sep 25, 1840 in Montgomery Co, MO. She died Feb 17, 1921 in Dover Twp, Vernon Co, MO and was buried beside her husband in Sheldon Cemetery.

The concrete of the above ground vault deteriorated over the years, and in the 1960s the crumbling remains of the vault were cleaned up from the cemetery. The exact location of these Smith burials are not now known because no marker was placed when the vault remains were removed, and the cemetery's records do not show this.

The Smith's did not have any children. The relatives mentioned in the Sheldon Enterprise newspaper at the time of Mrs. Smith's death were a William Davidson and a Mrs. Wilcox – mentioning that she was their aunt.

Does anyone know the exact location of these two Smith burials? Does anyone have

older photos in the Sheldon Cemetery which might show the location of the vault? Any help is greatly appreciated—please contact Tri-County Genealogy.

Vernon County Obituary Card File

Each month, the obituaries from the Nevada Daily Mail and Sunday Herald-Tribune are cut out and glued onto cards for the alphabetical file in the Genealogy Dept. A volunteer is needed to continue this work. Newspapers and supplies are provided. If you are interested in this project, please contact the Genealogy Society or Terry Ramsey in the Bushwhacker Museum.

Summers Cemetery ~ New Sign

A new sign has recently been placed at the Summers Cemetery near Metz, MO. Descendants of Vernon County's first pioneer settlers held a reunion earlier this



year and donated funds for the fabrication of the sign which identifies this pioneer cemetery.

Additional Marriage Record Index Online

The names index for Vernon County Marriage Record Book Y (1967-Dec 1969) is available on the Tri-County Genealogical

Society's website, thanks to the hard work of volunteers.

New Resources Added to Collections

The following items have been added to the Nevada Library Genealogy Dept:

The Quest for John Rudolph WAYMIRE. Compiled by the Waymire Family Research Group.

The Quest for John Rudolph Waymire: Corrections and Additions. Peggy Stone Tegel, Editor.

Genealogies for the following surnames:

BARRY
BISHOP
BURKHART
ELLIOTT
GOODPASTURE
GRAGG
GRAVES
KABLER
MITCHELL
READY
ST. JOHN
THRONBURG
WARDEN
WORREL

Vernon County, Missouri Cemetery Directory 2010 Update of Sheldon Cemetery

An updated listing of the Sheldon Cemetery has been printed. This update includes additional burials, corrections and additions to burials in this cemetery. If you purchased the Vernon County Cemetery Directory 2010, you can obtain a free copy of the Sheldon update by stopping by the Bushwhacker Museum (please call first to ensure they are open 667-9602). If you would like the supplement mailed, please send \$3 shipping/handling to our address above and the supplement will be mailed to you. The supplement is only available to those who purchased the Vernon County

Cemetery Directory 2010 previously (it is not available for purchase as a separate item).

Member Research

In September, members discussed brick walls and strategies for overcoming them in their research. Summaries of two of those research questions were printed last month. Additional summaries will be published in future newsletters.

Members are reminded that they can submit summaries of their research for publication in the newsletter. Please mail or email your research information 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 member.]

SHERIFF FRED DAWES SHOT TO DEATH BY LEE McCORMICK Who Was Later Shot Down

McCormick Sent Bullet Through the Sheriff's Heart and Then Fired At Two City Police Officers.

Murderer Chased Several Blocks and Brought To Earth By Policemen Marshall and Catherwood.

General Opinion Is That Bullet Fired By Officer Marshall Dropped the Murderer Who Died At 8 O'clock.

McCormick Shot Sheriff While the Latter Was Searching Him—The Murderer Was Known As An Industrious Young Man

Coroner's Inquest.

An inquest was held over the bodies of Sheriff Dawes and J. S. McCormick, the latter nicknamed Lee, this afternoon.

The jurors were Messrs. J. J. Corey, James J. Lindley, Will Owens, W. W. Morrison, E. C. Bobbett and Walter Stonum.

The verdict was as follows:

"We the jury find that Sheriff Dawes came to his death at the hands of one J. S. McCormick, who was resisting examination."

The verdict in the McCormick case was that he came to his death at the hands of Officers W. H. Catherwood and W. W. Marhsall in the performance of their duty.

It was brought out at the inquest that McCormick had been in the habit of ordering Yale lock keys, and a number were found in his possession. One of these keys fit the lock in the door of the Mead Grain Co.

McCormick would draw a diagram of the Yale lock with the number of the lock and had ordered through J. K. Hill Hardware store keys for the following numbers, 24, 12, 7, 9, 22, 37 and 40.

Nevada was thrown into a fever of excitement Thursday night between ten-thirty and eleven o'clock by a report that Sheriff Fred Dawes had been shot to death. The report was quickly confirmed and a large crowd gathered and from midnight until early morning the excitement continued and there was talk of lynching the murderer of the sheriff but this subsided when County Coroner, Dr. Q. M. Brown, announced that the man, Lee McCormick, who killed the sheriff, could not possibly live but a few hours. The statement of Dr. Brown was proven to be correct for at 8 o'clock McCormick died.

The excitement of the hour subsided and a wave of sorrow spread over the city for Fred Dawes had a legion of friends. The thoughts of the people turned to the fearless officer who gave up his life in the performance of duty and to the devoted and loyal wife and four children, three little daughters and one son of the Sheriff Dawes.

The shooting to death of Sheriff Harlow and the lynching of Jay Lynch at Lamar was recalled for Sheriff Dawes had given valuable service to the people of Barton county by assisting the people of that county. When the report reached Lamar at 2 o'clock Friday morning of the shooting of Sheriff Dawes, the Barton county sheriff, Will Sewell, came to Nevada as fast as his automobile could bring him and he immediately tendered his services.

The shooting of Sheriff Dawes was at the hands of a young man who had borne a reputation as an industrious young man and this no doubt served to allay any suspicion that he was a dangerous fellow or that he was a man who would shoot to kill but the opposite proved to be true. He not only would shoot without warning to his intended victim but he would fight and shoot as long as he had life and strength.

The Murder.

For sometime A. G. Sullivan, of the Mead Grain Company had been missing sacks of feed and Thursday evening, shortly after ten o'clock, Mr. Sullivan discovered three sacks of grain had been taken from the elevator and placed in front of the building. Mr. Sullivan seeing Sheriff Dawes in his automobile near the union station, told him of the discovery of the theft and the sheriff and Policemen Marshall and Catherwood went to the elevator to lay in wait for the party or parties who were expected to return for the sacks of grain. A few minutes later Lee McCormick drove up in an automobile and as he stopped Policemen Marshall and Catherwood closed in on him. McCormick denied he came for the sacks of grain and the two officers entered the auto and drove a few blocks and then brought McCormick back to the new office building the Mead Grain Elevator Company recently erected, just southwest of Union Station. There McCormick was taken into the office and the light was turned on and Sheriff Dawes started to search McCormick. He took a large bunch of keys from McCormick's pocket and placed them on a table and just as the sheriff turned around to continue his search of McCormick's pockets, the latter jerked a 32-calibre automatic revolver and quickly fired a bullet through Sheriff Dawes' heart, the latter exclaiming "my God" and sank to the floor and died instantly. It is very doubtful if Sheriff Dawes ever saw McCormick's revolver.

Immediately after shooting Sheriff Dawes McCormick turned his attention to Marshall and Catherwood, firing rapidly at them and

they returned the fire. Miraculous as it may seem, McCormick, Marshall and Catherwood escaped the bullets.

McCormick bolted from the office building and ran south with Marshall following close and Catherwood back of Marshall. A running revolver duel took place. McCormick turned west to Pine street and then ran south on Pine. Marshall firing at McCormick evidently sent at least two bullets, if not three, into McCormick and is the man who brought McCormick down.

While running down Pine street McCormick again reloaded his automatic and stopped behind a tree and as he did so Marshall dropped behind a tree. Some man ran to Marshall handing him a rifle and the officer drew down on McCormick but the rifle failed to work and Marshall reached for his revolver and as he did so McCormick started for the United Brethren church yard and as he ran Policeman Marshall fired and McCormick staggered and fell. Marshall ran up to McCormick and said, "Throw that gun away," to which McCormick replied, "___ ___ you can kill me but I'll get some of you." McCormick made an effort to shoot, whereupon Policeman Marshall fired at McCormick again and then ran up and kicked the automatic out of McCormick's hand.

McCormick was taken to the jail, where he died at 8 o'clock. Before dying he said that "Dick" was with him but escaped, however, he refused to give the full name of Dick. The officers saw no such person but are making an investigation to determine if someone was with McCormick.

McCormick's mother and grandmother with whom he lived near the County Farm, were brought in to talk to McCormick and be with him during his last hours. Both the mother and grandmother are almost prostrated.

The lifeless form of Sheriff Dawes was taken to the Turpin undertaking rooms. Mrs. Dawes, who has been a devoted wife and official assistant, is prostrated with grief.

After McCormick died his body was taken to the Turpin morgue. McCormick, who was 24 years of age, had lived with his mother and grandmother on the farm and was looked upon as an industrious and law-abiding young man and the residents of that section of the county were greatly surprised and shocked at the news that he had killed Sheriff Dawes. The large number of keys carried by McCormick has led the officers to believe that he had committed other offenses. J. Ben Robinson of the J. B. Robinson & Son hardware store says he caught McCormick in his store and later behind the store and ordered him away, this occurring not so long ago. Some think it possible that McCormick may have been connected with the shooting of Roy Greer, who worked at the store and slept in the wareroom and who was mysteriously murdered.

Prosecuting Attorney Poage and Coroner Brown, who is acting sheriff until a new sheriff is elected at a special election, and Deputy Sheriff George Stonum are working hard to clear up all doubtful points relative to the murder of Sheriff Dawes and to determine if anyone besides McCormick participated in the dreadful affair.

McCormick Hit 4 Times.

An examination of McCormick's body showed that he was struck by four bullets fired by the officers. One bullet struck his foot, one his leg, one the right side of his body and passed through his body just below the ribs, the latter causing the fatal injury.

The people of Nevada have stood in groups all day in the business district discussing the murder of Sheriff Dawes, expressing their admiration of the fearless officer and their sorrow due to his untimely death. Police officer Marshall has received much favorable comment. It is the general opinion that he brought McCormick to earth.

When it was announced that McCormick had died there was a general feeling that his death was fortunate, as had he lived he no doubt would have paid the death penalty

which would have added to the sorrow of his mother and grandmother. So far as Nevada was concerned, had McCormick lived, there would have been constant fear of a lynching.

Sheriff Fred Dawes was a self-made man and he had a legion of friends in this city and Vernon county. He was elected and served as sheriff about two years and a half and was known as an impartial and fearless officer. Personally he was a most likeable man, being of a genial and generous disposition. He is survived by his devoted wife and three little daughters, Margaret, Irene and Ella May and one son, Loren.

For many years Sheriff Dawes was in the railway service and was very popular with all the employees of the railway companies.

W. W. Marshall, Missouri Pacific Officer Worthington, and G. A. Stonum, were appointed deputies by Sheriff Brown and have been sworn in.

It was learned today that McCormick carried a loaded revolver most of the time. This fact was noted by a grocery merchant who sold him some groceries recently, and said that he noticed a revolver in his coat. He was also said to have carried a revolver in the harvest field. This would indicate that McCormick was expecting trouble and was prepared to defend himself.

**The Nevada Daily Mail and Evening Post,
Nevada, MO. Fri., Jul. 18, 1919, page 1.**

The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, DC, is the nation's monument to law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty. The Memorial honors federal, state and local law enforcement officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the safety and protection of our nation and its people.

The Memorial features two curving, 304-foot-long blue-gray marble walls. Carved on these walls are the names of nearly 19,000 officers who have been killed in the line of duty throughout U.S. history, dating back to the first known death in 1792. Unlike many other memorials in Washington, DC, the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial is ever-

changing: new names of fallen officers are added to the monument each spring, in conjunction with National Police Week.

Fred O. Dawes, Sheriff
Panel: 39-E: 11
End of Watch: July 17, 1919
Cause: Gunfire
Description: Attempting an arrest.
Shot by suspect.

<http://www.nleomf.org/memorial/>



Newton Burial Park, Nevada, Missouri

**PRISONER
COMMITTS
SUICIDE**

**Mrs. Zelia Mouquet Hanged
Herself in Vernon County
Jail Sunday Afternoon.
Made Rope of Handkerchief
and Underwear and Choked
Herself to Death.
Was Held on Charge of
Murdering Her Husband at
Burgess, Mo.**

Mrs. Zelia Mouquet, of Burgess, Mo., committed suicide by hanging herself in the Vernon county jail at 12:45 o'clock Sunday afternoon.

The woman tied a handkerchief around her neck, made a rope of her undershirt and attached this to the handkerchief and

hanged herself to a bed post. The bed post was not more than four feet tall, and she held her feet from the floor and choked to death.

Mrs. Mouquet had been asking Sheriff Marshall for poison to exterminate mice, pretending that she was very much afraid of them, and his suspicions were aroused that she was contemplating self destruction, and he had been keeping close watch on her. He expected that she would attempt to drown herself in the bath tub, but did not think it possible that she could hang herself. Life was not extinct when the sheriff reached her, and had he been a minute or two sooner her life would have been saved. Coroner Brown viewed the body and decided that an inquest was not necessary.

The officers have been of the opinion all the while that when she shot her paramour and killed her aged husband that she intended to kill them both and then destroy herself, but that her nerve failed her at that time. She was placed in the Nevada jail October 30.

The officers at Lamar have been notified but Mrs. Mouquet has no relatives so far as is known, who could be expected to take charge of the body, and it is expected that she will be buried in the potters field.

Mrs. Mouquet, 40 years old, shot her husband, Jules Mouquet, 74 years old, through the heart, killing him instantly, after shooting and wounding Walter Hepshire at the Mouquet home in Burgess, a village five miles west of Liberal. Officers said she told them she shot her husband because he was "old and no good." Why she shot Hepshire was not explained.

Hepshire, in Mrs. Mouquet's preliminary, admitted improper relations with Mrs. Mouquet. He said there had been no quarrel between himself and Mrs. Mouquet and none between her and her husband. Mrs. Mouquet was not placed on the stand.

Mrs. Mouquet and Hepshire had been sitting in the kitchen of the Mouquet home. Mouquet retired. Mrs. Mouquet stepped into another room and, according to testimony,

reappeared in an instant and fired point blank at Hepshire. Then she was said to have stepped into her husband's bedroom and shot him as he sat on the side of the bed, he having been startled and raised up on hearing the first shot. Mrs. Mouquet complacently surrendered herself to the officers and did not appear to be affected by her deed.

**The Nevada Daily Mail and Evening Post,
Nevada, MO. Mon., Nov. 3, 1919.**

Summer Fresh Grocery Cash Register Receipts and Best Choice UPC Labels

The Society continues to collect Best Choice brand UPC product labels and Summer Fresh Grocery Store receipts. Summer Fresh receipts are void if the bottom portion of the receipt is removed. Bring these items to any monthly meeting.

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 80, 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

***2011 annual memberships are being accepted that this time -- only \$10
Join today to support the Society's work!***

**Veterans' Day
November 11, 2010**

**I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America,
and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God,
indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.**



Freedom isn't free ~~ our veterans have paid the price.

If you can read this...thank a teacher,
If you can read this in English...thank a VETERAN !

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED