



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

## March 2011

**April 19, 2011, 10 a.m.**  
**Genealogy Meeting and Program**  
**Church of Christ Fellowship Hall**  
**302 E Hospital Rd., El Dorado Springs**

***RESEARCHING YOUR  
CIVIL WAR ANCESTORS***  
*PROGRAM BY GARY AYRES*

The April program will be presented by Gary Ayers, Commander, John T. Coffee Camp #1934, Missouri Sons of Confederate Veterans. This program will include information on how to research your Civil War ancestors. Also see the related Civil War articles below.

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

### **The Civil War 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration**

According to history books, the Civil War began on April 12, 1861 with the attack on Fort Sumter in South Carolina. But in Vernon County, the Civil War actually began in December 1858 with John Brown's infamous plundering, murderous raid into the county and the killing of old Mr. Cruise, a law-abiding pioneer settler.

The Civil War, or the War of the Rebellion as many know it, continues to hold a great fascination for many genealogists and historians. Everyone researching this important period in our country's history (regardless of his/her sympathies) can now have access to Civil War records which have been placed online by the National Archives

and Ancestry.com. These records will be available **free April 7-14** on Footnote.com at <http://go.footnote.com/civilwar/>

### **Family Search Adds Records at Amazingly Fast Pace**

It is about impossible to keep up with all of the new free images and indexes placed online at <https://www.familysearch.org/>

Of note are a couple of collections which may be of interest to you in your Civil War research: 27,874 digital images - Missouri, Confederate Pension Applications and Soldiers Home Applications. These records are digital images of documents in the pension files and the applications. The applications are arranged alphabetically by name. Information may include dates of service, birth or age, birthplace, spouse's name, names of dependent children, date of death, military unit, etc. Browse the collection at this link (copy URL and past into your internet browser):

<https://www.familysearch.org/s/image/show#uri=http%3A//pilot.familysearch.org/records/collection/1865475/waypoints&hash=Mrd8SMocDIIlen2Q83tu%252B82PRagg%253D>

### **Civil War Books of Local Interest**

Several books are available pertaining to the Civil War period in this area – please see [www.rootsweb.com/~motcogs/pubs31-45.htm](http://www.rootsweb.com/~motcogs/pubs31-45.htm)

- **Fire and Sword: A Missouri County in the Civil War**
- **“Found No Bushwhackers” The 1864 Diary of Sgt. James P. Mallery, Company A, Third Wisconsin Calvary, stationed at Balltown, Missouri**

- **Knights of the Bush and Others {Rebels and Yankees} of Vernon County, Missouri**
- **Quantrill's Partisan Rangers**
- **Bushwhackers of the Border: The Civil War Period in Western Missouri**
- **In the Devil's Dominions: A Civil War Diary. A Union Soldier's Adventures in "Bushwhacker Country"**

### Locally Procuring Provisions Pre-Civil War

Many pioneer settlers in this region traveled to Fort Scott, Kansas for provisions in the pre-Civil War time period. Below is a link to a store ledger book which reveals who was shopping and what they purchased.

<http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/211139>

Thanks to Vernon County researcher Charles D. for sharing this link.

### 2011 Society Programs

The following programs are tentatively scheduled for 2011. Watch the newsletter and website for updated information or changes as programs are finalized.

**May 17, Nevada:** Tour of Deepwood Cemetery. Rosemary Noel & Betty Garton.

**Jun 21, El Do Spgs:** Field trip: Osceola Museum and lunch in Collins.

**Jul 19, Nevada:** Tour of Renovated Bickel home.

**Aug 16, El Do Spgs:** To be announced.

**Sep 20, Nevada:** Research at Nevada Family History Center.

**Oct 18, El Do Spgs:** Land Grants. Christina Miller, Missouri State Archives.

**Nov 15, Nevada:** Griswold Cast Iron Skillets. Jeff Mitchell.

**Dec 20, El Do Spgs:** Installation of Officers and Christmas Luncheon.

[Program co-chairs: please email changes to me as they are known. Thank you. Editor]

### Tri-County Changes Name

At its March meeting, the Tri-County Genealogical Society voted to officially change its name to Cedar and Vernon County Genealogical Society. This name more accurately reflects both the Society's membership and the two research collections (Nevada and El Dorado Springs).

Watch for our new name beginning in April on the Genealogy Society's website and in other materials.

In conjunction with this change, Vernon County resources that are now available on the Genealogy Society's website will be transferred to the Vernon County USGenWeb Project website at

[www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~movernon/](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~movernon/)

### New Books

The following books are being cataloged and will soon be available at both the Nevada Library Genealogy Dept. and the El Dorado Springs Library.

Map Guide to American Migration Routes, 1735-1815. William Dollarhide and Grad Stuart. 1997.

All area schools' yearbook donations are being accepted; please contact the society.

### Lyndon Irwin to Speak at The Katy Depot Museum in Sedalia, MO "All Aboard to the 1904 World's Fair" "There Will be a Wreck!"

Society member Lyndon Irwin, author, speaker, and historian, is scheduled to speak on Saturday, April 16 in Sedalia "All Aboard to the 1904 World's Fair" will begin at 10 a.m., and "There Will be a Wreck!" begins at 12:20 p.m. In addition to Irwin's programs, memorabilia from the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis will be on display. The Sedalia Katy Depot Historic Site is located at 600 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> in Sedalia. See information at [www.katydepotsedalia.com](http://www.katydepotsedalia.com)

### Growth of a Nation

"Growth of a Nation" is a free, ten-minute online movie with narration that depicts the geographic history of the United States from 1789. The timeline is interactive...and a lot of time could be spent exploring the AnimatedAtlas.com website.

<http://www.animatedatlas.com/movie.html>

### Internet Searches and Using RootsWeb

There is a very good article in a RootsWeb Review newsletter explaining how to search

within a website and more. Under Table of Contents, click the "Using RootsWeb" link. <ftp.rootsweb.com/pub/review/2008/0305.html>

### **New ID Requirements for Obtaining Copies of Missouri Vital Records**

The Missouri health department has adopted new guidelines for obtaining copies of birth, death, marriage and divorce records to help protect Missourians from identify theft. As of March 2011, identification will be required when requesting vital records from the State health department in Jefferson City and local health departments throughout Missouri. This does not affect the free Missouri Death Certificates now available online. Please see [www.rootsweb.com/~motcogs/deaths.htm](http://www.rootsweb.com/~motcogs/deaths.htm) for information about obtaining Missouri vital records. Thanks to member Gayle T. for sharing this information.

### **Links to Free Vital Records Available Online**

<http://users.rcn.com/timarg/PaHR-Access-states.htm> This website frequently updates its listing of what vital records are available online and may be one to bookmark for quick access.

### **Member's Research ~ Bigham Family**

Member Howard B. has shared some information about his ancestor, Vance Bigham. A reference to Bigham is found on page 813 in the 1887 History of Vernon Co, but merely states that a man named Bigham and his wife died about 1847 in Drywood Twp, Section 7.

Vance Bigham was born between 1802-06 in TN. In 1828 he married Mary Alexander in Lawrence Co, AL. In late 1830 or early 1831, the Bigham family moved to Bates Co, MO (area would have been Johnson Co at that time). Between 1833 and 1843, he farmed land in Rives Co. In 1843 Bigham received two land patents in Henry Co. Sometime after this, the Vance Bigham family moved to Bates (Vernon) Co. In the book Early Deaths of Missouri, it is reported that Vance Bigham

died in 1851. Family story also is that he died and was buried in Vernon Co.

Vance and Mary Bigham's son David M. Bigham obtained a land patent in Section 2 of Moundville Twp, Vernon Co in 1856.

If you have researched this family and can share information regarding when and where Vance and Mary (Alexander) Bigham died and are buried, please contact the Society and you will be put in touch with Howard.

### **Items of Interest from Area Newspapers**

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

#### **A DARING ROBBERY.**

NEVADA, MO., March 3.—The boldest robbery every committed in this city took place in broad daylight this morning. At 7 o'clock Tate Brady, head clerk at W. F. Lewis's shoe store, on the west side of the square, had just opened up and was making a fire when a stranger entered the store, saying he wished to look at a pair of shoes and that he was in a great hurry. The clerk displayed several pairs. A three-dollar-and-a-half pair was decided on by the customer, who produced a ten-dollar bill, saying it was the smallest amount he had. Brady was compelled to go to the safe to get the change, but before doing so put his revolver in his pocket. Just as the safe was opened the man made a grab at the money, at the same time pressing a revolver at the clerk's head and ordering him to throw up his hands. Brady jumped to one side and drew his revolver, when the robber fired, the ball passed through Brady's left ear. The shot was returned without effect, and after considerable scuffling, resulting in Brady being beaten on the head with the robber's revolver, the robber decamped, having secured only a five-dollar bill. The remainder of the money had been scattered over the floor in the scuffle. Brady's wounds are of a serious nature, but will not prove fatal. The daring robber has not yet been captured.

*The New York Times, March 4, 1887.*

[Our thanks to new Society member, Lee Roy C. for sharing this article with us, advising that he had found it online in the *New York Times* Archives.  
[www.nytimes.com/ref/membercenter/nytarchive.html](http://www.nytimes.com/ref/membercenter/nytarchive.html)  
[timesmachine.nytimes.com/browser](http://timesmachine.nytimes.com/browser) Thank you, Lee Roy for this article and your membership!]

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**Deliberate Murder—Remarkable  
Coolness of the Murderer.**

*From the Nevada (Mo.) Times. July 14.*

On Wednesday last a man arrived at Balltown, and put up at the Hotel kept by Mr. Pennington. He appeared to be a very quiet man, was riding a splendid horse, and wore a brace of revolvers. He talked very little to any one, but made some casual inquiries about a man by the name of Bedford. On Thursday he was absent all day, returned in the evening, and Wednesday he made arrangements to have his horse taken care of two or three days; but in a short time he changed his mind, got his horse, fired off and cleaned up his pistols, and said he would take a ride. While riding along, Layton, who did the shooting, was overtaken by one of the citizens of Osage, who was going to Marsh Owens' house, where they were threshing wheat, and they got into conversation. When they came to Owens' lane, Layton asked the neighbor, "Is this the road we go?" The gentleman answered, "That is according to where you want to go." Layton said, "Oh, anywhere, not particular." They rode down the lane to near the house, got off their horses and hitched them to the fence, and got over into the yard where the thresher was at work. Immediately after crossing the fence Layton began pulling off the glove of his right hand with his teeth and walking toward the machine, which was still at the time. When within about thirty steps of Bedford, Bedford saw him, turned and ran. Layton drew his pistol and fired, the first shot dropping him. Bedford arose and started again, when another shot brought him to the ground; then Layton stepped up to him and put another ball through him as he lay on the ground. Bedford was shot through the thigh, through the bowels from back to front, and

through the chest from back to front, penetrating the lungs. After firing the third shot, and seeing his victim lying helpless before him with the blood running from his mouth, he turned and walked to his horse, mounted, and leisurely cantered out to the mouth of the lane, and then walked his horse until out of sight. Layton never spoke a word after crossing the fence, but did his work coolly and deliberately.

*The New York Times, July 20, 1871.*

<http://query.nytimes.com/gst/abstract.html?res=950DE0D7103EEE34BC4851DFB166838A669FDE&scp=1&sq=Nevada+%28Mo.%29+times.+July+14+Balltown&st=p>

[Okay, Vernon County researchers, who is this Bedford that was killed? Why? Who is Layton?]

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[Copies of the below six articles were provided by member Kenneth W.]

**SHOOTIN AFFRAY**

Sedalia, Mo., Oct. 2.—A special to the Daily Bazoo from Osceola, St. Clair county, this evening, contains an account of the shooting of a desperado named Wm. Sanders alias Red Bill, by the City Marshall of that place. The officer attempted to arrest him, when he resisted and drew his pistol. The Marshall then shot him with a double-barrel shot gun, the charge entering his breast above the right nipple, killing him instantly. The officer gave himself up to the Sheriff.

*Liberty Tribune, Liberty, MO. Oct. 4, 1872.*

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David C. Parks was arrested near Park's Grove, St. Clair county, Mo., on Monday last, by Wm. M. Cox, sheriff of that county, and taken to Sedalia. Parks is charged with being the leader of a gang who robbed the Wells Fargo & Co.'s money safe in Calaveras county, Cal., in August 1876, securing about \$800. His whereabouts were made known through one of his confederates lately arrested.

*Liberty Tribune, Liberty, MO. Oct. 19, 1877.*



### **Here and There.**

Mr. John Troutman, died in Vernon County, Mo., on the 20<sup>th</sup> ult., of hemorrhage of the bowels, aged about 71 years. He resided in Clay county some years ago and owned the farm now owned by Mr. J. D. Morris.

*Liberty Tribune, Liberty, MO. Feb. 22, 1878.*

### **MARRIAGES**

In Vernon county, on Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, by Elder Mountjoy, Miss Lucy E. Ewing, late of Saline county, Mo., to Mr. Hardin Nelson, of Nevada City, Mo.

*Saline County Progress, Marshall, Mo. May 5, 1870.*

### **An Old Citizen of Audrain County, Mo.**

From the Mexico Leader, March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Joel Haines committed suicide on the 6<sup>th</sup> inst., at the home of his son William, in Vernon county, by cutting his throat. Mr. Haines was one of the earliest settlers of this county and upon the organization in '37 or '38, was appointed to the office of circuit and county clerk. In 1840, he was elected to the same office, which he held till 1842; when the offices were separated. He was then elected circuit clerk, Judge Morris being elected County Clerk. In 1844, he again became a candidate for circuit clerk, and was beaten by our fellow townsman, Judge J. P. Clark. In 1846 Mr. Haines was elected Sheriff, and in 1850 he was elected to the office of assessor. In 1856 he was Mr. Silas Wilson's opponent for the office of circuit clerk and was again defeated. He moved to Mercer county in 1859 and resided there until about four years ago, when he took up residence with his son William in Vernon county. Mr. Haines was over eighty years of age at the time of his death. No sense was assigned for taking his life except weariness of life. Mr. Haines has probably held more offices in this county than any other man. He bore a high reputation in the neighborhood

and has many friends here who will regret to hear of his death.

*Saline County Progress, Marshall, MO. Apr. 16, 1875.*

### **A SHOCKING TRAGEDY A SHERIFF AND HIS AID KILLED**

From the Bolivar (Missouri) Sentinel, 6<sup>th</sup>.—The Grand Jury of the county of Cedar having found an indictment for murder against two men named Stow and Earnest, a *capias* was placed in the hand of Capt. John Paynter, Sheriff of the county, to arrest them. The Sheriff having summoned six men to assist him in making the arrest, proceeded about 12 miles from Stockton, on the Osceola road, when they came to the house in which Stow was. The Sheriff and two of his assistants entered the house and found Stow in bed; he then went to the foot of the bed and laying his hands on Stow said: "I am the Sheriff of Cedar county, you are my prisoner." At that instant Stow fired, the ball entering Capt. Paynter's heart, killing him instantly. Lieut. Harvel, one of the men summoned to assist Paynter, was standing at his back, when Stow fired, a second time, killed Harvel. Mr. Noble, another of the aids who was in the room at the time, fired three times at Stow but without effect.

A party of men supposed to be friends of Stow, were seen approaching the house, which had been guarded outside by the remainder of the aids; following to the excitement occasioned by the killing of the Sheriff and Lieut. Harvel, Stow made his escape about an hour afterwards; the house containing some two or three doorways.

Capt. Paynter was an active businessman, and was much esteemed by his fellow citizens. He formerly belonged to the 7<sup>th</sup> Missouri Cavalry Volunteers.

*Liberty Tribune, Liberty, MO. Oct. 13, 1865.*

### **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. 2011 Society officers are:

President: Dorothy Foster

V. Pres: Valo Jones; Lynda Bishop

Recording Secy: Neoma Foreman

Treasurer: Ray Lukenbill

Corresponding Secy: Darlene Lukenbill

[TriCountyGenealogy@centurytel.net](mailto:TriCountyGenealogy@centurytel.net)

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

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