

**PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW NAME AND EMAIL ADDRESS!**

***Cedar & Vernon County, MO Genealogical Society***

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

## **NEWSLETTER**

**May 2011**

**June 21, 2011  
Genealogy Field Trip**

### ***TOUR OF OSCEOLA MUSEUM***

The Please meet at 10 a.m. in the parking lot of the Church of Christ Fellowship Hall, 302 East Hospital Road in El Dorado Springs, MO to carpool-caravan to the Osceola Museum. For those driving directly, the museum is located at the corner of Main and Chestnut in Osceola. Our group will arrive there between 10:30 and 10:45 a.m. for the tour. Admission is by donation. Following the museum tour, as we leave town we will stop at the cemetery to visit the Confederate marker dedicated to those who lost their lives in the burning of Osceola during the Civil War.

Some in the group may want to return home through Collins for lunch at Smith's restaurant. Please contact Lynda Bishop if you have questions about the June 21 tour.

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

### **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.

**Jul 19, Nevada:** To be announced.

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

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

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

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

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

### **Fallen Law Officers Honored At Deepwood Cemetery Program National Law Enforcement Week**

Detective Harry McGinnis, Sheriff Clarence Brooks, Sheriff Joseph Bailey, and Sheriff Fred Dawes were each honored on May 17 in a special ceremony during the Society's Deepwood Cemetery Tour conducted by member Rosemary Noel.



**Nevada Police Officers were special guests during a National Law Enforcement Week ceremony at Deepwood Cemetery to honor officers killed in the line of duty.**

### **Detective Harry McGinnis End of watch: April 13, 1933**

Detective Harry McGinnis of the Joplin, MO Police Department along with other law enforcement officers had gone to a house in Joplin with a search warrant for liquor and

with a tip that two men suspected of having staged a recent Neosho robbery and several highway robberies in the vicinity were at the residence. As the officers stepped from their automobiles they were met with a barrage of bullets from a sawed-off shotgun and a sub-machine gun. Detective Harry McGinnis and Constable Wes Harryman were both killed. In a hail of gunfire, the bandits escaped. A search of the house determined that it was the Clyde and Ivy Barrow outlaw gang. About one year later, on May 23, 1934, Clyde Barrow and Bonnie Parker were killed in Louisiana by law officers which ended their murderous robbery spree across several Midwestern states.

Harry McGinnis, the son of former Vernon County Sheriff William McGinnis, was born Oct. 7, 1879, in the Vernon County Jail while his father was sheriff. His wife was killed in Joplin in 1931 when struck by an automobile. Surviving were his mother, Mrs. M. E. Atkinson, two sisters, two brothers, and three cousins. Burial was in the family lot in Deepwood Cemetery.

**Sheriff W. Clarence Brooks  
End of watch: July 4, 1884**

Wharton County, Texas Sheriff W. Clarence Brooks and his brother, Eugene Brooks, were leaving the Wharton Co, TX courthouse on June 30, 1884, where they had been attending the trial of William Stewart Gibbs. Gibbs had left the courthouse before Sheriff Brooks and his brother and went across the street and obtained a Winchester rifle from a store. Gibbs stepped out of a doorway and fired at Eugene Brooks, striking him in the left arm. Sheriff Brooks drew his pistol and ran across the street to arrest Gibbs, and as he approached the door both he and Gibbs fired and the Sheriff was fatally wounded by Gibbs. Sheriff Brooks died at 10 p.m. on July 4. Gibbs, who was wounded, claimed self-defense and was released by the justice court. In April 1885 Gibbs was indicted by the grand jury for the death of Sheriff Brooks. When Gibbs stepped out of the

courthouse to get his bondsman, he was met by Eugene Brooks with a double-barrel shotgun, who fired both barrels into Gibbs. Brooks surrendered, and on May 1, 1886, a jury returned a not guilty verdict for Eugene Brooks.

On May 8, 1886, the remains of Sheriff W. Clarence Brooks were removed from Wharton, TX to Nevada and buried in Deepwood Cemetery. Sheriff Brooks' gravestone gives the date he was shot, June 30, 1884, rather than the date he died, July 4, 1884.

In October 1886, Eugene Brooks took ill and died of pneumonia. His remains were shipped to Nevada, MO for burial in the family lot at Deepwood beside his brother.

Wreaths were placed at the graves of Sheriff McGinnis and Sheriff Brooks.

Nevada Chief of Police Graham Burnley spoke to those in attendance, thanking them for their attendance to remember and honor the fallen officers. He encouraged the Society to conduct a ceremony each year during Law Enforcement Week to honor those who gave their lives in the line of duty. Chief Burnley spoke of having visited the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, DC. In honoring Vernon County's fallen officers, Chief Burnley presented summaries of the following two Sheriffs who were killed in the line of duty.

**Sheriff Joseph Bailey  
End of watch: March 26, 1867**

Vernon County Sheriff Joseph Bailey was murdered by Perry and Lewis Pixley, brothers, following their arrest for stealing a hog from an area farmer. Sheriff Bailey was conveying the brothers to Nevada City, MO, from their home about three miles northwest of town near Moore's Mill on the Marmaton River, when he was shot in the back of the head. The Sheriff's body was found the next day in Scott's Branch where it had been dragged through the brush to the bank of the creek. Sheriff's Bailey's cap, with the

warrant in it, was discovered hidden in a hollow tree about 50 yards from the body.

A search was begun for the brothers and upon questioning some of their close friends, it was discovered that they had gone to Mrs. Doak's place on the Marmaton and said that they had killed the Sheriff. Following a meal which was prepared for them, they made their escape downriver in a canoe that had been stolen for them by Tom Ingram and John Eslinger. The remaining Pixley family was to cross the river and start for North Missouri the next day. Ingram was arrested and taken to Nevada but refused to make a confession, though did remark that the Pixley's had \$250 stolen from Sheriff Bailey. That night Ingram was taken out of the hands of the guards by a posse of men, supposed to be the vigilance committee, and the next morning his body was found hanging to a tree in the edge of the timber skirting the town. A \$3,000 reward was offered for the Pixley's but they were never heard from again.

General Joseph Bailey was born in the village of Pennsylvania, Ashtabula Co, Ohio on May 6, 1825. He was married to Mary Spaulding in 1846 and they had five children. When the Civil War broke out he raised a company of men and entered Federal service as Captain of Co. D, 4<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Infantry. He was promoted to major in March 1863, to lieutenant-colonel in June following, and on June 10, 1864, for his service on the Red River campaign he was made a brigadier-general and received a resolution of thanks from Congress. He constructed the wing dams at Alexandria, LA, thus raising the water in Red River, enabling the Federal fleet to pass over the rapids at that point, escaping the enemy.

General Joseph Bailey was buried in the National Cemetery at Fort Scott, Kansas and was later removed to Evergreen Cemetery so his wife could be buried beside him.

### **Sheriff Fred O. Dawes End of watch: July 17, 1919**

Vernon County Sheriff Fred Dawes was shot by James S. "Lee" McCormick after apprehending him in connection with the theft of grain from the Mead Grain Company in Nevada. For some time the grain company had been missing sacks of feed, and that evening it was discovered that three sacks of grain had been taken from the elevator and placed in front of the building. Sheriff Dawes and Policemen W. W. Marshall and W. H. Catherwood staked out the elevator for the return of the thief. Shortly, McCormick drove up in an automobile and stopped. He was apprehended by the officers and taken into the grain elevator office building where Sheriff Dawes started to search McCormick. The Sheriff took a large bunch of keys from McCormick's pocket and placed them on a table. Just as the Sheriff turned around to continue his search of McCormick's pockets, McCormick jerked a 32-caliber automatic revolver and quickly fired a bullet through Sheriff Dawe's heart. Exclaiming "my God," he sank to the floor and died instantly.

McCormick immediately began firing at Policemen Marshall and Catherwood, and they returned fire. McCormick bolted from the building and a running revolver battle took place on Pine Street. As McCormick headed for the United Brethren church yard, Policeman Marshall fired and McCormick staggered and fell. McCormick attempted to continue shooting and was shot again. Although McCormick said that "Dick" was his accomplice and had escaped, he refused to give his full name before he died.

In investigation it was discovered that McCormick had ordered Yale lock keys for several area locks, and a number of keys were found in his possession. One of these keys fit the lock in the door of the Mead Grain Company. Some think that McCormick may have also been connected with the mysterious murder of Roy Greer, who worked at the Robinson & Son Hardware store and slept in the storeroom

because McCormick had been caught in the store previously.

The newspaper reported that "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 Sheriff Dawes." Fred Dawes was born July 15, 1875 in Vernon County. He is buried in Newton Burial Park in Nevada, MO.

### **New Resources in Genealogy Department**

The following microfilm of Nevada newspapers is being cataloged and will soon be available for use:

Vernon County Democrat: Jul. 2, 1880.

Daily Democrat: Mar. 8, 1881

Weekly Democrat: Nov 6, 1888; Jun. 6 and Aug. 8, 1889; Jul. 10, 1890.

Nevada Daily Democrat: Mar. 4, 1893.

Nevada Herald: May 5, 1905; Jan. 28, 1916; Dec. 12, 1930; Jul. 14, 1938.

Industrial Review: Oct 31, 1890.

Evening Post: Dec. 6, 1899; Dec 22, 1900.

Southwest Mail: Jun. 30, 1882; Jun 7, 1889; Nov 19, 1915.

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

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

#### **Sudden Death of R. S. Tweedy, One of our Best Citizens**

#### **Criminal Negligence of a Switch Tender**

We have received the painful intelligence of the sudden death of R. S. Tweedy who lived near Hartford, [KS] which took place at the Schell City, Mo. stockyards, on the M. K. and T. Railroad, on last Monday morning at 4 A.M.

Mr. Tweedy in company with others, had started for the eastern market with cattle. He had three car loads of his own. The train arrived at Schell City, just over the line between Kansas and Missouri a short distance where it went on to a side-track to await the arrival and passage of a heavy

freight train. Strange as it may seem, the switch tender went to sleep on his part, leaving the switch open. Soon the freight train came thundering along and ran onto the side-track, causing a fearful smashup. Mr. Charles Shaver, a neighbor of Mr. Tweedy's was on the near end of the caboose of the cattle train, and discovered the coming train in time to jump off. He was considerably bruised but not seriously hurt. The last seen of Mr. Tweedy he was sitting astride a brake, on top of one of the cattle cars, the third from the rear. It is supposed he was knocked from this by the jar and fell between two cars, as he was found there dead a few minutes afterwards.

The sad news of the death of Mr. Tweedy cast a deep gloom over the entire neighborhood of Hartford. He came there just after the distressing crop failure of 1874, from California, bringing considerable means. He bought a farm two and half miles south of Hartford and soon settled upon it. He is known and beloved for his efforts to relieve the distress of the people. He bought a large quantity of flour and sold it to his neighbors on time and in many ways assisted them. He was said to be one of the best men in every way on Eagle Creek. He was a Mason, and several members of the order from this city attended his funeral Tuesday. It was the largest ever seen in the County, A. H. Bulton conducted the service.

Sixteen head of cattle were killed and many others hurt. The switch tender through whose criminal carelessness the sad accident happened, certainly deserves to be dealt with.

[This newspaper article was provided by Raymond Spencer, Westphalia, KS in Oct. 2002—before newspaper articles were included in the genealogy newsletter. Ralph Skidmore Tweedy was killed on Aug. 4, 1876 in Schell City, MO.]

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**A MURDERER HANGED.  
WILLIAM FOX CONFESSES ON THE  
SCAFFOLD THE KILLING OF TOM  
HOWARD.**

St. Louis, Dec. 28.—Twenty thousand persons witnessed the hanging of William Fox at Nevada, Mo., to-day. The early trains were packed with passengers, and many were left at the stations, not being able to get in the cars. Fox exhibited the utmost nerve at the execution. At the adjustment of the noose he assisted the officers in every way to prepare himself. His last words were, "Fare you well, boys." On the scaffold he confessed to the killing of Tom Howard. He said: "I left for Jennie Rose, and Howard tried to beat me out of Jennie. This made me mad, and I drew my revolver and shot him square in the middle of the back. He fell, but got up on his hands and knees and said, 'For God's sake, Bill, don't kill me, and I will give you all the money I have!' I went up to him and shot him again, just below the left shoulder blade. He fell with his face down. I pulled him over on his back. He was still alive. I shot him twice in the head, but it was so dark I could not tell the effect. I then went through his pockets and got \$40. I gave the money to Mrs. Rose."

*The New York Times, New York City, NY.  
December 29, 1883.*

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

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

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

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 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 office 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.  
April 16, 1875.*

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**MARRIED:** - At Nevada, Mo., on Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 1881, by Rev. R. Will Reynolds, Miss Alice Wallace of Indiana, to Mr. B. J. Mosier, of Saline.

*Saline County Progress, Marshall, MO.  
June 30, 1881.*

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**DIED.**

HARRIS – Dr. Henry Harris, of Nevada, son of Mr. Harrison Harris, of this place, and brother of Mrs. J. G. L. Harvey and Mrs. Dr. Lee Alexander, died at Mr. Harvey's on the 4<sup>th</sup> inst. of cancer with which he had been afflicted for sometime. He was a well qualified physician, and had a good practice in Nevada where he resided. His remains were conveyed to the Mo. Pacific depot by the Masons of this city on Friday at twelve o'clock. He leaves a wife and several children.

*Saline County Progress, Marshall, MO.  
July 6, 1889.*

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**DIED.**

Mr. B. D. Kinkead died very suddenly of heart disease, in Vernon county, on Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup> inst., at fifteen minutes to 12 o'clock on that day. He fully realized his situation and said that he was past all human power or help. He was buried at Mt. Vernon church Wednesday. He was born in Saline county on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of May, 1847, was in his 45<sup>th</sup>

year, and had lived in Saline county until 8 years ago, when he, with the rest of his family, moved to Vernon county. His father and mother still survive him, also two sisters, Mrs. Rodgers, of Salter, and Mrs. E. G. Maring, of Nevada, and seven brothers. He leaves a host of friends to mourn his death.

**Saline County Progress, Marshall, MO.  
July 24, 1891.**

#### **Summer Fresh Grocery Cash Register Receipts and Best Choice UPC Labels**

The genealogy 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. They are redeemed for cash used to purchase genealogy resources for our public libraries.

#### **Monthly Meetings**

Monthly meetings of the Cedar & Vernon Co, MO Genealogical Society 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. 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 Cedar & Vernon Co, MO 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

Tri-County Genealogical Society  
(Vernon-Cedar-St. Clair Counties)  
218 West Walnut Street  
Nevada, MO 64772

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED