

Cedar & Vernon County, MO Genealogical Society

218 West Walnut Street, Nevada, MO 64772

Society email: Cedar.VernonCoMO@centurytel.net

Society website: www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~motcogs/

Vernon Co research: www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~movernon

Cedar Co research: www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mocedar

Genealogical Society Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, June 20, 2017, 10 a.m.

El Dorado Springs Library Meeting Room

808 S. Main Street, El Dorado Springs, MO

Social Media and Genealogy Research

Many of us use social media to communicate with family and friends -- let's share ways that we can use social media to advance our genealogy research -- Facebook, Pinterest, etc. This can be a way to connect with cousins who can possibly help break through a brickwall or might have family pictures they have scanned and will share with you. Working together on a problem can often bring a solution. In this program we will explore the many possibilities with using social media for family history research.

Following the June 20 program, a brief DNA question and answer session will be held. Anyone requiring assistance in creating or uploading a GEDCOM family tree file or other help with their DNA test results is welcome to bring their laptop. Please ensure your laptop has downloaded and installed any required updates prior to the meeting and that you bring the computer power cord and mouse.

The monthly genealogy society meetings are open to everyone interested in family history research; invite a friend. Meeting locations alternate between Nevada and El Dorado Springs on the third Tuesday of the month at the local library. If questions, please contact the society by email.

“New” Antique Claw-foot Table in Genealogy Department

If you have recently been in the Nevada Library Genealogy Department, you will have noticed the new table in the center of the room. This antique table is on loan to the Nevada Library from the Bushwhacker Museum. The table was donated to the Museum by a daughter of Barth and Catherine Hinkle. The story provided to your editor is that the table originally belonged to Mr. John T. Birdseye who opened Nevada's first abstract office.

The 1887 History of Vernon County Missouri, page 633, contains the biography of John T. Birdseye (Of the firm of Birdseye & Harris, Attorneys at Law, and Real

Estate, Loan and Insurance Agents). This can also be read online at http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~movernon/bios/birdseye_john.htm The biography of John B. Harris begins on page 643 of the 1887 History (online at http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~movernon/bios/harris_john.htm).

A picture of Mr. Birdseye's original office building can be seen on page 183 of Scenes from the Past (of Nevada, Missouri) by Betty Sterett, compiled and edited by Donna Logan. This Sterett article was originally published in the Nevada Daily Mail newspaper on 15 February 1976, page 7, (online at <https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=M3zsPnPgUIUC&dat=19760215&printsec=frontpage&hl=en>). The article reports that the Birdseye home was built in 1866 and was reportedly the first brick home built in Nevada following the Civil War. It was located at 221 North Main Street (today, the Spirit & Truth Christian Center, which is beside the old Bushwhacker Jail). Two years later Mr. Birdseye's small office building was erected in the corner of his yard to house his law office and abstract company. The newspaper further states that in 1920 the office building was replaced by Moss & Urner's garage. [This would be the building that today is the Nevada Library building which also houses the Bushwhacker Museum in the basement, the Cerner offices on the second floor, and the library's "Next Generation" program in the southeast corner of the building.] The Sterett articles goes on to say that the abstract company that has born the Birdseye name for 108 years was now [in 1976] owned by Barth Hinkle.

Lang & Young's 1890 Directory of the City of Nevada shows that there were four Abstracters in Nevada at that time, one being Birdseye & Harris, located at 200 N. Walnut St. (sic). This directory also shows that Birdseye & Harris, attorneys-at-law are located at 200 W. Walnut Street.

W. H. Hoffman's 1913 City Directory of Nevada shows four Abstracts of Titles companies. The office of Birdseye & Son is located at 201 N. Main, and the office of Birdseye and Son, lawyers, is also at this address. None of the other three abstract companies are the same names or locations as in the 1890 directory.

The Missouri Secretary of State's website shows that the "Vernon County Abstract & Title Company" was formed 23 Mar 1935 with Barth F. Hinkle as registered agent, and the company's previous name was Birdseye Abstract Company. The last Missouri Annual Registration Report was filed 31 Jul 1986.

So the table story goes – the table was housed in Mr. Birdseye's office, then his son took over the business, then a partner, Mr. Harris - eventually the office space and this table became the property of the Hinkle's. The Hinkle's original office, the Vernon County Abstract Company, was previously located in what is now the Library's Genealogy Department. So it is fitting that this large antique

table be returned to this location. It can be surmised that it is named the Closing Table because land transactions were completed at the table.

There is much more research that could be conducted by anyone interested in the history of the Birdseye Abstract Office, John Birdseye, the Vernon County Abstract & Title Co, etc. – numerous additional city directories, phone books, additional information with the Missouri Secretary of State's office, land records and city maps, newspaper articles, and estate records, etc.

A small placard on the table identifies the east emergency exit in the Genealogy Dept as 207 N. Main Street, where the former Birdseye Abstract Company office -- later the Vernon County Abstract & Title Company -- was located c. 1920-1960.

Scenes from the Past (of Nevada, Missouri) by Betty Sterett is available for purchase at the Bushwhacker Museum. If you are interested in the History of Nevada and Vernon County, this is a great book to get!

The following email and information was received by the Society from Scott H.: I live in Virginia and explore forgotten ruins such as abandoned civil war edifices. I found the name of a long passed Vernon resident carved into a block of a civil war era train bridge. Scott H.



Scott provided a link to the Vernon Co MO USGenWeb website biography of A. J. Kibler at http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~movernon/bios/kibler_a.htm which is how he located the Society's contact information. This picture was enclosed with Scott's

email – it shows an engraved “W” and then below that is engraved “A. J. KIBLER”. When asking Scott for more information about where this was located (and also permission to publish his picture and information), he replied: By all means, I am perfectly happy to share any pictures or information with anyone who may know more about this subject. The exact location of the ruins is a place called Chapel Road Park in Clifton, Virginia, just outside the northwest edge of the park, where the River makes a sharp right hand turn. Once I went back and looked for it, I found it was actually visible on Google Maps. I am including a link to a history website I found about the Bull Run Bridge which is very close where I

found the ruins, and along the same track. Also some better pictures of the stone structures as they stand currently. I will continue to look for information pertaining to any Virginia Kibler's and pass it along as I go. Good day to you, and thank you for your interest. <http://www.novahistory.org/BullRun>

Condolences to Members

Our condolences to Society members Rose Ann Reeder on the death of her husband and Marty Patton on the death of her father.

Cedar County Historical Society

The Cedar County Historical Society's latest newsletter can be viewed online at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mocchs/Newsletters/2CCHS-Apr--2017news.pdf>

Best Choice UPCs and Labels for Education

Members are urged to save both Best Choice UPCs and also Boxtops for Education and bring to any meeting. Our thanks to Maxine Morris for volunteering to process Best Choice UPCs for the Society. The Boxtops for Education will be forwarded to the Elizabeth Carey Chapter DAR.

[From the 1911 History of Vernon County Missouri, pages 552-553.]

CHURCHES.

Mount Vernon M. E. Church South is located on section 20, Clear Creek township. The organization of this church was effected about the year 1861. The following were the original members: B. N. Buford, A. J. Edmiston, ___ Carroll, Benjamin Snodgrass, Eli Pentecost, Mose Everman, J. C. Newland, John Buford, S. Hill, A. M. Sullard and their wives; Mrs. Easley, Mrs. Julia Lancaster and Mrs. S. Morgan. In 1884 a frame church building was erected which cost \$1,000.

The 1887 History of Vernon County Missouri, page 459 continues with this additional information: At present writing [1887] there are about sixty members. The Sabbath-school has a membership of 70. A. M. Sullard is superintendent. The pastors have ben Revs. L. P. Siceloff, H. N. Watts, ___ Minchal, ___ Winton, and Reynolds.

The following additional history of the Mount Vernon M. E. Church South was written by Helen M. Kennedy (Mrs. Raymond) prior to 1984.

Elijah W. Ransdell (b. 3-6-1829 – d. 1-16-1916), was the carpenter of this building and the church pews. He was born in Clark county, Kentucky, came to Missouri in June 1874, bought 80 acres in section 17 [township __, range __] in

Vernon Co. He married 11-6-1851 in Lexington, KY to Sarah Jane VanArsdale (b. 5-19-1834 – d. 3-7-1880). Their daughter Allie Edna (b. 11-9-1853 – d. 12-19-1930) married (9-12-1878) to John Clifton Newland, charter members of this church. On 1-30-1883, Elijah married Sarah W. Fletcher (b. 8-19-1836 – d. 11-7-1914). The three are buried on the south side of the Mt. Vernon Church, in the Mt. Vernon Cemetery. [This family donated the church and cemetery land.]

[A list of known ministers of the Mt. Vernon Church will be published next month]

Old records show that in 1916 the Superintendent was Ben Klopfenstein. Others after this date were Homer Langley, Scott Hawk, Benton McCrory, Edward Hines, Jerial Covington, Mrs. W. C. (Amy) Carson, and Mrs. Dee (Slyvina) Goodpasture (b. 3-2-1907 – d. 6-24-1981) the last S. S. Superintendent in 1970 when we gave up our S. S. Our church services have been held with the Harwood Methodist in Harwood, MO since 1968, as we all had to get in our cars to go to our country church. Rev. Ground asked us to consider going to Harwood so that we would not have him give two sermon on Sunday morning.

At this writing we are thinking of closing Mt. Vernon Church at the 100th year in 1984 by deeding it to the Mt. Vernon Cemetery Trust Fund Association, for our attendance is now three and membership fifteen with death, age, and health taking its toll of our membership. Also the times of larger farms, smaller families, and the travel from horses to cars in this period of history.

Submitted by Helen M. Kennedy (Mrs. Raymond)

[Mrs. Helen Kennedy was born Oct 8, 1918 and died Jan 11, 2013, and the mother of Genealogy Society member Jenise Burch who shared the above information for publication with us.]

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