

Cedar & Vernon County Missouri Genealogical Society

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October 2022 Newsletter©

The Cedar & Vernon Co MO Genealogical Society meeting and program will be held October 19, 2022 at the Nevada Library Annex, 200 W. Walnut St, Nevada, MO, beginning at 10 a.m. Please note that the Annex doors will open at 9:30 a.m. and the meeting will begin at 10 a.m., so come a few minutes early to visit. Nancy T., member, will present the program which will include two short segments:

- An Overview of Using the Leeds Method to Sort DNA Matches
- Are You *Really* Related to Queen Elizabeth?

As we move into fall, it is time to gear up for genealogy research and these items just might help jumpstart your research!

Neoma F. reported a genealogy breakthrough in her Douglass lineage at the September meeting. After searching for many years, she found her correct Douglass family in the 1860 U.S. Federal Census in Coffee Co, TN. In following this specific Douglass family in the 1870 and 1880 censuses, she then confirmed that this was her maternal grandmother's family! When she mentioned the 1860 Coffee Co, TN census, another member commented that her Ewell family was in Coffee Co, TN prior to moving on west to Vernon Co, and that this could possibly be their lineage connection. Although you are probably not researching surname Douglass, you can benefit from her genealogy tip: Look at researchers' trees on all of the *different* websites for clues. Having used Ancestry.com for several years, her breakthrough came when looking at free family trees on the FamilySearch.org website. Give this a try!

Stepp Cemetery is correctly Stapp Cemetery. Several old, now abandoned pioneer cemeteries in Vernon County were named after the individuals who owned the land where graveyards were first established. Some of these cemeteries are Davis, Warkins, Baker, Cox, etc. This is the case with the abandoned cemetery pictured here—the cemetery which has been called Stepp Cemetery for many years will now reclaim its correct name to honor the pioneer family who moved to Vernon Co prior to 1850 and settled on this land in Badger Township.



As work progressed on the new Vernon County Missouri Directory of Deaths and Burials, it was noted that several early newspaper notices stated the burial was in "Stapp graveyard." It was thought that this was a common newspaper "typo" of the name...until an 1888 death notice for a Mr. James Stapp said that he also was interred at the "Stapp burying ground." Whoa! Is there a cemetery we don't know about, or what? Are there other surname "Stapp" burials in the more than 72,500 listings in the database? A search revealed a 12 Feb 1891 Nevada Noticer newspaper item which

reported that Mrs. M. E. Stepp (sic) at the advanced age of 75 years was buried “on the home place the following day.” Research had to be done to resolve the questions that these death notices posed.

The 1876 Vernon Co map shows “Stapp” owning land in Badger Twp, Sections 4 and 9, and the 1886 map showed Esther Stapp owning land in Badger Twp. The Bushwhacker Museum website, which has the Vernon Co probate index available for researchers, shows numerous minor heirs of a Joseph Stapp whose probate appears to have been settled in 1867, and Esther Stapp is listed as curator of the minor children.

Joseph Stapp appears on page 606-607 of the 1887 History of Vernon Co under the heading Churches of Nevada. Christian Church – “The first organization of this church was effected in the fall of 1857 by Rev. Thos. German. The constituent members numbered about 20, some of whom were W. W. Prewitt, Samuel Thomas and his wife, Amanda; D. C. Hunter, Henry Hunter and **Joseph Stapp**. ...” Additionally, on pages 432-433: “In the summer of 1846 Dr. Harding and family settled in Badger township, and in the spring of 1847 Thomas Shivers and Mr. Wooliver came in. ...

Wooliver was a poor man, so poor that he had no sort of wheeled vehicle, and actually moved his household articles and other “plunder” from one of the upper counties to Vernon on a sled drawn by oxen; he sold his farm to **Stapp** and went to Texas in 1855. ...” [Emphasis in bold added by editor]

Federal census records from 1850 show that Joseph and Esther Stapp were already in Vernon Co (then called Bates Co) and had several children. Further research showed some children remained in Vernon Co following their marriages. A 13 Aug 1937 Southwest Mail and Weekly Post newspaper death notice says that Mrs. Mary McMullen, was an early resident in the Badger area, “being a member of the Stappe family (for whom the Stappe cemetery was named) and lived here a number of years with her

husband, John McMullen...” [Original spelling retained]

The Bureau of Land Management General Land Office Records (free online) shows Joseph Stapp took a cash-sale land patent in Vernon Co in Oct 1854. In 1859 William B. Stapp and Lester P. Smith are assignees on five Military Land Warrants which are also located in Badger Township. The Military Warrants were originally issued to soldiers who served in the War of 1812, Black Hawk War, Florida War, and North Western Frontier Disturbances and were sold by the soldiers. Additional research would be required to determine the possible family connection of Joseph Stapp to William B. Stapp and Lester P. Smith.

Documents in the probate file of Joseph Stapp are dated shortly after the close of the Civil War; all county business had ceased during the war. Online personal research trees show that Joseph Stapp died in 1862 and no documents proving that date are posted with the trees. If this is your family, please let us know!

Conducting reasonably exhaustive research is necessary in family history research, and research of the land records showing the sale of the Joseph Stapp land is the next logical step.

Stapp Cemetery will be renamed Stapp Cemetery in the upcoming Cemetery Directory. The cemetery name will also be corrected on the Find A Grave website. It is noted that Google Maps has this cemetery pinned incorrectly (approximately 1/4 mile east of the correct location), and this will also be corrected. Directions to the cemetery: From Nevada, MO: about 5 miles east on US 54 to the Hwy C (north) and S 2200 Rd junction; 1 3/4 miles south on S 2200 Rd; west about 1/4 mile on E Northern Rd. The cemetery is on the south side of the road in the wooded area.

Membership Dues: As the Society approaches the end of 2022, everyone is reminded that dues for calendar year 2023 can be paid at any time. Society dues are

\$10 per calendar year. Dues paid during Sep-Dec are for the following year. Lifetime dues are \$100 per person. Dues can be given directly to treasurer Marty P. at any meeting or mailed to the Society at:

Cedar & Vernon Co MO Gen Soc
Attn: Membership
218 W. Walnut St.
Nevada, MO 64772

Benefits of Society membership include receiving the emailed monthly newsletter, free personal genealogy lookups in the cemetery database, free queries pertaining to former Vernon County residents published in the newsletter, and biographies of local research published in the newsletter and/or on the Vernon Co GenWeb website.

The Society meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m. The meeting location is announced in the newsletter and on the Vernon Co U.S.GenWeb website at <https://sites.rootsweb.com/~movernon/>

Have you wondered what searches have been conducted by other who are looking for additional information on their ancestors or persons they are researching or even a specific topic on the MOVernon website? The search engine on the Home page is provided by FreeFind which generates monthly reports. In September, the most searched words were: Gardner, Taylor, Moss, Jesse, Clark, Lacy, Kuhlman, Lowry, Ewing, Finnis, Girten, Ellis, Brooks, William, Lawrence, Crawford, Emmett, Cochenour, Shakespeare, Wiseman, Martin, Mistler, Dickinson, Current, Wardin, Bridgewater, Shrout, Doores, Tillostson, Woodford, Hall, Price (and many more). [Spelling was kept intact from these searches.]

Digital Newspapers. The State Historical Society of Missouri provides free digital early Missouri newspapers at the Missouri Newspaper Archives at this search page, <https://shsmo.newspapers.com/search/>. You can, for instance, search a name or keyword with a date range and limited to a specific Missouri town or county.

Example: McMullen Mar 1909 Vernon County, Missouri

The Vernon Co, MO newspapers and approximate dates available (some issues missing) include:

1881 - 1881	Nevada	Daily Democrat
1899 - 1900	Nevada	Evening Post
1890 - 1890	Nevada	Industrial Review
1904 - 1943	Metz	Metz Times
1893 - 1893	Nevada	Daily Democrat
1905 - 1945	Nevada	Nevada Herald
1886 - 1894	Nevada	Nevada Noticer
1882 - 1922	Nevada	Southwest Mail
1922 - 1944	Nevada	Southwest Mail and Weekly Post
1880 - 1880	Nevada	Vernon Co Democrat
1888 - 1890	Nevada	Weekly Democrat
1901 - 1917	Nevada	Weekly Post

The digital newspaper information has been added to the Resources page of the Vernon Co MO USGenWeb Project website where it will be easy to find when needed. You can also bookmark the Newspaper Archives search page on your computer. The digital collection covers the entire state.

In using the **Online Deed Indexes** at <https://vernonmo.icounty.com> it has been learned that on some computers using the internet browsers Google Chrome or Firefox, the page viewing window does not show the correct size. If the window is 2-1/2-inches high when you search the deed indexes, you can switch to the Microsoft Edge browser and the window will be about 6-inches high which enables viewing the website more comfortably.

For those researching Missouri counties other than Vernon, replace *vernon* with the name of the Missouri county you are researching in the internet address.

Instructions on using the online indexes from the Recorder's Office will be posted on the MOVernon website in the upcoming days.

Deepwood Cemetery Tour: The Bushwhacker Museum is again hosting walking tours of Deepwood Cemetery where



several historic character portrayals bring Vernon County's early leaders back to life! Tickets are \$10 per person. Guided tours start every 15 minutes. Dates and times include:

October 14: 5 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

October 15: 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Tickets are limited, so call the Bushwhacker Museum at 417-667-3769 to purchase.



Churchell House

Christmas Historical Homes Tour: Mark your calendars now for a holiday Walk through Nevada's Historical Homes on 10 Dec 2022.

Additional details will be provided by the Vernon County Historical Society.

The website **GEDmatch.com** recently announced that it has partnered with **AmericanAncestors.org** with the goal of providing additional genealogy resources to help researchers discover their family roots. GEDmatch provides tools for comparing autosomal DNA test results with others who may have tested at different testing companies. Anyone can upload their autosomal (aka Family Finder) test results for free to GEDmatch and use the many free comparison tools. Additional advanced tools are available for a small monthly fee. Several "how-to" videos are available to help you learn how to use the website. AmericanAncestors.org is the website of the New England Historic Genealogical Society in Boston, MA.

Best Choice UPC labels can be turned in at any monthly meeting or left in the collection box in the Nevada Library Genealogy Dept. The labels are redeemed for cash from Best Choice. Long-distance members are urged to find a local nonprofit organization to support which collects the labels and donate their labels there.

Newspaper Articles

A SUICIDE AT ODESSA, MO.

John Scott, 21 Years Old, Shot Himself Five Times.

Odessa, Mo., Dec. 25.—John Scott, a grocery clerk, 21 years old, shot and killed himself just outside the Chicago & Alton depot here last night. He had come to the railway station to meet some guests who were coming to his sister's wedding. The guests were not on the train and the young man ran through the cars to find them. After

the train started he tried to jump off. His overcoat caught as he jumped and he was dragged fifteen yards by the train. A gash was cut in his forehead. Scott left the station and it is supposed that he shot himself while temporarily insane from the injury. Five bullets are in his body near the heart.

The Kansas City Star, Kansas City, MO; 25 December 1902 p1c7

John Scott died in Dec 1902.

John Scott who committed suicide recently was a son of Tom Scott who some years ago resided at Walker. It is said that Scott objected to the marriage of his sister and after the ceremony he walked between his sister and the groom and said, "The devil get the one who walks between you." A few minutes after he shot himself.

The Nevada Daily Mail, Nevada, Missouri; 8 January 1903 p4c5

The Walker Herald has discovered that John Scott, who shot himself near Kansas City last month was a resident of Walker about six years ago. The young man jumped from a train, was caught and dragged by it and then shot himself. It was on the eve of his sister's marriage.

The Weekly Post, Nevada, Missouri; 16 January 1903 p3c4

[Research tip: obtain all of the death notices published to possibly discover different details.]

John Howell's Funeral.

John Howell, the old man who was killed yesterday afternoon by the Frisco switch engine on West Seventh street, was buried this afternoon at the expense of the city. No word was received in response to messages sent to Nevada and Neosho, inquiring about the relatives of the dead man. This was a sad case. He came here alone, lived alone and had no friends or acquaintances, and no relatives could be found to claim the body.

The Galena Evening Times, Galena, Kansas; 12 March 1902 p4

For Assault and Battery.

J. E. Martin, formerly stock marshal of Galena, will be tried in Justice Spiva's court this evening for assault and battery upon one Mrs. L. E. Shoot. The alleged assault occurred March 13th and grew out of a quarrel over the possession of property belonging to John Howell, the fellow who

was killed last Tuesday by a Frisco switch engine.

The Galena Evening Times, Galena, Kansas; 15 March 1902 p1c5

Fined \$1 and Costs.

J. E. Martin, who was arrested a few days ago on charge of assault and battery, upon complaint of one Mrs. L. E. Shoot, was fined one dollar and costs in Justice Spiva's court Saturday night. Martin appealed the case.

The Galena Evening Times, Galena, Kansas; 18 March 1902 p4c4

REV. W. H. SCHROEDER DEAD.

He Passed Away Sunday Evening at Sundown.

His Life Was a Long and Eventful One.

Rev. W. H. Schroeder died at his home, 621 South Cedar street, Sunday evening at 6:30, just as the sun was sinking in the western horizon.

His life was a long one, full of thrilling events and kind deeds. Born May 19, 1824, in the city of Philadelphia, Pa., had he lived until the 19th of next May he would have been 74 years of age.

He was a Missouri pioneer, for at the age of 18 years he began to preach the gospel of Christ in St. Louis as a minister of the Methodist church. This was long before the division of that church on the slavery question and before there were any North or South Methodists.

During Bishop Greene's administration, Rev. Schroeder was sent to Lexington, Mo., and so large was his circuit that he was forced to preach every day to fill his appointments, traveling all the time on horseback. He preached at Old Harmony Mission and in the Missouri river counties for many years. His greatest revival was at Palmyra, Mo., where hundreds of souls were converted and lived in newness of life.

In that day Rev. Schroeder was an eloquent man and only the day of judgment will reveal the great work he accomplished for the Master.

He built the first Methodist church at Clinton, Mo., and he used to preach in this section when only two houses stood where the city of Nevada is built and the counties of Bates and Vernon were one under the name of Bates county.

When the Methodist church divided, Rev. Schroeder went with the Southern wing of the church. During the war he was in St. Louis and had charge of Asbury chapel in that city.

After his health broke down he went into business at Clinton, conducting a general store there before the war.

After the war he moved from St. Louis back to Clinton, then to Butler, coming to Nevada to live in 1870, and he has lived here ever since, a peculiar circumstance being that Rev. Schroeder has never been out of the limits of the town since he came here to live in 1879. He was very methodical in his life and his family cannot recollect the time when he did not arise at 4 o'clock in the morning.

Rev. Schroeder was an heir of the Joseph Ball estate of \$75,000,000, the property being in the city of Philadelphia. He was a great-nephew of the millionaire, on his father side. It is thought the estate, which is now in litigation, will be settled in July next and eastern relatives estimate Rev. Schroeder's share of the estate is about \$38,000.

Rev. Schroeder's health has been broken for about three years, but he never took to his bed until Friday last. He died of old age and physical exhaustion. He leaves a wife and two daughters, Miss Bessie Schroeder, and Mrs. Mattie Harold, of this city, and one son, Wm. H. Schroeder, of Jerseyville, Ill.

The funeral services will be conducted at the home tomorrow at 10 o'clock by Rev. E. P. Anderson, of Trinity church, and the burial will be at Deepwood cemetery.

Five years ago Rev. Schroeder gave his daughter Bessie the old family Bible as a keepsake. It is a very old book and came from England. He told her when he died he did not want flowers on his coffin, but simply a sprig of evergreen on the coffin, and evergreens placed in the coffin. He also said

he wanted "Nearer My God to Thee," "On Christ the Solid Rock" and "Land Ahead" sung at his funeral. His request will be compiled with. No better or kindlier man than Rev. Schroeder ever lived.

Nevada Daily Mail, Nevada, Missouri; 7 February 1898 p4c4

[Editor's note: No legible gravestone can be found for Rev. Schroeder in Deepwood Cemetery.]

A GOOD CATCH.

A Shover of the "Queer" Taken in—Another Victory for the Lawrence Officers.

Tuesday evening, a rather shabbily dressed man was on the street and stopped at several places and purchased small amounts, offering in payment counterfeit dollars. Among other places which he visited was Harry Hutson's. Harry at once recognized the character of the coin, and made the gentlemen take his money back and give good in return. Yesterday the same man was on the fair ground, and offered his spurious coins in several places, succeeding in getting off some. He tried the game at Harry Hutson's stand out there. Harry spotted him and followed him up, and soon passed him over to Marshal Brockelsly, who gathered him in. On searching the man, he was found to have about thirty dollars of the stuff in his hat, rolled up in a handkerchief.

The man gave his name as William Christopher Wright, and said he had an accomplice on the ground. He claimed to hail from Leavenworth, which place he had left Tuesday. On his person was found a letter, purporting to be from his wife, dated at Metz, Mo., August 1, which had been sent to Nevada, and forwarded from there to Leavenworth. The Marshal will take good care of this rooster, and hopes to get hold of the rest of the gang.

A Good Catch; Lawrence Daily Journal, Lawrence, Kansas; 4 September 1870 p1c2

Edward Adams and family, consisting of his wife and two children and Miss Carson, sister of his wife, residents of Vernon county,

Mo., in attempting to cross Clear creek, were all drowned except Miss Carson.

The Republican Citizen, Paola, Kansas; 8 May 1880, p2c6

The black leg in cattle, is a disease which is proving very fatal in Vernon county, Mo. The Living Democrat, published at Nevada, in that county, says that an enterprising farmer has found that a cure is easily effected by rubbing the afflicted limb with coal oil and giving it a teaspoonful internally.

The Redwood Gazette, Redwood Falls, Minnesota; 15 July 1875 p4c2

Historical.

In Vernon County, Mo., there are ruins of earthworks and furnaces supposed to have been constructed by De Soto 300 years ago. They are situated on a prairie between the waters of the lower Drywood and Clear creek, where is to be seen the signs of old mining operations, consisting of four ditches five feet wide and extending about a quarter of a mile in length. In early times in the vicinity of these ditches, in a branch there have been found very fair specims (sic) of silver ore, about twelve miles from Nevada, in the nearest timber, are to be seen the fountains of three furnaces, with quantities of cinders, among which was once found a piece of gold, about the size of a common rifle ball. The ruins of these works are still visible, and arrest the attention of the most indifferent passer by. It is believed that men of science have labored there but nobody knows anything positively about it.

It is generally believed that this locality in Vernon county was the winter quarters of Ferdinand De Soto and his companions in 1541 and 1542, and also the field of their mining and smelting experiments, and the burial place of several of De Soto's company, one of whom was the talented interpreter Juan Ortiz, whose thrilling narrative is given in a historical sketch of the life of De Soto.

White Cloud Kansas Chief, White Cloud, Kansas; 18 January 1872 p1c4

FATAL AFFRAY.—An affray occurred in Vernon county, Mo., last Saturday, which resulted in the death of Thomas Profit, an old and respected citizen of that county. Between Profit and his brother-in-law, a man named Wood, a family quarrel had long existed. On the day in question, Profit was at the house of Wood, when they entered into a dispute about a passage of Scripture. From words they soon came to blows, and in the scuffle Profit had the advantage. Wood, finding himself likely to be worsted, seized a butcher-knife and stabbed Profit to the heart, killing him instantly.

It was with great difficulty that the citizens were prevented from executing summary vengeance upon Wood, who is represented as being a bad man and a disagreeable neighbor. He is an old man, apparently bordering on three score and ten years. He is now in jail awaiting trial.—Ft. Scott Democrat.

The Topeka Tribune, Topeka, Kansas; 25 January 1861 p2c4

William A. Harris, formerly of Boone and brother of Mrs. T. B. Harris of this city, died of pneumonia at his home in Schell City, Vernon county, MO., Dec 20, aged 58

Fulton Telegraph, Fulton, Missouri; 9 Jan 1880 p2c3

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