

Cedar & Vernon County Missouri Genealogical Society

218 W. Walnut St., Nevada, MO 64772

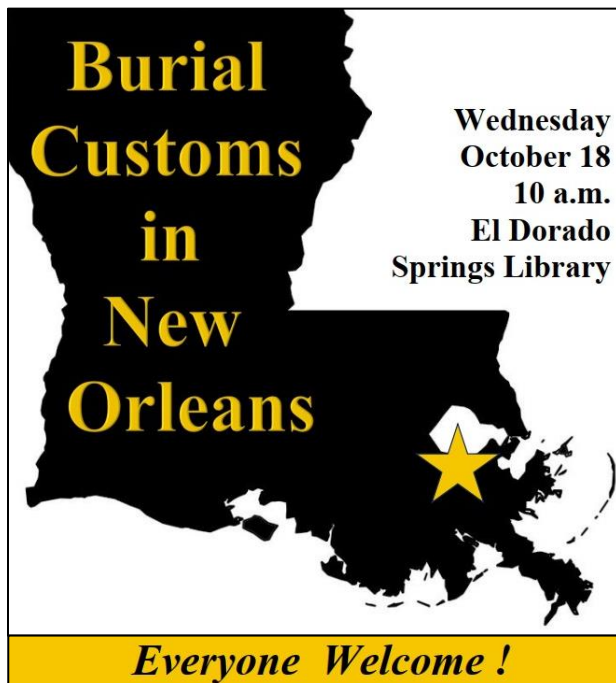
Email: Cedar.VernonCoMO@centurytel.net

Website: <https://sites.rootsweb.com/~movernon/>

October 2023 Newsletter©

Society Meeting: Wednesday, 18 Oct 2023

The Cedar & Vernon Co MO Genealogical Society meeting will be held **Wed, 18 Oct 2023, beginning at 10 a.m. at the El Dorado Springs Library, 808 S. Main St., El Dorado Springs, MO.** The program will be presented by Marty.



First Settlements in the New World. If you were unable to attend the 20 Sep program, you can watch the 18-minute video at this link. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cr7oCluscfw> Information on researching your Mayflower ancestors and joining the Mayflower lineage society is at <https://themayflowersociety.org/> Of note is the "Patriot to Passenger Bridge Project" which ties the first 5 generations of Mayflower passengers to generations 6, 7, and 8 by using other lineage society databases (e.g., Daughters of the American Revolution, Sons of the American Revolution) is available at

<https://themayflowersociety.org/genealogy/patriots-to-passengers/>

Our Society continues to explore identifying a more convenient day/time for its monthly meeting to allow as many local members as possible to attend. Additional discussions will be held at the October 18 meeting.

Membership Dues for calendar year 2024 can be paid at any time by mailing them to the above address or giving them to the treasurer at any meeting.

\$10 for an individual

\$15 for a couple, same household

\$100 for life membership.

Benefits of membership include receiving the emailed monthly newsletter, free posts in the newsletter, and free lookups in the new database of Vernon County deaths and burials. If you are unsure if your dues have been paid, please email the society and your inquiry will be forwarded to the treasurer to check the records and respond to you.

Save Best Choice UPCs



UPCs from Best Choice brand products are collected by the Society and redeemed for cash. Please note that the UPC from each bottle of Best Choice bottled water can be

submitted. The UPCs can be turned in at any meeting or placed in the box on top of the microfilm cabinet in the Nevada Library Genealogy Dept. (It is not cost-effective to mail the labels if you are not in the Cedar / Vernon County area.)

Thank you for the recent monetary donations to the Society. Funds are used to help purchase research books and also area newspaper microfilm for the Library's Genealogy Dept collections.

A donation of blank genealogy forms and charts has also been received. The forms are available for researchers' at the magazine rack (to the left of the bulletin board) in the Nevada Library Genealogy Department.

Geographic Locations. In researching, don't forget that correct location and timeframe matter. Check county formation maps, boundary issues, etc., to ensure looking in the correct location rather than the modern location. Several of the family-tree type sites online tend to index as the modern location. Know the history of the area and the dates there were boundary changes before you begin your research. The Atlas of Historical County Boundaries is available from the Newberry Library at this link: <https://digital.newberry.org/ahcb/map/map.html#MO>

Burned Courthouse. The July newsletter had a request for help finding the marriage record of **Margaret Amanda Berry** (born 1823 in KY) who married **William Wilson Gray** (born abt 1817 in KY). Their first child was born Jan 1844 in Dade Co, MO.

Dade County was created 29 Jan 1841 from Barry and Polk counties. The county seat is Greenfield. Records show that the Dade Co, MO courthouse was destroyed 6 Oct 1863, and only marriage records from 1867 are extant. If individuals resided near a county line, they possibly could have gone to the courthouse in a nearby county. Area counties

were searched with no marriage license having been found.

Suggestions for researching areas with record loss can be found at [https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/DadeCounty, Missouri Genealogy](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/DadeCounty,MissouriGenealogy)

Pence Lake, Vernon County, Missouri

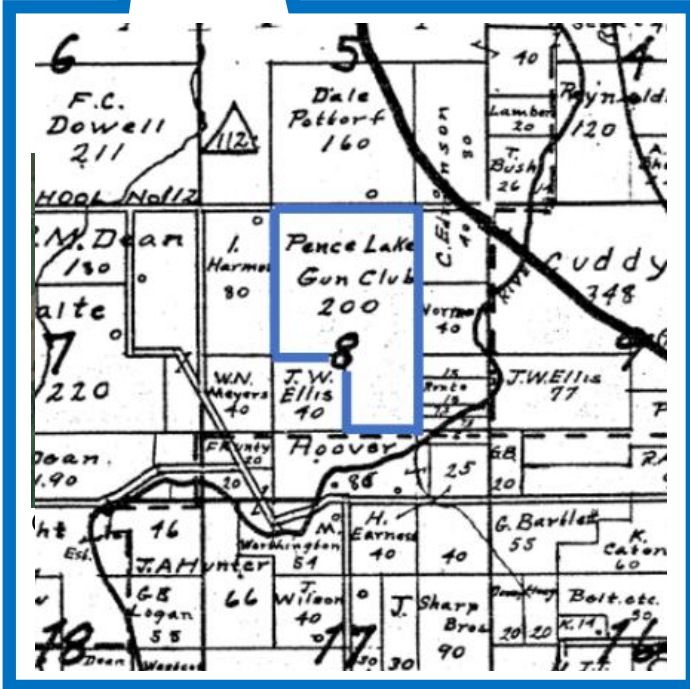
Numerous newspaper articles in early- to mid-1900s Vernon County newspapers mention a "Pence Lake" and "Pence Lake Hunting Club" located north of Nevada, MO. With a bit of research, the location of the area where area businessmen often hunted and fished and youth groups camped was identified.

"Searching for a Pot of Gold at the Pence Lake Club" was the headline in a 27 September 1935 article in the Southwest Mail and the Weekly Post newspaper. The article reads: "Search for a pot of gold not at the end of the rainbow but in the ground at the foot of an elm tree at Pence Lake, was started Tuesday, according to a report from some of the club members. A man here in Nevada has an instrument with which he claims he has located a treasure on the club grounds and so the digging has started but so far no results reported."

A treasure must not have been found as there were no follow-up newspaper articles about finding a pot of gold.

From various abstracted newspaper articles (below) over the next several years, we learn that there was a club house which would accommodate a good size crowd of people and many functions, both large and small, were held there.

The below Washington Township map from a 1928 Vernon County map shows that the Pence Lake Gun Club owned 200 acres of land located in Section 8 at that time. The lake was located west of U.S. Hwy 71 (now I-49) and just north of the Marmaton River. Organization of the Pence Lake Gun Club was begun in 1910.



New Gun Club to Organize.

W. M. King has leased the Pence lakes five miles north of Nevada. A number of Nevada and Vernon county citizens will meet at his store on the west side of the square Monday night September 5 for the purpose of organizing a gun and hunting club. Mr. King states that all who desire to obtain memberships are requested to be present at the meeting and place their applications. **The Weekly Post, Nevada, Missouri; 2 Sep 1910, p3c1.**

Temperatures were too mild, and there was too much water even for ducks in **October 1923**. A big flock of wild geese hovered over Pence Lake for several days but evidently being too warm to suit them they disappeared; however, Ed Jordan bagged one of the flock, a 9 ½ pounder.

In **September 1925** an ad was placed in the local papers, looking for a caretaker at the Pence Lake Hunting and Fishing Club property. It sought an industrious, competent and reliable person who was ready to move in immediately and go to work. Harry L. Harner, Secretary at the Thornton National Bank was receiving applications.

In **1928** J. A. Muster, County Farm Agent, reported that farmers were just learning of the financial benefits of feeding whey rather than skimmed milk to their hogs. "Walter Stubblefield of Rinehart changed from skimmed milk to separated whey and never noticed his pigs slow up in their gains. Other men report similarly. At Pence Lake, R. E. Jordan is making unusually fine gains on skimmed whey with the Club's Duroc hogs."

In **April 1931** attorney Dan Z. Gibson and E. E. Price entertained 25 friends at the Hunting Club with a big fish fry. Thirty-five pounds of fine channel catfish were enjoyed by the group and out-of-town guests included Dr. Porter Williams, Dr. McAllister, Dr. Allen, Lawrence (Pearl) and R. E. Wilson of Kansas.

Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Richardson were caretakers at the Pence Lake club in **1932**.

Fishermen were having visions of long strings of fish as the high waters mean great numbers of fish in the local streams. Some very large Buffalo fish were caught in the backwater at Pence Lake this morning, **May 1933**.

On the opening day of duck season **October 1938**, Woody Swearingen was in a blind at Pence Lake at 7 a.m. and returned to Nevada before noon with his limit of teal, 10 of the finest little "eating" ducks that fly. Due to weather, the Nevada post office reported that only 32 federal wildfowl stamps had been sold so far, which was about one-third of normal.

The Nevada Boot and Saddle Club met in **August 1940** at the Pence Lake club house for a Sunday morning breakfast and to plan their Seventh Annual Horse Show to be held the following month. About 140 members and guests were in attendance. The chief cook was "Sandy" Smith and his assistants were Homer Vance, Gill Griffin, and Jimmy Dale. George Logan was the coffeemaker.

Businesses also took advantage of the fine facilities at Pence Lake. In **July 1941** the Nevada Chapter of the American Savings and Loan Institute held its graduation exercises and picnic there. The president of the Farm and Home, George W. Wagner, was the speaker of the evening. Those receiving 4-year graduate certificates were Lowell Davis, John M. Gainey, Harold Howell, D. E. Merriott, E. A. Seiberns, S. E. Smith, Frank L. Snyder, and H. E. Ormsbee; and B. L. Coffman had his certificate mailed to him at Camp Hulen, Texas, where he was then stationed on military duty. Three-year diplomas were presented to Anna Argo, H. L. Bratton, Hazel Farley, M. A. Matthews, Fred Record, Mildred Shipp, and Helen Becket.

Mention was often made in local obituaries of membership in the Pence Lake Hunting Club, such as in the **1944** obituary of E. E. Levens, a prominent Nevada businessman.



Pence Lake area north of Nevada, MO, Google Maps

If you have pictures of events at the Pence Lake Club House, please share them to publish in a future newsletter.

Free Upload of DNA to MyHeritage

Due to popular demand, **My Heritage has extended its special offer until October 15, 2023 at 11:59 p.m.** Enjoy all advanced DNA features for free, forever! MyHeritage supports DNA data files from Ancestry, 23andMe and FamilyTreeDNA (Family Finder). Save the usual \$29 unlock fee per file. Use this link to upload: [Upload now](#)

Why upload to MyHeritage

- **High-resolution ethnicity reports covering 2,114 geographic regions**
- **Huge DNA database of 7.3 million people**
- **The best service for European DNA matching**
- **Innovative tools for tracing your relationship to your DNA Matches**
- **Full privacy controls: only you can see your data**
- **MyHeritage is the only DNA company that has committed never to sell or license users' data to third parties**

This offer is valid for new DNA files that are uploaded to MyHeritage for the first time. It does not apply to DNA files uploaded in the past. Please contact the Genealogy Society if you require assistance.

Unidentified Photo:

Is Davis Steele Pierce on the Right?

The attached photo was found after my mother passed away. The bottom of the photo indicates it was taken by [D. L. ?] McClanahan in Sheldon, MO.

The young man at the far right may be **Davis Steele Pierce who was born in Boston, MO on July 26, 1882.** [Boston is a small community in southern Barton Co.] I know David had two brothers, Perry and Charles. Would very much appreciate if someone could identify the men in the photo.

Davis Pierce married Mary F. Johnson who was born 7 Nov 1881, from Vernon County,



MO. Her parents were Henry and Lucy Johnson from MO, and she had a half-brother Walter Johnson (same father).

I think they were married by his older brother Perry who was a Methodist minister. David and Mary eventually moved to Denver, CO and are buried at Crown Hill Cemetery.

David's brother Perry Pierce died 13 Jan 1943 and is buried in Sedalia, MO. David's sister Martha Pierce married Paul Wray. She died 1 Nov 1972, and she and her husband are buried in the Deepwood Cemetery in Nevada, MO.

The Davis Steele Pierce who is buried in Sheldon Cemetery, Sheldon, MO, is not the Davis Steele Pierce who was born in 1882, but I can't help but wonder if there a connection.

Steve (Roy) Koogle

[An additional family picture was also received from Mr. Koogle]



I have this one other picture from your area that was taken by Thompson in Nevada, MO. From the photographer info on your website, it would date about 1898. The young lady in the picture is Mary Frances Johnson. She was born 7 Nov 1881 in Vernon County, MO and in 1904 married the Dave Steele Pierce we've been conversing about. The young man is her half-brother, Walter Johnson (same father).

The older couple are parents Henry and Lucy Johnson. I found an entry from the 1880 census for Henry C. Johnson, wife Lucy J., and son Walter 3 years old being in Center Township, Vernon Co, MO. Also found a picture of a headstone in the Sheldon Cemetery for Henry C. Johnson which seems to be the right one.

Looking forward to the newsletter.

R S Koogle

Additional Information/Research:

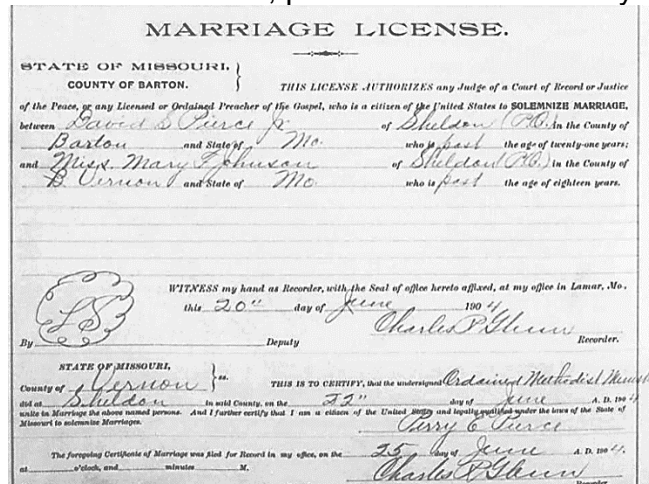
Various census records, marriage records, gravestone pictures, death certificates, and photo-dating software were consulted to discover the following regarding this family.

The parents of Davis Steele Pierce who was born 1882 were Charles A. Pierce (born 21 Feb 1843 – died 9 Aug 1911) and Mary Frances Gall (born 27 Jan 1848 – died 18 Aug 1938). Both Charles and Mary are buried in the Appleton City, MO Cemetery.

Children of Charles and Mary Pierce include:

- Harriet (12 Dec 1866 – 31 Jan 1942)
- Perry (19 Nov 1868 – 13 Jan 1943)
- Ruth (5 Jul 1871 - _____)
- Mary (25 Sep 1873 - _____)
- Effie (11 Jan 1876 – 28 Mar 1951)
- Davis Steele (26 Jul 1882 – 10 May 1946)**
- Martha (14 Aug 1884 – 1 Nov 1972)
- Charles (15 Apr 1889 – 8 Feb 1968)

Davis Steele Pierce married Mary F. Johnson on 22 Jun 1904 in Sheldon, MO. Davis lived in Barton County, and Mary lived in Vernon County. Perry E. Pierce, Ordained Methodist Minister, performed the ceremony.



Barton County Missouri Marriage License; married at Sheldon, Vernon County Missouri

The parents of Charles A. Pierce (born 1843) were Moses Pierce (c. 1816–c. 1864) and Ruth Royston (1821-1873). The Pierce family was in Mercer County, Missouri, before moving to the Appleton City, Sheldon, and Boston areas of Missouri.

The 1860 Mercer County, Missouri Census shows sons in the Moses and Ruth Pierce household included

- Charles 21 Feb 1843-9 Aug 1911
- Joseph b. abt 1850
- Davis 12 May 1852-12 Jun 1919
- Moses b. abt 1859

The Davis Steele Pierce 19 Jun 1919 obituary in the Lamar Republican newspaper, provides many details. He died at the Weltmer hospital in Nevada, MO. Because the roads were so bad, the remains were not taken to Lamar for the funeral service but to the home of Mrs. Paul Wray (*neé* Martha Pierce), his niece. They were then taken to Sheldon, MO on the train and were there laid to rest in the Sheldon Cemetery, by the side of his wife Anna Gentry's parents. The full obituary of Davis S. Pierce can be seen at <https://shsmo.newspapers.com/image/858226349/?terms=%22davis%20pierce%22%20&match=1>

From the Find A Grave website, there is a Pierce Cemetery in southern Barton County, MO. It is described as being “far out on the prairie,” and most graves date to the late 19th and early 20th century and are still standing.

<https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/30851/pierce-cemetery> Included in the gravestone pictures are Charles B. Pierce 1808-1882, Lurella Pierce d.1870, and Mary Pierce d. 1876, all possibly related to the subject Pierce family as they lived in the same area.

Utilizing photo-dating software, it was determined that that the picture of 4 men was probably taken about 1896-1899. (It could have been a little earlier or later.) Could the photo of the four men be Charles, Joseph, Davis and Moses (sons of Moses & Ruth Pierce)? Was there other related family in this area that the picture could be? Are you related to any of this family? Do you have a copy of these same pictures that have been identified? How old would you estimate the young man on the right in the first picture to be? In 1882? Let us hear from you—these are fantastic family photographs!

Thank you for sharing

Mahlon and Sarah Golden

By Bernita Golden Hill

The Golden's, Mahlon and Sarah, came to Vernon County, Missouri, from Nauvoo, Illinois. The first spring and summer they stopped around Mound City, Missouri, and raised a crop.

Grandma Anna Golden (wife of George Golden) said they followed the railroad tracks with the men working for the railroad and the women cooking for the crews. They did not homestead the land but instead purchased the original farm either from land speculators or the government, I presume.

There were three sons: George, John and Robert and three sisters: Elnora (Nora), Maria (pronounced Mariah), and Anna who married Dr. Fred Albright, the Garland, KS medical doctor. The third son, Robert, and the two other sisters never married. Members of the original Golden family are all buried in the Clarksburg Cemetery in Kansas.

George owned and ran the original farm which he expanded. John and Robert owned the Garland Bank and hardware store in Garland, KS as well as farmland. They often traded land so at various times it was in different names; some even in the sisters' names. At one time Elnora and Maria homesteaded land near Holly, Colorado.

George and Anna (actually, her name was Analyza) had one son, Walter Bryan Golden (W. B.). He married Opal Louise Pettibon, daughter of Tom and Grace Pettibon, of Deerfield, MO.

Walter and Opal Golden had two daughters: Audrey Elaine and Bernita Delaine. Audrey married James Crutcher, McKinney, TX. They had two children, a son and daughter. They and their daughter are deceased. Bernita married Robert Hill, Seneca, MO and has two sons. Robert is deceased.

Additional information: Mahlon Golden was born 1821 in Kentucky. He and Sarah Ann Hornbeck married 1 Jan 1855 in Hancock Co, Illinois, and moved to Vernon County in the 1870s, after the Civil War.

Golden.—Died, Feb. 19, 1898, at his home, Garland, Kans., Mahlon Golden, aged 76 years, 2 months and 10 days. Mr. Golden was born in Kentucky in 1821 and moved to Illinois in his early manhood. He was married to Miss Sarah A. Hornbeck in 1855, and sixteen years later they came to Vernon Co., Mo., where they made their home until last January, when they moved to Garland, Kan. He was taken ill with pneumonia and died Saturday evening at 7 o'clock. He had expressed his readiness to go whenever the Lord should call him. The funeral services were conducted by Rev. Eubank, of the M. E. church assisted by Rev. Warren of the Christian church. A large company of relatives and friends witnessed the last sad rites and laid the body to rest in the Clarksburg cemetery. A wife, three sons, three daughters and two grandchildren are left to mourn the loss of one who was known by all to be a kind husband and father, an upright neighbor and a true citizen.

Western Methodist, Wichita, Kansas; Wed 2 Mar 1898 page 8

Sarah A. Golden, was listed as the widow of Mahlon Golden in the 1902-03 Garland Directory. Her obituary was published in *The Fort Scott Republican*, Fort Scott, Kansas; Thursday 28 Dec 1905, page 5.

MRS. GOLDEN IS DEAD.

End of One of Garland's Respected Women Comes Suddenly.

(From Tuesday's Daily.)

Mrs. Sarah A. Golden died of heart failure at 11:30 p. m. last Sunday night at the family home in Garland. While Mrs. Golden has been in falling health for some time her family and friends entertained no immediate cause for alarm. As has been her many years to invite her sons and daughters and their families to spend

Christmas day at the old family home and only last Saturday she extended an invitation to them all to partake of the annual Xmas dinner, and looked forward to a happy reunion, and the announcement of her sudden death is a severe shock to her relatives and many friends.

Mrs. Golden was born in Circleville, Ohio, March 9th, 1836, being not quite 70 years of age at the time of her death. Mrs. Golden came west with her husband and family in the year 1876 and settled in Vernon county Mo., near the Kansas line. Mr. Golden preceded her in death eight years ago, and about that time the family moved to Garland, where they have since resided. She leaves three sons and three daughters. One son died in infancy. The sons are prominent business men in Garland and the daughters are among the leading teachers in the county. They own several farms along the border of Kansas and Missouri in the vicinity of Garland. Mrs. Golden has been a consistent member of the Christian church for the greater part of her life. The funeral services will be held from the family home today at 1 p. m., conducted by Rev. Mackenzie, of Bronson, a former pastor and old time friend of the family. Interment will take place in the family lot in Clarksburg cemetery.

The Ancestor Hunt - Free Resources
<https://theancestorhunt.com/>

Who Are YOU Researching? Would you like to share some of your family history

research in the newsletter? The Society would like to share research being conducted by its members. Please submit articles about your research for publication in a future issue of the newsletter.

Do you have a Brick Wall? Share information on your brick wall to be published in the monthly newsletter. Perhaps someone will have information or a suggestion on where you might find clues that can lead to documents which could allow you to climb over the wall! Organizing and putting the details of a brick wall can sometimes bring new research ideas to mind. Let us hear from you!

If you have an **Historic Family Picture and Story** that you would like to share in a future newsletter, please bring it to a meeting to be scanned or email the picture and story to the society at Cedar.VernonCoMO@centurytel.net

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This newsletter is published by the Cedar & Vernon County Missouri Genealogical Society, a 501(c)(3) organization. 2023 Officers of the Society are

President, Valo J.
Recording Secretary, Lynda B.
Treasurer, Marty P.
Newsletter Editor & Webmaster, Nancy T.

2024 calendar year dues are \$10 per person (\$15 per couple in the same household), and can be mailed to

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Attn: Membership
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Nevada, MO 64772

The monthly emailed newsletter, free queries in the newsletter, and free lookups in the new cemetery database are benefits of membership.

*Thank You for your membership
in support of the work of the
Genealogical Society*