

*The Tri-County Genealogical Society*  
(Vernon - Cedar - St. Clair Counties)

P. O. Box B  
Nevada, MO 64772

February 2003

**The February 8, 2003 meeting** was held at the El Dorado Springs Mid-Missouri Bank Community Room with twelve members present.

**April Seminar:** Allen Perry, Preservation of Historical Records, National Archives, will be the featured speaker for our April 12 seminar. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. and the program at 10 a.m. Registration fee is \$15, and the seminar will be held at the Nevada Community Center next to the Library. We will attend to final meeting arrangements and details during our March 8 meeting. Mark your calendars now to attend our spring seminar.

**Collect Codes and Receipts for Cash:** Continue to clip *Best Choice* UPC labels and turn them in at any meeting. Also, save *Woods* receipts from the El Dorado store. We receive cash for these!

**Society Directory:** If you have not already done so, please give to Neoma your name, address, phone, e-mail address, list of surnames being researched, and program ideas for our monthly meetings.

**Vernon Co Cemetery Directory:** If you know of any corrections needed in the Vernon Co Cemetery Directory, please turn them in to Neoma Foreman by June 30, 2003. The new updated directory will be published by the Historical Society later this year. Information on burials after Jan 1, 1977 will be obtained from area funeral homes in both MO and KS; therefore, we do not need that information from individuals. We will need help typing the cemetery data and proofing it. This can be done at home on your own computer--we will provide the computer program and "how to" instructions. We expect to begin typing sometime in March. The new directory will be as complete as we can make it and include all:

- Deaths in Vernon Co (even if burial was elsewhere)
  - Burials in Vernon Co cemeteries.
  - Vernon Co residents who died out of county and were buried out of county.
- Additionally, it will have an every-name index!!!

**Bylaws:** The proposed changes to the Bylaws were approved with minor change. A copy of these revised Bylaws will be available for you to pick up at the March meeting. If you prefer to have the Bylaws e-mailed to you before the meeting, please e-mail Nancy Thompson at [jawan.nancy@starband.net](mailto:jawan.nancy@starband.net) and she will send them to you.

**Genealogy Speaker at Rotary:** Charles Foreman reported that he was on standby to give a talk on genealogy at a Rotary meeting. *Thank you, Charles, for your willingness to represent the Society and promote genealogy research in the community!*

**Nevada Newspaper Obituaries :** Following a brief business meeting, lots of obits were clipped and glued onto cards while listening to an audio program, "**Beyond Obituaries: Using Newspapers in Family History Research,**" by Linda Herrick Swisher. This was a recorded presentation at a Federation of Genealogical Societies conference. *Many thanks to all who worked on the obits!* We now have lots of obits ready to be filed alphabetically in the card file in the Library Genealogy Room. If you can help file these, just stop by the Library during regular hours and file, file, file. **THANK YOU!**

**The March Meeting** will be held at the Nevada Public Library Meeting Room at 10 a.m. Susan McBride, Librarian, will speak to us about the Genealogy Room, holdings, and research. **THIS**

*WILL BE AN INFORMATIVE MEETING --  
PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ATTEND.*

**From our Mailbox:** (Corresponding secretary's report):

- Updated the Society's listing on 5 Internet sites.
- Photographed Willhite and Rathburn gravestones in Sheldon Cemetery for "Gary" as part of DAR documentation.
- Searched for obit on Frederick William Lipper (d. Oct 6, 1886); obit not found.
- Sent two sympathy cards on behalf of Society.
- Responded to an inquiry from Betty Lagerquist about doing research for her and receiving a copy of her research for the Genealogy Room.
- Received and posted flyer on Library bulletin-board regarding "A Grand Tour: Researching Records in Great Britain and Europe" Jul 18-19 at Holiday Inn Sports Complex, Kansas City, MO. Sponsored by American Family Records Association.
- Printed and posted Tri-County Genealogical Society information sheet on Library bulletinboard.
- Received and posted flyer on Library bulletin-board: "Ancestor Fair" Saturday, Mar. 15, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The Logan Co, OK, Genealogical Society.
- Responded to request for obit on Elizabeth Wolford (not found). Confirmed two Wolford burials in Sandstone Cemetery which are not presently in cemetery directory.
- Received *State Historical Society of Missouri Newsletter*, February 2003. Filed in Genealogy Room.

### ***TIPS and TIDBITS***

#### ***Every Reason in the World...***

by Jeanne Nelson

It pains me at times, when I think about the wonderful family stories we are losing every day as our older generation passes away. For hundreds, even thousands of years, families had a

connection with their past in the oral traditions passed down from generation to generation. They told stories as they worked together, or hunted together, or as they sat around the campfire or the fireplace. In some small way, I had that as a child, too, when I attended the extended family gatherings we had for holidays. After a satisfying meal around my grandmother's large dinner table, my grandparents and parents and aunts and uncles told stories and laughed until the tears flowed.

We don't do that anymore. The distances are too great; our lives are too busy, too complicated. So the older folk keep hundreds of stories inside, stories about what people were like, people we will never know; what the times were like of days we have never seen; what the stories were, the stories that their older folk told them. Now our elders keep their stories and carry them to the grave or lose them in the mists of a clouded memory. How sad! No one will know what Grandpa Johnnie's grandfather was like, his twinkling eyes, his droll sense of humor, his fiery temper. No one will know because no one is there to listen to the stories.

Our family had that wonderful communication for many years, but lost it as we went our separate ways and lived our separate lives. We still loved each other, but time and distance made it hard to share with each other frequently. We finally decided to start a family newsletter and have found a new world of stories with each issue that comes out. Not only do we keep up on each other's daily lives, but we are able to share our stories. And, not only can we share them, but they are down in black and white where we can read them over and over, and our children can read them and learn about their past.

The most enthusiastic supporters of my family's newsletter have been our older generation. When asked, they enthusiastically produced some fascinating articles about their memories of times gone by. One of our best newsletter issues was focused on the experiences of our elders during World War II. We learned for the first time about the loneliness and tedium of the daily life of the soldier, periodically punctuated by the terrifying violence of war, or the fascinating and confusing

exoticness of new and distant places. We learned about the all-out effort at home, the sacrifices and inconveniences, the worry as the family waited for word of their soldiers. And, though we had read about that war many times in the history books, it took on a whole new perspective as we saw it through our loved ones' eyes.

I have written a book on how to edit and publish a family newsletter, and I sell it at genealogy workshops and meetings. As people come by my table, they often stop to look, but then sigh that they just don't have enough time for such a project. "That's a lot of work!" they say. I point out that there are ways to publish a newsletter in which the whole family shares in the effort, making less of a workload on any one person. It *is* a lot of work to put out a family newsletter. But what you end up with is a family treasure. Something that is worthwhile usually *does* require an effort. This is definitely worthwhile and the treasure far outweighs the effort.

The teacher of one of my genealogy classes pointed out to us that it is very exciting to see how we are related to King George. But the records to prove this have been there for three hundred years and will probably be there for three hundred more. The stories that our older folk have to tell us won't be here long—they could be gone tomorrow. Better that we focus on our elders and help them tell their stories now. We can go back to our musty books and records when the stories are saved for posterity.

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