



Nevada Library and
Bushwhacker Museum

Tri-County Genealogical Society
(Vernon-Cedar-St. Clair Counties)
c/o Nevada Public Library
218 W. Walnut St.; P.O. Box B
Nevada, MO 64772
[TriCountyGenealogy @ starband.net](mailto:TriCountyGenealogy@starband.net)
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~motcogs/>



Vernon County Courthouse
Nevada, Missouri

NEWSLETTER

February 2007

March 10 Meeting in Nevada “Family TreeMaker® Advanced Training DVD”

The March 10 meeting will be held at the Nevada Library Meeting Room, 218 West Walnut, Nevada, MO, at 10 a.m. The program will be **Advanced Training, using Family TreeMaker®**. FTM computer software is an easy way to build and design your family tree. This video program will show you the new and advanced features of FTM. In this 45-minute DVD video guided tour, a Family TreeMaker 2006 expert will walk you through the advanced features of file and program management, advanced topics in data management and navigation, creating custom reports, advanced scrapbook features, and FTM tools and utilities. (See information below on inserting photos in family trees.)

Please remember that the Family TreeMaker Basic Training DVD can be checked out from the Nevada Library. It is shelved in the “Instructional” section, alpha under “F.” Most of the “how to” information is the same for the last several versions of the software.

To find out which version of FTM you have: Open your FTM program; click on “Help” from the drop-down menu at the top of the screen; click on “About Family TreeMaker...” A window will open and it will show the version of the software which you have. (I had purchased what was titled FTM 2006, and my computer says that I have version 16.)

Your suggestions are needed to help plan programs for 2007. Please list program ideas and give your list to Lynda Bishop or Kathe Rader at the March meeting.

2007 Officers

The following 2007 officers were elected at the February meeting:

- President: Lynda Bishop (876-2633)
- Vice-Pres: Kathe Rader (876-5270)
- Treasurer: Ray Lukenbill (667-6772)
- Recording Secy: **position open**
- Corresponding Secy: Richard Johnson

The Society is seeking a member who would be willing to take notes at meetings on the business transacted. Lynda Bishop did this in 2006, and she could answer any questions you might have—it is not difficult to do. If you would be willing to do this, please contact Lynda at 876-2633 or msbish@centurytel.net. Everyone is very appreciative of these members agreeing to serve in 2007.

2007 Membership Dues

Individual Society membership dues are \$10, two people in the same household is \$15, and lifetime membership is \$100 per person. Please make checks payable to Tri-County Genealogical Society and turn in at the March meeting or mail to Tri-County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box B, Nevada, MO 64772, if you have not already done so.

***Don't miss an issue of the newsletter
Send in your dues today!***

Genealogy Dept. Guest Book

It is very important that you sign the Guest Book in the Nevada Library Genealogy Department each time you use the facility. The Library needs information on how many people use the facility, and at this time only a small number of users are signing the register. Documenting the department's full use will also make a difference as we apply for future grants on various projects. It has been suggested that perhaps if the guest book were moved to the front left corner of the Circulation Desk, the library staff could help remind users to sign. Please do your part and sign once for each day that you use the facility. Thank you.

Vernon County Circuit Court Records Project

The project is two-thirds complete. There were a total of 196 file boxes of documents to process. To date, 151 of these boxes have been completed and later this year this part of the process will be finished. The next phase will require placing each case file in chronological order.

Jerry Stolhand, Society member from Golden, CO, recently sent a donation specifically for the workers on this project. The workers have enjoyed a couple of pot luck luncheons in the past and may decide to use Jerry's donation to purchase a food item for another pot luck. *Thank you, Jerry, for thinking of us!*

How to Print Photos in Family Tree Chart

Include photos of ancestors to dress up your printed family tree charts. Here's how.

First, you must enter a digital photo into each individual's "Scrapbook" in the Family Tree Maker program. To do this, go to the person's family group sheet page. Click on VIEW and select INDIVIDUAL SCRAPBOOK. Right click the small box and go to the picture on your computer...select the picture you want for that person and click Open. Then click OK. A very small copy of the picture is moved into your Family Tree Maker file.

Right click on the picture and then select MORE ABOUT... In the window which comes up, give this photo a name and a description. Checkmark (click) the Preferred Picture #1 for trees (this is how you select which photo to put into trees for persons with multiple photos in the scrapbook). Then click OK to close that window. Do this for each person for which you have pictures that you want to include in trees.

Then you are ready to create the tree. Go to the primary individual's page, and click on VIEW and then TREE CHARTS and select the type of tree you want to create. When the chart appears on the screen, click the drop-down CONTENTS menu at the top of your screen. Then select ITEMS TO INCLUDE IN EACH BOX...

Click on "Picture/Object" to select it, and then click the right arrow to move "Picture/Object" into the box on the right, along with the other items you want to appear for each person, such as name, birth date, death date, etc. Then click OK. The photos that you have in your scrapbook which were marked as "Preferred Picture #1 for trees" will then appear for each person.

If you have a question about using FTM, please email us, and we will try to answer your question in the newsletter so others can learn also.

Our Genealogy Family

There has been much illness and several deaths in our genealogy family this winter. Nellie Hall lost her mother. Neoma Foreman lost two sisters. Betty Hicks' husband, Wade, was in the hospital for 9 days but is now home and doing better. Several more members have been ill.

We will notify members/publish information of this nature if it is provided to the newsletter editor.

Back Issues of Newsletters: 2003-2006

Watch our webpage for information on back issues being available online.

**Annual Treasurer's Report
Year Ending December 31, 2006**

Beginning Cash Balance 1/1/2006 \$ 559.62

Income:

Best Choice Labels	90.00
Book Sales	803.70
Book Sales (Resale)	2,061.50
Confederate Index Donations	210.00
Donations	170.00
Membership Dues (several rec'd 05)	495.00
Nevada Library	77.70
Research	1,143.00
Summer Fresh Receipts	81.00
Swopes Home Tour Lunch	66.00
Total Income	<u>5,197.90</u>

Expenses:

Book Sales (printing, vendor table, etc.)	1,127.77
Book Sales (Resale)	1,300.00
Confederate Index Purchase	300.00
Family TreeMaker: 2 Training DVDs	35.90
Library Service	155.40
Mo. State Gen Assoc 2006 Membership	20.00
Mo. Business Filing Fee	10.00
Postage (newsletters, admin, research, shipping sale books, etc.)	199.00
Research	156.21
Supplies (notebooks, sleeves, etc.)	1,066.92
Swopes Home Tour Lunch	72.00
Total Expenses	<u>4,443.20</u>

Beginning Cash Balance 1/1/2006 \$ 559.62
 Total Income + 5,197.90
 5,757.52

Total Expenses - 4,443.20
 Ending Cash Balance 12/31/2006 \$ 1,314.32

Jackson Co, MO Marriage Records On-Line

If you are researching Jackson Co, MO marriages, check this website which Betty H. found. It has images of marriage records that you can print &/or download: <http://records.co.jackson.mo.us/localization/menu.asp>

**Best Choice UPC Labels
and Summer Fresh Receipts**

Collecting labels and receipts continues year round. Save and bring them to any monthly meeting – they are converted to cash.

**“Where to Look – Who to Ask”
April 14 in Bolivar**

The Polk County Gen. Society's annual conference will be April 14 in the Citizens Memorial Hospital Community Rooms, from 9 a.m. Registration until 4:30 p.m. No fee; lunch is on your own. For additional information you can call Bunny Jones (417) 326-5032, www.rootsweb.com/~mopolkgs/, or email pcgs@alltel.net. Our society will have a vendor table (no charge).

Review of Genealogy Research for 2006

A total of 65 requests for lookups/research were received from 17 states in 2006. The states were Arkansas, Arizona, California (6), Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas Minnesota, Missouri (9), New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon (8), Texas, Washington, and Wisconsin. Research income was \$1,143 and expenses were \$156.21.

In January 2007, seven requests were received from seven states: California, Kansas, Missouri, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, and Wisconsin, totaling \$118.

Tri-County Genealogical Society Website

Several new pages have been added to the website: several new newspaper book indexes which members prepared, a page on Glenwood School (Virgil or Harrison Twp), and first publication of a biography on John Benton Brown written by descendent Bob Benton (see copy below). With the newspaper indexes online, researchers can now find family interest items which will yield interesting stories and incidents from the every-day lives of their ancestors.

Members are invited to help with the website by providing text which can be used to create additional web pages or added to existing pages. This can be as simple as typing biographies from the county history

books which are no longer under copyright – please coordinate doing this with Nancy so more than one person doesn't type the same thing. Please submit information in a Microsoft Word, Microsoft Works, or Word Perfect file. It can be emailed as an attachment (but not in the body of an email) or leave a floppy disk or a CD in the Genealogy Mailbox at the Nevada Library. If you have a story or article but do not use a computer, Nancy T. will type the article which you submit either hand- or type-written. Cedar County information is also needed!

Obituaries from Missouri Newspapers

If you need a copy of an obituary or an article from any extant Missouri newspaper, please let Nancy Thompson know because she plans to be at the Missouri Newspaper Archives in early March. **Please email the following: the nature of the article (i.e., obituary, marriage, family event, etc.), people involved, the month, day, and year of the event, and the Missouri town for the newspaper. Please do not include extra details in your email.** She will search for the article(s) as time permits. Cost will be \$1 for each page printed. If you do not use the computer, you can phone Nancy at 922-3596 and leave a voice mail with just the information as listed above and your name and phone number. If you are a "long-distance" member, please provide the event date and location – she will look up the newspaper if you do not have that information.

John Benton Brown 1837-1876

John B. Brown was born about 1837 and raised on the family farm in Trumbull County, Ohio, to Daniel and Mary (Benton) Brown. In the 1860 United States Census, he is living with his sister Emily and her doctor husband, Newton Rice, in Braceville, Ohio. While there he is studying medicine under the tutelage of Dr. Rice.

In September 1861, John volunteered for Company G, of the 19th Infantry Regiment of the Ohio Volunteers and was quickly promoted to Sergeant. According to medical records, on

January 1, 1862 while his unit was in Kentucky, he contracted Typhoid Fever and was sent to a hospital in Nashville, Tennessee. Because of the debilitating effects of the disease, he was deemed unable to perform his duties and was discharged in May.

Returning home, John began a slow recovery process living most of 1863 with his sister's family. In an affidavit, Dr. Rice states that his brother-in-law is only a shadow of his former self and for months is unable to walk without the aid of crutches. Eventually he did regain enough mobility to get around and finish his medical training and by late 1865 is looking for a location to establish a practice.

In October 1865, he married Mary Jane McCombs of Trumbull County. After the death of her husband, Mrs. Brown struggled to survive and was forced to take on the U. S. Government in an effort to claim widows' pension rights.

While on a journey to the south looking for a place to set-up his medical practice, John is advised to go west and settle in Missouri, which is exactly what he did. And in April or May of 1866 he relocated to the town of Tipton in Moniteau County where he established himself as a country doctor and druggist. While in Tipton, he lived within a short distance of J. A. Payne, D. P. Swearingen and P. L. Swearingen who are all well acquainted with John and his wife Mary. Several years later, these three friends gave affidavits in support of the widow Mary's claim to pension benefits. By February 1868, Messrs Payne and Swearingen had moved to the town of Metz in Vernon County, Missouri. Seeing the need for a doctor in Metz, D. P. Swearingen invited John to settle there. In May or June, John followed his friends to Metz and began practicing and for some months also was in the drug business in the little community of Pleasant Valley.

Before leaving Tipton, a son, William McCombs Brown, was born on July 3, 1867. After his father's death, Willie grew up in Ohio; briefly tried his hand as a druggist before settling in to a life as an orchard farmer in Ashtabula County. He died on December 12, 1942 at the age of 75.

During the time the Brown's lived in Metz, the extent of John's physical condition is revealed through various documents included in the widow's pension application. It is evident that the long-term effects of Typhoid Fever were

manifested by spinal cord distress, lung damage that would frequently result in his coughing up blood, and bowel damage resulting in recurrent bouts with diarrhea. Additionally, the stress suffered by his leg mussels continued to hamper his ability to walk without a great deal of pain. The net result of these residual effects left John with little if any body strength and would indirectly contribute to his early death.

Due to his diminished physical abilities, John applied for and was granted a War of 1861 (Civil War) Invalid's Pension by the Army. However, because the Army regarded him as only one-quarter disabled (a position John would protest) the pension was set at \$2 per month. Insulted by the paltry amount, he refused to collect the money. It was this decision that would instigate a series of documents intended to persuade the Army to award the pension's unclaimed funds to John's widow Mary Jane.

On May 5, 1871, Lillian Clair Brown was born in Metz. Just like her brother, Lilly would grow up in Ohio, marry, and on August 26, 1917 die a premature death from tuberculosis. At 46 years old, she left behind 7 children ranging in age from 19 to 5. She is buried in her adult hometown of Conneaut, Ohio.

For reasons unknown, in May 1875, John moved to the new boom town of Corry in Dade County, Missouri. Lead and other minerals had been discovered in the area, and overnight a rush was on. Originally satisfied to run a pharmacy, by mid-1876 John is caught up in the pursuit of riches and became a partner in a lead prospecting venture. In August, while inspecting a local mine, fate and the years of physical debilitation took their measure. A large rock fell on John, severely crushing one of his legs. The local doctor tried to set the bones, but the weakened condition of his legs would not promote healing; and it was decided that amputation was the only answer. Fourteen years after his bout with Typhoid Fever, John was unable to recover from the amputation surgery and died on October 11, 1876.

Since John apparently died in Corry, it had been presumed he was buried there, but word was received from a local Dade County researcher that there is no record of him at the old Corry Cemetery. It is understood that the cemetery is in good shape and is part of what little remains of the small town whose bust came only a

few years after its boom. So if he was buried there, his grave must be unmarked.

After John's death, Mary Jane returned to Ohio and settled in Youngstown where she supported her two children as a hat maker. During the late 1870's she pursued the unclaimed money from John's Invalid Pension award and beginning in 1891 launched a long but eventually successful struggle to collect his Civil War Widow's Pension. A conflict she had with the Army was that they would not concede that John's death was caused as much by his Typhoid Fever induced condition as it was by the mine accident.

She eventually went to live with Lilly and her husband George Arthur in Conneaut, passing away on January 12, 1917, not knowing that her daughter would join her only seven months later. Mary was 80 years old.

I first came across John while researching his mother who was a sister of my great-grandfather, George Washington Benton. With such a common name, his search proved to be a difficult task; but after many months I was able to find him in Vernon County in 1870. Because he seemed to be such a mystery, I dedicated a personal effort to tell his story. This effort has paid off with more personal information about John Brown than for most of the family in my genealogical records.

I was able to identify the Civil War Window's Pension Application filed by John's wife and have received the same from the National Archives. Because there were unusual circumstances surrounding John's premature death at the age of 39, a number of affidavits and documents concerning his post Civil War movements are part of the file. These include approximate dates and the location of his tenure in Vernon County.

Yet, it is odd that without the tragic illness suffered by John and without the contentious circumstances of Mary's quest for pension money, much of what information I now know might never have been compiled. If he had lived to a grand old age as a country doctor, there may have never been a widow's pension file with its 40 documents for me to read. After more than

130 years, John Brown has come back to life; only because he suffered so much in life.

Because he was an early citizen of your County, I thought that some of this information might be of interest to the Society. Feel free to use this story in whole or in part as you see fit.

Bob Benton

September 3, 2006

(The above biography was written by [Bob Benton](#) and provided to the Tri-County Genealogical Society so that the information could be made available to others.)

Monthly Meetings

Monthly meetings of the Tri-County Genealogical Society (Vernon-Cedar-St. Clair Counties of Missouri) are held the second Saturday 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, 218 West Walnut, Nevada (enter at South side of building). On Saturdays, there is not a 2-hr parking limit on the streets.

El Dorado Springs Church of Christ Fellowship Hall, 302 East Hospital Road, El Dorado Springs. Carpooling from the Nevada Library to the El Dorado Springs meeting is usually available; call Nancy Thompson 922-3596 or email Nancy.Thompson@starband.net to confirm.

All meetings are open to the public and visitors are always welcome!

Tri-County Genealogical Society

Membership in the Society is currently at about 70, and we use nametags at monthly meetings to help everyone get acquainted. 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, or \$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 Tri-County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box B, Nevada, MO 64772. 2007 Society officers are:

President: Lynda Bishop (876-2633)

Vice President: Kathe Rader (876-5270)

Recording Sec: **position open**

Treasurer: Ray Lukenbill (667-6772)

Corresponding Sec: Richard Johnson

All are area code 417. You received this monthly newsletter because you are a member of the Society, have indicated an interest in our organization, or represent an area genealogy group. If you do not want to receive this email newsletter in the future, please contact the Society at TriCountyGenealogy@starband.net and request that your name be removed from the email list.

You are cordially invited to support the work of the Tri-County Genealogical Society with an annual membership.

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