



Nevada Library and Bushwhacker Museum

Tri-County Genealogical Society  
(Vernon-Cedar-St. Clair Counties)  
c/o Nevada Public Library  
218 West Walnut Street  
Nevada, MO 64772  
[tricitygenealogy@centurytel.net](mailto:tricitygenealogy@centurytel.net)  
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~motcogs/>



Vernon County Courthouse  
Nevada, Missouri

# NEWSLETTER

## August 2008

***The World Renowned Weltmer Institute  
of Nevada, Missouri***  
**Melissa Earll, Guest Speaker**  
**September 13, 2008, 10 a.m.**  
**Nevada Library Meeting Room**  
**218 West Walnut Street, Nevada, MO**

Sidney A. Weltmer was the founder of the Weltmer Institute of Suggestive Therapeutics which was located in Nevada, Missouri at the corner of Austin and Ash Streets. According to his Missouri death certificate, he was born July 7, 1858 in Wooster, OH and died Dec. 6, 1930 in Nevada, MO and is buried in Newton Burial Park.



Founded in the 1880s, the Weltmer Institute had a substantial financial impact on Nevada and the surrounding area. Railroads added additional cars to transport the thousands of patients who came to the Weltmer Institute for healing. Additionally, hundreds came to be trained in the Weltmer methods of healing at the Institute.



The Nevada post office was upgraded to a class one post office, and a new building was constructed to handle the massive volume of mail to and from the Institute.

Melissa Earll is the premier Weltmer researcher, and she will share information

about the man, his healing theories, and her research during this program. Melissa owns the largest privately held collection of Weltmer books and memorabilia.

Melissa Earll is also the concept coordinator and content manager for the website **REDISCOVER Nevada, Missouri** at [www.rediscovernevadamissouri.com](http://www.rediscovernevadamissouri.com) where you can find information on turn-of-the-century history—both of Nevada residents and businesses—that contributed to Nevada's standing as a premier destination point in Southwest Missouri at that time.

The public is invited to the September 13 program, and there is no fee. Please email the Society if you have questions.

[See related Weltmer newspaper articles in "Items of Interest from Area Newspapers" below.]

### Society Programs in 2008

The following programs have been arranged for the remainder of 2008:

**Oct 11, El Do:** *My Family Came to Cedar County and We Lived in a Log Cabin*, by Dale Goodman, local historian, author, and member of the Cedar County Historical Society.

**Nov 8, Nevada:** *What to Look for and Where to Look when the Research gets Difficult*, by Helen Lodge, noted local genealogist and speaker.

**Dec 13, El Do:** Election and Installation of Officers and Christmas Luncheon. Members are to bring a photo or historical item of interest to show and share highlights of their genealogy research.

## Reception Honoring the Volunteers who helped with the Vernon County Circuit Court Records Project

Many of the more than 30 volunteers who helped with the Circuit Court Records Projects gathered in the Vernon County court room on August 8 where they were honored by both the Vernon County Courts and the Missouri



State Archives for their outstanding volunteer work on this 3-1/2-year project. Under the direction of the Missouri State Archives and Vernon County Court Clerk's office, Tri-County Genealogical Society members donated thousands of hours of work to accomplish the preparation of the 1855-1900 court records to be indexed and microfilmed. The Genealogy Society also coordinated cooperative efforts which included the Vernon County Historical Society and Bushwhacker Museum, the Elizabeth Cary Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution, and other community volunteers in this records preservation project.

On behalf of the County, Judge Quitno expressed his thanks to Tri-County Society President Neoma Foreman and presented the Society with a certificate and check for the Society's leadership role in the project.



Also praising the work of the volunteers were John Dougan, Missouri State Archivist, and John Korasick, Local Records Program Administrative Archivist with the Missouri State Archives, who said that the volunteers were to be commended for the high quality of their work as well as the speed at which they accomplished the project – approximately 96 cu. ft. of records being processed in 3 1/2 years.

Linda Myers, Field Archivist, trained the volunteers in archival methods to work with the fragile, historic documents and said that this was a really great bunch of volunteers to work with.



(left-right)  
John Dougan,  
Linda Myers,  
Neoma  
Foreman, and  
John  
Korasick.

## Who are YOU Researching?

Members are invited to submit their name and contact information (email and/or mailing address) and surnames being researched in this region with details such as location, years, pictures, etc. Others may be researching the same family, and this will enable researchers to contact each other and share information if they desire to do so.

Luella Phipps and her brother Merl's research includes Samuel PERRINE who married Edith LONGACRE. Luella and Merl Phipps can be contacted at 307 S. Belisle, El Dorado Springs, MO 64744. The following is a family letter which Merl previously transcribed. (Spelling and punctuation were corrected in the transcription for readability.)

Vernon Co., Missouri                      July the 18th 1858  
Dear Brother and Sister, I can say to you that we are all well at present. Hoping through the mercy of God these lines may find you all well.

You wanted to know how I was pleased with my place here. I like it tolerable well but the majority of the people I do not like. So well as for the country you are going to look at I don't know much about it. But from what I have heard of it I don't think I would like it. Corn crops looks well at this time. Oats was very light. Corn is worth 40¢ per bushel, flour is \$3.50 per hundred. Money is scarce. Stock is as high as common but is not selling much at this time. The connection [family] here is well at present. I had the pleasure of hearing the honor T. S. Phelps make a speech yesterday. I would be glad to see you all but I can't come now. The weather is very warm at this time. Write when you get this. So no more. But remain your brother.

Samuel Perrine to Jackson & Lucinda Vickers.

Society member Harry Boyd, 807 N. Otis, Marion, IL 62959 has provided the following information regarding his research:

Elihu BOYD was born Apr 13, 1821 in Belmont Co, OH and died Mar 26, 1894 in Vernon Co, MO. On Sep 10, 1846 he married Sarah A. WHITE in Belmont Co, OH. She was born 1823 and died Apr 5, 1897 in Nevada, Vernon Co, MO. Their children were:  
 1) David A., Aug 16, 1847, OH – Aug 19, 1899, Pittsburg, KS



Arbor Grove Cemetery  
 Vernon County, MO

2) Charles T., Jun 15, 1849, OH – Feb 19, 1916, Kirksville, MO

3) William French, Sep 22, 1851, OH – Oct 15, 1918, Milo, Vernon Co, MO

4) Timothy Balder-son, Jun 12, 1853, OH – Mar 17, 1928, Nevada, Vernon Co, MO

5) Francis Marion, Jul 11, 1856, OH – Dec 5, 1928, Vernon

Co, MO

6) James Harvey, Oct 8, 1858, OH – Jul 23, 1925, Nevada, Vernon Co, MO

7) Martin Finley, Jul 27, 1861, Columbus, OH – Nov 2, 1932, Nevada, Vernon Co, MO

8) Emma (Emily), Sep 20, 1863, OH – Unknown. Married Commodore DAVIS

9) Viola Vinana, May 20, 1865, OH – Nov 1, 1950. Married William H. CALVIN.

Commodore P. DAVIS was born Mar 1863 in MO (There are 2 Commodore P. Davis; the other born 1843). He married Emma Boyd on Oct 20, 1883 in Vernon Co, MO. They had the following children:

1) Leona, Sep 2, 1884 Montevallo, Vernon Co, MO – unknown.

2) Maude, Sep 1886 – unknown. Married Allen M. SPENCER.

3) Adopted son (a nephew) Elmer P., Feb 1896 – unknown.

[Editor's note: Gravestone photo by NThompson. The 1900 census shows this Davis family living in Nevada, Vernon Co, MO. In 1910, Emma Davis is listed as a widow, and Elmer Davis is living in the same household.]

### Cedar County Probate Files Project

The Cedar Co. Probate Project is about one-third complete. Additional help is needed, and you do not have to be a Tri-County Genealogical Society member to volunteer. If you can help, please contact Nancy at 922-3596, and she will put you in touch with one of our members to coordinate your volunteer work.

### New Resources in Genealogy Department

*The Nevada Daily Mail and Sunday Herald-Tribune, Jan-Mar 2008* (microfilm) has been received and is now available for use.

Barton County [Missouri] Directory 1911 by Schopf and Collins has been donated to the genealogy collection.

History of Carroll County, Missouri 1881 (reprinted by Higginson Book Company) has also been donated to the genealogy collection.

Immigrant Women in the Settlement of Missouri by Robyn Burnett and Ken Luebbering (2005) has been donated by the Tri-County Genealogical Society. [Robyn Burnett, Field Archivist with the Missouri State Archives, spoke at the Society's July 2008 meeting.] [Copy also donated to the El Dorado Springs Library.]

The Stories They Tell...Understanding Missouri History through Maps by Walter Schroeder. 2007. Donated by the Tri-County Genealogical Society and a copy also donated to the El Dorado Springs Library.

Mount Vernon Methodist Church and Cemetery Records, Harwood, Vernon County, Missouri. (Copy)

### Honoring Military Veterans Dedication at Balltown Cemetery November 9, 2008 at 2 p.m.

Balltown Cemetery is being renovated by community volunteer Robert Seater and his assistant Steve McKinley. Of particular note is



Before & After



the recently completed renovation of the small Civil War Grand Army of the Republic lot

which contains four 1863 Civil War burials and several post-Civil War G.A.R. member burials. All original gravestones, coping, and corner posts were cleaned and reset; and new granite coping and corner posts were added. A new flagpole and sidewalk were installed as well as the history of the Mt. McGregor Post 252 G.A.R. engraved in granite.

A new military memorial to honor all veterans who have served in war or in peace and all branches of service has also been installed at Balltown Cemetery.



### New black granite military memorial and flag.

A rededication of the G.A.R. lot and dedication of the new military memorial will be held on Sunday, November 9, 2008 [rescheduled date]. Additional details will be posted in the newsletter and on the websites.

Balltown Cemetery is the oldest cemetery in Vernon County, with the first recorded adult pioneer burial being in 1838. Information on numerous burials from the earliest settlement of this area has recently been found and will be included in the new Vernon County Cemetery Directory.

Robert Seater, a retired Navy officer, grew up in this community and graduated from Metz High School, and he wanted to give back to his community. He recently said, "We are doing more than just cleaning up the cemetery and straightening and repairing grave markers. There is a lot of history in the area, in Balltown and the Balltown Cemetery. We

are preserving that history so it will be remembered."

More pictures and information about the cemetery renovation are available at [www.rootsweb.com/~motcogs/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~motcogs/) (links are under August 2008 What's new & updates). A printed copy of the renovation information is also now available in the Nevada Library Genealogy Department.

### Items of Interest from Area Newspapers

[Each of the below newspaper articles was transcribed by Nancy Thompson.]

#### To the Public.

As the State School of Magnetic Healing has sold out their business to the Southern School of Magnetic Healing at Springfield, Tenn., and as I am no longer connected with that institution as an assistant secretary and editor of "The Magnetic Healer," which position I occupied on a salary only; not having any interest or stock in the school whatever. But while in their employ, I composed and wrote their entire mail course of instruction, which was copyrighted in Dr. Redmon's name, under the title of "The Improved Weltmer method of Magnetic Healing" which has met with a large sale.

I also composed and wrote in addition the above and out side of the Regular Text Books, the entire literature of the school; and after having taken the full course of instruction from the Weltmer School of Nevada, Mo, and a post graduate course in the state school and meeting with almost perfect success in practice, never having failed to effect a radical and permanent cure in any case. I have decided to open at once, a School and Infirmary of Magnetic Healing in Carrollton at my residence 407 North 4th street, where I will give treatment at the extremely low price of six treatments for \$2.50 and without medicine or surgery and by the "Famous Weltmer Method" the correct application of which I think I most thoroughly understand, I will treat all diseases to which the human flesh is heir.

I will also teach "The Famous Weltmer Method" of Magnetic Healing; complete class course and diploma for \$10 and in addition to the above course. Students will be taught The Famous Weltmer method of curing diseases by "absent treatment," by which Prof. Weltmer has effected the almost miraculous cures of thousands. This is something Prof. Weltmer does not teach his students, nor does any other schools of which we have any knowledge; we also teach the only method of curing the morphine and liquor habits that is absolutely sure, and without pain or inconvenience. Students will also have free access to the very best library of magnetic healing literature. Call on or address Prof. R. B. Eubank, President National School of Magnetic Healing, 407 North 4th street, Carrollton, Mo.

*Carrollton Daily Democrat, Carrollton, MO.  
Monday, December 11, 1899, p. 3*

F. Nebergall, the Magnetic Healer on South Main street, is here to stay and will continue to treat the sick by the Weltmer method of magnetic healing.

*Carrollton Daily Democrat, Carrollton, MO.  
Saturday, December 9, 1899, p. 3*

#### Doomed to Hang.

NEVADA, MO., June 9.—Bill Fox was found guilty of murder in the first degree by the jury who tried him for the killing of W. T. Howard. Motion for a new trial was over ruled by Judge Barton, who sentenced Fox to be hanged July 18, 1883.

*Missouri Statesman, Columbia, Missouri  
June 15, 1883.*

J. West Goodwin, editor of the Sedalia *Bazoo*, with his accustomed enterprise has made arrangements to run a special excursion train on the Missouri Pacific road to the hanging of Wm. Fox at Nevada on the 28th inst. to-day.

*Missouri Statesman, Columbia, Missouri  
December 28, 1883.*

## Big People Died.

Lloyd Turpin of the Turpin Furniture Co. Wednesday called a Herald reporter's attention to what he said was something very unusual in the way of bodies in his morgue. At the time there were four bodies there and all of the people weighing over 200 pounds. They were George Palmer of Richards, T. C. Sowers and Mrs. George Sullivan of Nevada and A. C. Smith, who died at his home, north of town, Tuesday of apoplexy. In the case of Mr. Smith, Mr. Turpin said, he had to order a specially-made casket, as none large enough are carried in stock or catalogued by the supply houses.

*Nevada Herald, Nevada, Missouri.*  
Friday, February 24, 1922.

## Richland Rumlings.

Richards Chronicle, Aug. 21st.

Miss Lizzie Seates, went to Nevada this week to visit friends. J. A. O'Kelly and family, went over to Nevada Wednesday to attend the Confederate reunion. R. T. Wall, returned Tuesday from the Indian Territory, where he went about two weeks ago to look after his immense cattle interests. Miss Ada Wilson, who lives with her Aunt Mrs. Tompkins, and Miss Bessie Burton, of Nevada, made the Chronicle a pleasant call Friday. Dr. Todd informs us that Della, the nine year old daughter of Mrs. Maston, who has been lying very low with typhoid fever for several weeks, is now convalescent. Eugene Todd, wife and daughters, are in Nevada this week in attendance at the Confederate reunion. As Eugene was a soldier he will no doubt eat army rations with the boys and enjoy a good time. We understand that the attendance is large and everybody present are enjoying the occasion. Enoch Weyand, who lives about two miles south of Richards, had a team of horses and buggy stolen at Fort Scott last week mention of which was made in the Chronicle at the time. We understand that Mr. Weyand succeeded in tracing the thief to Topeka, where he was run in and the team

recovered. The thief proved to be an old man 82 years of age and must be a hard old sinner. He ought to be placed in the house of "concoction" until he arrives at a more mature age and then furloughed and sent to Italy to learn the art of painting.

*Nevada Noticer, Nevada, Missouri.*  
Thursday, August 25, 1890.

## Another Booze Case.

Just a booze case—not a case of booze. Elmer Keithly was taken before Judge Thurman Saturday afternoon, charged with having corn whiskey, white mule, roastin' ear wine or whatever you choose to call the latest and one of the most deadly poisons in his possession. He said he had 'er, so he was fined \$300 and sentenced to six months in jail, but will not serve the jail sentence during good behavior, as he was granted a parole to cover that part of the sentence.

*Nevada Herald, Nevada, Missouri.*  
Friday, February 24, 1922.

## Midwest Genealogy Center (formerly Mid-Continent Library)



When planning a research trip to the new Midwest Genealogy Center (MGC), 3440 South Lee's Summit Road, Independence, MO, please remember to

take a sweater or lightweight jacket as it is cold in the library most of the time. Library hours are Mon-Thu 9-9, Fri 9-6, and Sat 9-5. "Genealogy from the Heartland" is a listing of approximately 10,000 titles in the MGC collection which can be ordered through interlibrary loan at your local library.

"Travel Time Adventures" has scheduled a Sep. 22 day trip to the Midwest Genealogy Center, and will stop in Nevada to pick up participants; cost is \$25 per person; for details or to make reservations, call 417-673-4242.

### National Orphan Train Complex

Due to the high interest in our August 9 program on Orphan Train riders, the following additional information is provided. The National Orphan Train Society is located at 300 Washington St., Concordia, KS; phone 785-243-4471. The mailing address is P.O. Box 322, Concordia, KS 66901. There is a museum and research center dedicated to the preservation of the stories and artifacts of those who were part of the Orphan Train Movement. For additional information, please see the Orphan Train Society's website at [www.orphantraindepot.com/](http://www.orphantraindepot.com/)

### Thank You from Missouri State Archives

The Tri-County Genealogical Society donated a set of its Vernon County Marriage Index books to the Missouri State Archives when Reference Archivist Robyn Burnett presented a program for the Society in July. The following letter has been received:

**I am writing to thank you for your recent donation of "*Marriage Index: Marriage Books A-H*" to the Missouri State Archives. We greatly appreciate the addition to our collection. Your gift will help provide a better understanding of our shared past.**  
**Sincerely,**  
**John Dougan, State Archivist**  
**Missouri State Archives**

### Submitting Corrections to the Missouri Death Certificates

Follow-up information has been received from the State Archives regarding submitting corrections to the Missouri Death Certificate Index: There are several original certificates that are actually missing, so they will continue to say "Request Photocopy" in the index until that wording will be changed to something else, such as "Contact us for more info."

### 1888 Frontenac, Kansas, Mine Explosion

Jerry Lomshek, local historian, will speak on the 1888 Frontenac mine explosion on Sep. 8 at 6:30 p.m. at the Pittsburg Public Library, 308 N. Walnut, Pittsburg, KS. This mining disaster, the worst in Kansas history, killed 44 persons and brought about changes in mining laws. The program is sponsored by the Crawford County, KS Genealogical Society.

### Price Increase for Microfilmed Newspapers

The Historical Society of Missouri has announced an increase in the price of newspaper microfilm to \$75 per roll effective Sep. 1.

### 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, 212 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; contact Nancy or email [tricountygenealogy@centurytel.net](mailto:tricountygenealogy@centurytel.net).

### 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, 218 West Walnut Street, Nevada, MO 64772.

2007 Society officers are:

President: Neoma Foreman

V. Pres: Janet Jones & Nancy Thompson

Recording Sec: position open

Treasurer: Ray Lukenbill

Corresponding Sec: Darlene Lukenbill

You received this monthly newsletter notice 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 notice in the future, please contact the Society at [tricountygenealogy@centurytel.net](mailto:tricountygenealogy@centurytel.net) and request that your name be removed from the email list.

**NOTICE: The Nevada Library and Genealogy Dept. will be CLOSED on Wednesday, September 10, 2008 for computer upgrade work and will reopen on September 11 as usual.**

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

***Dates to Mark on Your Calendar***

***Sep. 10, Nevada Library and Genealogy Dept closed***

***Sep. 13, 10 a.m. Weltmer Program in Nevada, MO***

***Nov. 9, 2 p.m., Veterans' Memorial Dedications at Balltown Cemetery***