



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
tricountygenealogy@centurytel.net
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~motcogs/>



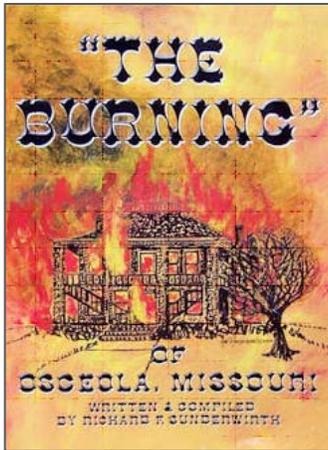
Vernon County Courthouse
Nevada, Missouri

NEWSLETTER

March 2009

April 11, 2009 Meeting & Program
Church of Christ Fellowship Hall
302 E Hospital Rd, El Dorado Springs
"THE BURNING OF OSCEOLA"
RICHARD SUNDERWIRTH, SPEAKER

Richard Sunderwirth, columnist for the *St. Clair Courier*, author, and historian will be guest speaker at the April meeting. *The Burning of Osceola Missouri* was researched



and written by Sunderwirth. His book, which first appeared as columns in the *St. Clair Courier* starting in 2005, looks back to a tragic Civil War event carried out by the radical General James Lane of Kansas fame. The horror and aftermath

have remained unresearched and largely untalked about for over 146 years. Sunderwirth has found firsthand accounts and previously unpublished materials concerning that terrible day that changed the lives of hundreds of Osceola residents as the flames ravaged a lifetime of dreams and hard work. This project is yet another piece of Missouri history. "The Burning" can be purchased the day of the program or from this link: www.osceolamochamber.com/theburning/ Click on the following link for a short video of the author reading a passage from the book: www.youtube.com/watch?v=w7Jnrb6FRf8

2009 Programs

The following programs are tentatively scheduled for 2009. Watch the newsletter and website for updated information or changes as programs are finalized.

May 9, Nevada: A tour of the Bastow home to learn its history and that of the families who have lived there.

Jun 13, El Do: An American Soldier who served in Iraq will be our guest speaker.

Jul 11, Nevada:

Aug 8, El Do: How to Prepare for a Research Trip to the Midwest Genealogy Center in Independence, MO. Guest speaker from the Midwest Genealogy Center.

Sep 12, Nevada: Trip to the new Midwest Genealogy Center, Independence, MO.

Oct 10, El Do: Basic Genealogy Conference: "Start Here and Do This" for individuals who want to learn how to begin their family history research. Presented by Tri-County Genealogical Society members.

Nov 14, Nevada: Computer Genealogy Research. Seminar presented by Helen Lodge. Meeting location: Cottey College Computer Lab.

Dec 12, El Do: Members are invited to bring 5-10 copies of a documented brick-wall research problem to be discussed. Election and Installation of Officers and Christmas Luncheon.

Library Hours

Hours at the Nevada Library and Genealogy Department are:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Tuesday, Thursday: 9 a.m.-8 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Sunday and Holidays: closed

New computer monitors have been installed in the Nevada Library Genealogy Dept., and printing problems have been resolved.

Hours at the Cedar County libraries are:

Monday – Friday: 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Saturday: 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Sunday and Holidays: closed.

New Resources

Copies of the following resources are on order for both the Nevada Library Genealogy Department and the El Dorado Springs Library:

Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska Civil War Veterans: Compilation of the Death Rolls of the Departments of Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska, Grand Army of the Republic, 1883-1948 by Dennis Northcott, 2007.

Indiana Civil War Veterans: Transcription of the Death Rolls of the Department of Indiana, Grand Army of the Republic, 1882-1948 by Dennis Northcott, 2005.

Grand Army of the Republic, Department of Illinois: Transcription of the Death Rolls 1879-1947 by Dennis Northcott 2008.

Indexing Records

Details have been worked out, and training is being conducted for the volunteers who will be indexing marriage records. Volunteers can work on either Vernon or Cedar County records. You do not have to be a Tri-County member to help with this project, you just have to know how to type and have 2 to 4 hours each week that you can devote to the project – please email TriCountyGenealogy@centurytel.net if you would like to help, either in Nevada or El Dorado Springs.

Cedar County, Missouri Probate Records

Volunteers are presently working on box 14 of the Cedar County Probate Records – there are only 11 boxes remaining to complete.

How to Obtain Copies of Vernon County Marriage Records

Attention researchers: If you need a copy of a Vernon County, Missouri marriage record, please send \$1 and a self-addressed stamped envelope to the Recorder of Deeds, 100 West Cherry Street, Nevada, MO 64772. Give names and approximate date of the marriage. The staff will provide a machine copy of the record (if found) from the original record book.

Items of Interest from Area Newspapers

[The below newspaper articles were transcribed by Nancy Thompson.]

"CRAZY ANDY" DEAD. Has Been a Familiar Figure Here for 45 Years.

His Mind Supposed to Have Been Affected by Disappointment in Love.

Andy Rombolt, better known as "Crazy Andy," died this morning at his old hut on South Cedar street.

Andy has been somewhat of a mystery especially to the younger people of the city. He has wandered about the streets from day to day for many years, picking up here and there what he could find that could be of no benefit to him. His mind has been partially unbalanced for years but he has been absolutely harmless.

The past few years the county court has allowed him a few dollars each month to be used in procuring food to sustain his shattered body.

Many years ago he meted out a bare subsistence by sharpening knives and scissors but more recently he has been unable to even do this.

The old brick building in which Andy has lived for many years, gives one an uncanny feeling when you enter its dimly lighted and poverty stricken rooms. Only a few remnants of furniture of the crudest design are seen. Here Andy has lived for many years. Some say he has been in Nevada 45 years, and that years ago he was disappointed in a love affair and this caused his mind to become unbalanced.

No one knows his age, but he has stated that he was born in Germany and came to the United States when he was six years of age.

For the past few days Andy has been confined to his room. C. T. Denning, who lives near, has been looking after him and giving him all the assistance possible. This morning Mr. Denning went to see the old man and found him lying on the bare floor in an unconscious condition. Not a stitch of clothing was on the body. Mr. Denning supposed Andy had died but after examining him found that there was yet a spark of life. Mr. Denning called assistance, and the old mans body was bathed in hot water and everything possible done to bring him back to life but at 8 o'clock he passed away.

The remains will be buried by the county.

*The Nevada Daily Mail, Nevada, MO.
Friday, October 26, 1900, page 1.*

The remains of Andy Rambolt were buried yesterday afternoon in Potter field. The body was prepared for burial by W. J. Wainscott's Undertaking establishment.

*The Nevada Daily Mail, Nevada, MO.
Saturday, October 27, 1900.*

[Editor's note: No mention of Andy Rombolt was located in the Wainscott's Funeral Home Records. Potter's field reference in this time period is in Deepwood Cemetery, Nevada, Vernon County, Missouri.]

**SHOOTING AT ZODIAC SPRINGS.
Two Men Fall Out Over the
Sale of Town Lots.
After Being Shot in the Mouth
Workman Took Winecup's
Revolver and Struck
Him Over the
Head.**

Capt. A. Cummins returned last night from Montevallo, this county, and while there reports meeting young Dr. Popplewell, who was called to see to injured men who had engaged in a serious fight at Zodiac Springs the other evening.

The parties engaged in the difficulty were Mr. Winecup, aged about 70 years, and a

young man named Workman, about 30 years old.

It is alleged that Winecup shot young Workman, the ball splitting his lip and knocking out his teeth; that he grabbed the gun, wrenched it from the old man and struck him over the head producing a serious wound. It is reported the skull was fractured.

The trouble, it is said, arose from difficulties about the sale of some town lots.

*The Nevada Daily Mail, Nevada, MO.
March 17, 1900*

**BOTH MEN WILL RECOVER.
Further Particulars Concerning
the Shooting Scrape at
Zodiac Springs.**

The following additional particulars have been received concerning the shooting affray at Zodiac Springs, mention of which was made recently by the MAIL.

Correspondence of SOUTHWEST MAIL:

MONTEVALLO, MO., March 17—Quite a lively shooting scrape occurred at Zodiac in the southern part of this township Wednesday afternoon. A man named Winecup, an old Mexican War veteran, and a younger man named Workman were the participants. Particulars as to the cause of the trouble are not known, but it is said by some to have been caused by a dispute over a twenty-acre tract of land. Both men live in adjoining houses and the trouble had been brewing for some time. Dr. W. H. Popplewell, who attended both men, says he thinks both will recover, unless complications arise. Winecup's head was bruised and cut considerable, and he suffered a fracture of the skull, either from a blow or a fall, he also had several ribs fractured. No bullet wounds were found on Winecup's body.

Workman was shot through the front part of his face, knocking out several teeth and injuring his jaw bone.

Six or eight shots were exchanged and the fact that more damage was not done is explained by the fact that both parties did their shooting behind trees—one tree shows three bullet holes. It is said that Workman's

pistol failed to work and that he jumped from behind a tree and attacked Winecup, but this is only a report. Winecup is very old, being nearly 80. Workman is a younger man.

The Nevada Daily Mail, Nevada, MO.
March 18, 1900.

**THINKS LOTS OF MR. BRYAN.
Six Year Old Jessie Thomas
Writes a Letter to the
Nebraska Statesman.**

Little Jessie Thomas, the six year old daughter of Dick Thomas, is an enthusiastic admirer of William Jennings Bryan. Of her own accord, and without help from anyone she wrote the following letter, which has been mailed to him. No tribute yet paid the brilliant young statesman is more earnest or sincere. This is the letter:

NEVADA, MO., Feb. 5—Dear Mr. Bryan: You do not know me, but I have heard so much about you that I know you. We have your picture and I think you are very pretty. Papa is a free silver man and he likes you very much; he bet on the election and lost his watch. I cried when I heard you was beat. I have three little brothers. One is four years old; his name is Paul Vernon Thomas. One is named Fred; he is two years old, and the other was born the 17th of January. I am going to name him William J. Bryan Thomas. I will be six years old April 19. I went to all of the democratic rallies and sang a Bryan song and spoke a Bryan piece. I know lots of Bryan songs, and I am going to learn lots more songs and speeches in the next four years, so I can speak at the rallies.

I wish you would come to Nevada, so I can see you. I live two miles east of Nevada. Have you any little girls or boys? Tell them to write to me, so I will close for this time.

From JESSIE AMELIA THOMAS
To Mr. W. J. Bryan.

The Nevada Daily Mail, Nevada, MO.
Saturday, February 6, 1897, page 2, col. 4.

[Editor's note: "Free Silver" was an important U.S. political issue in the late 19th century. The Populist Party had a strong "free coinage of silver" element. Its subsequent combination with the Democratic Party moved the latter from the

support of the gold standard which had been the hallmark of the Cleveland Administration to the Free Silver position epitomized by 1896 presidential nominee William Jennings Bryan in his "Cross of Gold" speech. Bryan's 1896 candidacy was supported by Populists and Silver Republicans as well as Democrats. More on this issue can be read on the internet at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Free_silver or other websites.

Jessie Amelia Thomas was the Aunt of our noted local historian and wordsmith, Patrick Brophy.]

PRYOR CREEK LONG, LONG AGO

By Sterling Hart
Of Commerce, Texas

Dear Editor:

Forty years ago today, (April 19) together with George and Jesse Cox, sons of the late Rev. Alex Cox and brothers of Joe Cox, the latter for many years a Hume merchant, I left Missouri for Texas. We made the trip with a team and covered wagon and a horse and buggy, reaching our destination, Katy, Texas, 20 miles west of Houston, after 45 days of travel and lay-overs. The United States declared war on Spain the second day of our trip, April 20, 1898.



During these four decades the world has dealt kindly with me, both as to business and the acquisition of a happy family including three lusty grandsons, but looking backward at this time it is memories of the events and associations of 50 years ago, more or

less, that fill my mind.

My brother, Wren went to Texas a few years after I did, and we are now publishers of some six newspapers but it was as a Pryor Creek correspondent for the Hume, Rich Hill and Nevada papers that I got my earliest and most thrilling experiences as a journalist. It was a lot of fun though I now marvel at the kindness and patience of those editors.

My boyhood days having been spent on a farm on Pryor Creek, it is about the people down that way that I am most concerned and of whom I desire to write. I enjoy reading the Missouri papers.

I see by your paper that Jason Finch has been retired from railroad service. Recently I read of the Willard Trout social affair. Also, some time ago, the account of the death of Lewis Moore was a special interest to me, and brought a profound sadness. He was a fine citizen, a good printer and an enterprising newspaper man. I have never understood why he gave up the profession. A newspaper man myself now for more than 40 years, I look back with tender recollections to the days when I was a rural correspondent for the Border Telephone [Hume, MO newspaper]. My associations with Lewis were pleasant and helpful to me. He always had a kind word and a friendly suggestion. It has been some three years since I visited the fair city of Hume and points south. I hope to get up there again this summer. I enjoy the visits though they are saddened by the memories of those who have passed on.

I always read the news from Brush College, Pryor Creek, Stone Point, Metz, Wolfe and Stotesbury. Brush College is the only college I had the good fortune to attend. That was my first school, close to 60 years ago, under Prof. McGehee. One thing that impressed me was his salary--\$40 per month. I wondered if I would ever be able to earn so much. The original Brush College school stood on a wooded hill east of the present one. It was a log house with puncheon seats but was in ruins in my time. Old timers like Antony Sartorius can tell about that, as he went to school there.

Half a century is a long time. This is about the way I wrote the news 50 years ago.

Pryor Creek

Dr. and Mrs. J. A. Sartorius spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Henry Brooks.

There is talk of two new churches. One is to be built by the Christian denomination in an oak grove on a hill south of the creek and

will be called Oak Wood. Rev. Billie Miller will be pastor. The other church is to be built by the United Brethren a mile north on the county line, Jerome Miller heads the committee for the Christian Church and Tom Bogan is Chairman of the United Brethren church committee.

Harold Brown is one of the best corn huskers on the creek.

The Vigilance Committee (anti-horse thief organization) held its regular monthly meeting at Brush College school house Friday night.

(This was an anti-horse thief organization and nearly all of the old settlers belonged to it. They had done such a good job of stopping horse stealing, which was said to have been very bad following the Civil War, that there were no hangings within my memory. Woe unto the "hoss" thief when they caught him.)

Att Finch has the earliest field of corn in the community. (I plowed many an acre of corn for this early-day farmer. He was not a large farmer but he always produced the best of everything, including a family of ten children, five boys and five girls. Green Finch was a relative who lived on a farm nearby. He also had a fine family. The children were musicians. Jason was just about the champion hill billy fiddler of the country and picked up many a dollar playing for country dances. Also he was an accomplished lady's man.)

Frank Brooks and Marion Burris are each feeding a nice herd of beef cattle.

Steps are being taken to organize a new school district and build a school house, the Pryor Creek school.

The Missouri Pacific railroad's new line from Ft. Scott to Rich Hill has reached Metz and the company has laid out a new townsite a mile west of the old town, which originally was called Pleasant Valley.

Felix Main took his girl (Miss Wilson) to church Sunday.

Jackson Perrine, Charley Mikesell and Sterling Hart are plowing corn for Marion Burris.

Ellsworth Clark's deep-throated hounds are heard almost nightly up and down the timbered lands of Pryor Creek.

Paul and Polk Stein, while hunting last week, killed an eagle.

Charley Fenwick is a regular Sunday caller at the Cannahan home.

Recollections

Grandpa Main, with a crooked leg from a Civil War wound, sitting with a pretty little grand-daughter on either knee, Sarah Main and Cora Austin. The latter is now Mrs. Lloyd Brooks. Was he proud of them!

Uncle Sam LeNeve and his regular Saturday trips to Rich Hill.

Helping build the dump for the Kansas City Southern (Kansas City, Pittsburg & Gulf) railroad just north of the little Osage.

Going for Dr. Chastain the night Jimmie Cox was born to Mr. and Mrs. Wiley Cox.

The Big Forks swimming hole and the crowds that gathered there Sundays.

Picking wild strawberries in the Charley Falor pasture.

Listening to the preaching of the evils of the narrow "hugs-me-tight" buggies of the gay nineties.

Col. C. R. Walters of the Rich Hill Review, another patron editor.

Anthony Sartorius playing a game and having more fun out of it losing than anybody else could have winning.

Curt LeNeve on a still night yodeling as he wended his way homeward towards the big woods of Pryor Creek bottom. The hoot owls didn't have a chance.

When Sprague was more important town than Hume (beg pardon) with trains of coal shipped daily from adjacent mines.

Harrison Brown's pretty daughters.

My first speech (school recitation) when I recited "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star."

Getting up at 5:00 a.m. on a winter morning and pulling on frozen boots to start the day feeding a herd of beef cattle and cutting the ice so they could drink. It was for Marion Burris ace farmer of his time. The pay was \$16 per month. Nine p.m. was bed time.

Jerry Kerns and his huckster wagon.

The cyclone that killed Mr. and Mrs. Miles Miller east of Hume. They were thrown in a cistern and drowned. The baby and a neighbor girl escaped. The last I heard of the baby he was running a drug store in Nevada.

The Bryan-McKinley campaign.

The big camp meetings in the Jerone Miller grove.

Learning to set type in the office of the Stotesbury Standard, published by John Bradford in the boom days of that burg when the new railroad came.

My first experience as a publisher. It was the Times at Fulton, Kansas.

Marsh Brooks, Jep Thompson and Melger Miller, three of the big boys in my first school.

The sweet perfume of the locust tree bloom at the Att Finch home.

Doug McDowell's poweress as a swimmer.

Walking three miles to school at White Rock, where so many Crigler girls attended that there was one in every class (there were none prettier).

Miss Sallie Norman, who taught the first Pryor Creek school.

Bud Finch playing "Arkansaw Traveler."

The spring I "road herd" for Jim Dye and we rounded up, branded and drove a bunch of cattle out west to his Kansas pasture.

Plowing ten acres of corn in a day for Anthony Sartorius.

My first picnic. It was at Hume. The merry-go-round really broke down. The seats were suspended from beams tennoned into a center pole. It was pulled by a horse who walked a circle between the seats and the enter pole. The beams pulled out of the pole and men, women and children piled up in a heap, but no one was hurt. I also saw and heard my first brass band on that occasion. I have since seen several world fairs but they were tame compared with that Fourth of July in Hume.

*The Hume Border Messenger, Hume, MO.
Thursday, May 5, 1938, page 1.*

Best Choice UPC Labels

The Tri-County Genealogical Society continues to collect Best Choice brand UPC product labels and Summer Fresh Grocery Store receipts. Bring them to any monthly meeting. These items are redeemed for cash.

Death Certificates ~ Pitfalls & Tips

1. A death certificate is not primary proof for a decedent's birth or parentage, so seek confirming documents. Remember items "recorded" at the time of the death, such as the date and cause, are primary sources, but those "reported" by an informant are secondary.
2. To determine the veracity of the reported items, identify the informant. The closer the familial relationship, the more likely the accuracy.
3. If parentage is not identified, cross reference with a sibling.
4. If a female informant's surname differs from the decedent's, she may be a married daughter.
5. Adoptive parents can be erroneously indicated as birth parents.
6. Cross reference causes of death with current terms. Shaking palsy, for example, may indicate Parkinson's disease.
7. Burials may be recorded by a town name and not a cemetery. Since town names change, do your homework.
8. When ordering death certificates, you can save time by using a service, but you can save money by ordering directly from a registrar.
9. Some states centralize ordering at the state level and others at the locality where the death occurred. If a county name changed, verify before sending money to the wrong location, as refunds may not be issued.
10. Collect certificates as soon as possible, as costs are increasing and privacy laws may affect your right to order.

Previously published in *RootsWeb Review*: 11 February 2009, Vol. 12, No. 2 [with picture samples of various certificates].

Welcome New Member

We welcome Vicki Barge who is researching the following surnames in west central Missouri: Marshall, Bishop, Miller, Huffaker, Hawkins, Cruce, Alexander, Lacey, McKee. If you are also researching these names, please contact the Society and we can put you in contact with Vicki.

Ozarks Genealogical Society Conference Set for Sept. 25-26

The 29th Ozarks Genealogical Society's fall conference will be held September 25-26, 2009, at University Plaza. The speaker for this year's conference is Thomas W. Jones, Ph.D., CG, CGL, FASG. Dr. Jones is joint editor of the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, former trustee and a past president of the Board for Certification of Genealogists, board member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, and recipient of its 2004 Grahame T. Smallwood Jr. Award of Merit. Recently retired from a career in higher education, Dr. Jones works full time as a genealogical researcher, writer, editor, and educator. His research has encompassed records of every state east of the Mississippi, as well as Iowa, Missouri, Texas, France, Germany, Italy, and Ireland. He specializes, however, in Georgia and Virginia and is most interested in solving "brick-wall" genealogical problems. He writes and speaks frequently on genealogical methods with broad application across geographic areas, time periods, and levels of expertise. He is known for meaty lectures that benefit genealogists of all levels of experience. Look for additional conference details on the OGS Web site at <http://ozarksgs.org/>.

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 W. 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.

Tri-County Genealogical Society

Membership in the Society is currently at about 75, 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, and \$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. 2008 Society officers are:

President: Kathe Rader

V. Pres: Gayle Teague & Neoma Foreman

Recording Secy: Janet Jones

Treasurer: Ray Lukenbill

Corresponding Secy: Darlene Lukenbill

Newsletter & website: Nancy Thompson

***We hope you have enjoyed reading the Tri-County Genealogical Society's newsletter.
You are cordially invited to support the work of the Society with
an annual membership of \$10.***