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## MY GRANDFATHER, VERNON

Jeremiah Vernon was born in Kentucky in the year 1805. He was married to Betsy Stark. Their two oldest children were born in Kentucky then they moved to Missouri and homesteaded a farm where Olean is now. The house he built was a large log house fireplace in each end, considered a mansion in those days - and fourteen more children were born there making 16 children in all. Their names are Nancy, Polly, Wilburn, Becky, Sally, Serena, Martha, Caroline, Leah, Missouri, George, Lark, Tom, Ann, Manza, Charity.

Nancy married Jim Long and lived close to Mt. Pleasant. They had one daughter, Mary Jane. Nancy died young not long after the birth of her child. Mary Jane married Hardy Shadrick.

Polly married John Hannah. They lived near High Point, they didn't have any children. Aunt Polly was large weighed more than 300, lived to be about 60.

Wilburn married Sarah Henderson and lived in different places all in Miller County not far from Mt. Pleasant, Eldon and Olean. Their children's names are: Mary Eliza, William, Harvey, Isaac, Elizabeth, Adaline, Lyda, George, John and Frank. One baby died in infancy. Mary Eliza married Ben Allen and lived East of Olean, raised their children on a farm and gave land for the Allen Cemetery. Their children's names are: Billy, Emma, Charley, Estella and Earnest. Emma married John Clay, had one child (Edgar). Charley married Stella Allee, had several children, Ollie, Priest, Ray, Isma, Raymond, Logan. Estella married Tom Giddeons. Their children are Clarence, Nevada, Hilgor, Emma. Earnest and Billy have never married.

~~Billy~~ Billy married Anna Hunsucker and they had one child, Forrest. Anna died and he later married Theodosia Jordon. They lived East of Olean

near Enon for several years then moved to near High Point. Forrest married Anna McGill. Brother Billy died at their house at the age of 84 years.

Harvey married Sarah Jones had 6 children, Eliza, Fanny, Allen, Lou and Walter, An infant baby. Sarah died December 10, 1881. Later married Rachel Cox. Their children's names are: May, Ollie, Roy, Amy, Ray, Gertie, Minnie, Aubra, Edna, Rella, Cecil, Effie, Virgie and Versie and 3 infant babys. Isaac married Mattie White and lived East of Aurora. Their children are Arthur, Pearl, Blanche, Maude, Clyde, Opal, Edgar, Carl, Bessie, Truman, and Dolly. One baby died in infancy.

Adaline married John Evans, had one child. She and the baby both died when she was real young.

Elizabeth married Thomas Smith. He had 2 children, Mamie and Willie, but ~~there~~ Elizabeth didn't have any children. After Uncle Tom died she married Joe Merriott and lived near Latham, now in Latham.

George married Alice White, lived on a farm on the ridge south of Saline Creek. Their children are: Nora, Daisy, Gracie, Nellie, Laura, Bertie, Georgie, Ira, Harley, Willie. He later married Mollie Grandstaff. Their children are: Jewel, Louis and Sylvia. He later married Maud Adcock Chitisetter. They have several children and are now living in Caney, Kansas.

John married Rosa McKinney they lived on a farm and Grandpa Vernon spent his last years at their house. He received a pension and paid his way but Aunt Rosa was always good to him. Their children are Louis, Claude, Carolie, Chester and Mildred. Uncle John died June 14th at the age of 69 years, 11 months and 4 days.

Frank married Sarah Kelsay they lived on a farm north of the Saline creek, for years Uncle Frank ran a saw mill, sawed lumber for a lot of people. Their children are Fred, Otto, Ruth, Corney, and Dora and Lester. Otto, Ruth and Corney and another baby are dead. Ruth was 16, Otto 8, Corney 3.

Becky married Calvin Starling and had about seven children. Their names are: Tom, Henry, Jim, Mary Emiline, Jane, Manda, Roena, and one baby died.

Aunt Becky and Uncle Calvin Both <sup>→ Harvey Roark's father</sup> lived to be old - lived near Mt. Herman.

Uncle Calvin died first.

Sally married Harvey Henderson, for several years they lived East of Olean then moved out West to Kansas in the year 1865. Aunt Sally died in Northern Kansas and he married again and moved to Blackwell, Kansas, and died there when he was old. Their children are: Will, Nancy, Elizabeth, Tom, John, George, and L. B., Fannie.

Sarena married Joel McKinney. They lived close to Spring Garden for years then moved to Arkansas. Uncle Joel was out hunting and was killed by the Indians. They found him with two arrows in his body. He was frozen and they had to leave the arrows in his body. Aunt Sarena died the next June. Their children are: Tom, Martha, Georgeann, and Joe Ann (twins). Their grandpa McKinney went after the children and mother and father kept the twins and Tom.

Martha married Tom Shelton, they had 4 children; Tom, Joel, Martha and Mary. They lived near Rocky Mt. both lived to be old. Uncle Tom always went to the Soldiers Encampment each year and wore his soldiers uniform and Aunt Martha died 2 weeks before Grandpa Vernon died.

Caroline married Dan Atkinson. They lived one mile East of Mt. Herman Church. They had two children, Jim and Oma Jane. She died when the children were small.

Leah married Yancy Roark. They lived in Aurora Springs. Their children are Nolen and Johnny, Sis (Martha). Nolan had one daughter (Nellie) and Johnny's children are Arthur and Horace. Uncle Yancy was killed in the time of the war.

About August 30, 1864 seven men were killed down on the Osage River.

They were taken prisoner and marched out on the sandbar and shot down.

The other men were Sam McClure, Fair Long, John Starling, Dick Crisp,  
Nat Hicks and one other. *W. Gibson Yancy Roark*

Missouri married Edd Farris they lived near Spring Garden and had several children. I don't know all of their names. Billy was one, and he lived West of Eldon for a while.

Uncle George married Mary Norman. They lived near California, Mo. on a farm. They had 6 children; Dell, Ray, Henry, Josie, Joe, Lilly, Myrtle and Barbara. One son was born dead - no name. Aunt Mary died February 1904 and he moved into Calif. and died Feb. 1912, about 5 years after she did.

Aunt Ann married Bill Woolkit. They had one child that lived to be 2 years old. Her husband died and later years she married Edd Farris, brother-in-law.

Charity married Joel Simmons and lived and raised their family near Rocky Mt.

Maniza died when just a girl about 16 or 17.

Lark died when he was 21. Had TB.

Tom, the youngest in the family died with spotted fever when he was 17 year s old.

These are the names of my grandfather Vernon's family and who they married and their children and also some of the children and great-grand children.

### MY GRANDFATHER HENDERSON'S FAMILY

William Henderson was born in Tennessee. He married a Bradford. They had 10 children. They moved to Miller Co. and homesteaded a farm on the Little Saline where it is known now as the Bill Harrison farm. They settled there when my grandmother was 10 years old. My grandmother's name was Sarah. The other children's names are: Allen, John, Edd, Harvey, Isaac, Eli, Betty, Eliza and Tilda. Grandmother died on that farm, was buried (Salem) near Eldon. Grandfather lived with his children, died in Kansas, brought back here and buried at Salem Cemetary.

Allen married and lived across the river south of Bagnell. He had 5 children Edd, Jim, Allen, Laura and Caroline. He died years ago. Laura lives close to Bagnell. Jim and Edd live on the old homestead.

Betty married Dave Stepp. They had several children; Jim, John, Bill, Wayne, Ike, Edd, George, Joe, Eliza, Julia and Nancy.

Eliza married a Bradford.

Harvey married Sally Vernon, a sister to my father and Sarah Henderson married Wilburn Vernon, my father.

Eli married a girl by the name of Lucy Bailey and wasn't a very good citizen, did some things that in that day was considered terrible and had to go away.

At the time my Grandfather Jerramiah Vernon moved to Mo. the state very was not/thickly populated. Miller Co. had not yet become a County. There were only a few families in what is now Miller Co. Very little land in cultivation. They plows that they used to cultivate the soil were made of wood and pulled by oxen.

The crops were mostly corn and some wheat, cotton and flax. The flax and cotton were used to make their clothes. Almost every family had a spinning wheel and a loom to make cloth for their clothes. They used wool to make the heavy clothing, they used hand cards to card it and they knitted all their hose and gloves.

There was a blacksmith shop at Mt. Pleasant where supplies could be made for farm impliments.

All stock cattle, hogs and sheep ran at large and were identified as belonging to each owner by certain marks on their ears made when the animals were small by cutting a piece out of the ear. Call upper bit in the left ear or lower bit in the right, and etc.

Not only the domestic animals roamed the hills but wild animals as well. There were lots of deer, bear, panthers and Lynx, bob-cats, & wolves.

There were lots of wild turkeys and prairie chickens and wild animals for meat to eat.

Both Grandfather Vernon and Grandfather Henderson lived in log houses. Modern conveniences such as we have now were not even heard of then.

When Grandfather Vernon's children were about grown in the year 1850 he left grandmother and the children, some of them married, and went to the goldfields or started. He never lived to get there. He died on the plains. News had come that there was lots of gold in California and lots of folks went in wagon trains, wagons drawn by oxen, not very much roads, no bridges across streams made traveling slow. In making preparation to go he made a new wagon box and made a cover for the wagon.

He took sick and died and was buried on the plains in Eastern Calif. He had Brights Disease. His companions, Jimmy Taylor and Tandy Moore and Mr. Long made a coffin out of his new wagon bed and buried him beside the trail.

He was about 45 years old. It was a long time before Grandmother and the family heard he was dead. News traveled slow in those days.

Grandmother lived on the old home place (where Olean is now) for several years, then she moved to a little farm near Mt. Hermon Church.

A Baptist (frame house) church had been built there by that time, before that time there was a church just northeast of where Eldon is, now called Mt. Vernon Church and that is where all the old settlers attended church.

Grandmother had a stroke of paralysis at Mt. Herman Church. They took her home and she only lived a few days. They buried her at the Allen Cemetary. Most all of the family were members of the Baptist Church and lived respectable lives.

My father's name was Wilburn Vernon. He was born Dec. 21, 1827. *See opposite Page*  
He spent all of his boyhood days on his father's farm, the farm he had homesteaded where Olean is now.

The house and stables were made of logs and all the cooking was done on an open fireplace, iron kettles were used for boiling and bread was baked in dutch ovens made of iron.

Father never took any trips away from the home country. He hunted a lot, and would tan the hides of animals. Some of the skins were used to make shoes for the family.

Wild deer was so plentiful in those days that father often would get up in the night to drive them away to keep them from destroying the crops.

My mother's name was Sarah Susan Henderson, daughter of William Henderson. She was born in Tenn. May 5, 1828. When she was 10 years old she came with her parents to Mo. and settled on the Little Saline Creek. Grandfather homesteaded a tract of land and lived there for many years. Grandmother died there and was buried near Eldon at the Salem Cemetary.

My father and mother were married in the year 1846. They lived for a while at Grandfather Vernon's then father homesteaded 80 acres of land where Eldon is now. He built a house close to where the Weeks Dairy Farm is now. The house was made of logs used just as they were cut with the ax. The ends not straightened up. They called them kerf ends. The logs were dabbled with mud to keep out the cold.

Wilburn Vernon

When my father was born in 1827 there were only a very few houses in this whole section of the country. There was a blacksmith here at Mt. Pleasant and Jefferson City was called a Trading Post.

When my father was born on Dec 21 1827 he was the first white child born in this part of the country. He was a little past nine years old when Miller County became a county on February 6-1837.

Pinkney Miller was the first white child born after the county was organized and has the name of being the first white child born in Miller Co. but my father was born on a farm that Grandfather Jeremaih Vernon homesteaded here. Clean is now. The house a large log building stood about 3 blocks north and 5 blocks west of where the stores are now.

house stood about 1 block south of the junction of 7 and 54 on the west side of that street. Of course there were no highway or streets and very few roads back

