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A brief bit of what I know of the Vernon family: I cannot go back any farther than grandfather Jeremiah Vernon who came to Missouri from Tennessee in an ox wagon a little more than one hundred years ago. He settled in the north part of Miller County near where Olean now stands. At that time that part of the country was almost a wilderness infested with beasts of most every kind, and wild Indians also. He entered two hundred acres of land from the government. The southeast corner of the tract is on Main Street in Olean near that "brick store building". There he built him quite a mansion for that day and time. He builded three large rooms of neatly hewed logs, nicely fitted together with two large stone chimneys. Then he cleared the land and made a farm, where he and Grandmother (who was Betsy Stark) lived and enjoyed the fruits of their labour for many years. They raised a large family - 12 girls and 4 boys. Their names are as follows: Nancy Long, Polly Hanna, Serrena McKinney, Charity Simmons, Sally Henderson, Becky Starling, Caroline Atkinson, Martha Shelton, Leah Roark, Missouri Farris, Ann Wolcott, and Maniza. Boys - Wilburn, George, Larken, and Thomas. In 1850 in the time of the great gold rush to California, Grandfather, with a large train of ox wagons, started for those gold fields; but alas he never reached his destination, but died on the way. His comrades took his wagon bed and made him a coffin out of it and buried him on a little plateau at foot of the Sierra Nevada mountains. There his body rests in an unmarked grave.

Written by W. J. Vernon

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