



The County Line

Bay County Genealogical Society Newsletter
Bay County, Florida

VOLUME 22 NUMBER 2

APRIL 2003

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Berniece Loper



Well, spring has finally come, and what a lovely time it is. We can work out in the garden, and start to make our home lovely after what seemed like a long winter. My husband and I were both "under the weather," so that didn't help matters. Clifford has worked on his genealogy during the "in the house" time, and has gotten a great deal of his material together to go toward making his book. But, enough about us. Let's go back over the last few months.

Our yearly seminar the 8th of February was more than we could ever have hoped for. Michael Neill was so informative, and he presented his material with great enthusiasm, and knowledge of his subjects. He was enjoyable to be with, and we feel we were very lucky to have him. We have Linda Kleback to thank for telling us of him, and we are more than grateful to her. We had over 90 attendees, and I don't believe anyone got sleepy even after lunch. We want to thank everyone for spreading the word.

In March we had Marlene Womack (a member of our society) talk to us about her new book, *WAR COMES TO FLORIDA'S NORTHERN GULF COAST*. She told us many things that I, for one, did not know. Thank you Marlene.

I will miss the April meeting because Clifford and I are going on a trip to North Carolina. Cliff is going to see his only sister for the first time in 40 years. She is coming to visit her daughter, and there is going to be a family reunion. I am sorry to have to miss the meeting as we are going to have a very

interesting one. Mr. Geordie Ord, a member of the Panama City Pipes and Drums, will discuss the history of bagpipes.

In the coming months Mary Ann Buswell has scheduled some very interesting speakers. Rebecca Saunders, the President of the Historical Society, and Ann Robbins. Ann has spoken to us before, and she brings many interesting old things that she has collected over the years. Her talks are very interesting, and this one will be about the use of salt in the Civil War. Rebecca will be talking about the local history room at the library. We are hoping to get some more interesting speakers later on, so don't miss a meeting if at all possible.

Berniece

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR 2003 MEMBERSHIP DUES

BCGS member dues for calendar year 2003 were due in December 2002. Dues are \$15 per year for single or family membership. You may bring cash or a check to the next meeting made payable to BCGS. You may also mail your dues to the BCGS address shown on the back page of this newsletter.

ADDRESS CHANGE/CORRECTION REQUESTED

Addressees: Please review your mailing address for correctness. If it is incorrect or needs changing in any way, please notify us via one of the means listed on our back page.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

BCGS MEETINGS



BCGS monthly meetings are now held the second Saturday of each month at 1 p.m. in the Meeting Room of the Bay County Main Library, Panama City Marina.

10 May 2003: *Ann Robbins*

A presentation concerning Salt and its importance in preserving food, especially during the Civil War.

14 June 2003: *Rebecca Saunders*

A discussion concerning the Local History Room (second floor) at the Bay County Library and the materials available.

12 July 2003: *Laura Stokes* of “Creative Memories”

A presentation concerning the creation of a “Heritage Album.”

9 August 2003: *TBD*

13 September 2003: *TBD*

11 October 2003: *Walter Sherman (President of SAR) and a representative of DAR*

A presentation concerning the details of the preparation of applications for membership for SAR and DAR.

Note: Come Prepared

We are now allowing time after the program in each meeting to assist and provide guidance in your research. So bring your “brick walls” and other questions, and have another cup of coffee while we discuss them. BCGS genealogists with years of experience will be there to help.

Where was Eusebia Church?

By Sally Rinehart

My father, a career military man, rarely spoke of his family and childhood in suburban Baltimore, Maryland. He spent his summers in West Virginia with his grandparents and many cousins. Whenever he did speak of times past, it always had something to do with his West Virginia home. I remember Dad telling of the small family church and singing the songs they sang. That must have been quite an experience as he couldn't carry a tune in a bucket. Eusebia Church was a small, white Presbyterian church sitting on a hill with the cemetery behind and to its right. Many generations of Rineharts and related families were buried in this quiet, peaceful place.

About twenty years ago, we had some vacation time and decided to look for this church. I had just begun to research my roots and had no genealogical education as yet. Dad wasn't too forthcoming about names or relationships. I did know my grandparents' names and a few of his cousins' names, and of course, his brother's and sister's names, but he gave no dates. When we told him what we wanted to do, he drew us a map with detailed instructions. He also started telling of being a descendent of the "Ditchley Lee's." I hadn't a clue who he was talking about and he just wouldn't elaborate any further. My father was definitely not interested in genealogy! It took me four or five years of research to find out that the "Ditchley Lee's" were part of the Virginia Lee family that included Robert E. and "Light Horse" Harry Lee.

Armed with the map and my new sedan, we went to Romney, West Virginia, the small county seat of Hampshire County. The courthouse was a fascinating structure that changed hands fifty-six times during the Civil War (this is a whole story in itself), and we spent several days going through old dusty ledger-type books. Then, one morning, off we went church hunting. Dad had described what the church looked like from the road and we were looking and looking and looking... We ended up in a cow pasture, wheel high in mud and had to be hauled out by tractor. We did not find Eusebia Church on that trip. It took another trip and meeting some cousins before we finally found this most lovely place in West, by God, Virginia!

NEW BOOKS IN THE GENEALOGICAL COLLECTION OF THE BAY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Linda Pazics Kleback
Genealogy Specialist
Bay County Public Library



Data as of: March 28, 2003

GENERAL:

Gen. R972.82 Sim – Confederate Settlements in British Honduras

Gen. R973.7 Odo – Hispanic Confederates

Gen. R973 Boc – Naval Pensioners of the United States 1800-1851

Gen. R770.2 Gag – Directory of Photographers in the United States 1888 & 1889 and Canada 1889

Gen. R929 Tha – Finding Your African American Ancestors

Gen. R929 Fre – French-Canadian Sources: A Guide for Genealogists

Gen. R929.1 Ped – Pedigrees of Some of the Emperor Charlemagne's Descendants, vol. 3

Gen. R929 Pal – Palatines to America: The Ancestor Chart Project, 10 volumes

ALABAMA:

AL Gen. R929.3761 Pik – Pike County, Alabama, Cemetery Records

AL Gen. R929.3761 Hay – Coffee County, Alabama, Cemetery Records

AL Gen. R929.1 Wea – Alabama Artillery Units and Their Organization Within the Confederate Army

AL Gen. R 976.1 Her – The Heritage of Henry County, Alabama

AL Gen. R 976.1 Her – The Heritage of Escambia County, Alabama

AL Gen. R 976.1 Her – The Heritage of Geneva County, Alabama

AL Gen. R929.3761 Leb – Perry Co., Alabama, Volunteers in the Mexican War

AL Gen. R976.148 Wal – Backtracking in Barbour County

FLORIDA:

FL Gen. R929.3759 Bay – Bay County, Florida, Marriage Index 1926-1930

FL Gen. R929.3759 Pol – Polk County, Florida, Cemeteries, Volume II

FL Gen. R929.3759 Ruc – Homestead Applications of Santa Rosa County 1909-1911

GEORGIA:

GA Gen. R929.3758 Wil – Marriages, Deaths, Accidents, Duels and Runaways Compiled From the *Weekly Georgia Telegraph*, Macon, Georgia, 1854-1857

GA Gen. R 929.3758 But – Butts County, GA, Bible Record Collection

Ga Gen. R929.3758 Dav – McIntosh County, Georgia Marriage Book 1

MARYLAND:

MD Gen. R929.1 Bar – British Roots of Maryland Families, Vol. II

NORTH CAROLINA:

NC Gen. R975.6 Art – A History of Watauga County, North Carolina

NC Gen. R929 Wat – The Civil War Roster of Davidson County, North Carolina

NC Gen. R929.3756 Aik – Minutes of the Jones County, North Carolina, Court of Common Pleas and Quarter Sessions 1826-1841

PENNSYLVANIA:

PA Gen. R929 Sol – Soldiers' Orphan Schools of Western Pennsylvania

PA Gen. R929 Obi – Obituaries from the Clarion Newspapers 1895 Through 1900

PA Gen. R929 Obi – Obituaries from the *Clarion Democrat* 1918 Through 1920

TEXAS:

TX Gen. R976.4 His – The History of Jack County, Texas

TX Gen. R929.3764 Doz – Kerr County, Texas Birth Records 1877-1935

VIRGINIA:

VA Gen. R929.3755 Hug – Land Records, Dinwiddie County, Virginia 1752-1820

VA Gen. R929.3755 Hug – Dinwiddie County, Virginia, Data 1762-1865

VA Gen. R929.3755 Hug – Petersburg, Virginia, Hustings Court, Marriage Bonds - Marriage Register and Ministers' Returns 1784-1854



GENEALOGY AND COMPUTERS

By Sondra Taylor

MYFAMILY.COM ACQUIRES GENEALOGY.COM

The two largest commercial genealogy entities now have a single corporate family tree. MyFamily.com and A&E Television Networks (AETN) announced in April that MyFamily, owner of online genealogy giant Ancestry.com, has acquired Genealogy.com, producer of the top-selling Family Tree Maker software. The deal puts Ancestry.com, RootsWeb.com and Genealogy.com all under the MyFamily umbrella-- and allows MyFamily to overwhelmingly dominate the Internet genealogy business.

Together, these Web sites receive more than 10 million visitors every month and boast more than 1 million paid subscriptions. MyFamily plans to take control of Genealogy.com's management, but will operate it as a separate division, along with Ancestry and RootsWeb. All Web sites will continue to operate, but Genealogy.com's Fremont, Calif., headquarters will move to MyFamily's home in Provo, Utah.

MILITARY MEMORIES

America's war veterans have fascinating and historically relevant stories to tell. The Veterans History Project has made collecting those valuable stories a priority. The Library of Congress' (<http://www.loc.gov>) American Folklife Center will gather oral histories, letters, diaries, maps, photographs, home movies and other materials from World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam and Persian Gulf war veterans. Their wartime memories, along with the reminiscences of civilian volunteers, war industry workers and others, will help to create a picture of America's military past.

You can contribute to the Veterans History Project by interviewing one of the men or women who experienced the war up close. Find out more about how to participate in the project at <http://www.loc.gov/folklife/vets/about.html>.

NARA ELECTRONIC RECORDS

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) (<http://www.archives.gov>) recently made 50 million historical records available online. The new Access to Archival Databases (AAD) System (<http://www.archives.gov/aad>) allows researchers to obtain electronic records with the click of a mouse. Records cover a variety of topics including the Civil War, battlefields, historic sites, immigration, necrology, space flight, naval history and much more. The electronic holdings in the database contain material from more than 30 archival series. These series pertain to specific persons, geographic areas, organizations or dates. NARA helps put the information in context by providing you with code lists, explanatory notes from NARA archivists, and for some series or files, related documents.

To search AAD, select a series of electronic records. Choose a specific data file within a series and enter search criteria to access relevant records. Once you have records that match your research interests, print them or save them as an electronic file. The National Archives' Archival Research Catalog (ARC) (http://www.archives.gov/research_room/arc) features NARA's nationwide holdings in the Washington, DC, area, its regional archives and presidential libraries. Visit NARA's Web site to learn more about AAD and ARC.

GENEALOGICAL FREEBIES

Free online data is usually available thanks to the kindness and hard work of individual volunteers. One of the best examples of volunteerism at work is USGenWeb <http://www.usgenweb.com>, a massive site with individual pages for every U.S. county -- all maintained by volunteers. The amount and types of data vary per county, but many contain transcriptions of Bibles, wills, census and tax records.

In the past few years, governmental agencies have gotten into the act by posting historical data in free, searchable online databases. Some, like the Illinois State Archives (<http://www.sos.state.il.us/departments/archives/databases.html>), are transcribing and uploading 14 different databases of Illinois-related

material, including death indexes, land transactions, marriages records and military records.

If you are trying to keep your research costs at a minimum, try using search engines to locate the many free databases, which are popping up all over the Web. Use a variety of search terms such as "Ohio deaths" or "Ohio death index" or "Ohio databases," until you either find the database or are certain it's not online. Don't forget to do another Web search every six months or so. New databases are added to the Internet every day. If possible, keep a record of your searches by date.

WEB LINKS

Illinois Statewide Marriage Index, 1763-1900
<http://www.sos.state.il.us/departments/archives/marriage.html>

Ohio Memory Online Scrapbook
<http://www.ohiomemory.org>

Digital Library of Historical Directories
<http://www.historicaldirectories.org>

Irish Genealogy
<http://ireland.progenealogists.com>

Immigrant Ship Transcriber's Guild
<http://istg.rootsweb.com>

USGenWeb Census Project
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~census>

The Olive Tree (more than 500 free databases)
<http://olivetreegenealogy.com>

Census Online
<http://www.census-online.com/links>

GeneaSearch
<http://geneasearch.com>

GenCircles
<http://www.gencircles.com>

CensusDiggins (not limited to census data)
<http://www.gencircles.com>

GeneaLinks (9,000 marriage records)
<http://www.genealinks.com>

AncestorSearch: Build a Genealogy Web Page
<http://www.searchforancestors.com/webpage/index.html>

Internment.net: Cemeteries and Cemetery Records
<http://www.interment.net>

The Genealogy Forum Reunion Center's How-To
<http://www.genealogyforum.rootsweb.com/gfaol/reunion/HowTo.htm>

BCGS Publications

For Sale

By Judy Bennett



The Bay County Genealogical Society has undertaken a project of publishing the marriages in Bay County since its conception in 1913. The following five publications of the *Bay County, Florida Marriages* are now for sale: *1900-1920*, *1921-1925*, *1926-1930*, *1946-1950*, and *1951-1955*. The cost is \$12 each, which includes postage. Please address requests to the BCGS address shown on the last page of this newsletter.

BCGS Historian - Items Needed



Board member Russie Johnson is the Historian for the BCGS. If you have any newspaper articles, photos, or other items pertaining to BCGS, past or present, please mail them to the BCGS address or bring them to our next meeting.



Bay County Genealogical Society
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THE BAY COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 662 PANAMA CITY, FL 32402-0662

The Bay County Genealogical Society is a non-profit organization within the definition of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, dedicated to the advancement, education and promotion of personal and general genealogical research and the preservation of historical records relative thereto, for the cultural enrichment of the people of Bay County, Florida and surrounding areas.

Membership in this organization, with voting rights and the right to hold office, is open to anyone, without restriction of race, color, creed, or sex, who has a continuing interest in Genealogy and whose membership dues are current.

Meetings are held the second Saturday of each month at 1:00 p.m. in the Panama City Library. The Board of Directors meet at the library at 10:00 a.m. also on the second Saturday of the month. Dues are \$15.00 per year for single or family membership payable in December. Web Address: [Http://www.rootsweb.com/~flbcgs/index.htm](http://www.rootsweb.com/~flbcgs/index.htm) Email: Sondrat@comcast.net

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