



# *The County Line*

Bay County Genealogical Society Newsletter  
Bay County, Florida

VOLUME 22 NUMBER 3

JULY 2003

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Berniece Loper



I hope this summer is bringing many exciting things your way. I know it has for me. We debated having a winter seminar again next year, and

I was particularly anxious to have one, as we have had one ever since I've been President. The Board Members of the Society were agreeable to my desires, so we have been involved in finding a speaker for either January or February 2004. We searched for someone, diligently, and we thought about a lady who spoke at the Florida State Genealogical Society's Conference last fall. She impressed all of us who attended that conference. She is very knowledgeable, and a good speaker, so I got in touch with her, and she said she would be glad to come. Her name is Ann Mohr Osisek and we agreed on January 24, 2004. She said she is trying to speak at all the societies she can here in Florida. Her home is in Maitland, FL, so there is not a great deal of travel for her. She is very open to topics and she will speak on many things. She has quite a few topics listed on her web site at: [www.rootsweb.com/~flsgs/speakers/osisek.htm](http://www.rootsweb.com/~flsgs/speakers/osisek.htm), and she is open to researching other topics. Please let me know if there is anything that "turns you on!" We have tentatively picked the subjects we thought would be of interest to everyone, but she is open to change.

Other than that we have an excellent line-up of other speakers, and events for the rest of the year. Mary Ann Buswell has done such a good job finding people who will make our meetings interesting.

It will be good to see you at all the meetings - a pleasant change from the hot weather and rain.

*Berniece*

## NEW SOCIAL SECURITY DEATH INDEX SEARCH

Pearl Street Software has recently launched a new free Social Security Death Index search engine at:

<http://www.familytreelegends.com>

The SSDI, generated by the US Social Security Administration, contains valuable information for genealogists. This search engine not only searches for your relatives by name, social security number and last residence - it also searches by a person's age at death and also will do a year-range search, which means that you do not have to know the exact year that someone died.

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## MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2003

BCGS member dues for calendar year 2003 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.

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## 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.**

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

**Linda Pazics Kleback  
Genealogy Specialist  
Bay County Public Library**



**Data as of: June 17, 2003**

**GENERAL:**

Gen. R369.1 Nat - National Society Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims, Lineage Books, IV, V, VI, VII

Gen. R929.3 Gen - Genealogical Periodical Annual Index, 2001

Gen. R929.42 Car - A Family Notebook Being A History of Carroll, Newton and Allied Families

Gen. R929.2 Mes - Kansas Saplings

Gen. R955.1 - Dog Tags: A History of the American Military Identification Tag 1861-2002

**ALABAMA:**

AL Gen. R976.1 Her – Heritage of Conecuh County, Alabama

AL Gen. R929.3761 God - Rural Land Owners of Barbour County, Alabama 1851

**GEORGIA:**

GA Gen. R975.8 Hut - The Story of Auburn and Carl

**KENTUCKY:**

KY Gen. R929.3769 Con - Confederate Soldiers of Kentucky

KY Gen. R929.3769 Wel - 1890 Special Veterans Census of Kentucky

**PENNSYLVANIA:**

PA Gen. R929.3748 Pio - Pioneer Cemeteries of Hampton Township, Allegheny Co., PA

PA Gen. R929.3748 Pio - Pioneer Cemeteries of Pine and Richland Townships, Allegheny Co., PA

PA Gen. R246.9 Bra - Presbyterian Churches in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

PA Gen. R929.3748 Ree - Marriage Announcements from the *Clarion Democrat* 1915 through 1920

**VIRGINIA:**

VA Gen. R929.3755 Cer - Certificate Book of the Virginia Land Commission 1779-1780

VA Gen. R975.5 Jef - Notes on the State of Virginia

**Where was Eusebia Church?**

**Part 2**

By Sally Rinehart

On a subsequent voyage to find the burial grounds of most of my RINEHART ancestors (in the new world, anyway), I was determined not to end up in a cow pasture again! I knew a bit about this branch – enough to know they would not allow themselves to be buried in such “lowly” areas. At the library in Romney on our first trip, I met a lovely lady who knew some of my genealogy as she maintained the excellent genealogical section. She pointed me to an in-law cousin. From home in Northeastern Pennsylvania, I began an ongoing correspondence with Madeline BLUE. From her I learned some of my father’s generation stories and history. I also met Ed BRIGHT, a cousin who maintained Eusebia Church for the family. What a find!!!

Ed was elderly but robust and eager to show off the family history in the valley. He took us out to the church and showed us around. The pasture we

we had to be pulled from on the first trip had belonged to my great grandfather and his RINEHART ancestors! It is now owned by distant cousins. Next to the pasture ran a stream flowing into Patterson's Creek – known as Rinehart Run on some maps. Eusebia's land was donated by the RINEHART family.

Eusebia Church sits on the side of a hill and can only be seen from the road in the winter when the trees are leafless. Painted white with black-trimmed windows and black steeple with a gold cross, it stands majestically overlooking a valley rich in history. The repair shops for B & O Railroad engines and cars were in Keyser (now in Mineral County, WV), just west of Eusebia a few miles. The Romney, Hampshire County Courthouse changed hands at least fifty-six times during the Civil War, as did Eusebia. During the War, it served many roles – church house, hospital, and lookout station among others. In fact, after the Civil War, Eusebia had to be rebuilt because of the extensive bullet damage. Sitting on the steps, with just a bit of imagination and lots of intuition, one can feel the well deserved peace of the area and the comings and goings of the valley through the millennia of years.

A short tour through the inside was fascinating. It has an entrance foyer, once used for greeting family and friends and hanging of coats, among other things. To the right off the foyer is an enclosed steep stairway to a small balcony. No seats are in this small area and it overlooks the church proper. From the foyer, one enters the small, one room, very plain, very quiet church. There are about fourteen old wooden pews facing a small stage area. On this stage is an old, rickety dark table and, behind this, a large "preacher's chair." To the left of this is a small, very old pump organ that still works. To the right is an old pot-bellied stove that also still works. Ed told me the church house is only used now for family functions. It is no longer rented out because of minor vandalism. He told me, as I was looking back from the front of the church, that the balcony was used for the family slaves!!! I was devastated that this branch of my family owned slaves, even though, until 1865, the area was part of Hampshire County, Virginia.

## 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.**

**9 August 2003: *Cliff Loper*** - will speak about three of his relatives who fought in the Civil War and some brief information about the battles they fought in.

**13 September 2003: *Sandra Rowe of Cottondale, FL*** -Will tell about her genealogical research and receiving a Florida Pioneer Award last November at the State Conference in St Petersburg. Sandra will also tell about the personal lives of her ancestors in the Florida panhandle.

**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.

**8 November 2003: *Greg Morrison*** - Will tell what happens when you teach a friend who is a genealogical neophyte how to start doing basic research on his ancestry and the astonishing results he uncovers.

***Sondra Taylor*** - Will tell about searching for her grandfather's family history and finding living uncles and cousins that she never knew existed.

***Mary Ann Buswell*** - Will share details of a feud between two neighboring families that began at the onset of the Civil War and only ended a few years ago.

**13 December 2003 - *Christmas Party***

### **Note: Come Prepared**

We now allow 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.



## GENEALOGY AND COMPUTERS

By Sondra Taylor

### THANK YOU TO VOLUNTEERS

I recently read about volunteers at web sites such as the ones at the "Books We Own" project, who have asked to be dropped as volunteers because no one says "Thank You" anymore.

There have been numerous times I have found answers or clues to my "brick walls" because of help from a volunteer. And, believe me, I always send a thank you - sometimes I even send an "exuberant Thank You!"

My husband and I recently took a trip to Middle Tennessee to do some research on his family. We planned to visit at least three counties where I had leads on his grandmother Emma LANCASTER TAYLOR and her parents John J. LANCASTER and Mary HODGES LANCASTER. A couple of weeks before we left, I subscribed to the mailing lists for those three counties. I sent queries to all three lists inquiring about the best places for research in each county and mentioning the families that I would be researching while I was there. Not only was I inundated with lots of ideas of where to research, as well as the current weather and mosquito conditions, I also received some help with census information concerning one of the families that I was researching. I sent a thank you to each one. I already knew that my husband's great grandparents, as well as their daughter Emma Lou LANCASTER (my husband's grandmother) had been in White County in 1880, but I did not know where they were located after that. Emma married in December 1890 in Coffee County and I found her with her husband and three sons (the youngest was my husband's father) in the 1900 Census in Pulaski Township, Giles County.

A volunteer on the White County, Tennessee mailing list looked at the 1900 Census of White County to see if the great grandparents were still there at that time. When she did not find them listed, she checked for surrounding counties. She found them living in Giles County (the same one their married daughter Emma

lived in) and they were listed with several more children that I did not know about. When she sent me an e-mail with all of the details, I was ecstatic and wrote a thank you e-mail to her telling her so. Her response was, "Happy to be of help. Thank you for responding positively."

When we were actually in Tennessee doing research, the information she gave me helped me find marriage and death information for several of Emma LANCASTER's siblings - hopefully, it will eventually lead to finding living cousins who will contribute even more to my research. So, how important that one volunteer response turned out to be is yet to be determined.

If you are fortunate enough to encounter helpful volunteers along the way during your genealogy research, please let them know how thankful you are that there are still caring people "out there" who are willing to sacrifice their time and energy helping other genealogists who either do not have the time or the resources to find "everything that is out there."

Here are some tips to remember when you are asking for help at one of the volunteer web sites or on mailing lists:

1. Read the instructions on web sites - they are there to help both you and the volunteer.
2. Clearly state the name of the resource that you want checked in the e-mail you send.
3. Clearly indicate the title of the resource to be checked in the subject line of the e-mail.
4. Be specific about your request - volunteers usually do not have time to answer questions about "all the TAYLORS" in a particular book. Many limit you to one look up per request.
5. Make sure that your e-mail address is entered correctly.
6. **THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT TIP - Please acknowledge the efforts of the volunteer even if that volunteer did not find anything. Say "THANK YOU!"**

## WEB LINKS

Archival Products

<http://www.gaylord.com>

<http://www.universityproducts.com>

Auctions for Genealogists

This site categorizes current items of genealogical interest up for bid at ebay

<http://genealogysearch.org/ebay.html>

Southeastern Genealogy Online

Research the Southeastern United States with links to state pages, census maps and more

<http://www.segenealogy.com>

Pennsylvania Civil War Veterans' Card File, 1861-1866

<http://digitalarchives.state.pa.us/archive.asp>

101 Best Web Sites for 2003

<http://www.familytreemagazine.com/101sites/2003/index.html>

American Civil War Military Biographical Index  
Compiled by James N. Jackson - A cumulative index of 119,721 soldiers and sailors - merges many Civil War publications and manuscripts

<http://geocities.com/jjacks01/>

Timelines, Date Calculator and Other Tools

<http://www.ancestralplace.com/>

USA World War I Draft Registration Cards 1947-1918 - How to find WWI Draft Cards on Microfilm; online finding aids and indexes

<http://www.genealogybranches.com/worldwaronedraftcards.html>

Pennsylvania Civil War Conscientious Objectors Index (Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania)

<http://www.libertynet.org/gspa>

Genealogy Web Rings

[http://members.tripod.com/~westland/genealogy\\_web\\_rings.htm](http://members.tripod.com/~westland/genealogy_web_rings.htm)

Cinnamon Toast Genealogy - Links to 7500 surname-specific sites

<http://www.mycinnamontoast.com>

Family Story Generator - Plug in your own information and generate a personal narrative

<http://www.ourgrandchild.com/familystory/index.htm>

Sweden Genealogy Gate - updated to include more than 350 new pages of historical and genealogical information

<http://www.SweGGate.com>

1901 Canadian Census Index

<http://automatedgenealogy.com/census>

Texas Vital Records - Trace your Texas roots with this Birth and Death Index

<http://www.texasvitalrecords.com>



## 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**  
**P.O. Box 662**  
**Panama City, FL 32402-0662**



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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](mailto:Sondrat@comcast.net)**

**The County Line, Newsletter of the Bay County Genealogical Society(BCGS)**

The County Line is published quarterly (January, April, July, October) by the BCGS. Subscription to The County Line is included in the dues of the members of the BCGS. Subscription for nonmembers is \$10.00 annually. Editor: Sondra Taylor, [sondrat@comcast.net](mailto:sondrat@comcast.net), (850) 235-0153.  
Postmaster: Send address changes to the Bay County Genealogical Society at address shown above.