



The County Line

Bay County Genealogical Society Newsletter
Bay County, Florida

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OCTOBER 2003

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Berniece Loper



Dear Society Members. Time seems to creep up on me all the time, but I am finally writing this—which I really love to do. This past summer has been a busy one for me, but a rather discouraging one as far as the Society is concerned. We have had so few members at our meetings, and Mary Ann Buswell has done such a good job getting speakers. If there is something I can do to improve the attendance, please let me know. (If you would rather I step down as President, I will certainly do so for the good of the Society.)

I was really excited to be able to go to the national conference of the National Federation of Genealogical Societies. It was held in Orlando, and was wonderful. I have always wanted to go, but they are usually too far away. Then, too, all the banquets and luncheons were rather expensive if one went to all of them. Clifford was with me, and we only went to one—the one when Linda Kleback got her National Award recognizing all the work she has done for genealogy. It was so exciting, and we are very proud of her.

We went to just about all the individual lectures which started at 8:30 in the morning, and went until 5:15 P.M. (with a break for lunch). This lasted for four days, but we came away with such a good feeling because we had learned so much. We also met many lovely people, and the vendors were “out of this world.” The next one is in Austin, Texas, I believe, and several of the board members have decided that they aren't going to miss this one! Of course, if I possibly can, I will go, too.

Once more, please make the second Saturday of each month the day you come to the Bay County

Genealogical Society meetings. We enjoy seeing you, and there is no way you can get all your information off the Internet. We serve goodies, and it is a good time to enjoy our coffee, tea or cocoa.

Berniece

2004 BCGS SEMINAR

The BCGS Seminar Committee, headed by Mary Ann Buswell, has been busy planning for our January 2004 Genealogy Seminar. Our guest speaker will be Ann Mohr Osisek, a native of West Virginia and a resident of central Florida for twenty-eight years. She has an extensive background in genealogy education and presentations.

The seminar will be held on Saturday, January 24, 2004 at the Gulf Coast Community College, Student Union East, Second Floor Conference Hall. Registration will begin at 8:30 am and the seminar will be held from 9 am to 3:30 pm. The topics covered will be “Backing Up to the Boat - Immigration and Naturalization,” “Who Were All Those People & Where Did They Go? - Effective Use of the Census,” “Legends, Lies & Lineages - Family Fiction Versus Genealogical Facts,” and “I Don't Know Where to Begin - Effective Use of the LDS Library.”

The cost for the seminar is \$25 per person and \$30 per couple if you register before January 15, 2004. If you register after January 15, 2004, the cost is \$30 per person and \$35 per couple. Lunch on the premises is included in the cost of registration.

For further information, please contact Berniece Loper at 850-872-9882 or bernieceLooper@knology.net or Sondra Taylor at sondrat@comcast.net.

We look forward to seeing you there.

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

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



Data as of: October 9, 2003

GENERAL:

Gen. R929.3 Dob – The French and Indian War from Scottish Sources

Gen. R973.7 Lit -- He Came As a Peacemaker: Abraham Lincoln in the Confederate Capitol

Gen. R929.42 Jir -- Schaeffer Genealogy

ALABAMA:

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

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

AL Gen. R929.3761 Har – Hartford City Cemetery, Geneva County, Alabama

AL Gen. R929 Dav – Tracing Your Alabama Past

AL Gen. R929.3761 Sne – Cemeteries of Dale County, Alabama

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

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

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

AL Gen. R929.3761 Mar – The *Gadsden Times* and *Gadsden News*: 1881-1885

FLORIDA:

FL Gen. R975.9 Ref – Reflections of a River Town 1903-2003: A Celebration of Blountstown, Florida's 1st 100 Years

FL Gen. R976.9 Her – Heritage of Santa Rosa County, Florida

FL Gen. R975.995 Hou – Parker

FL Gen. R929.3759 Boy -- Boys in Blue: A List of Union Veterans Grand Army of the Republic Members of the L.L. Mitchell Post No. 34 Founded 1909, St. Cloud, Florida

GEORGIA:

GA Gen. R929.3758 Bak – 'Neath Georgia Sod: Cemetery Inscriptions

GA Gen. R975.8 Bag -- History of Forsyth County, Georgia 1832-1932

LOUISIANA:

LA Gen. R929 Mad -- The Census Tables for the French Colony of Louisiana from 1699 Through 1732

SOUTH CAROLINA:

SC Gen. R975.7 Hol – Orangeburgh District South Carolina Returns in Partition from the Court of Equity 1824-1837

TENNESSEE:

TN Gen. R371.975 – 1969 Lest We Forget, Union University Yearbook

TN Gen. R929.3768 Gar – Obituaries from Tennessee Newspapers

Where was Eusebia Church? Part 3

By Sally Rinehart

We followed the inside tour with a very enlightening cemetery tour. Except for the first RINEHART to come to VA/WV (Abraham – 1747/48 - 1817) and my grandparents (Elijah 1882 – 1953, and Fannie HIGH 1888 - 1950), almost all of the VA/WV RINEHARTS are buried at Eusebia Church. The cemetery sits on the steep hill beside and behind the church overlooking the beautiful valley, and the railroad tracks across the valley floor. It is so quiet and peaceful there – birds singing in the trees and cows mooing to each other up and down the dale. My Dad was the last funeral at Eusebia, but my Mom was buried in Baltimore. She, a city person, could not stand the quiet and the thought of having to hear nothing but birds and cows unnerved her.

Ed took us around and showed us the stones and told us a bit about the inhabitants. I had not been doing genealogy all that long, so any information heshared I devoured hungrily. One man and his wife buried there were not related. Rev. Woodruff was the preacher at Eusebia in the 1880s and beyond and he was buried just behind the church. He was from Fredericksburg, VA, and knew the family of a certain governess well. He convinced her to come to work for him and be governess to his children. His ulterior motive was to unite the governess, Miss Helen HOWISON (1850 – 1915 – a cousin of General Robert E LEE) with my great grandfather, John W. RINEHART (1850 – 1937). It's been reported to me that my great grandfather was a great bear of a man, a banker and gentleman farmer, who was really like a mild kitten who loved to play on the floor with the children. Anne was a small, gentle looking "lady" who ran the house and family with a strong hand. They were beloved by all who knew them. Learning that day that my father's family ancestors went back to presidents, governors, etc. was eye-opening.

Then the bottom fell out! In the back of the cemetery, under the spreading, protective limbs of a huge oak tree were many plain slate grave markers. When we got back there, I asked about them and who might be buried there. Ed informed me that the

church balcony was for the family slaves and that they were buried there in the back corner. He went on to tell us of one of the markers – the only one with any writing which read "S A M ." As long as he and his father could remember, every April 20th a single yellow rose was placed on this grave. Both men had searched over the years – even placing ads and inquiries in Virginia, West Virginia, and Maryland Newspapers – trying to find who was bringing the flowers and why. Also, they wanted to find out if the person was named Sam or were these the person's initials. No vehicle tracks were ever found on the steep road up to the church and no one ever saw anyone go to the grave. The flowers had stopped appearing about three years before our visit and no one ever answered the ads. Who was S A M ?

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.

8 November 2003: Sally Rinehart - Will tell about the maternal side of her family research and share the customs of her Amish, Mennonite and Pennsylvania Dutch ancestors.

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

SHARING GENEALOGY RESEARCH

There has been an abundance of discussion on various genealogy mailing lists and in some online genealogy newsletters recently concerning how genealogists feel about sharing genealogy research that they have done over the years and whether it should be shared with someone who takes it as their own without experiencing the laborious and time-consuming tasks required to search every “nook and cranny.”

Some genealogists who have toiled over this research do not care to share their bounty. They would prefer that others “start from scratch” instead of “borrowing” from the genealogists who have done the hard work. Some even go so far as to include deliberately incorrect data in the information that they post to the Internet. They do this so they can track the genealogists who find the information and include it in their own family tree without the “benefit” of researching it themselves!

Fortunately, I have been involved with the majority of genealogists who seem to derive great joy out of sharing not only the hard facts of their research, along with the pertinent documentation, but they also are happy to share even their theories that they cannot document. Theories sometimes provide a clue or starting point for research that spawns more hard facts.

I also get great joy out of sharing the details of my family research. More often than not, when I share with other genealogists, I receive much more than I give. Not only that - I have found friends and cousins that I would have never known otherwise. I have received information, copies of documents, photos of ancestors, and even genealogy books that I would never have seen if I had not shared the same items with others.

So, I will gladly send packets of information to anyone who wants it, whether or not they have something to share in return. And, I wish to say “THANK YOU TO GENEALOGISTS WHO SHARE!”

INTERNET GENEALOGY RESEARCH

The Internet has been a boon to genealogists. It offers “instant gratification.” Literally thousands of bits of information are added to it every day. It can be intoxicating to find so much information online.

However, it can also be very limiting. If you think that “everything” you need to know about your family history can be found online without ever doing any research in a court house, library or repository, you have missed the true joy of genealogy research! I will never forget the first solid bit of genealogy information that I found after I started doing genealogy research. I was sitting at a microfilm reader at the LDS Family History Center in Panama City looking at the 1880 Federal Census for Washington County, Ohio. After searching through approximately the whole roll of film, I found my great-grandmother, Fannie Mae Goddard, listed with her father Benjamin, her mother Mariah and most of her eleven siblings. I did not know the names of her father and mother before that time and only knew a few of the names of her siblings. I almost let out a whoop and thought seriously of doing a jig and “high-fiving” everyone present! I have experienced this high many times since then and hope to experience it many more times. I hope that you too can experience that feeling in a dusty court house, quiet library or repository. It really is exhilarating.

NARA SOUTHEAST REGIONAL RECORDS CENTER

The NARA is in the process of building a new regional records center in Clayton County, Georgia. It will consolidate three existing NARA facilities and house nearly 1.75 million cubic feet of records. The state-of-the-art facility, which will include a welcome center, finding aids room, microfilm research room (with up to 60 microfilm readers and 66 film cabinets) and textual reference room, broke ground last year and is scheduled to open next summer.

WEB LINKS

Oral History Questions to Ask Relatives
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~genepool/oralhist.htm>

Tips for Getting Information from Relatives -
 "Searching Your Family Tree"
<http://ftp.rootsweb.com/pub/roots-1/genealog/genealog.fhsearch>

Mailing Lists at Rootsweb - Information and index
 to 27,100 Mailing Lists
<http://lists.rootsweb.com>

Ray's Place for New England History
<http://www.rays-place.com>

Home Economics Archive -
 Step back into the lives of women living between
 1850 and 1950
<http://hearth.library.cornell.edu/h/hearth/index.html>

The Picture Postcard
 Explore the history of the postcard at the Smithsonian Institution's visual guide
<http://www.si.edu/archives/postcard/chronology.htm>

Stars and Stripes Museum/Library
<http://www.starsandstripesmuseumlibrary.org/welcome.html>

Genealogy Library Master Catalog
<http://www.onelibrary.com>

Perpetual Calendars
<ftp://rootsweb.com/pub/roots-1/genealog/genealog.perpcal>

Birthday Calculators
<http://searchforancestors.com/utility/birthday.html>

Determining Date of Birth
<http://hackerscreek.com/formula.html>

Day of Week (Birth, Event)
<http://www.ayrshireroots.com/Genealogy/Reference/Day%20Born%20z.htm>

Common Nicknames

<http://www.usgenweb.org/researchers/nicknames.html>

Document and Photo Preservation FAQs
<http://loricase.faq>

**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.

**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.



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> Email: sondrat@comcast.net

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