



# *The County Line*

Bay County Genealogical Society Newsletter  
Bay County, Florida

VOLUME 23 NUMBER 1

JANUARY 2004

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By **Berniece Loper**



Greetings to all, and a very happy and Blessed New Year. I am so looking forward to this coming year. I do hope we have better attendance at our meetings. We have such fine programs, thanks to Mary Ann Buswell and Russie Johnson, and there are more to come in the months ahead. Of course, we are all preparing for the seminar with Ann Mohr Osisek on January 24, 2004. I have heard her several times, and she is a fine speaker with much knowledge. Since dear Linda Kleback had the article in her column in the local *News Herald* I have gotten several calls from people wanting to come. That is so encouraging, and we are greatly indebted to Linda. Also, we are going to have several fine vendors, among them is *Ye Olde Genealogy Shoppe*. We feel privileged to have them because in the past they have not wanted to come to seminars where other vendors are present. If you have not received information on the seminar, don't hesitate to call me, 872-9882. If we are not home, we have an answering machine. Please just leave a name and number, and I will get back to you. Also, you may go to our website - Billy Nale has all the information there. While we are on seminars, we are hoping to have Margaret Harris for a Beginners Seminar some-time this coming year, and we have definitely engaged Dr. John Colletta for February 19, 2005. That is the only date he can come in either January or February, 2005, and we feel very fortunate. I know it is a year in the future, but be sure and keep the date in mind. Again, try to come to our monthly meetings. We miss you. Finally, have a wonderful New Year full of many good things.

*Berniece*

## 2004 BCGS 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."

We are fortunate to have several vendors at the seminar, including *Ye Old Genealogy Shoppe*, *Creative Memories*, and more. The cost for the seminar 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 [berniece\\_loper@knology.net](mailto:berniece_loper@knology.net).

We look forward to seeing you there.

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## MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2004

BCGS member dues for calendar year 2004 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 BCGS Membership Chairman: Barbara Anderson, 3407 Country Club Ct, Lynn Haven, FL 32444.

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

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



**Data as of: December 15, 2003**

**GENERAL:**

Gen. R016.973 Weh -- A Guide to Pre-Federal Records in the National Archives

**ALABAMA:**

AL Gen. R976.1 Her -- The Heritage of Covington County, Alabama

**GEORGIA:**

Gen. R929.3758 Arn -- Georgia Revolutionary Soldiers, 2 Volumes

**KENTUCKY:**

KY Gen. R929.3769 Edd -- Kentucky Genealogical Records & Abstracts, 2 Volumes.

KY Gen. R929.3769 Bra -- Union County, Kentucky, Deaths 1852-1878

**MISSOURI:**

MO Gen. R929.3778 Spr -- Kentuckians in Missouri

**NORTH CAROLINA:**

NC Gen. R929.3756 Nor -- North Carolina Higher Court Records 1670-1696

**PENNSYLVANIA:**

PA Gen. R929.3748 Hoe -- Guide to Genealogical and Historical Research in Pennsylvania

**MAJOR EPIDEMICS**

by Barbara Winge

As you walk through a cemetery the stones denote possible epidemics and since many states did not record deaths until 1900 the researcher can only surmise this conclusion. Not only did people die but many left the area to escape the dreaded disease. Consult historical resources to learn if illness may have affected your area of research. Below some of the major epidemics are listed .

1657, 1687, 1713, 1729, 1739-1740 Boston Measles: "Also morbilli. An acute, infectious disease characterized by chills, fever, cough, catarrhal inflammation of the airways and the eyes, and a skin rash appearing about four days after the fever. The disease is very contagious and affects chiefly children. Common complications are ear infections, pneumonia, bronchitis, and tuberculosis."

1690 New York Yellow Fever. "Also American plague, vomito nigro, yellow jack. An acute, infectious disease of the tropical and subtropical regions of America characterized by degeneration of the liver and congestion of the mucous membranes in the stomach and intestines. Fever was present and hemorrhage of the mucous membranes was noted by the presence of black vomit. Death from this disease was frequent, the patient dying in the 'typhoid state' often the result of kidney failure. It was unknown in America until the slave trade business in the mid-1600s."

1732-1733 World Wide Influenza. "Also epidemic catarrh, grip, la grippe, lightning catarrh. An acute, infectious disease that attacks one of three systems; respiratory, gastrointestinal, or nervous. Characterized by fever, inflammation of mucous membranes with discharge, pain in the muscles and rapid exhaustion. The most complications in the 19th & 20th centuries were pneumonia and occasionally, insanity."

1738 South Carolina Smallpox. "Also variola, variola confluences, variola malignant, variola nigra, as well as continued fever, great leprosy, smallpox. An acute, highly infectious disease characterized by a sudden onset of high fever and diarrhea. On the third or fourth day another rise in fever occurs and skin eruptions begin, often leaving permanent scarring. It was noted in China and India around 22-00 B.C. In the 15<sup>th</sup> through 18<sup>th</sup> centuries it was the cause of great mortality in many European counties. The wide decimation of the Native American from the 15<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries is believed to have been caused predominantly by smallpox."

Ref: Jerger, Dr. Jeanette L., A MEDICAL MISCELLANY FOR GENEALOGISTS, 1995, Heritage Books, Inc., Bowie MD, 20716.

Johnson, C. L. H., GAMORGAN-L@rootsweb.com, 01 Jul 1999.

(To be continued.)

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## 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.**

**14 February 2004: *Dave Stults*** - Will do a program on PAF (Personal Ancestry File) software program. He will gear his program to those present at the meeting. He is quite familiar with all aspects of PAF, from beginners to advanced.

**13 March 2004 - *Nancy Roberts*** - Program TBD.

**10 April 2004: *Margaret Harris*** - You Are a Star in Ancestors' Eyes - Why you are the very best one to do your family's research, plus using your unique background and talents, as well as your own personal intuition and insights to expand that family tree!

**08 May 2004: *Judy Bennett*** - Program TBD.

#### **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.

#### **IDEAS FOR PROGRAMS**

We would like to know what types of programs you would like to see at our monthly meetings. Please let us know by mailing your ideas to our post office box address or by e-mail to either Berniece Loper at [bernieceloper@knology.net](mailto:bernieceloper@knology.net) or Sondra Taylor at [sondrat@comcast.net](mailto:sondrat@comcast.net).

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## **LDS FAMILY HISTORY SEMINAR 2004**

The Panama City, Florida Stake of the LDS Church will present the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Family History Seminar on February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2004 at 3140 State Avenue, Panama City. A wide variety of topics will be offered by several local experts, many of whom are BCGS members. The keynote speaker will be Ms. Margaret M. Harris, Vice President of the Genealogy Society of Okaloosa County. The seminar is free and open to all. For additional information, please contact the Family History Center Director at 850-785-5544.

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### **WEB LINKS** **(Oldies, but Goodies)**

#### **Vendor/Publisher Sites**

Appletons

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

Frontier Press

<http://www.frontierpress.com>

Genealogical Publishing Company

<http://www.genealogybookshop.com>

Global Genealogy

<http://www.globalgenealogy.com>

Heritage Books

<http://www.heritagebooks.com>

Willow Bend Books

<http://www.willowbend.net>

#### **Search Engines - General**

Alta Vista - <http://www.altavista.com>

Google - <http://www.google.com>

HotBot - <http://www.hotbot.com>

SavvySearch

(MetaSearch, many search engines at once)

<http://www.savvysearch.com>

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## GENEALOGY AND COMPUTERS

By Sondra Taylor

### YOU MAY HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE

Sometimes we all feel a bit overwhelmed when we think about all of the information that we do not have about our ancestors. There are a few branches of my family tree that are rather stunted, because I have reached that proverbial “brick wall” that we all talk about. Then again, there are a few brick walls that I have broken down thanks to someone sharing information with me, me sharing my information with others or tackling a problem from a different point of view.

When I first started my genealogy in earnest in 1995, I had next to nothing to share with other researchers except for personal knowledge of my branch of my family history. Since then, I have accumulated so much information and resources that I have a difficult time keeping track of it all. I know that some of you are voicing your agreement right about now.

I have accumulated books on my Hoge and McKittrick families, as well as books on specific areas of research, such as Washington County, Ohio and Tulsa County, Oklahoma. I have also accumulated numerous genealogy magazines, maps, genealogy “How to” books, and hundreds of photos.

So, I have all of this accumulation of items to share. But, I also have some things to share that may not always be considered when researchers share resources and information over the Internet. I not only have yearbooks from my past (Junior High School, High School, and College in Tulsa, OK), but I have a yearbook that belonged to my grandmother for Springfield, Missouri High School for 1927.

Some of you may have family Bibles, greeting cards, postcards, and family letters to share. What you may feel to be insignificant information may be very significant to others. I have volunteered to do look-ups and scans for the resources that I do have - someone may need a photo of a grandparent from my

grandmother’s yearbook or information concerning one of their ancestors that I might be able to glean from one of the family or county histories that I have. I might have that one tidbit of information that will help someone break down one of those brick walls.

You too may have something to share - think about it!

### INTERNET GENEALOGY FAMILY TREES

There are numerous sites on the Internet where a genealogist may upload a file that contains what they feel is their family history. Unfortunately, many genealogists, beginning and otherwise, have the belief that the more “names” that they accumulate in their files directly corresponds to their expertise as a genealogist. So, they append files that they find on the Internet to their own files with little regard to the accuracy that may or may not be associated with those files.

Those family files found on the Internet are compiled by many genealogists who have attained varying degrees of proficiency and/or expertise. Some may have little regard for the accuracy or veracity of the information that they accumulate. Others may have the highest standards regarding their research and the accuracy of the information they share with others. Many of these files are offered with little or no documentation.

I personally have found information in family files on the Internet that was inaccurate. A genealogist had listed my grandfather, William Andrew Williams, as two separate people, Bill Williams and Andy Williams. When I contacted her to inform her that the two people that she listed as sons of Steve and May Williams were actually one person, she refused to believe me and would not change her file or divulge her sources.

So, please use these files that have been so generously shared as clues that might possibly lead to further information. Unless documentation is provided, treat them not as fact, but as possible truth. Even if documentation is provided, treat them as any good researcher should - try to check the documentation yourself for accuracy.

**WEB LINKS**

Survey Maps of Scotland Towns

<http://nls.uk/digitallibrary/map/townplans/index.html>

Alabama Archives - New Databases

<http://www.archives.state.al.us/dataindex.html>

American Women

This gateway site has a searchable version of the print publication "American Women: A Library of Congress Guide for the study of Women's History and Culture in the United States."

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/awhhtml>

The Farber Gravestone Collection

Images of gravestones in the Northeastern US

<http://www.davidrumsey.com/farber>

USA Funeral Homes Online

<http://www.usafuneralhomesonline.com>

Kentucky Death Records

<http://ukcc.uky.edu/~vitalred/>

Illinois Marriages

<http://www2.sos.state.il.us/GenealogyMWeb/marrsrch.html>

Indiana Marriages through 1850

<http://www.statelib.lib.in.us/www/isl/indiana/genealogy/mirr.html>

Scotland Births, Marriages, and Deaths

<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk>

US GenWeb Archives

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/>

**SENIOR FRIENDS****FAMILY TREE MAKER CLASS**

The Senior Friends of Gulf Coast Medical Center will present a class on the Key Features of Family Tree Maker software. The class will be held on January 28, 2004 from 9 am to 10:30 am at the Cherry street Senior Center in the Cove. It will be taught by Denna Ramsey of Tallahassee. It is free, but registration is required. For more information, call 747-7858.

**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.

**MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2004**

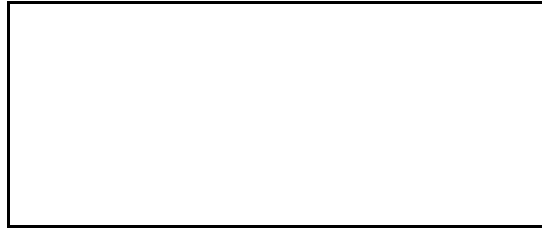
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**ADDRESS CHANGE/  
CORRECTION REQUESTED**

**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.**



**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> 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.  
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