



The County Line

Bay County Genealogical Society Newsletter Bay County, Florida

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January 2006

29th Annual Florida State Genealogical Society Conference a Resounding Success

*Bay County Genealogy Society Receives High Marks as Local Host for
Florida's Biggest Annual Genealogy Event*

Story by Bill Zehner; photos by Greg Morrison

Northwest Florida genealogists can be very proud of their accomplishments this past November. We made a very good impression on the FSGS board, FSGS members, speakers, and conference attendees; and I think we exceeded their expectations in every area of our responsibilities as local host. FSGS State Conference Chair Ann Staley stated, "I had a very good experience working with BCGS and would do it again in a heartbeat."

Unofficial attendance at the FSGS Annual Conference at Bay Point was 155, not including those who came for the banquet only. That ties St. Petersburg in 2002, in spite of much higher gasoline prices and the demographic differences (St. Pete has a much larger population than Panama City, and is proximate to population megacenters like Tampa, Orlando, etc.). On a per capita basis, we actually pulled a far larger crowd than they did. Staley stated that she "was tickled pink with the attendance that we had."

Featured speaker Donna M. Moughty, accompanied by nine other well-known Florida speakers provided a well-balanced variety of topics. Methodology, technology, archives, naturalization, immigration, organization, census, military, cemetery, land records were presented.

This year's event may set at least two precedents for future FSGS events. It was the first time that speakers have been introduced by local room hosts



President Barbara Anderson displays the Bay County Genealogical Society banner and receives compliments from Amy Giroux on a great 1997 design by Wallie Waltonen who was also present.

and hostesses, which adds a touch of class and is a welcome benefit to the speakers. Volunteers from all over the region assisted with that effort. Equally



The 2005 FSGS Conference speakers. From the left: Melody Porter, Pamela J. Cooper, banquet speaker Dean De-bolt, Deanna D. Ramsey, William J. Zehner, CGSM, Gladys Friedman Paulin, CGSM, featured speaker Donna M. Moughty, State Conference Chair Ann Staley, CGSM, and Ann Mohr Osisek. Not pictured: NARA SE Regional Administrator James McSweeney and Amy Lerner Giroux, CGSM, CGLSM

important, our own Greg Morrison, an accomplished amateur photographer, shot more than 100 great photos of the action throughout the two-day event and provided electronic copies to interested speakers and FSGS members. Selected samples are posted on our Web site at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~flbcgs> and the FSGS site at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~flsgs>

Past FSGS President and former FSGS Conference Chair Pam Cooper stated, "You and the other members of your society did an incredible job. Thank you so much for everything. I especially appreciate your thoughtfulness towards the speakers and the conference photos. Your society provided the best hospitality we ever had."

Two of our favorite Northwest Florida genealogists: Margaret Harris, past president of the Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County, receives the FSGS Outstanding Achievement Award in Genealogy, presented by FSGS Awards Chair Linda Kleback. Good job Margaret, Linda, and Greg.



President's Message

By Barbara Anderson



What a delightful year. We started in February with an outstanding seminar by John Colletta. Berniece has kept us entertained and informed with interesting speakers each month. Then we finished the year by being the local host for the Florida State Genealogical

Society Annual Conference. Our volunteers were fantastic. Bill Zehner, who was a speaker for the conference, was our coordinator. I can't say enough good things about how he organized the volunteers and acted as our liaison with the FSGS board.

Our board this year had two additional challenges; our bylaws needed updating and we needed to organize our membership procedures. Again, Bill took the lead with these projects. We voted to implement the new bylaws in 2006. All members received a packet with information about the Society, a member interest form with surnames they are researching, and a name badge. It is a major goal of the Society to promote more interest in genealogy and expand our membership—which is up 40 percent this year.

In December we held our Christmas party and election of officers for 2006. As I told someone, being President was the easiest job in the Society. That is because everyone pitches in so willingly. Thank you for the opportunity to be your President. As I'm writing this, I don't know who will succeed me, but I'm sure that person will have the same support you've given me. I know 2006 will be a great year. May all your brick walls fall.



New Bylaws Passed

Members unanimously said "yes" to the bylaws proposed by the board in November. About half of all members voted, and nearly all votes were cast by email.

The new bylaws become effective on January 1, 2006, so the election of officers at the annual meeting in December 2005 was conducted under the old bylaws, which specified one-year terms of office. Elections in December of 2006, however, will be for two-year terms under the new rules.



BCGS Executive Board for 2006

This year's nominating committee, consisting of Sally Rinehart, Bonnie Shipp, and Chair Berniece Loper, presented a slate of candidates to the members assembled at the annual meeting in December. The following officers and directors were elected for the coming year. Please bring your suggestions for improving your Society to their attention, and please support their efforts to improve our contributions to the community.

Office	Officer
President	Cliff Loper
Vice President-Programs	Berniece Loper
Vice President-Membership	Judy Bennett
Recording Secretary	Marlene Womack
Corresponding Secretary	Barbara Winge
Treasurer	Walter Sherman
Director	Paul Davis
Director	Greg Morrison
Director	Bill Querengesser
Director	Sally Rinehart

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New Projects Initiative

By William J. Zehner, CGSM

On October 15, your executive board opened a discussion of possible new projects for the Society to pursue in support of its mission as defined in our new bylaws. The bylaws state, in part, that “The objectives of this Society shall be ... to locate, preserve, and index public and private genealogical records of the area and make them available to the general public; to support the genealogical collection of the Bay County Public Library; to publish genealogical news and historical information in a periodical newsletter and any other publication as directed by the membership.”

Previous work. In years past, the Society has done a very good job of researching and indexing certain records. For example: Between 1990-1995, BCGS members under the guidance of chair Nancy Roberts, with a large investment of man-hours, surveyed every known cemetery in Bay County, comprising about 21,502 names in 37 cemeteries.

Record availability. The results were released in paper form to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, which microfilmed the records as FHL microfilm # 1307694 in 1995. Two copies of that film are now held by the Bay County Library filed with Florida censuses. The only extant paper copy is a large, five-volume, loose leaf computer printout relegated to the limited-access History Department upstairs, where it is unlikely to be easily discovered by the general public or by family historians passing through the area. The survey has not been published nor posted on the Internet.

But the major access problem with the data set is that there is no master index. A family historian from Eugene, Oregon, who suspects that his ancestor is buried in Bay County, Florida, would need to search up to 37 cemeteries to locate that ancestor. If you were searching for an ancestor, would you rather search one list or 37?

Patchwork. As a result of the limited accessibility of the surveys, several Bay County individuals have re-surveyed many of those cemeteries yet again during the period 1998-2002, and posted their results on the Internet (e. g., USGW Tombstone Transcription Project, and Patti

Peterson's Web site). These listings are alphabetical by cemetery, but there is no master index for Bay County. The organizational structure of the GenWeb project is by cemetery, and does not lend itself to a whole-county index.

Bottom line: BCGS gets little or no recognition for their considerable effort, and genealogists can't easily find their ancestors buried in Bay County.

Leveraging past efforts. Recognizing this problem, and being advised that an antiquated electronic form of the cemetery survey still existed, your board authorized an effort to import the records into a modern database, merge all 37 cemeteries, and create a single, alphabetized, county-wide index to *all individuals in all cemeteries of Bay County* that would be easily available to researchers throughout the world via the World Wide Web.

Shazam! By October 21, the consolidated *County-Wide Index to Bay County Cemeteries* had been posted on the BCGS Web site along with credits to those who collected the data and enhanced maps to many of the cemeteries. It is an example of how quickly and easily such information, gathered at considerable effort, can be documented—providing access to a valuable resource for family researchers across the world, and providing recognition to those who toiled to collect it.

Moving forward. Your Board now challenges you to carefully consider additional efforts that may help our Society fulfill its mission. Several possible areas have already been identified, including several of the unpublished manuscripts of Barbara Winge and some of her research that has been published previously on the Internet, but, for technical reasons, cannot readily be found by family researchers.

Your Board looks forward to the ideas and contributions of each and every member of this Society. If you would like to contribute, there are opportunities in research, transcribing, collating, typing, indexing, and much more. Let us hear from you. Right now, we are also looking for a little help from any member willing to type a few pages of cemetery information into a computer to be added to our Web site.



Behind Every Successful Conference Are Many Dedicated Volunteers

At least 27 volunteers from five different organizations joined hands with the host Society to make the 2005 FSGS Conference a huge success.

Committee	Volunteer	Affiliation
Local Host	Barbara Anderson, chair	BCGS
Door Prizes	Barbara Anderson, chair	BCGS
Hospitality	Berniece Loper, chair	BCGS
	Karen Adams	BCGS
	Beverly Gross	GSOC
	Margaret Harris	GSOC
	Bill Querengesser	BCGS
	Sally Rinehart	BCGS
	Carol Spurlin	BCGS
	Robert A. Steed	TGS
	Bama Young	PCFHC
Name Badges	Bill Zehner, chair	BCGS
	Holly Wellman, co-chair	BCGS
	Bonnie Shipp	BCGS
Publicity	Mary K. McGraw, chair	BCGS
	Greg Morrison	BCGS
Registration	Bill Zehner, chair	BCGS
	Pat Beach	BCGS
	Russella Johnson	BCGS
	Karen MacLauren	PCFHC
	Greg Morrison	BCGS
	Bill Querengesser	BCGS
	Sally Rinehart	BCGS
	Bonnie Shipp	BCGS
	Marlene Womack	BCGS
	Bama Young	PCFHC
Signs & Properties	Bill Zehner, chair	BCGS
	Holly Wellman, co-chair	BCGS
Welcoming	Judy Bennett, chair	BCGS
	Pat Beach	BCGS
	Sandra Brown	BCGS
	Mary Ann Buswell	BCGS
	Becky Freeman	BCGS
	Elizabeth Gerths	BCGS
	Russella Johnson	BCGS
	Linda Pazics Kleback	BCGS
	Sally Rinehart	BCGS
	Rebecca Saunders	HSBC

Supporting groups included the Panama City Stake Family History Center, the Historical Society of Bay County, the Tallahassee Genealogical Society, and the Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County. Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen of Northwest Florida.



13th Annual Panama City Family History Symposium Planned

By Bill Zehner

The 13th Annual Panama City Family History Symposium will be held on the 18th of February 2006 at 3140 State Avenue in Panama City, Florida, presented by the Panama City Stake Family History Center. A wide variety of topics at the beginning and intermediate level will be available. A panel of Bay and Okaloosa Counties' leading genealogists will present more than 20 topics of local interest in six tracks to help solve problems and locate ancestors:

- Beginners
- Intermediate
- Technology
- Internet
- Ethnic
- Software

Several sessions show how to access and use the world's largest collection of genealogical materials, including primary records from all over the world that are available right here in our own hometown through the microfilm-loan program of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, as well as millions of compiled records, finding aids, and how-to guides available on home computers via the FamilySearch Web site.

This seminar is free and open to all. Please bring a brown-bag lunch. Free juice and water will be provided. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m., and presentations run from 8:15 a.m. until 3:50 p.m. Schedule, course details, and speaker biographies can be viewed at

www.northwestfloridagenealogy.com/fhcseminar



New Books

In the Genealogical Collection Of The Bay County Public Library

By Linda Pazics Kleback
Genealogy Specialist
Bay County Public Library



From 1-Dec-05:

GENERAL:

Your Swedish Roots – Gen. R929.3485 Cle
Genealogy of the Hibbard Family Who Are Descendants of Robert Hibbard of Salem, Massachusetts – Gen. R929.2 Gen
Alley Ancestors – Gen. R929.2 All
Indian Wills, 1911-1921 – Gen. R929 Bow
Magna Carta Ancestry – Gen. R929 Ric
David Zeisberger's History of the Northern American Indians in 18th Century Ohio, New York, and Pennsylvania – Gen. R974.7004 Zei

ALABAMA:

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

FLORIDA:

Millville – FL Gen. R975.995 Hou
Narcoossee Arthur Fell Cemetery, Osceola County, Florida – FL Gen. R929.1 Nar
Oak Hill Cemetery, Osceola County, Florida – FL Gen. R929.1 Oak
Panama City – FL Gen. R975.995 Wee

GEORGIA:

Grady - A Folk History of the Life and Times of Grady County – GA Gen. R929.3758 Gra
Grady 1904 -1953 – GA Gen. R929.3758 Gra
The Georgia Frontier. Three Volumes. – GA Gen. R929.3758 Aus

MARYLAND:

The Ark and Dove Adventurers – MD Gen. R929.3752 Rus

NORTH CAROLINA:

Eastern Cherokee Census, Cherokee, NC, 1915 - 1922. Volume III: 1919 - 1920 – NC Gen. R929 Eas

PENNSYLVANIA:

Index of Naturalization Records of Ethnic German Immigrants, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, 1809 - 1914 – PA Gen. R929.3748 New

VIRGINIA:

Adventurers of Purse and Person Virginia 1607 - 1624/5 Volume Two – VA Gen. R929.3755 Adv



Web Site News

By Bill Zehner

Your board recently appointed Bill Zehner to replace retiring webmaster Billy Nale. Bill plans no major changes to the site, as he believes it works just fine as it is. Several transparent changes have been made, however, which should allow the site to load faster, use less space on the server, and be easier to maintain. Additional behind-the-scene changes have already been put in place to improve our Google rankings and move our position higher in the search engine listings so the site will be easier for new visitors to find.

That said, a new page was added to showcase the many facets of the November FSGS Conference at Bay Point, and to celebrate the contributions of the many volunteers who served there, with a collection of great photographs by Greg Morrison. If you have not yet seen that collection, please visit our site at www.rootsweb.com/~flbcgs and click on *Conference Photos!*

A number of hyperlinks also have been added to our Links page connecting visitors to several databases that Barbara Winge has posted to various sites over the past several years.



Coming Events

Our programs committee, chaired by Berniece Loper, continues to provide information, education, and entertainment for the Society throughout the year. She invites you to share any thoughts you may have about future topics and speakers. Meanwhile, please give Berniece a big “thank you” if you have enjoyed her efforts.

January 21. Creative Memories, represented by Donna Denton, Nicole Henderson, and Toni Santillo, will show some of the possibilities for creating attractive family memorabilia.

February 18. The Society will adjourn to the Family History Center on State Avenue for the thirteenth annual Panama City Family History Symposium. It will be sponsored by the LDS Church with BCGS providing many of the speakers for the all-day event. See page five for more information on the biggest genealogy event in Northwest Florida.

March 18. Vice President Judy Bennett will present “How To Do Genealogy on the Internet.”



Fall Programs

Family History Center Resources

Presented by Bama Young

By special invitation to our October meeting, the Director of the Panama City Stake Family History Center presented a refresher on some of the many genealogical resources available right here in Panama City. An interesting and entertaining speaker, Bama is also a new member of our Society in 2005. She mentioned the fact that the Family History Library in Salt Lake City has the world’s largest genealogical collection and that much of that collection has been microfilmed and can be borrowed and viewed locally.

She also described many types of documents that are part of the permanent collection here in Panama City, including the Old Parochial Records and the

Accelerated Indexing System on microfiche; a large CD collection including the Scottish Church Records, the 1881 Canadian census, the 1881 British census, and the 1880 U. S. Census on CDs, The Freedman's Bank Records, Acadian and Cajun Family Trees, British Isles Vital Records Index, North American Vital Records Index, Western Europe Vital Records Index, Pedigree Resource Files, and many more, several of which are not available elsewhere. Patrons also enjoy free access to Ancestry.com.

Florida Indian Migrations

Presented by Ann Robbins

Those attending our November meeting were pleasantly entertained and enlightened by BCGS member Ann Robbins, a local historian, antique collector, and staff member of the Bay County Library. She and her husband brought and displayed a large collection of Panhandle area antiques. Ann then proceeded to educate us on the number of governing bodies that have claimed ownership of parts or all of Florida over the past several centuries, and their effect on the variety of Indian nations that have passed through Florida, especially the Northwest Florida region, before and after the arrival of Europeans.

—Ed.



Welcome New Members

We are very happy to report a new member in November: Karen Adams, a native of Ohio. She has taken both the Introduction to Genealogy Class at GCCC Education Encore and the Genealogy for Addicts class. Off to an active start as a new BCGS member, she volunteered to serve as a room hostess at the FSGS Conference in November. Please welcome her aboard.

We are also very happy to welcome back Alice Locke as a renewal member.



Strange But True

By Bonnie Shipp

This is a true and strange story that has come from my family research work. Thought you might enjoy reading it. Here is a letter from my cousin Tammy, whom I have been helping with her genealogy.

I wanted to let you all know that we will be having a ceremony on Wed. at 4:00 p.m. in Albuquerque, NM, on a beautiful mesa, for Fredda and Cecil Dale.

We have talked back and forth about this over the years, but I will tell you the story again to refresh your memory. In 1951, Fredda and Cecil had lost everything and were living in a single room in a Los Angeles hotel with my mother, Jenny, and her sister, Louise. Their brother, Alan, had joined the Service. Fredda was only 42 at the time when her mother passed away in that room. Jenny was seventeen and Louise was only ten. They didn't have the money to bury Fredda, so Cecil, Jenny, and Louise left town without knowing what happened to their mother's remains, returning to Texas to live with Cecil's relatives.

On my seventeenth birthday, it occurred to my mother that I was the same age that she (Jenny) had been when her mother died—42. It had never occurred to my mother until this day that there were the exact number of years in age difference between she and I as there were between she and her mother. I have been so close to my mother over the years and can not imagine what my life would have been like had I lost her when I was seventeen!

During our genealogy research for the Dale family, I told Bonnie about how much it bothered me that Fredda was left behind and no one knew where she was buried or if there were any records. Bonnie was such a dear and she got me started with trying to track down records. To make a long story short, I got a copy of Fredda's death certificate from Los Angeles that named the cemetery where she was buried. I wrote them a letter and in return, they wrote me back giving me the plot number where Fredda was buried.

It has taken two years, but we had both Fredda and Cecil's bodies exhumed and cremated and shipped to Albuquerque, where Louise now lives. We will have a ceremony this week burying their ashes together in a rose bed on a mesa over looking the city...where (their son) Alan was also buried two years ago. This finally gives Jenny and Louise some closure of what happened all of those years ago.

This has been so important to me and I will take photos to send to you all. God bless, and thank you for your help.



Introduction to Genealogy Course Offered

Society member Bill Zehner will present a series of six Friday sessions beginning January 27 and continuing through March 3. Sponsored by the Office of Lifelong Learning at Gulf Coast Community College, it is one of about 29 courses being offered under the Education Encore program this Spring. More Encore information is available on the Internet at <http://lll.gulfcoast.edu>, and an outline for the genealogy course is posted under *upcoming events* at www.northwestfloridagenealogy.com.

2006 Dues Due!

If your mailing label on this edition shows a "\$" sign after your name, you have not yet paid your dues for 2006.

Please see Judy Bennett or Walter Sherman at the January meeting.

Or mail your check, payable to the Bay County Genealogical Society, to The Bay County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 662, Panama City, FL 32402-0662

Membership is a real bargain at \$15.00 per year for an individual membership.

Surfing the Net

The David Rumsey Historical Map Collection

By Natalie Thompson
Orem, Utah
BCGS Life Member

At one point in my journey through the genealogy maze, I became really interested in maps—this without really realizing how valuable they can be to my research. We all have been introduced to those “small towns” or villages that no longer exist, but having access to old maps would certainly help to determine just exactly WHERE our ancestor was at a particular time period. Being able to see this on a map could direct us to larger towns where they might have done business, gone to church, or might have been buried.

Just coming from the Family History Seminar at BYU, I wanted to share a Web site that I learned about that might be of value to you. It is the David Rumsey Historical Map Collection and you can get there using this URL: www.davidrumsey.com

This map collection is one of the biggest online and you can use it for free. There are over 11,000 maps in the collection with great image quality, and the collection covers most of the world. Having said that, I need to tell you that the site might be a little difficult to navigate. Like any Web site or collection in an actual repository, it becomes your responsible to learn how to use it. Don't be afraid to “play around” in the site. You might be pleasantly surprised that you can navigate it.

Those of you who understand computer use a little will know what I refer to when I tell you to make sure that pop-up blockers are turned off BEFORE browsing the collection. They have an Insight Browser you can use and it is relatively quick and easy. The following are the ways you can search with this browser:

By Country - this search will result in maps of that country and might include adjacent countries.

By State - only for U.S. states and Canadian provinces.

By Publication Author - not particularly useful unless you know who created the map. The Web site does create an alphabetical list of all authors.

By Keywords - good for international states or historic regions.

By Data Field - allows you to set up your search criteria

By Show All - alphabetically lists all the maps in the collection.

If you have ever had to do a “radius search” of an area, then you know the importance of being able to examine older maps. It also allows you to include a map with your family history that shows where your ancestors' stomping grounds were. Happy hunting!



Remember When?

Fifteen Years Ago

By Bill Zehner

In the Apr-May-Jun 1990 issue of *The County Line* (issue 8, no. 2), the Society was interested in expanding their genealogy collection housed in the Bay County Library. A copy of the 1870 Alabama Census Index could be purchased for \$315.00, an amount well beyond the Society's budget. In today's dollars, that's about \$450.00. Other indices of interest were listed with their offering prices:

NC 1860 census index	\$315.00
SC 1860 census index	\$210.00
AL 1870 census index	\$315.00
KY 1860 census index	\$390.00
OH 1850 census index	\$250.00

Today, for about \$129.00 per year, anyone can access the census indices for almost every census year and almost every state in the union, and search them electronically, nation-wide, all at once. Moreover, the majority are hyperlinked to a digitized image of the actual census page. Times change.

**"The humour of blaming the present, and admiring the past, is strongly rooted in human nature, and has an influence even on persons endued with the profoundest judgment and most extensive learning."
— David Hume, 1754**

**THE BAY COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 662 PANAMA CITY, FL 32402-0662**

The Bay County Genealogical Society is a non-profit organization 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 third Saturday of each month at 1:00 p.m. in the Panama City Library. The Executive Board meets at Quality Analytical Laboratories, 2355 St. Andrews Blvd. at 10:00 a.m. also on the third Saturday of the month. Membership dues are \$15.00 per year for individuals, \$20.00 for single-address families, and \$10.00 for full-time students, payable in December for the following year.

Our web address is <http://www.rootsweb.com/~flbcgs>

E-mail: bernieceloper@knology.net

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