



# *The County Line*

## Bay County Genealogical Society Newsletter Bay County, Florida

Volume 25, Number 2

April 2006

### **13<sup>th</sup> Annual Family History Symposium a Resounding Success**

*Northwest Florida's Biggest Annual Genealogical Event*

Story by Bill Zehner; photos by Ron Young

Each winter, Northwest Florida residents and wintering visitors are treated to the region's biggest one-day genealogical event. This year more than 122 family historians came from at least ten counties in Northwest Florida plus Dothan, Alabama; Hinesville, Georgia; Santa Fe, New Mexico; and Waterloo, Ontario.

BCGS speakers Judy Bennett, Linda Kleback, Greg Morrison, Bama Young, and Bill Zehner were accompanied by Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County's (GSOC) Margaret Harris and Thelma Phillips, by Latter-day Saints (LDS) members Rob Stone, Rick Gutknecht, Noel Gomillion, and by Larry Bruce.

This year attendees selected from 22 presentations in six tracks. Neophytes received two hours of basic information from Family History Director Bama Young, followed by Linda Kleback's virtual tour of the genealogy section of the Bay County Public Library, Bama's "How to Use the Family History Center (FHC)," and an introduction to the use of the FamilySearch.org website by Rob Stone.



BCGS Vice-President Judy Bennett presents a two-part "Introduction to Personal Ancestral File (PAF)."



Family History Director Bama Young gets neophytes off to a good start at the "Beginners' Workshop."

A software track introduced Personal Ancestral File (PAF), a lineage-linked genealogical database program available free from the Family History Department in Salt Lake City. LDS Church members followed this with a three-hour presentation on pre-

paring names for TempleReady Ordinances by MBA candidate Rick Gutknecht.

Technology addicts learned how to create a DVD slideshow for sharing images with cousins who don't necessarily share our enthusiasm for genealogy, plus "podcasting" and RSS by Greg Morrison. Then they were treated to Noel Gomillion's "How to Create Family History Documents on Your Own Computer."



Greg Morrison dazzles the computer-geek crowd.

The Internet track featured Fort Walton Beach Family History Center Director Margaret Harris showing us "How to Leave Our Family Footprints on the WWW;" Noel Gomillion's "Using Pedigree Resource File;" and Rob Stone's "Internet Basics" and "Setting Up and Placing Web Pages."

The intermediate track included "Resolving Conflicting Information" and "World War I Resources," by Bill Zehner, and "Do Myths, Legends, and Family Folklore Belong in Family History?" by Thelma Phillips of the GSOC.

Finally, an expanded ethnic track featured "Tracing Scottish Ancestors" by Bill Zehner, the very popular "Searching for Female Ancestors" by Thelma Phillips, and "Tracing Native American Ancestors" by Larry Bruce.

A dozen missionaries were on hand to support the attendees and speakers and assist with the many setup and tear-down activities. Many volunteers



Those with Scottish ancestry got an introduction to research by Bill Zehner. Linda Kleback, in the lower left corner, listens while waiting to present "Genealogical Research in the Bay County Library."

from the FHC staff were present to assist with registration activities.

Cliff and Berniece Loper and Bill Querengesser represented BCGS at our table in the exhibition area.



BCGS Cliff President Loper and Vice-President Berniece Loper greeting potential new members at the BCGS table decorated by a new BCGS display board designed and constructed by Bama Young.

This event was a great success by all accounts. The symposium coordinator wishes to thank all who helped make this event a success—speakers, FHC staff, missionaries, and especially Bonnie Shipp who served again this year as both registration chair and publicity chair. ❀

# President's Message

By Cliff Loper



It is a privilege to be nominated and elected to be your president. It is a new experience for me, so I will need a great deal of help from all of you. This is a great Society, and we want it to continue to be. So much of genealogy is being done online, and that is

great, but it is not like coming to meetings to hear the speakers the program chairman lines up for us.

I want to thank, first of all, Bill Zehner, our Newsletter Chairman, for the fine job he does with the *County Line*, and for all the other help he has given the Society in the past. Also, it is great that Joyce Soares is taking over the Publicity Chairmanship from Mary K. McGraw. It is so important for the people of the area to know about our Society and the meetings we have, where they are, and the speakers we have. (We have changed the meeting day several times in the past couple of years, and that can be frustrating.) I must also recognize Marlene Womack for doing such an excellent job as Recording Secretary. The minutes of the meetings are so important. Sometimes that is difficult to do when we get into deep discussions in the board meetings. Walter Sherman has handled the finances for many years and that is also an important job. He keeps us out of the red, and makes sure that we have enough money to buy books that Linda Kleback wants in the genealogy section of the library. Finally, Barbara Winge keeps up with our correspondence as Corresponding Secretary. Before she retired she worked at the library, and she keeps us apprised of much of what the library has to offer.

Recently, Judy Bennett, our second Vice-President and Membership Chairman, had surgery, and we wanted to at least send her flowers, but she

asked that we not do so. It would be just one more thing for her to take care of, so we have abided by her wishes. We hope you are doing well, Judy.

Another thing I would like to do is recognize our Honorary Lifetime Members: Linda Kleback, Genealogy Librarian of the Bay County Library; Nancy Roberts, a busy lady into many other organizations, and Natalie Thompson. Natalie is no longer here in town, but she did such a great job—sometimes with Nancy Roberts and sometimes alone—doing the Beginning Seminars. Natalie lives in Orem, Utah now, and is near her family and she can go to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City as often as she wants. (That is such a wonderful library. If any of you ever get the chance to go out there, don't hesitate to do so.) We hear from Natalie quite often, including later in this edition.

Finally, several of our members helped to make the State Conference a resounding success when it was held here at the Marriott on Panama City Beach.

Thank you one and all.



## Surnames Needed

Members are encouraged to submit for publication here the surnames they are researching. The format desired format is SURNAME, Location and a time frame.

### In This Issue

Family History Symposium Report .....	1
President's Message.....	3
Symposium Volunteers.....	4
Committee Chairmen for 2006.....	4
BCGS Financial report.....	5
Web Site News .....	5
New Books.....	6
Coming Events.....	7
Fall Programs .....	7
Census Mortality Schedules .....	8
Net Surfer.....	9

# Behind Every Successful Symposium Are Many Dedicated Volunteers

By Bill Zehner

Many thanks to all who gave their time and effort to this event.

If you missed this great symposium, you can take a virtual tour of the day's events at [www.northwestfloridagenealogy.com/fhcseminar/photopage06](http://www.northwestfloridagenealogy.com/fhcseminar/photopage06)



## BCGS Committee Chairmen for 2006

This year's standing committee chairs were appointed by President Cliff Loper at our January board meeting 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.

Committee	Chair
Archives	vacant
Budget and Finance	Paul Davis
Library	Linda Kleback
Membership Services	Judy Bennett
Newsletter	Bill Zehner
Programs	Berniece Loper
Publicity	Joyce Soares
Web Site	Bill Zehner

Volunteer	Affiliation
Registration	
Bonnie Shipp (chair)	BCGS
Rita Adams	FHC Staff
Carol Alexander	FHC Staff
Ronny Alexander	FHC Staff
Mary Boughton	FH Ward Consultant
Nancy Clanton	FHC Staff
Darrell Clanton	FHC Staff
Lynnette Davis	FHC Staff
Marion Ekola	FHC Staff
Bonnie Guthrie	FHC Staff
Carl Guthrie	FHC Staff
Gail Guynn	FHC Staff
Norma McClain	LDS Volunteer
Twiggy Oryang	FHC Staff
Eileen Peel	LDS Volunteer
Bill Querengesser	BCGS Director
Judy Railey	FHC Staff
Connie Redd	FHC Director, Mexico Beach
Karen Sterling	FHC Staff
Bert Wilson	FHC Director, Chipley Ward
Ron Young	Photographer
Hospitality	
Bama Young (chair)	Family History Director
Elder Boehm	Missionary
Elder Curtis	Missionary
Elder Leavitt	Missionary
Elder Ovard	Missionary
Elder Rolph	Missionary
Elder Sturgis	Missionary
Elder Webb	Missionary
Elder Williams	Missionary
Sister Luke	Missionary
Sister Plocher	Missionary
Welcoming	
Berniece Loper	BCGS
Cliff Loper	BCGS
Bill Querengesser	BCGS

### 2006 Dues Due!

If your mailing label on this edition shows a "\$" sign after your name, our records show that you have not paid your dues for 2006. If this is in error, please let us know immediately so we can correct our records and keep you on the newsletter mailing list.

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

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



## BCGS 2005 Financial Report

By Walter Sherman  
BCGS Treasurer

Income	
Membership Dues	885
Seminar	2,110
Collette Books	680
Publication Sales	30
T-shirts	35
Donations Received	95
Total Income	3,835
Expense	
Memberships/Donations	247
Books/Library Donations	407
Seminar Expense	2,192
Postmaster (POB & Postage)	53
Collette Books	612
Publication Costs	57
Newsletter	240
Refunds	35
Speaker	50
Membership	66
Total Expenses	3,959
BCGS 2005 Net Income	-124



## Bylaws Amended

At the January meeting the BCSG board proposed to amend our bylaws, Art. VII, Sec 1, 6.e. (Treasurer's duties) to read "Present a financial report covering the entire previous year not later than at the March regular meeting." This amendment was approved unanimously at the March regular meeting.



## Introduction to Genealogy Course Completed

Society member Bill Zehner recently completed a series of six Friday sessions designed to bring beginners and intermediate-level family historians up to speed on current research techniques and resources. Sponsored by the Office of Lifelong Learning at Gulf Coast Community College, it was one of many courses offered under the Education Encore program. Approximately 23 students enrolled.



## Web Site News

By Bill Zehner

When our Society extracted the tombstones of Bay County between 1990-1995, about 200 markers that had been reported during previous censuses in the 1970s were not found. Since those conducting the survey had access to the earlier records, they were alerted to those stones. Nevertheless, they were not found. Tombstones can disappear for several reasons, including theft, vandalism, deterioration, relocation and re-interment. Whatever the causes in these cases, we have elected to include those earlier readings in our BCGS countywide index that is posted on the internet. The index may contain the last extant burial records of those individuals.

Those records have not been made a part of our electronic database previously. We are indebted to Bonnie Ship for typing that information into her computer. From there, it has been merged with the main database and was uploaded on February 27.



# New Books

## In the Genealogical Collection Of The Bay County Public Library

By Linda Pazics Kleback  
Genealogy Specialist  
Bay County Public Library



**From 24-Feb-2006:**

### GENERAL:

- Communities of Kinship: Antebellum Families and the Settlement of the Cotton Frontier – Gen. R306.83 Bil
- Genealogy of James Hamlin of Barnstable, Massachusetts – Gen. R929.42 And
- Ghost Rails, 1850-1980, Volume I: Abandoned Railroads, Their Industries, Last Runs, Eastern Ohio and Western Pennsylvania – Gen. R625.3 Col
- Indian Wars Along the Upper Ohio: A History of the Indian Wars and Related Events Along the Upper Ohio and Its Tributaries (1745-1795) – Gen. R977.01 Gar
- North Carolina-South Carolina Bible Records – Gen. R929 Aus

### ALABAMA:

- Abstracts from Alabama Newspapers, Volume I – AL Gen. R929.3761 Cav
- Death and Marriage Notices from the Montgomery Advertiser (1881) – Al Gen. R929.3761 Cav
- The Heritage of Dallas County, Alabama – AL Gen. R976.1 Her
- The Heritage of Lowndes County, Alabama – AL Gen. R976.1 Her
- The Heritage of Monroe County, Alabama – AL Gen. R976.1 Her
- The Heritage of Washington County, Alabama – AL Gen. R976.1 Her
- Transcriptions from Deeds & Mortgages, Autauga County, Alabama (1820-1833) – AL Gen. R929.3761 Cav

### FLORIDA:

- The Heritage of Santa Rosa County, Florida, Volume II – FL Gen. R976.9 Her
- Vernon, The Heart of Old Washington County, Florida – FL Gen. R975.995 May

### GEORGIA:

- DeKalb County, Georgia Probate Records – GA Gen. R929.3758 Aus
- Vanishing Georgia – GA Gen. R306 Van

### MASSACHUSETTS:

- Dennis, Cape Cod, from Firstcomers to Newcomers 1639-1993 – MA Gen. R974.4 Rei
- History of Scituate, Massachusetts – MA Gen. R974.4 Dea
- The History of Cape Cod, 2 Volumes – MA Gen. R974.4 Fre
- The History of Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, 3 Volumes – MA Gen. R974.4 Ban
- Vital Records of Yarmouth, Massachusetts to the Year 1850 – MA Gen. R929.3744 She
- Witches, Rakes, and Rogues: True Stories of Scam, Scandal, Murder, and Mayhem in Boston, 1630-1775 – MA Gen. R974.4 Sim

### MISSISSIPPI:

- Bits and Pieces, Volume I, Studies in Lauderdale County Lore – MS Gen. R929,3762 Daw
- History of Whynot, Volume II – MS Gen. R929.3762 Daw
- Local Histories, Whynot, Volume I – MS Gen. R929.3762 Daw

### PENNSYLVANIA:

- Historical Map of Pennsylvania With A History of Indian Treaties and Land Titles – PA Gen. R929.3748 His
- Obituaries from the Clarion Democrat 1921-1924 – PA Gen. R929.3748 Ree
- Pennsylvania Births: Carbon, Monroe, Schuylkill Counties – PA Gen. R929.3748 Hum

### VIRGINIA:

- Marriages: Northampton County, Virginia, 1660-1854 – VA Gen. R929.375515 Mih



## 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.

**April 8: Family History Workshop.** The Panama City Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will present a free half-day program for beginners and those needing a tune-up at 3140 State Avenue in Panama City on April 8, 2006 from 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. BCGS life member Nancy Roberts will be the feature speaker. Everyone is welcome.

April 15: TBD.

May 20: TBD.

June 17: Vice-President Judy Bennett will present a review of her favorite techniques and sites for doing genealogy on the Internet.



## Winter Programs

### *Creative Memories*

Presented by LaKieta Smith

Our January meeting featured a special presentation by Creative Memories consultants LaKieta Smith and Toni Santillo. They demonstrated some of the many products and services for organizing and preserving that are available through Creative Memories. LaKieta passed around samples of albums, page protectors, photo papers, photo protectors, organizers, soft pencils for writing on the back of photos, and double-sided tape. All of these materials are selected for longevity, stability, and durability. Each attendee received a large, full color catalog, crammed with hundreds of items of interest to family historians, and a local point of contact for ordering.

## Family History Symposium

Our February event was presented jointly with the Panama City Family History Center. This symposium was a winner again this year. See page one for more details.

### *History of Buttons*

Presented by Linda Bordelon

Our March meeting featured an interesting discussion of the history of buttons, presented by Linda Bordelon. A Bay High graduate, Linda explained how she became interested in buttons at a very young age—an interest that continues to grow to this day. She has studied their history and evolution from early beginnings in the twelfth century, before they were even used to fasten clothes together. She displayed and discussed portion of her large collection, which she has accumulated over a lifetime, and explained how the various representative types were influenced over the centuries by technology, politics, and fashion.

—Ed.



## Baptist Church Depository

By Barbara Winge

The Georgia Baptist Historical Society at Mercer University Jack Tarver Library, Macon, GA, is the depository for the Baptist Churches. They are always increasing their holdings and do have books and microfilm for sale.

Searches are handled with a three name limit per request. A charge of \$10.00 per name will ensure a general search of available indexes, photocopying of corresponding published sources, and mailing copied materials. Check out their website at [http://tarver.mercer.edu/special\\_collections/default.htm](http://tarver.mercer.edu/special_collections/default.htm)

# Census Mortality Schedules

By Natalie Thompson  
Orem, Utah  
BCGS Life Member

Ah yes...the quote comes to mind: "Old genealogists never die, they just lose their census!" (Sorry, I couldn't help myself!) U.S. Federal Census population schedules are the records that genealogists depend on most. They have been taken every ten years since 1790. If you dig into census records a bit you soon learn that other types of "schedules" were also generated at various times. Some are: slave schedules, industrial schedules, agricultural schedules, veterans and widows schedules, and mortality schedules. The latter—mortality schedules—seem to be the ones that are used the least and rarely discussed.

What are they? Firstly, they were completed during the enumerations of the 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses. They were also taken in states and territories in 1885 (Colorado, Florida, Nebraska, and the territories of South Dakota and New Mexico). The census-taker during these times would collect information regarding people who had died in the previous year. In 1850, for example, that "previous year" is defined as between 1 June 1849 and 31 May 1850.

How was this information collected? The census-takers had special forms to fill out at the same time they were taking the regular census. Enumerators would ask for the following information:

- Name of the deceased
- Age
- Sex
- Color
- Birthplace
- Month of death
- Occupation or trade
- Disease or cause of death
- Number of days ill

Parents' birthplaces (Wow!) were added to the questions in 1870, and in 1880 two more questions were added:

- Place where the disease was contracted
- Number of years the deceased had been a resident of the area

You might be asking yourself how much value a mortality schedule would have for you. It's true that it has been estimated that deaths were underreported by 20-40 percent. However, most of you who have been researching for awhile will be aware that the dates 1850 through 1880 predate the keeping of death records in many states.

When should you consider searching mortality schedules? Well, it might not hurt to make it a regular part of your research, but most especially when you find an ancestor on an early census and then do NOT find him on the next one. If you think of it as giving you a one-in-ten chance of finding your missing ancestor, it quickly becomes something you might want to consider.

Mortality schedules are scattered about, but isn't that what we genealogists always run into? As a general rule, the original materials are maintained in state archives (AL, DE, ME, MS, NY, RI, WV), state libraries (U of AR, CA, CT, IN, MD, NH, OR, VT), or at the state historical societies (ID, MN, MO, NV, WI) of those states listed. These were offered to the various states prior to the establishment in 1934 of the National Archives and Records Administration.

The original schedules of the states not mentioned above that declined the offer or did not respond were given to the DAR's library in Washington, DC. The LDS Family History Library in Salt Lake City also has microfilm of some of the mortality schedules. It's just a matter of checking the Family History Library catalog on [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org) or visiting a Family History Center near you to determine which film can be ordered.

Remember: When you can find a substantial clue to WHERE an ancestor lived and died only serves to open up a variety of other possibilities for finding information. Always keep in mind that LOCALITY is the key to your research.

# Surfing the Net

## Linkpendium

By Grumpy Websurfer

This quarter, our grumpy Web surfer takes a look at one of the most useful genealogy sites on the Web. Pretty big claim? Maybe. Let's take a look.

Cyndi's List is a great site, and we all use it frequently. But how would you like to go right to the item you're looking for without having to guess which of the 150 major subject categories might contain the link you want and then falling asleep waiting for the pages to download?

Linkpendium is a well-organized collection of 3.5 million links to genealogy-related information in the United States. One of the things that makes it special is its uncluttered, easy-to-navigate, user-friendly environment. The quintessence of a clean, no-frills design, it downloads at blinding speeds—even for dialup Internet connections. Budding webmasters would do well to take a thoughtful look at the design philosophy behind this site.

Linkpendium's tiered hierarchy is the key to its easy navigation. The home page offers only two major subject categories choices; the two most common ones that we all use—localities and surnames. Selecting localities opens the next tier, which actually turns out to be all of the states in the U. S. Selecting Florida, the next tier contains an entry for each of Florida's counties, and even includes a list of county names that no longer exist, like Mosquito and Benton, and provides their present names. The number of links to each county, noted in parentheses, varies from 57 to 538.

Choosing Bay County, I was amazed to discover 138 links, many of which were previously unknown to me. At this tier, links are arranged under an alphabetized list of subjects like cemeteries, history, land records, libraries, obituaries, photographs, societies, and vital records, to name just a few. The number of links to each subject is displayed in parentheses. Few pay sites are included and they are all clearly indicated by a (\$) sign—a big time-saver.

Search results from the major search engines (SEs) usually contain an overwhelming number of links that have nothing at all to do with genealogy. Although it is not, Linkpendium functions much like an SE that is focussed strictly on genealogy. Even more important, it contains links to a very significant number of sites that will never be listed by search engines. Why?

Major SEs use a variety of methods to find, index, and rank Web sites. A major factor used by engines like Google to rank their results is the number of *other* sites that link to a particular site. Imagine that you are building a website for yourself or your genealogy society. Few or no sites link to yours, and it is difficult for a small site with highly-specialized information to change that. SEs mostly ignore the obvious things like Keywords and Contents that webmasters can include in the descriptive part of their site. Apparently, many free sites like Angelfire, Tripod, or Geocities do not get indexed at all. Information on pages subordinate to a site's home page are frequently ignored. Yet another problem is that, inexplicably, some webmasters actually include in their pages instructions to the SEs that prohibit their site from being indexed at all.

All of which explains why much of the genealogical information on the World Wide Web is invisible to family historians. What we see through the popular SEs is just the tip of the iceberg. That's yet another reason why Linkpendium is such a valuable site; it is built by humans who are able to judge the utility of a genealogical Web site far better than an electronic spider can.

As an additional bonus, Linkpendium allows you to add a link to your own site, and that may increase the traffic to your site and elevate your site's position in the SE ratings. Just click on "Add your Website to this page!" at the bottom of the page for your county.

Linkpendium is the only Web site I have visited in a long time that I can find absolutely nothing to complain about. I give it a ten. If you are not using this site, you are wasting time and missing important resources. —Grumpy.

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Bay County Genealogy Society  
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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 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>

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

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