



The County Line

Bay County Genealogical Society Newsletter **Bay County, Florida**

Volume 26, Number 3

July 2006

Bay County Genealogical Society Celebrates 25th Anniversary

A Quarter Century of Service to Area Family Historians

By Marlene Womack

Although an earlier genealogy club existed for a few years, the “Bay County Genealogical Society” had its beginnings on September 2, 1980 with Nancy Roberts as its first elected president. The 19-member organization was known as the Genealogical Society of Bay County. In 1996 the name was changed to the Bay County Genealogical Society.

During the club's early years, members combed the cemeteries listing tombstones. They printed lists that were later microfilmed by the Family History Department of the LDS Church in Salt Lake City. The Family History Library made these records available to local residents and individuals researching genealogies all around the world.

Besides cemetery records, members also abstracted marriage records. They made this information available in booklets at a nominal cost.

For its size, the Bay County Public Library offers an excellent genealogy collection—one of the best in Florida and perhaps the entire Southeast. Genealogy has its own separate room in the library, and once the new library is completed, genealogy will have much more space.

Over the years, the Society sponsored numerous seminars, some of which featured top speakers on

genealogy in the United States. At the club's monthly meetings, local speakers tell about their ancestors, interesting new books, new research methods, and related subjects or experiences.

In the past, the organization usually sponsored a beginners' seminar in genealogy once a year that introduced newcomers to proper methods of genealogical research, the U. S. Census, military records, and so on. Each February the local LDS Family History Center presents an annual symposium that many members of the Bay County Genealogy Society attend.

In 1982, the club introduced members to *The County Line*, a top-notch quarterly publication of the Society that told of interesting historical tidbits, new books, upcoming seminars, etc. Katherine Krauth served as the first editor. Other editors have included Linda Kleback, Cliff Loper, Wallie W. Waltonen, Sondra Taylor, and Billy Nale. The present editor is William Zehner.

Current officers in the Bay County Genealogical Society are Cliff Loper, President; Berniece Loper, First Vice President, Judy Bennett, Second Vice President, Marlene Womack, Recording Secretary; Barbara Winge, Corresponding Secretary, and Walter Sherman, Treasurer.

President's Message

By Cliff Loper



Dear Friends, Here it is June! Where is the time going? Keep in mind that we will not meet in July and August. I will miss you all. At our last board meeting, we discussed a seminar that we are planning for November 4. It is supposed to be for beginners, but every-

one is welcome, and I have found, even though I've been doing genealogy for over 40 years, that I always learn something new. So don't hesitate to sign up for it, and if you have heard someone say they would like to start doing genealogy, but don't know how to begin, be sure to invite them.

We have had some excellent programs the last three months. Linda Bordelon spoke on her button collection. Doesn't sound like genealogy, but most of her collections have family histories attached to them. It was one of the most interesting talks we have had. She brought much of the collection with her and had it on display. Some are beautiful, some are carved, and some are very valuable.

Then Wallie Waltonen spoke about how his ancestors "missed the boat." Wallie is a long-time member of our Society, but because of health problems, has not attended for a while. We were so glad to see him, and his talk was very interesting. He has done a massive amount of genealogy and has put it into books for his children and their progeny, and he brought along some of his books to show us.

We are not certain who will talk or what we will have at the September, October, and November meetings. We are trying to have Harold Bazzell, the Clerk of the Court, who will give us information on the records that are available in the courthouse.

Many have asked for this information. He was scheduled earlier, but could not make it.

I know I would like to have one meeting where we just discuss the genealogy we have done and bring collections to display. Many of us have done a great deal, and it might give people newer to the hobby an incentive to continue. Often we run into "brick walls," but that ought not discourage us. I've known many who have gone for a long time unable to find someone they are looking for. Then they meet someone at a meeting or in their research travels who unlocks that door.

Finally, if there is someone you would like to have as a speaker, please let me or Berniece know. We are always open for suggestions.

It may seem a bit premature, but our December meeting is our Christmas party. It occurs very close to Christmas, so try to make sure you are able to come. We each bring one of our favorite Christmas goodies, and have some sort of program talking about our own Christmases past.



In This Issue

President's Message.....	2
Budget Committee.....	3
Web Picks	3
24 Years Ago.....	3
Member Spotlight.....	4
New Books.....	5
Coming Events.....	6
Programs Review.....	7
New Members	7
Utilizing Information in Research Documents	8
Grumpy Websurfer	9

Notice:

If a dollar sign (\$) appears on your address label on this issue, your dues are delinquent. Please tender payment immediately.

Otherwise, this issue will be your last. Thank you.



Budget Committee Meets

Your board recently appointed a budget committee to establish an operating budget for fiscal 2006. Committee members Bill Querengesser, Bill Zehner, and Chairman Paul Davis proposed a budget to the board at the May board meeting.

The committee noted that our Society has lost money in each of the previous three years, and recommended that cost-cutting measures be taken immediately to ensure the future solvency of the Society. Among the measures recommended is tighter control over the number of newsletter issues mailed to members whose dues are not current.



Web Picks



New Links

By Natalie Thompson
Orem, UT
BCGS Life Member

Scottish research. Have you seen this site? Looks really interesting and might really be worthwhile for those doing research in Scotland to look over this material BEFORE ordering microfilm from the Family History Library in Salt Lake City—such as church records. It's an excellent way to practice reading documents written in the older Scottish handwriting. Check it out at

www.scottishhandwriting.com/content

ArchiveGrid is a useful site for searching through indexed historical documents, personal papers, and family histories held in archives around the world. <http://archivegrid.org/web/jsp/index.jsp> (note: no www)

The UK National Archives. I found this site by accident! Click on "Search the Archives" to get started. www.nationalarchives.gov.uk



In the Beginning....

Early Society Members

By Bill Zehner



The very first issue of this newsletter (issue 1, no. 1), for Sept-Nov 1982, listed the following:

1982-1983 Members
Genealogical Society of Bay County

MIXSON, Kathryn & Ray
KELSEY, W. B.
REARICK, Lynell
CROWE, Karl & Tricia
ARTHUR, Dorothy Rhyne
BRUMBACK, Don
THAYER, Mildred & Calvin
KRAUTH, Katherine (Bittell)
MOODY, Sam
SLATTERY, Kenneth & Eva
POWELL, Ruth
ADAMS, W. J. & Doris
NIGELS, Violette E.
McDONAL, Bess Carter
WINGE, Barbara & Bobby
KLEBACK, Linda A.
McKINNEY, Liz
TAYLOR, Kathryn
ROBERTS, Nancy

This is not the list of charter members, of course, because the first newsletter did not appear until about two years after the Society was founded. Katherine Krauth was the first editor, and Linda Kleback was the president at that time.



Member Spotlight

Interview with Barbara Winge

Barbara Winge is among the most active of the original BCGS members. She has been a very active participant in the Bay County area for many years. After completing an intensive study and testing process in 1987, she became the only Certified Genealogical Records Specialist (CGRSSM) in Bay County history. She has attended our board meetings regularly for years, and her patient guidance frequently saves newer board members from repeating errors of the past. She currently serves as BCGS corresponding secretary. I recently asked her to share a little about her long experience with family history.

Ed: How long have you been interested in genealogy?

Barbara: You could just say I started doing genealogy as a ten-year-old child. I was always one to drive everyone nuts with questions. My Daddy's first cousin did genealogy to save her sanity—or so she said! She made a booklet for me at the age of ten with my pedigree chart and that really challenged me.

Ed: Have you ever become involved with any lineage societies?

Barbara: I was a member of the Children of the Confederacy and the Children of the American Revolution. I have been an officer of the St. Andrew Bay Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and an officer of the Confederate Salt Works Chapter of the U.D.C. I was also a member of the United Daughters of 1812, but that chapter no longer exists.

Ed: What would you advise those who are now becoming seriously interested in genealogy?

Barbara: I attended the Institute of Historical and Genealogical Research at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama for several years and I would recommend that to anyone interested in genealogy. I was a member of the original Genealogical Society of Bay County back in the 60/70s and assisted in forming the present Society.

Ed: Thank you, Barbara, from all BCGS members past and present, for all your contributions to genealogists in Bay County and to this Society.



Damaged Newsletters

We have received several complaints from members whose *County Linse* were damaged by the post office. We have experimented with several packing methods, but to date none has been totally successful. If your newsletter is damaged, please let us know and we will replace it without charge. That will also help us find out what works and what doesn't. — *Ed.*



BCGS Publications For Sale

Marriage Records

The Bay County Genealogical Society has published *Bay County, Florida, Marriages* in five volumes: 1900-1920, 1921-1925, 1926-1930, 1946-1950, and 1951-1955. Volumes are available for \$15.00 each, or \$60 for the whole set, and may be ordered from the address on the back page of this newsletter.



New Books

In the Genealogical Collection Of The Bay County Public Library

By Linda Pazics Kleback
Genealogy Specialist
Bay County Public Library



8-Jun-2006

GENERAL:

- AASLH Directory of Historical Societies and Agencies – Gen. R970.62 Dir
Dublin Burial Grounds & Graveyards – Gen. R929.5 Igo
Eastern Cherokee By Blood 1906 - 1910, Volume II, Applications 3001 - 6775 – Gen. R929 Eas
French Colonists and Exiles in the United States – Gen. R973 Ros
New England Court Records: A Research Guide for Genealogists and Historians – Gen. R929.1 Rap
Passengers Who Arrived in the United States September 1821 - December 1823 – Gen. R325.73 Uni
Reconstructed Passenger Lists for 1850: Hamburg to Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, and the United States – Gen. R929.3 Smi
The Bigelow Family Genealogy – Gen. R929.42 Big
The Tompkins of Washington County, Georgia and Related Families – Gen. R929.42 Mor
Undaunted Faith: The Story of Jennie Dean – Gen. R B Dean Lew

ALABAMA:

- Autauga County, Alabama, Cemetery Records Western Section – Al Gen. R929.3761 Aut
Family Maps of Barbour County, Alabama. Homesteads Edition – AL Gen. R912 Boy
Family Maps of Dale County, Alabama. Homesteads Edition – AL Gen. R912 Boy

CONNECTICUT:

- History of The Colony of New Haven To Its Absorption into Connecticut, 2 Volumes – CT Gen. R974.602 Atw

FLORIDA:

- The Heritage of Walton County, Florida – FL Gen. R976.9 Her
Too Late for Blood: Florida Volunteers in the Mexican War – FL Gen. R929.1 Jam

GEORGIA:

- Cities, Towns, and Communities of Georgia, 1847-1962 – GA Gen. R917.58 Hem
Climb the Hills of Gordon – GA Gen. R929.3758 Ree
History of Twiggs County, Georgia – GA Gen. R975.8 Fau
The Early History of Upson County, Georgia – GA Gen. R929.3758 Not
Torches of Light: Georgia Teachers & the Coming of the Modern South – GA Gen. R371.1 Chi

MARYLAND:

- Abstracts of the Testamentary Proceedings of the Prerogative Court of Maryland, Volume I and II: 1658-1674 – MD Gen. R929.3752 Ski
Maryland Marriage Evidences, 1634-1718 – MD Gen. R929.3 Bar

MASSACHUSETTS:

- Essex County, Massachusetts Probate Index 1638 - 1840, Volumes I and II – MA Gen. R929.37445 San
Vital Records of Falmouth, Mass. To the Year 1850 – MA Gen. R929.3744 Bro

NEW YORK:

- Inhabitants of New York 1774-1776 – NY Gen. R929.3747 Wil

SOUTH CAROLINA:

- Chester County, South Carolina Deed Abstracts, Volume 1: Deed Books A-F 1785-1799 (1768-1799 – SC Gen. R929.3757 Hol
Chester County, South Carolina Will Abstracts 1787-1838 (1776-1838) – SC Gen. R929.3757 Hol

South Carolina's Royal Grants, Volume One, Grant Books 1 Through 9, 1732-1761 – SC Gen. R929.3757 Hol

Tombstone Records of Chester County, South Carolina and Vicinity, Volume 1. – SC Gen. R929.3757 Cro

York County, South Carolina Will Abstracts 1787-1862 (1770-1862) – SC Gen. R929.3757 Hol

VIRGINIA:

Franklin County, Virginia: A History – VA Gen. R975.536 Win

Jamestowne Ancestors 1607-1699: Commemoration of the 400th Anniversary of the Landing at James Towne 1607-2007 – VA Gen. R929.3755 Dav

Suffolk: A Pictorial History – VA Gen. R975.553 Hob



State and National Events

August 1–4, 2006: The **BYU Genealogy and Family History Conference** will be presented in Provo, Utah at the BYU Conference Center. The theme of their 38th annual conference will be “Strengthening Ties That Bind Families Together Forever.” More than 100 classes will be offered. Visit <http://ce.byu.edu/cw/cwgen> for more details.

August 30–September 2, 2006: The **Federation of Genealogical Societies** and the New England Historic Genealogical Society annual conference will be presented in at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston. More than 370 topics will be offered by more than 128 speakers of international stature. The theme is “The Birthplace of American Genealogy.” Contact via email to fgs-office@fgs.org or visit www.fgs.org.

August 30, 2006: The **Association of Professional Genealogists** will present their 9th Annual APG Professional Management Conference in Boston. The theme is “Don’t Let the Ship Sail Without You.” Visit www.apgen.org/conferences for more information.

September 16, 2006: The **Florida Genealogical Society, Inc.** (Tampa) will present their Annual Fall Seminar 8:30 a. m.– 4:00 p. m. at the Hillsborough Community College, Dale Mabry & Tampa Bay Boulevard in Tampa. Henry Z. “Hank” Jones, FASG and editor of the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, will be the featured speaker. Contact George G. Morgan at rabidgenealogist@hotmail.com or visit www.rootsweb.com/~flsgs/calendar_09.htm for more details.

November 10-12, 2006: The **Florida State Genealogical Society** (FSGS) will present their thirtieth Annual Conference at the Crowne Plaza in Melbourne, Florida. More details will be posted on their website as they develop. www.rootsweb.com/~flsgs



Coming Events

BCGS 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.

July: No meeting.

August: No meeting.

September 16: TBD.

Notice:

There will be no regular monthly BCGS meetings in July or August, but there will be BCGS board meetings in July and August. Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be on September 16.

Spring Programs

Family History Workshop

Presented by Nancy Roberts

On April 8, 2006, the Panama City Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints sponsored a free half-day program for beginners, and for those needing a tune-up, at the Panama City Family History Center. BCGS life member Nancy Roberts was the workshop leader. Good planning and promotion by FHC Director Bama Young produced a surprisingly large turnout of 37 interested listeners. As always, everyone enjoyed Nancy's entertaining leadership.

How My Ancestors Missed the Boat

Presented by Wally Waltonen

Our April meeting featured Wally Waltonen, who spoke about how his ancestors "missed the boat." Wallie is a long-time member of our Society, and has been very active over the years in BCGS projects, including the Bay County cemetery transcription project, as well as in pursuit of his own family genealogy. He has compiled several books about his own family genealogy for his children and their progeny. He brought some of those books to demonstrate at the meeting.

Brick Walls

Presented by Nancy Roberts

Our May event was presented by Nancy Roberts. Nancy is a life member of the Society and has made many presentations at our monthly meetings and our beginners workshops over the years. She is such a knowledgeable and entertaining speaker that we always enjoy having her. Her topic was "Brick Walls," which she covered thoroughly. Nancy suggested we check witnesses on court, land, and probate records; and on neighbors living nearby on census and military records as a means of estimating the credibility of the particular record.

Nancy also strongly suggested that we visit courthouses ourselves to do research rather than depend entirely on the Internet. She mentioned checking the Family History Library Catalog at www.familysearch.org to locate microfilm records of city, county, and state governments that can be ordered through the Family History Center. There was a nice discussion concerning individual "Brick Walls" following Nancy's talk. —*review by Bonnie Shipp.*

Genealogy Research on the Internet

Presented by Judy Bennett

Our June meeting featured an interesting review of Judy's favorite techniques and sites for doing genealogy on the Internet. As always, her presentation was well prepared and well researched. Using overhead projector transparencies, she used examples from her own research to demonstrate the uses and merits of a wide variety of websites. She included 10 search engines and 35 general and special-purpose websites of interest to genealogists, discussing the pros and cons of each.

—*Ed.*



Welcome New Members

By Judy Bennett

judybennett@knology.net

We are happy to report a new couple to our Society. Please give them a warm reception at our next meeting.

Ronald J. & Janice Gail Sarvis



Understanding and Utilizing Information Available in Research Documents

By Bonnie Shipp

So you have a copy of the 1900 U. S. Census that lists your grandparents. But have you utilized information in all the columns? Censuses, land records, wills, and probate records all contain treasures of information, but sometimes the treasure isn't obvious. You need to study each bit of information looking for any hidden message that might be there.

The 1900 U. S. Census is a favorite of genealogists because it has several questions that aren't found on any other census. Let's look at the columns to see what we can find. On the left side, before the numbered columns begin, are the street and house number. Even for ancestors who lived in the country, there may be a road name that will help you find their location at that time. If they lived in the city, you may be able to find a city directory that would confirm the information or give you information between censuses.

The name of everyone living in the household on June 1, 1900 should have been listed in column 3. Column 4 gives each person's relationship to the head of household. Skipping to column 7, you find another great treasure; the month and date of birth for each person. Columns 9 and 10, marital status and number of years of present marriage, give you a clue to the timeframe to check for a marriage record. Column 9 also indicates whether this is a first or succeeding marriage for the head of household and his wife.

Columns 11 and 12, mother of how many children and number of these children still living, can be a great check to see if you have all the children of the family listed in your records. You may find the number of children listed is more than you have names. Because the 1890 U. S. Census was destroyed by fire, children who were born and died

between the 1880 and 1900 censuses were never listed on a census. On the other hand, if you have more children listed in your records as born before 1900, you probably need to double check your sources. Most unfortunately, the question was only for mothers. No numbers of children are available for widowers.

The place of birth of each person and their parents is a great help in studying the travels of the family. If the parents and oldest child were born in Pennsylvania and the next child is born in New Jersey, you might assume that the family moved from Pennsylvania to New Jersey some time between the birth of the oldest child and the second child and shift your search locality from one state to the other. If an ancestor immigrated, the citizenship columns, 16, 17, and 18, may give you clues that will help locate immigration and naturalization records.

Occupation, in column 19, tells you what kind of work the person was doing in 1900, or how many months not employed. If the man is listed as a preacher, you may be able to locate some of his church records. If the occupation is listed as lawyer or other professional, you might check that state's bar association or the appropriate association to see if he is listed. If the occupation was farmer, there may be an agricultural schedule available (see column 28).

Education, columns 21 through 24, will give you an idea of the literacy of your ancestors during this period. Ownership of home columns, 25–28 will indicate whether you might find deeds or mortgage records.

While I have only discussed information available in U. S. Census, the method of checking each item applies to any research document you may be using. For instance, on a will, were the witnesses related? Who was living on the next property? In the rare event that you are lucky enough to find probate records, they usually report the place where each descendant was living at that time—leading to further research possibilities. The need to be thorough is evident. Careful attention to detail will pay off.

By the way, column headings on census microfilms are difficult to read. You can download and print easy-to-read blank forms for free in PDF format at www.ancestry.com/trees/charts/census.aspx, or in Excel format from www.censustools.com. Blank census forms for 1790-1920 are also available for six cents each at the Family History Center.



Surfing the Net



More Effective Internet Searching

By Grumpy Websurfer

If you find yourself frequently exasperated with the results of your Web searches, maybe you should think about reading this.

By now, the Internet contains a blue bazillion pages of information on any subject you can think of. So how do we locate those pages? That's what search engines are for—locating stuff out there that is pertinent to our particular family interests.

However, in most of the searches I do, the problem is not that I can't find anything about a topic of interest, but rather that I get too many links—most of which aren't relevant. The problem is separating the wheat from the chaff. Or more precisely, in the case of genealogists, the problem of finding THE needle in the haystack (not just ANY needle, thank you).

As an example, I searched for James Barrington and received 3,340,000 links. That's not useful: If I could surf to these sites at the rate of one per second (which is impossible, given that many of these pages take six forevers to download), it would take 927 hours. So here is a three-step process that may help you find what you're after a little quicker.

1. Search for **specific phrases** rather than individual words. The simple search above reports

things like "... St. **James** Episcopal Church of Great **Barrington...**" Putting quotes around the phrase forces the search engine to report only those sites in which the exact phrase occurs. Searching for "James Barrington" (with quotes) produces just 26,600 listings—two orders of magnitude less. By the way, Google searches are not case sensitive, so a search for "james barrington" would produce the same results.

2. Eliminate unwanted listings by **identifying irrelevant themes** within unwanted results. I noticed that an author and a town manager of that name appear frequently in the listings, but I am not interested in those two individuals. So I put a minus sign (-) immediately in front of the words I want excluded. Searching for "James Barrington" -book -books -manager produces just 890 listings. That's more like it.

3. Add a **geographical or genealogical qualifier** to the search. Terms like birth, obituary, cemetery, marriage, and so on will focus your results on the individual you're seeking. My Barrington relatives lived in Alabama, so I added that word to the search box. "James Barrington" -book -books -manager Alabama produced just 144 listings.

4. **Choose the appropriate language.** If you are searching in Germany, for example, you may want to eliminate other language sites. In my search, I noticed many listing in strange languages that are not commonly used in Alabama, so I clicked on "Preferences" beside the Google Search button, and chose English instead of the default "any language." That reduced the listing to just 58—a reasonable length for manual searching.

Whatever search engine you prefer, look for phrases like "Advanced Search," "Advanced Search Tips," and so on, and click on those to read the detailed instructions for using that particular search engine. And don't be afraid to experiment. If you discover a new trick that works, your editor will be glad to report it in a future issue of *The County Line*. —Grumpy



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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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