



The County Line

Bay County Genealogical Society Newsletter Bay County, Florida

Volume 26, Number 4

October 2007



“Ancestor Hunting Demystified” Coming Saturday, October 27

Featuring C. Ann Staley, CGSM

C. Ann Staley, CGSM, will be the featured speaker at our fall seminar on October 27, 2007. This will be

an all-day event with sessions running from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. in the spacious Gibson Lecture Hall—a state-of-the-art, multi-media-equipped room in the Student Union East at the Gulf Coast Community College in Panama City. Registration will begin at 8:15 a.m.

Ann will present four timely topics during the day, including “Compiled Resources for the 20th Century,” “Overlooked Research Sources: A Gold Mine to be Discovered,” “Genealogical Research and the Internet,” and “Claws or Clues - Scratching for the Elusive Ancestor!”

Ann is a professional genealogist, instructor, and lecturer at local, state and national conferences. She became a Certified Genealogist in 2000. She has been researching her family since 1980 and has traced her ancestors from Alabama, Mississippi, and Virginia to France, England, and Germany.

She is the Florida State Genealogical Society (FSGS) Conference Chair, the Education Chairman and Webmaster of the Jacksonville Genealogical Society, Inc., and has been an associate of the Board for Certification of Genealogists since 2000.

You won’t want to miss this great event. Remember, October 15 is the last day to pre-register and save \$5. Use the registration form on page 5 of this edition or the convenient form on our Web site: www.rootsweb.com/~flbcgs/seminar/registrationform.html.

Bring a friend. Come early and get acquainted with some of the region’s leading genealogists. We’ll look for you there.

In This Issue

President’s Message.....	2
Welcome New Members.....	2
Family Tidbits from Old Newspapers.....	3
Seminar Registration Form.....	5
Coming Events at BCGS Monthly Meetings.....	6
Summer Programs.....	7
New Books.....	7
Secret Cache of BCGS Archival Materials Discovered in Alabama!.....	9

President's Message

Despite the fact that we held no general meetings in July and August, your board has not been idle. We have been very busy preparing programs, finalizing our budget, organizing our periodicals exchange program, exploring avenues for energizing our membership and for expanding our services to the community.

The biggest single ongoing effort, of course, has been our annual seminar. We want to make this one our best event ever, and we are all pushing hard to make that happen. We ask every member to pitch in and help. Not only do we want you to register and attend, we want you to bring a friend, a neighbor, or a family member along with you. Don't forget that the pre-registration deadline is 15 October.

In addition to all that, on 18 August, your board approved a bold new initiative for our Society. Intended to celebrate those pioneers who settled in Bay County before it became a county, and to recognize their proven descendants, it is called "The First Families of Bay County Certificate Program." Anyone who can prove that he/she is credibly descended from an individual who settled within the boundaries of present-day Bay County before April 24, 1913 will be presented with a First Families of Bay County Certificate at the annual banquet. Researcher Certificates can also be earned by those helping descendant applicants to become certified.

The committee is moving forward quickly with the development of the procedures, policies, rules, forms, and staffing necessary to launch the program. We already have seven very experienced volunteers to review applications. Unlike many similar programs across the nation, the evidencery rules that we have adopted conform to the highest standards for genealogical evidence established by leading practitioners, including the Board for Certification of Genealogists.

We believe this program will re-ignite interest in the rich genealogical heritage and history of Bay County, not just among those who are descendants of pioneers, but also among those who contribute to the program as reviewers and research consultants. We believe a large number of qualified descendants will become interested in learning more about their ancestors and recognizing their pioneering efforts. We also believe it will contribute to our stature as one of Florida's most progressive small genealogical societies.

We encourage everyone who suspects their ancestor settled here before 1913 to consider applying for certification. Very shortly we will be announcing a three-hour training program for reviewers, researchers, and applicants. We will post a notice on our Web site and send an email announcement to BCGS members when the dates are finalized.

Meanwhile, please consider whether you, or someone you know, might qualify. Or perhaps you are experienced enough to volunteer as a researcher to help applicants who may require assistance in researching their ancestral lines and completing their application form. Would you feel good about making an important and visible contribution to the genealogical heritage of Bay County? I'll look forward to seeing you at our first FFBC training meeting.

Bill Zehner



Welcome New Members

By Bonnie Shipp

Our membership list continues to grow steadily. Please take a moment to extend a warm welcome to our newest members at our next regular meeting.

- Joyce A. Goodman
 - Barbara Draeger (renewal) ❖
-

Family Tidbits from Old Newspapers

By Bonnie Shipp
BCGS Vice-President

Finding information about your family in local newspapers can be time consuming but rewarding. An article in the *Jacksonville Times-Union* for July 31, 1900 says that Mrs. Geo. Stephens of Palmetto visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Dale, in Branford. So now I know that Grandmother traveled from Manatee County to Suwannee County, Florida to visit her parents. This confirms names and places and provides a time frame.

An 1881 copy of the *Conecuh-Escambia Star* of Alabama reports, "Died, in Evergreen on the 15th inst. Mrs. Agnes Jones, mother of N. B. Jones and T. C. Cargle." This article provides information that Uncle Noah Jones' mother's first name was Agnes and that she had apparently been married twice. Also, he had a brother who was not known to us previously.

An October 18, 1883 *Conecuh-Escambia Star* reports a proclamation by W.H. Herrington, Mayor of Evergreen. A quote from the proclamation reads "... do hereby proclaim a quarantine against Pensacola, Pensacola Navy Yard, Warrington and Woolsey, Fla., Brewton and Pollard, Alabama and all places inflicted with yellow fever...." Another article is entitled "Our Afflicted Neighbor." That article lists contributors who aided the stricken people of Brewton. The list includes Mrs. R. Ship [sic] and Mrs. N.B. (Mary Shipp) Jones. Mrs. Shipp had daughters and grandchildren in Brewton. Because of the quarantine, they could not visit and probably couldn't communicate with their loved ones. This evokes a feeling of sadness for those who passed away long ago.

An obituary from a 1901 *Gospel Advocate*, a

church news magazine published in Nashville, tells how Aunt Ann Morrow died of epilepsy and had suffered with it for years; also that she had become portly because of her affliction. This article reveals a medical fact previously unknown to me.

How do you find these old newspapers? Actually, my brother-in-law found the copy of the *Jacksonville Times-Union* in the basement of a bank that was being demolished. The Jacksonville Public Library does have a collection of those newspapers on microfilm. A volunteer kindly made a copy of an obituary from that collection. Volunteers and professional genealogists usually require a time frame within which to conduct a search.

There are a few years of the *Conecuh-Escambia Star* from the 1880's available on microfilm at the Alabama Archives. I was able to borrow a copy through Interlibrary Loan at the Bay County Library.

To find an old copy of the *Gospel Advocate*, go to the Tennessee State Library and Archives. They list a number of places where archival collections of the newsletter may be found. The actual copy of the obituary mentioned above was found at Lipscomb University Library, a church-affiliated school.

I hope these samples inspire you to search diligently for your ancestors. Newspapers research does require time and patience; however, you may be rewarded with information found nowhere else.



Member Barbara Draeger has offered to lend certain reference books to BCGS members. There is no charge, but a refundable security deposit is required. Available books are: *They Came in Ships*, 3rd Edition, by John P. Colletta; *The Source, A Guidebook of American Genealogy*, by Arlene Eakle & Johni Cerny; *Unpuzzling Your Past*, 4th Edition, and *The Genealogist's Companion and Source Book*, 2nd Edition, both by Emily Ann Croom. Please contact Barb Draeger at 850-785-9946 for additional details.

**The Bay County Genealogical
Society**

proudly presents

Ancestor Hunting Demystified

A Genealogy Seminar

Starring

C. Ann Staley, CGSM

Saturday, October 27, 2007
Gibson Lecture Hall
Student Union East
Gulf Coast Community College
Panama City, Florida



Details:

www.rootsweb.com/~flbcgs/seminar

850-215-1579

Bay County Genealogical Society
Ancestor Hunting Demystified

Seminar Registration Form

Fall 2007 Seminar
October 27, 2007

Name _____

Street _____

City, State _____

Zip code _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Cost:

_____ Walk-in: \$35

_____ Pre-registered before Oct 15: \$30

_____ I'm not a BCGS member, but I want to join BCGS now AND attend the seminar (\$55 value) \$45

Price includes lunch, bottled water, juice, coffee, and pastry, plus handout materials.

Registration deadline is October 15, 2007. Seating is limited, so please register early.

How to Register:

Mail with check or money order to:

Bay County Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 662

Panama City, FL 32402-0662

For questions, please contact Judy Bennett at judybennett@knology.net or 850-215-1579



Coming Events at BCGS Monthly Meetings

October 11, 2007: Rebecca Saunders, Bay County Library's Genealogy Specialist, will conduct a "Genealogy After Hours" session from 5 to 8 p.m. on Thursday in the genealogy room of the Bay County Public Library. Reservations are required and the event is limited to 20 participants. Please call (850) 872-7500 ext. 18 for reservations.

Come join us for an introduction to the Genealogy Collection and an opportunity to do YOUR family research without interruption during closed hours. Beginners will receive a beginners packet and assistance from the staff. Bring your family information with you so you can research YOUR family in books, microfilm, periodicals, and on Ancestry.com.

October 20: No meeting—because of our annual seminar the following week.

October 27, 2007: The BCGS annual Seminar will be presented from 8:15 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Gulf Coast Community College, Gibson Hall.

This year's theme will be "Ancestor Hunting Demystified," featuring our distinguished guest speaker, C. Ann Staley, CGSM. Ann will present four hour-long talks. They are designed to benefit anyone working in genealogy and family history. The titles are: "Compiled Resources for the 20th Century," "Overlooked Research Sources: A Gold Mine to be Discovered," "Genealogical Research and the Internet," and "Claws or Clues - Scratching for the Elusive Ancestor!"

Ann Staley is a professional genealogist, instructor, and lecturer at local, state and national conferences. She became a Certified Genealogist in 2000.

She has been researching her family since 1980 and has traced her ancestors from Alabama, Mississippi, and Virginia to France, England, and Germany. She is the Conference Chairman of the Florida State Genealogical Society (FSGS), the Education Chairman and Web master of the Jacksonville Genealogical Society, Inc., and has been as associate of the Board for Certification of Genealogists since 2000.

She is the recipient of the FSGS 1997 "Genealogy Outstanding Achievement Award," the FSGS 2002 "President's Citation Award," and the FSGS 2004 "Distinguished Service Award." Additional information appears on pages 4 and 5 of this issue.

November 17, 2007: Bill Zehner was planning to present "Surname Profiling," describing five ways your surname can be used in genealogy. However, his brother will be receiving a special award on that day, so Judy Bennett has agreed to trade places. "Surname Profiling" will be presented in January 2008.

Judy Bennett, our Membership Vice-President, will make our November presentation, titled "Becoming a Genealogy Detective." Want to know how to break down a brick wall? Learn how to be a detective in genealogy to help unearth those hard-to-find ancestors. You will learn some Sherlock Holmes techniques of observation and discovery.

Judy has been practicing genealogy for many, many years, and always spins an interesting tale.

December 15, 2007: At our annual Christmas program the President will report the state of the Society, including our accomplishments for the year and our objectives for 2008. The President's Citation will also be announced. This is a certificate presented to an individual or organization whose contributions or service to BCGS or the NW Florida genealogical community are singled out for recognition by the BCGS President.

Following that, members will be encouraged to share serendipitous discoveries they have made this

past year in genealogy. Afterwards, party food and drink will be enjoyed.

Program previews by Judy Bennett



Summer Programs

Genealogy After Hours

Conducted by Rebecca Saunders

A special event for local genealogists was held in Panama City on Thursday evening, July 19 from 5 to 8 p.m. Rebecca Saunders conducted a discovery tour of the genealogical facilities at the Bay County Library and a workshop, with staff available to assist. The event was attended by about 20 family researchers who received a beginner's packet of information as well as personal assistance from Library staff members.

Regular meetings were not held in July and August, as is our custom.

Witches, Rakes, and Rogues: How to Research Your Black-Sheep Ancestors

Presented by Sandra Ruffing

On September 15 Sandra showed us many sources, particularly emphasizing Internet resources, for locating information about our Black-sheep Ancestors: They range from newspaper articles about trials to researching and obtaining prison records. The talk also referenced many helpful books. Sandra has been researching her family tree and assisting others with their research for the past ten years. She is currently serving as the archivist for the Bay County Genealogical Society and she volunteers in the Genealogy Section and Local History Room of the Bay County Library. This meeting was well attended by a large crowd.

Program review by Judy Bennett

New Books

In the Genealogical Collection Of The Bay County Public Library

By Rebecca Brown Saunders
Genealogy Specialist
Bay County Public Library

31-August-2007



Alabama:

Alabama Confederate soldiers, 1861-1865, Hewett, Janet—AL Gen R 973.74

Alabama Confederate soldiers, 1861-1865, Hewett, Janet—AL Gen R 973.74

Alabama Confederate soldiers, 1861-1865, Hewett, Janet—AL Gen R 973.74

Florida:

Washington County Florida Marriages, books A through G 1877 to 1914, —FL Gen R 929.3759 WAS

Bay County Florida Marriages 1913 to 1930, —FL Gen R 929.3759 BAY

Bay County Florida Marriages 1913 to 1930, —FL Gen R 929.3759 BAY

Cemeteries of Jackson County, Florida Lipford to Vickery, Pamphilon, Doris E., 1944—FL Gen R 929.3 PAM

St. Andrews, Houpt, Ann Pratt.—FL Gen R 975.995 HOU

Fort Meade, 1849-1900, Brown, Canter—FL Gen R 975.967 BRO

The Heritage of Escambia County, Florida, —FL Gen R 975.9 HER

Tombstone inscriptions of Washington County Cemeteries, —FL Gen R 929.5 TOM

75 years of dentistry; [diamond jubilee volume of the Florida State Dental Society], Haines, Helen S. (Helen Steere)—FL Gen R 617.6006 SEV

The First United Methodist Church in Pensacola / compiled & written by John Appleyard Agency,

Inc., John Appleyard Agency, Inc.—FL Gen R 287.6759 JOH
One hundred years of dentistry in Florida, Thoburn, Robert, 1909—FL Gen R 617.6006 ONE

Georgia:

Georgia Confederate soldiers, 1861-1865, Hewett, Janet—GA Gen R 973.74 GEO
Annotated 1880 census of the white population : Lowndes County, Georgia, Griffin, Myrtle Lou.—GA Gen R 929.3758 ANN
Emanuel County, Georgia marriages 1817-1879, —GA Gen R 929.3758 EMA
Tattnall County, Georgia loose papers, 1801-1845, Volume One, —GA Gen R 929.3758 TAT
Georgia Confederate soldiers, 1861-1865, Hewett, Janet—GA Gen R 973.74 GEO
Georgia Confederate soldiers, 1861-1865, Hewett, Janet—GA Gen R 973.74 GEO
Pioneers of Wiregrass, Georgia, Huxford, Folks, comp.—GA Gen R 929.2
Pioneers of Wiregrass, Georgia, Huxford, Folks, comp.—GA Gen R 929.2 HUX
Georgia Confederate soldiers, 1861-1865, Hewett, Janet—GA Gen R 973.74 GEO

General:

The official guide to Ancestry.com, Morgan, George G.—Gen R 025.03929 MOR
McGill Chronicle: descendants of Richmond Church McGill of Perdido, Alabama and Youngstown, Florida, Book One, Barley, Patricia Ann McGill—Gen R 929.42 BAR
Evidence explained : citing history sources from artifacts to cyberspace, Mills, Elizabeth S.—Gen R 907.2 MIL
Family tree problem solver : proven methods for scaling the inevitable brick wall, Rising, Marsha Hoffman—GEN R 929.1072 RIS
The Jeter mosaic, Clark, Grata Jeter—Gen R 929.2 CLA
Climbing your family tree : online and offline genealogy for kids : the official Ellis Island handbook, Wolfman, Ira—Gen R 929 WOL
The family tree resource book for genealogists, Carmack, Sharon DeBartolo—Gen R 929.1072 CAR

Walking with your ancestors: a genealogist's guide to using maps and geography, Kashuba, Melinda—GEN R 929.1072 KAS
Family history 101 : a beginner's guide to finding your ancestors, Melnyk, Marcia Yannizze—Gen R 929.1072 MEL
Collins Scottish clan & family encyclopedia, Way, George, of Plean—Gen R 929 WAY

Illinois:

Grand Army of the Republic, Department of Illinois : transcription of the death rolls, 1879-1947, Northcott, Dennis—Gen R 973.76 NOR

Indiana:

Indiana Civil War veterans : transcription of the death rolls of the Department of Indiana, Grand Army of the Republic, 1882-1948, Northcott, Dennis—Gen R 973.76 NOR

Maryland:

Marriages and deaths from Baltimore newspapers, 1796-1816, Barnes, Robert—MD Gen R 929.3752 BAR
Abstracts of wills, Montgomery County, Maryland, 1826-1875, Malloy, Mary Gordon.—MD Gen R 929.3752 MAL

Mississippi:

Mississippi Confederate soldiers, 1861-1865, Hewett, Janet—MS Gen R 973.74 MIS
Mississippi Confederate soldiers, 1861-1865, Hewett, Janet—MS Gen R 973.74 MIS
Mississippi Confederate soldiers, 1861-1865, Hewett, Janet—MS Gen R 973.74 MIS

New England:

The New England historical and genealogical register, Waters, Henry F. (Henry Fritz-Gilbert). Genealogical gleanings in England.—Gen R 929.3 NEW
Mayflower source records : primary data concerning southeastern Massachusetts, Cape Cod, and the islands of Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard : from the New England historical and genealogical register, Roberts, Gary Boyd—Gen R 929.37448 ROB

South Carolina:

South Carolina marriages, Holcomb, Brent H.—SC
Gen R 929.3757 HOL

United States:

Genealogies in the Library of Congress; a bibliography, United States Library of Congress.—Gen R
016.9291 UNI

Genealogies in the Library of Congress; a bibliography, United States Library of Congress.—Gen R
016.9291 UNI

Genealogical data from United States Military Academy application papers 1805-1866, Wardell, Patrick G.—Gen R 355.0071 WAR

Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska Civil War veterans : compilation of the death rolls of the departments of Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska, Grand Army of the Republic, 1883-1948, Northcott, Dennis—Gen R
973.76 NOR

Genealogical data from United States Military Academy application papers 1805-1866, Wardell, Patrick G.—Gen R 355.0071 WAR

Virginia:

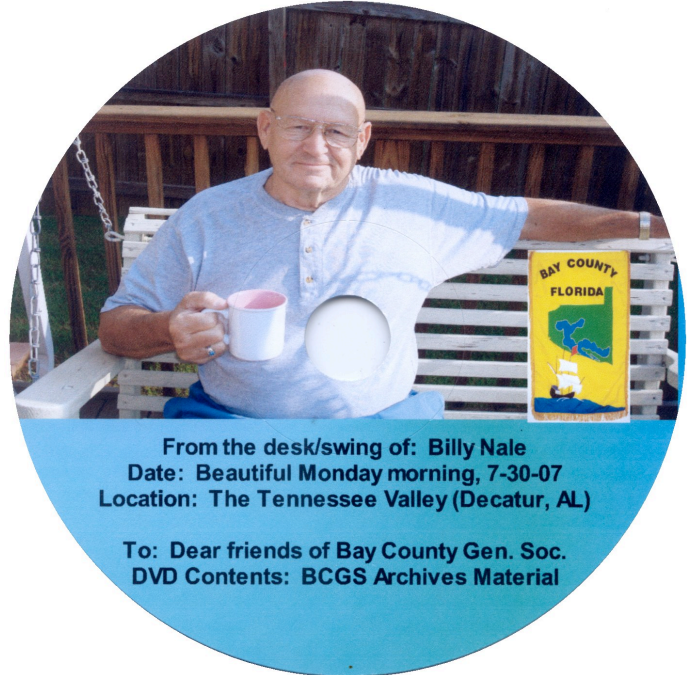
Adventurers of purse and person, Virginia, 1607-1624/5, Dorman, John Frederick.—VA Gen R
929.3755 ADV

Adventurers of purse and person, Virginia, 1607-1624/5, Dorman, John Frederick.—VA Gen R
929.3755 ADV

Virginia immigrants and adventurers 1607-1635: A biographical dictionary, McCartney, Martha W.—VA Gen R 929.3755 MAC



Secret Cache of BCGS Archival Materials Discovered in Alabama!



BCGS Archivist Sandra Ruffing recently received a very pleasant surprise in her mailbox. It was the unexpected result of a recent inquiry by Bonnie Shipp to our former Web master and newsletter editor, Billy Nale. After retiring from BCGS two years ago, Billy moved to Decatur, Alabama, and had not been heard from since.

In response to Bonnie's inquiry about a photograph from one of our previous seminars, Billy dug up a gold-mine of BCGS materials in electronic form covering the period from 2001 to 2005. He dutifully assembled the material onto CDs, and mailed copies to Bonnie, Sandra, and the present editor. The CDs include the minutes from many of our board meetings, a collection of photos from several of our past seminars and meetings, and several membership lists from past years. A complete set of *County Line* newsletters for the period appeared on the CD along with a selection of clip art appropriate for newsletter editors. Thank you, Billy!

Bay County Genealogy Society
P. O. Box 662
Panama City, FL 32402-0662



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 in the Library's Local History Room at 10:00 a.m. also on the third Saturday of the month. Membership dues are \$20 per year for individuals, \$20 for single-address families, and \$10 for full-time students, payable in December for the following year.

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

The County Line is a newsletter of the Bay County Genealogical Society (BCGS)

The County Line is published quarterly (January, April, July, and 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 annually. Editor: William J. Zehner, CG. E-mail: lyzehner@knology.net
Postmaster: Send address changes to the Bay County Genealogical Society at the address shown above.