



The County Line

Bay County Genealogical Society Newsletter
Bay County, Florida

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Did You Know That Once There Were No Surnames?

By Donna R. Causey, Historical Author
<http://alabamapioneers.com>

Did you know that before the fifteenth century, surnames were not common? Anglo-Saxon names were used 5,000 years ago and were names like Begga, Agrippa, etc., but after the Norman Conquest in 1066, the English and Europeans started using names like Richard and Henry but did not have surnames. The Normans only had a small number of these names so there were many Roberts, and Henrys which made it confusing to say the least.

The church came to the rescue and suggested that people could use saints names for their children. To distinguish themselves further from other townspeople, descriptions were added to the names such as Robert of the Valley, James the tall (if he was a tall man).

In the fifteenth century, surnames were becoming common but they usually described the way a person looked, where they lived, or their occupation. For example if Henry was a baker he might be named



Henry Baker; if Robert was short, his name would be Robert Short; if James lived in Cottingham his name was James Cottingham.

Later on patronymics became popular for descendants.

"Patronymics pointed out the individual was the son of a person. 'O' for the Irish, 'Ben' (Hebrew), 'de' (French), 'Mc' and 'Mac' (Scottish) and plain 'son' attached to the name for the English. MacGregor is a



Scottish name for the son of Gregory, Johnson is an English name for the son of John, and Mendelsohn is German for the son of Mendel."

A problem quickly developed with patronymics, however, because the surname changed with each generation. For example, "John, the son of Peter would be called John Peterson; but John's son, Robert, would be known as Robert Johnson.

Henry V stopped the confusion when he ordered everyone to begin using surnames on all legal documents in 1413 and by the middle of the sixteenth century, family surnames became stabilized and remained the same through descendants.

This article was printed September 6, 2014 in *The Alabama Pioneers Online Newsletter*. To subscribe to the newsletter sign up at this link. <http://alabamapioneers.com/#sthash.QND69T0J.dpbs>

Nominating Committee for 2014 Elections

BCGS bylaws require that officers and directors stand for election every other year on even years, and 2014 is an even year. The nominating committee is comprised of three individuals, is required to present a slate of six officers and four directors to the Executive Board before the November Executive Board meeting and also to the general membership meeting in November. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the annual meeting in December.

This year's nominating committee was appointed at our September meeting. Committee members are



Fred Borg, Claudia Steindle, and Jan Williams. They are looking especially for a new President, Second Vice-President,

whose primary task is Membership Chairperson, and Corresponding Secretary.

For those of you who do not wish to serve as an officer, but might like to serve on a committee—whether as chair or not—please talk to one of our board members so they can recommend you to the new president who will be appointing the committee chairs at the January 2015 board meeting. We prefer to involve lots of people so that no one person gets overloaded and burned out.

Serving on our board is a great way to make a meaningful contribution to genealogy in Northwest Florida. I invite you to seriously consider how you can serve. Duties of the various offices are described in our bylaws, which you can examine here:

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flbcgs/bylaws.html.

Ask not what your Society can do for you. Ask what you can do for your Society.

William Zehner, President

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New Staff in Local History and Genealogy

With the recent retirements of Becky Saunders and Anita Lucas, there are some new faces in Local History and Genealogy at the Bay County Public Library.

Laura Moree is the new Head of Local History and Genealogy. Prior to this, she worked in public libraries for eight years, most recently as a reference librarian for the Northwest Regional Library System at the Bay County Public Library. She completed a Bachelor's of Art in Anthropology/Archaeology with history and art history minors at Mercer University in Macon, Georgia, and she received her Masters of Science in Library and Information Science



specializing in Archival Studies at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, South Carolina.

She has conducted various projects, including working at the Ocmulgee National Monument as a facilitator in a NAGPRA Consultation Hearing, working with Dr. Bob Brier at Macon's Museum of Arts and Sciences, and assisting the Georgia Historical Society in Savannah, Georgia.

In her spare time, she enjoys reading, researching her family history, drinking coffee, and dancing through life with her daughter, Hayley, and husband of five years, Dustin.

Lorrie Canfijn is the new Local History Archivist.



She grew up in Glastonbury, Connecticut. She worked for several years for the Connecticut National Guard in their finance and accounting office. She relocated several times due to her husband's work and also lived in Atlanta and Houston for a while. She finally settled here in Panama City fifteen years

ago, after being a frequent visitor to the area before that.

Her career at the Bay County Public Library began in January 2004 in the Circulation Department. She has one child who is presently a senior at the University of Florida. Her hobbies include sewing, knitting, and crafting of almost any sort.

(This article was printed in NWRLS September 2014 online newsletter. To join the mailing list sign up at: <http://www.nwrls.lib.fl.us/>)



Bay County Genealogical Society Makes Donations to Two Non-Profit Organizations

On Sunday, July 6, 2014 the Panama City News Herald in Sec. E, on page 1 reported, "The Bay County Genealogical Society raised money in 2008 for two computers for genealogical research at the Bay County Public Library. Recently, the Society generously donated \$2000.00 to the library's Local History Room, which collects and preserves the history of Bay County to replace those computers."

Over the past few years the library has received generous donations from BCGS to purchase books.



BCGS President William "Bill" J. Zehner and Corresponding Secretary Janice Cronan present the check to Rebecca Brown Saunders. Photo taken by Anita Lucas

On Saturday September 20th Glenda Walters, President of the Historical Society of Bay County (HSBC), dropped by to thank BCGS for their generous \$500.00 donation to the History Museum. The Museum is located at 223 W. 6th Street and the "soft opening" will be Oct. 3rd at 6:30 pm. Bob Horton will present Civil War Music while everyone enjoys the Museum. She invited everyone to their meetings which take place at 7 PM, on the 4th Monday of each month in the Library.



L. to R. Janice Cronan, Glenda Walters, Becky Saunders, Diana Cochran, Mary K. McGraw, Sally Reinhardt. (Board Members in background: Judy Bennett and Walter Sherman still taking registration and membership. Not Pictured: Sarah Sapp and Bill Zehner) Photo by Ron Young

Bay County Genealogical Society Extractions List

Diana Cochran dbcochran@bellsouth.net

Birth, Marriage, Deaths

Newspapers	Year	Volunteer Name
Panama City Pilot (BMD)	1917	Suzanne Shay
Panama City Pilot (BMD)	1918	Jan Williams
Panama City Pilot (BMD)	1919	
Panama City Pilot	1920	Lynne Siegfried
Panama City Pilot (BMD)	1923	
Panama City Pilot (BMD)	1924	Fred Borg
Panama City Pilot (BMD)	1925 -1928	
Panama City Pilot (BMD)	1929	Elizabeth Crusan
Panama City Pilot (BMD)	1931	
Panama City Pilot (BMD)	1932	Phyllis Hamilton
Panama City Pilot (BMD)	1934 - 1941	
News Herald Obits OOO(Obituary Index)	1935 -1984	
News Herald Obits OOO(Obituary Index)	1985	Bill Zehner
News Herald Obits	2014	Carolyn Herrera
LH Press (BMD)	1926 -1937	

All can be accessed online at www.flhiddentreasures.com except for
the News Herald which is (Microfilm only)

Bay County Marriage Records (Microfilm only)

Year	Volunteer Name
1956 – 1960	
1961 - 1970	
1970 - 1975	

Marriage Records for Bay County before 24 April 1913 (Calhoun Co.)

Family History Center	1900 - 1913 FHL#925883 & 925884 Need	
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Local History Room

Name of Item	Year	Volunteer Name
Official Register of Electors District No. 1, City of Panama City, 324.64OFF	1936 - 1940	
Official Register of Electors District No. 2, City of Panama City		
Official Register of Electors District No. 2, City of Panama City,	1940	
Official Register of Electors District No. 3, City of Panama City	1936 - 1939	
Official Register of Electors District No. 3, City of Panama City	1940	
Official Register of Electors District No. 4, City of Panama City	1936 - 1940	
Official Register of Electors District No. 5, City of Panama City	1936 - 1938	
Registration Book Ward #4	1908 - 1934	
Day Book - Perdue's Jewelry Store		
Town of Panama City Tax Rolls	1913 - 1914	

Bay County Public Library Books to be Indexed

Title of Book	Author	Location	Volunteer Name
A One Hundred Year History of a Methodist Congregation of St. Andrew; 1886-1986	Compiled and Edited by Dora Maud Aldridge	Fl Gen R287.67959ALD BHR R 287.6759ALD	Suzanne Strickland
Historic Properties Survey of the City of Parker, Fl.	William R. Adams	R975.9ADA BHR R975.9ADA	
Bay County	Eileen Cvitkovich	975.995CVI (Check Out) R975.995CVI BHR R 975.995CVI	Sally Rinehart
Panama City	J. D. Weeks	975.995WEE (Check Out) FL Gen R975.995WEE BHR R975.995WEE	

**Extraction Projects Report
By Diana Cochran**

I would like to report that Rebecca Miller has completed indexing the book "Union Colony in the Confederate South: Lynn Haven, Florida. Bill Zehner has completed obituaries for 1986 in the News Herald. Carolyn Herrera is continuing work on the 2014 obituaries in the News Herald. We would like to thank them for all their hard work.

Suzanne Shay, Jan Williams, Lynne Siegfried, Fred Borg, Elizabeth Crusan and Phyllis Hamilton are working on Panama City Pilot birth, marriage and death extractions. Bill Zehner continues to work on News Herald obits for 1985. We thank everyone for their continuing efforts.

We could use your help as we still have several years of the Panama City Pilot, Lynn Haven Press and the News Herald that need to be extracted. Also, Bay County Marriage records for 1956 - 1975.

**Returning Orphan Heirlooms
By Janice Cronan**



Over the past couple of months DeAnna Angel-Pierce and I have worked on returning two "orphaned" bibles to their families. These family bibles came into the library with book donations and were taken to the Local History room. Since they do not have the room to store such items we volunteered to find the families. We were able to accomplish this task by using several genealogy research skills learned at BCGS meetings.

Read more about this exciting way to preserve history on page 30 of the *American Spirit* DAR magazine, May/June issue. The picture above was taken from the front cover of the same magazine.

Registration Form
BCGS Fall Seminar
18 October 2014
Bay County Library Meeting Room
898 W. 11th St., Panama City, FL

Name _____
Mailing Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Phone (____) _____
Email Address _____


Please pre-register because seating is limited.

____ \$15.00 BCGS member
____ \$20.00 Non-member
____ \$25.00 Brand-New-member Seminar Discount

Price includes: Seminar, Handouts, Drinks & Snacks, Lunch and Door Prizes.

Please make checks payable to:
Bay County Genealogical Society (BCGS)
Mail to:
Janice Cronan, Registrar
229 Balboa Street Port St. Joe, FL 32456

Keep It Simple
Seminar: For Beginner's
And the Rest of Us



2014 Fall Seminar
Presented by the
Bay County Genealogical Society
Saturday, October 18th
8:30am – 3:30pm
Bay County Library
898 W. 11th St.
Panama City, FL

For questions, please contact
Janice jmcranan@aol.com 850-899-1490
Judy judybennett@knology.net 850-215-1579

FALL SEMINAR TOPICS

Beginner's First Steps
by Jan Williams

Learn the first steps to begin your genealogy research, determine what information is needed to certify your ancestors, how to verify and cite your sources.

Using Census Records
by Fred Borg

Census records can be one of your best resources for researching family history. The records are successive "snapshots" of individuals and families and are full of valuable information. This presentation will provide an introduction to using U.S. and foreign census records.

Genetic Genealogy 101
by Janice Cronan

Can DNA testing help you with your genealogy research? This program will help you find that answer. Genetic Genealogy is one of the newest record generating tools we have for family research. I will discuss: why or why not test, how it works, who to test and which company to test with.

Birth/Marriage/Death: the Family Framework
by Claudia Steindl

This session will focus on the importance of these vital facts, and where to search for them. We will address the challenges of reading documents written in other languages, and gain some helpful hints in deciphering them. The value of newspapers will be explored, along with finding more in various source records. Also, accuracy will be discussed.

Keep It Simple
Seminar: For Beginner's and the Rest of Us
18 October 2014
SCHEDULE

8:30 – 9:00 AM	Registration & Check In
9:00 – 9:15 AM	Welcome & Opening Remarks
9:15 -- 10:15 AM	Beginner's First Steps-Jan Williams
10:15 -10:30AM	15 min. Break
10:30 -11:30AM	Using Census Records -- Fred Borg
11:30 AM to 12:15 PM	45 min. Lunch
12:15 -- 1:15 PM	Genetic Genealogy 101 - Janice Cronan
1:15 -- 1:30 PM	15 min. Break
1:30 – 1:40 PM	Door Prize Drawing
1:40 -- 2:40 PM	Birth/Marriage/Death: the Family Framework -- Claudia Steindl
2:40 – 3:00 PM	Closing Remarks/Questions/ Evaluations

Local Coming Events 2014

October 3, 6:30 PM

Historical Society Museum Opening:
223 W. 6th Street, Panama City. Bob Horton will present *Civil War Music* while guests enjoy seeing the great collection of the Bay County Museum.

http://home.comcast.net/~wewajoe/bayhistory/Bay_History_Home.html


Saturday, October 16, 5:00 – 8:00 PM

Genealogy After Hours

Register to attend the “Genealogy After Hours” group to research your family history with individual help and while the library is closed. If you are a “seasoned researcher” please volunteer to help by emailing Laura Moree. lmoree@baycountycl.gov



**The 29th
Genealogy After Hours**

October 16, 2014
5:00 p.m. — 8:00 p.m.



Research your family at the Bay County Public library after closing with assistance from staff and members of the Genealogical Society.

Limited to 15 participants.
Call the Bay County Public Library
Local History & Genealogy Department to make
reservations.
(850) 522-2132

Saturday, October 18, 2012

Fall Seminar at the Library (8:30 – 3:30)

For Beginners & the Rest of Us

Judy Bennett, Seminar Chair

See brochure on page 7

Saturday, November 15, 1:00 PM:

Using Photography in Genealogy Research with Fred Borg

This power point presentation will teach us how to use cameras to record all sorts of genealogical documents and resources.

Saturday, December 20, 1:00 PM:

Christmas Celebration and Ornament Exchange – Officer Elections

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flbcgs/bylaws.html>

Other Events

Saturday, October 4th 9:30 – 4:00 PM:

Georgia Genealogical Society Seminar

George G. Morgan presents, “Beyond The Basics”
<http://www.gagensociety.org/>

Saturday, November 1st 9:00 - 3:30 PM:

West Florida Genealogical Society 2014 Seminar with Robert S. Davis

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flwfgs/11-1-14SeminarInfoRegistrationForm.pdf>

Webinars

October 3rd - 5th available free

NC Taxes: People, Places, Time and Delinquency, if you missed the first showing on September 19, it will be free again on this weekend.

November 21st available free *Finding a North Carolina Revolutionary War Ancestor*. It will be available free again Dec. 5-7.

<http://www.ncgenealogy.org/webinars-menu>

New Books

In the Genealogical Collection Of The Bay County Public Library

By Laura Moree
Genealogy Specialist
Bay County Public Library
09 June -- 05 September

Florida

Alumni Directory, / University of Florida FL Gen R 378
UNI

Tally Ho (yearbook) 4 vols. FL Gen R 371.975 TAL

The Seminole (yearbook) FL Gen R 929.1 SEM

General

*The Hidden Half of the Family: a Sourcebook for Women's
Genealogy* / --Schaefer, Christina K. -- Gen R 929 SCH

Cherokee Intermarried White 1906 / 3 vols. -- Bowen, Jeff, --
Gen R 929 BOW

Delaware Runaways, 1720-1783 / -- Boyle, Joseph Lee, MD,
-- Gen R 929.3752 BOY



Becky thoroughly enjoyed her retirement party on July 19, 2014. At the September meeting she expressed her gratitude for the generous gift card given to her by the members of BCGS and told us she was able to digitize all of her home movies with the money.



Membership Renewal Time

The Bay County Genealogical Society membership expires at the end of each December. Please tender payment at the meetings or by mail so you won't miss any issues of *The County Line*, be eligible for seminar discounts, and eligible to serve on the board.

Please make your check payable to Bay County Genealogical Society in the amount of \$20. Mail to:

BCGS Membership Chair.
P.O. Box 15294,
Panama City, FL 32406

**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 (excluding July and August) at 1:00 p.m. in the Panama City Library. The Executive Board meets in the Library at 10:00 on the third Saturday of each month. Membership dues are \$20 per year for individuals, \$20 for single-address families, and \$10 for full-time students, payable by December for the following year. Our Web address is www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flbcgs

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