

To: Members of BBGS
From: Milton Back, President
Subject: 18th Annual Meeting
Date: July 8, 2011

The Planning Committee of BBGS met recently to plan for our annual meeting which will be held October 7th & 8th at Whitesburg, KY. The Friday evening dinner will be at The Courthouse Café in downtown Whitesburg and Saturday's activities, registration and annual dinner, will again be at the Pine Mountain Grill. The purpose of this memo is to inform you of the highlights so you can begin making your plans to attend. A newsletter will be sent to everyone in early September with all the details and registration forms.

There will be 2 memorable events taking place at this year's meeting:

First – About midday on Saturday there will be a special re-enactment of an event taken from our family history in the 'Red Books'. The title of the play is "The Physical and Spiritual (?) Relocation of John and Caty Back". The event takes place in the early to mid 1800's. The play was written through the talented and capable efforts of the versatile Richard Smith and is one you'll never forget.

We need volunteers to play the parts in the play and hope you are willing to assist us. We also need some period clothing as well. If you can assist, please contact me at 304-744-1141 or email me at miltonback@msn.com. I will send copies of the play to those who volunteer so that you can become familiar with the roles. Those who play the parts can read their parts because there won't be sufficient time to practice. This will be a tremendous event and one that you don't want to miss.

Second – On Saturday evening our speaker will be Greg Back, our long-term Western US contact. The subject will be:

Go West Young Man – This saying is attributed to more than one person, but it certainly was popularized by Horace Greeley. Many Back/Bach families did indeed go west, some to get away from violence in the Eastern Kentucky mountains, and some looking for better farmland and a less-crowded place to raise their families. At our Society's Eighteenth Annual Reunion in Whitesburg, KY, in October, we will be privileged to hear about some of those folks, their history, and their present situation. Did you know that there is a Back home-place located in a National Park? The home is being restored and will be dedicated to William Back, a relative of ours who lived and worked there. After full restoration it will be used as a classroom for archeological and anthropological studies of the Sinagua (without water) Indians, who were ancient cliff-dwellers.

Here's a sample: In 1875 nineteen-year-old William Berriman Back and his older brother Othe left their parent's farm in Harrisonville, Missouri for Arizona. They were heading for the same destination (unknown if it was intentional) as a wagon train that had left Humansville, Missouri several weeks earlier. They settled in Arizona's Verde Valley and eventually William would marry one of the girls, Margie Dickinson, who had been

on that Humansville wagon train. They bought ranch property on Beaver Creek and raised horses, cattle, hogs, etc. They sold their goods in Flagstaff and at the Grand Canyon.

There is much more, but you need to attend the reunion to hear it all from a descendant of William. You do not want to miss this!

We are pleased that the group '7 South' will be with us again with their excellent playing and singing for first class entertainment. '7 South' has 7 members composed of Libby Smith, Donna Breeding, John Caudill, Lisa Braswell, Blake Breeding and Artemus & Darlene Campbell. We will provide time to look at their albums and other memorabilia following their performance.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the members of the Planning Committee for their time and assistance in organizing the meeting and for their commitment to BBGS. Those present included Don and Betty Back, Richard Smith, Stella Elam, Bernie Back, Virgil (Bud) Flannery and myself. We trust we will see you in October.