



BBS

Volume 16, No. 2

Back/Bach Genealogical Society

Descendant News

April, 2009

NEWSLETTER

By Danny Back

I hope you enjoyed my first issue as editor of the Back/Bach Genealogical Society's Descendant News. In this newsletter I have included several Back family history articles.

The purpose of any news letter is to keep members of the organization informed about the past, present and future. In each issue I would like to include articles about the family, notice of events, birth and death announcements and updates to the family genealogy. To this end we need your help.

Would you please send me any information you would like to share with the Back family.

I have received some excellent material for the newsletter from members and I thank them. It will be included in future issues.

Danny Back
P. O. Box 63
Patriot, IN
47038

e-mail dlback@earthlink.net

2009 BACK-BACH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING

On April 15 2009 the steering committee met at the Pine Mountain Grill in Whitesburg to plan the fall meeting.

The meeting will be held the second week of October.

Friday October 9th

Fridays activities will be the Cemetery project discussed in the last issue of the newsletter. Details of the cemeteries chosen and the needs will be discussed in the next newsletter.

An alternative activity is being planned for those not wishing to work at the cemetery.

The Friday evening gathering and social will be held at one of the local restaurants.

Several new restaurants are being evaluated for our get together.

Saturday October 10th

Registration will be held from 10 to 12 at the Pine Mountain Grill. Saturday afternoon will feature the business meeting.

The evening program will feature the banquet followed by the a guest speaker and entertainment.

The final activity of the evening will be the auction. Please bring items to auction off.

Previous auctions were very successful and lively. Richard Smith does a wonderful job as auctioneer. The society wishes to thank Richard for his hard work. We would also like to thank all of those who regularly donate items such as Earl Back's hand made wood crafts to Judy Rogers, Thelma Martin and others who spend a great deal of time preparing hand crafted quilts, purses, cards and numerous other items all for the benefit of Back-Bach Society.

Details of the event are being finalized. They will be published in detail along with a sign-up sheet in the next issue of the newsletter.

New web site

By Dan Back

One of the most exciting events of the planning meeting was a demonstration by Bernie Back of a new Back-Bach web site.

The original Back-Bach web site was developed by Mona Proctor. It was maintained by Mona and resided on the computers owned by her company. In 2000 her husband's untimely death led to

the closure of the company and the shutting down of the web site.

In 2001 Greg Back from Jacksonburg Ohio began working with Mona to take over ownership of the Back-Bach web site name. Greg was successful and in 2001 created the current www.Back-Bach.com web site.

Because of other commitments Greg was only able to maintain the site not enhance it so it has remained relatively unchanged since it was created.

The Web site has been a topic of discussion at each planning meeting. We needed a web site that was dynamic that could be changed quickly as the information changed. Bernie presented exactly what we were looking for at the planning meeting.

The web site was developed by Bernie's granddaughter Hannah Back. The site can be found at the following address:

www.theback-bachfamily.com

The site contains information about the society and its officers, all news letters, A family photo album section, the contents of the entire Back-Bach CD, and information about Back cemeteries. The site is administered by Bernie Back.

I have been working with computers for about 40 years so I recognize the skill required to develop this site. I must complement Hannah on what a wonderful job she has done. This site will help the Back-Bach Genealogical Society grow and prosper.

Remember the web site address is:

www.theback-bachfamily.com

The Society would like to say a special thanks to Mona Proctor and Greg Back for their work in creating and maintaining the Back-Bach web site over the years.

DEATH & BURIAL OF THE MEMBERS OF THE BACK FAMILY

by Stephen Bowling

Editors note: Our guest speaker at last falls meeting was Stephen Bowling Director, Breathitt County Public Library and Heritage Center. Stephen told some fascinating stories about Back relatives. The following is one of those stories.

J. J. C. Bach left his mark on Breathitt

On several occasions, "History Today" has taken time to look back at several of Breathitt County's most influential people. This week we look only briefly at the life of one of Jackson's most prominent attorneys: John J. Crittenden Bach.

The following biographical sketch of Judge Bach was compiled by Thomas Collins, with the assistance of Judge Bach's wife. The completed sketch appeared in Collins' History of Kentucky on page 623.

"Breathitt County and the entire Judicial District of which it is a part holds the name of John J. Crittenden Bach in grateful remembrance. He was a high minded lawyer, a keen and intelligent citizen, and in climbing up the difficult ladder of success he rendered service that was never compensated by

his individual rewards. In the later years, he was a associated in practice with his son, Granis, who still carries on the profession of law at Jackson. John J. Crittenden Bach was born February 12, 1861 on Quicksand Creek, three miles above Jackson, being a son of James and Martha (Hagins) Bach, both natives of Breathitt County, and a grandson of John Bach whose ancestors came from North Carolina as pioneers. James Bach, who died when about fifty years of age, was a farmer, a leading Democrat in his community, and served four years as County Judge.

John J. Crittenden Bach attended school on Quicksand, and also at Rosehill Academy in Virginia and spent two years at old Central University at Richmond, Kentucky.

For three years he was a teacher and read law in Jackson and was admitted to the bar after his marriage, which occurred in 1887. He practiced in the courts of Perry, Knott, Letcher, Wolfe and other counties besides his home county of Breathitt, and was distinguished for his well rounded ability to handle every class of practice. He was appointed special judge on many occasions. Judge Bach acquired his education after many years of youth and boyhood. His people are in comparatively in modest circumstances, and the money to pay for his higher schooling he earned as a worker in the timber. Later as an attorney, he represented several coal and timber companies.

Judge Bach married Mary Hurst, who was born in

Breathitt County in 1861, daughter of Hardin Hurst. She is still living at Jackson. Judge and Mrs. Bach were active Presbyterians, and he was an official of the church and a liberal giver to both church and educational causes. The two sons are Grannis and Herschel. Herschel Bach was born May 3, 1891, and finished his education at Lees Collegiate Institute and is now deputy county clerk.

Grannis Bach was born July 8, 1889, attended Lees Collegiate Institute, and graduated from Centre College at Danville in 1909. He spent a year in the Law School of the University of Michigan, and from his admission to the bar was associated in practice with his father until the latter's death, which occurred on June 21, 1915. Grannis was elected Police Judge, but soon resigned that office.

In 1914, he married Evelyn Crawford, daughter of S. J. Crawford, of Irvine, but formerly of Jackson. Mr. and Mrs. Grannis Bach have four children: Mary F., Nancy H., Josephine, and Stephen. Mr. Grannis Bach is a Democrat in politics."

Today Judge J. J. C. Bach and his wife and several of their descendants lie in the peaceful confines of the Sewell Cemetery on Marcum Heights in the city of Jackson.

MEMORIES

By Dan Back

A few months ago I had the opportunity to attend a workshop on writing your personal genealogy. A key part of the talk was preserving your memories. I realized how very few memories I have of my

childhood. After the meeting I was talking to one of my sisters telling her I could not remember a thing about my childhood. She started laughing and told me she had had the very same conversation with my three other sisters. They were at lunch and began trying to remember what foods they ate at as children.

I decided to write down what I could remember. I started by doing a "brain dump". I jotted down notes about anything I could remember. Next I took my notes and divided them into subjects and began creating full sentences and paragraphs out of them. I had a section on home life as a child; what did I play with; what did we eat; where did we travel; transportation; school days; military service; dating and getting married; houses I lived in and neighborhood and neighbors; events in my children's lives; and work experiences.

I eventually came up with about 20 pages just on my childhood and the neighborhood I grew up in. I shared my writings with my sisters. They were thrilled to receive a copy as this brought back some of their memories.

Working on my memories brought out things I had never thought about. One realization was how isolated I was from the world. For example, we lived in a small community (Gano) north of Cincinnati with less than 25 houses. We seldom ventured outside of Gano, had no television, only one radio tuned to a country music station and did not get a newspaper. I had no idea that the Korean War was going on until

I learned about it in high school.

Not all of my memories were pleasant ones. We tend to forget the bad times and remember the good. Unfortunately, many of our most vivid memories are bad. These memories help explain why we feel or react the way we do to events in our lives.

By now you are wondering what my memories have to do with Back family history. The sad truth is in today's "instant world" with telephones, Cell phones, texting, internet, e-mail, instant messaging and digital photography we are losing our oral and written history.

I have been working with historical societies for over 20 years. I have found the most prized possession of these societies is their collection of written documents. These take the form of letters, journals, legal documents, notes written on a scrap of paper and newspapers.

As I helped develop the "Life on the Ohio Museum" in Vevay Indiana and the "Historic Patriot Museum" in Patriot Indiana I discovered a disturbing fact. The history contained in these museums and most museums and libraries diminishes after 1940. The older the history the more we have.

I think one of the contributing factors to this missing history is how people communicate. At one time getting a letter or greeting card was a prized possession and people kept them. Many kept journals and diaries of their daily life. Legal records were hand written. Photographs were printed and shared. Newspapers con-

tained a wealth of local information.

Telephones, cell phones, texting and e-mail have replaced the written letter, post card and greeting card. YouTube and My Space have replaced the journal and diaries. Unfortunately, these forms of communication are view and delete never to be seen again.

Many think they can get anything they want from the internet. To be on the internet the information had to exist in written form first. Unfortunately, the information found on the internet is written at such a high level that it loses personal and emotional content.

Newspapers are struggling because of the "instant world". National headlines are on the internet. However, we are losing historic details that would be valuable to future generations. Examples are: What were the local businesses; who were the community leaders; what was going on in the schools; what was going on in the community; deaths and births; and significant local events.

How many of you have hundreds or thousands of digital photographs on your computer? When people are asked, "if you could only save one thing during a fire or natural disaster what would it be". Most people say their family photographs. Are you going to unwire your computer and grab it as you run out the door?

I have been working with computers for over 40 years. I can tell you for certain that without a lot of careful planning the information currently stored on your computer will

not be here in 10 years. I can also tell you that the media you are storing your information and photographs on will be obsolete in less than 5 years. The written word and printed photographs are the only way to carry your legacy forward for future generations.

What I am getting at is to encourage you to begin writing your memories and share them with your family. Take your photographs and document when the picture was taken, where it was taken and who is in the picture. I would also like for you to share your memories and photographs with the Genealogy Society.

Here are some questions to begin collecting your memories:

Where did you grow up?
What was the neighborhood like?
What was your house like?
What did you eat?
What did you play with?
What was your first job?
What jobs have you held?
Who did you work with?
Where did you shop?
What cars did you have?

CORRECTION TO ARTICLE

We have an addition to the article in the last issue of the newsletter titled "The origins of the Back/Bach Genealogical Society". We wish to recognize that Ray Back served as treasurer from the beginning when the book committee was formed through the formation and growth of the Society until his death in 2007.

THE ARMCHAIR GENEALOGIST

By Vanda Galen

The expansion of the Internet has made genealogy research much easier. It is no longer necessary to travel to distant sites and pore over dusty archives. From the comfort of our homes or public libraries, we can retrace the hard work of past researchers and, perhaps, discover new records. More information becomes available online each day. Following are a few sites that will yield instant rewards.

We ask that readers help develop this list with reports from sites that have added to their knowledge of family history.

Library of Virginia

Among the online searchable documents held by the Library of Virginia (<http://ajax.lva.lib.va.us>) are land office records, archives, and manuscripts from the colonial area. During the Depression, WPA workers also recorded genealogical records from family Bibles and transcribed gravestones from family cemeteries.

As examples of the holdings, you can find in Land Office Grants, No. 5, 1786, p. 309 that Joseph Bach and Stephen Jett recorded 791 acres on the waters of Slate Creek in what was then Fayette County, Kentucky. Usually, a photocopy of the original handwritten document is available. Some other family records that I have found were written and signed by Patrick Henry.

You can also find that John

Back and Henry Back appeared in Class 95 of the draft registers of Culpeper County for recruiting Virginia's quota of troops to serve in the Continental Army.

Kentucky Secretary of State Land Office

A search of the Secretary of State Land Office (<http://sos.ky.gov>) for "Back" yields 45 results. You can find the patent number, the grant book and page, county, survey name, and grant date, grantee, acreage, watercourse and survey date. Searching further by patent number or grantee, you find a photocopy of the original documents.

Included in the database are several records of John Back and later, John Back, Jr. adding to holdings in Breathitt County along Quicksand Creek and Meatscaffold Branch. John P. Back, Lewis Back, Henry Back, Henry Back, Jr., and Samuel Back are the grantees for plots of land along Rockhouse Fork of the Kentucky River in Letcher County. Stephen Back records land along Loveless Branch in Breathitt and Solomon Back is the grantee for land on Licking River in Magoffin County.

The National Park Service

A search for Civil War Soldiers from Kentucky at (<http://www.itd.nps.gov>) shows 30 Backs, ranging alphabetically from Alford Back, a Confederate infantry man in the 5th Regiment, Kentucky Mounted Infantry to William H. Back who served in the same unit. Another click of the computer mouse gives information on that regiment:

5th Regiment, Kentucky Mounted Infantry

5th Infantry Regiment, assembled during the late summer of 1861, included Freeman's Kentucky Infantry Battalion. Its members were raised in the counties of Pendleton, Breathitt, Morgan, Magoffin, Bath, Owen, Grant, Jessamine, Henderson, Harrison, Shelby, and Franklin. Being a twelve-month unit, when it became time to reenlist some of its members refused and were transferred to the 9th Kentucky Regiment. Later men of the 5th did reenlist for the duration of the war. It became part of the Orphan Brigade or Louisville Legion. The regiment reported 134 casualties in the Battle of [Shiloh](#), then was active at [Baton Rouge](#) before being assigned to Kelly's and J.H. Lewis' Brigade, Army of Tennessee. It was prominent at [Chickamauga](#) and later took an active part in the [Atlanta](#) Campaign. In the fall of 1864 it was mounted, aided in the defense at Savannah, and fought in the Carolinas. The unit had 91 men disabled at Chickamauga, totaled 201 men and 165 arms in December, 1863, and surrendered on April 26, 1865. Its field officers were Colonels Hiram Hawkins, Andrew J. May, and John S. Williams; Lieutenant Colonels John W. Caldwell and George W. Conner' and Majors Richard Hawes and William Mynheir. One more click will reveal the names of all soldiers in that regiment.

The National Park Service site also underscores the division that the Civil War wrought in families. Nine of the 30 list-

ings are for Union Volunteers, including Jacob F. Back who served in the 22nd Regiment, Kentucky Infantry which was organized in Louisa. The regiment was involved in the occupation of Paintsville and Prestonsburg, Kentucky and the March, 1862, expedition to Pound Gap. The unit later fought at Chickasaw Bluff, and took part in the siege of Vicksburg. The regiment lost three officers and 48 enlisted men to mortal wounds. Three officers and 145 enlisted men died of disease.

Poetry Corner

Editors note: At the age of 80 my mother Lois Back decided to write poetry. She wrote poems until she was 83. During that time she wrote about 250 poems. She wrote about daily life, growing up in Kentucky and generally what was on her mind. We published the poems into a book for the family. Some of these books were sold at the last society auction. I will include some of her poetry from time to time for your enjoyment.

OLD ROCKING CHAIR

By Lois (Hampton) Back

Did you ever have
An old rocking chair
And rock back and forth
With never a care

Our neighbor Rich
Could make the best
When you rocked
It walked from east to west

He never measured.
Held one piece to the other
Made chairs for years

For everyone and his brother.

I'm tired today.

Can't get myself to move
Keep thinking of our old
rocker.

It sure would put me in the
grove.

They were not very pretty
With their high ladder back
We would sit backwards
Legs hanging through the
crack.

The chairs would last
Over a hundred years.
Moms always rocked their ba-
bies
They loved the little dears.

We were rocked to sleep
Til we were several months old.
Rolled up in a blanket
So we wouldn't get cold.

We were never
Layed in bed for a nap.
She rocked us to sleep
Cuddled in her lap.

Mom would have never
Left us alone overnite
Making us feel secure
Got us started off right.

Each one slept with mom
Until the next baby arrived.
Then we slept with a sister.
I wonder how we all survived

Lois

STEERING COMMITTEE CONTACTS:

Milton Back
(304)744-1141
4201 Japonica Lane
Charleston, WV 25312
miltonback@msn.com

*Represents and promotes the
Society oversees general op-
erations; collects, reviews
and edits genealogical data;*

*responds to general inquir-
ies and acts as meeting host.*

**Danny Back, Vice-
President and Newsletter
editor**

(812) 594-2628
P.O. Box 63
Patriot, IN 47038
dback@earthlink.net

Organize and publish the De-
scendant News

Stella Elam,
Executive Director (606) 633-
8941

4638 Hwy 7 South
Blackey, KY 41804
*Collects dues and fees;
maintains and reports on
financial, membership and
administrative records;
coordinates meetings, reg-
istration and special pro-
jects.*

Billie Jo Caudill, Treasurer
(606) 633-0640
357 Judy Branch
Blackey, KY 41804
Manages financial accounts.

REGIONAL CONTACTS:

South Carolina: Karen Back
334 Crepe Myrtle Dr.
Greer, SC 29651

Houston. Patrick J. Back
18627 So. Lyford Dr.
Katy, TX 77449
(281) 550-8656

Southeast:
Shirley Back Fowler
15874 Hancock Rd.
Sarasota, FL 34240
sugfox@juno.com

West: Greg Back
20702 El Toro Rd. #130
Lake Forest, CA 92630
gregback@netzero.com

Membership Drive

The current membership year ends June 30th. Unless you are a lifetime member, please use the form enclosed to renew your annual membership. Society membership assures that you will receive the Descendant News, membership directory, and meeting notices.

Members recently received a membership directory for the current year. Please refer to your directory and see if you know of someone who is not a member but might like to join the Society. Back/Bach descendants and their spouses are invited to join, and other interested persons are welcome. Please feel free to copy your application form to enroll new members.

If you have any hesitation about joining or renewing your membership, or about asking others to join the Society, take a moment to reflect on the rich history of the Back/Bach family. Our ancestral roots go deep, nourished through the centuries by individual experiences and contributions to the efforts of early Germany to become a unified country; to young colonial America becoming a free united society; and to the advancement of the United States today. As we, the present generation of Back/Bach descendants, draw strength from our ancestral roots, we should be challenged to do our part to nourish those roots for future generations. Please join us in passing this rich family heritage to our young people.

Note:

Membership dues are now payable for the year beginning July 1st. A renewal form is included for your convenience.

2008 BACK FAMILY HISTORY CD

For those of you not familiar with the Back/Back books "A Back Family History" were a two volume set published in 1994 by the Back/Bach genealogy society. This was not a commercial venture but information about the Back's by the Back's. The books contain information on over 36000 people tracing the family back to the 1500's. A limited run of 500 copies of the books were printed. The books are now out of print and the plates were destroyed.

In 2001 the books were re-issued on a CD. In 2005 an update to the books was created.

The 2008 BACK FAMILY HISTORY on CD is now available. This new CD looks similar to the original books with all the additions and corrections. The CD contains records for about 27,000 relatives. The price for this CD is \$25 including postage. All proceeds go to the Society to continue their work.

The new CD contains updates on branches of the family we had very little information about. Some 3000 new names were added and over 2500 individual entries were edited.

The comprehensive index contains over 40,000 names. This new index tells how each individual fits into the family (i.e. child of, spouse of, etc.) Also the index is easier to search as the names are listed as full names (i.e. Henry Edward Back) and Last name, first name (i.e. Back, Henry Edward).

If interested complete the form below.

A BACK FAMILY HISTORY CD

ORDER FORM

Please Send me _____ copies of "A Back Family History 2008" CD @ \$25.00 ea. This price includes shipping, handling and tax.

Total amount of enclosed check _____.

Please do not send cash. Make Checks payable to Back/Bach Genealogical Society. We regret that we cannot accept Credit Cards. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

Return payment with this form to

Back/Bach Genealogical Society
4638 Hwy 7 South
Blackey, Ky
41804

Ship to:

Name _____.

Address _____.

City and State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

Please type or print clearly to ensure prompt delivery of the CD's

Back/Bach Genealogical Society
4638 Hwy 7 South
Blackey, Kentucky

Back/Bach Genealogical Society
Membership Application / Renewal

Descendant Name: _____ Please print name clearly as it should appear on Membership Materials.
Spouse's name goes below

Spouse's Name (only if joint membership): _____

Address: _____

City, State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Check one NEW RENEWAL

E-Mail address: _____

Back/Bach descendant number, if known/applicable: _____

Please check one to indicate level of membership desired and amount enclosed:

- REGULAR
 Individual \$7.50 per year
 Husband/Wife \$10.00 per year

∞

- SPONSOR
 Individual \$20.00 per year
 Husband/Wife \$30.00 per year

- LIFETIME
 Individual \$100.00 (One time)
 Husband/Wife \$150.00 (One time)

Annual membership covers one year from July 1 to June 30 of the following year.
Make checks payable to Back/Bach Genealogical Society. We regret that we cannot accept credit cards. Return payment with this form to:

Back/Bach Genealogical Society
4638 Hwy 7 South
Blackey, KY 41804

Recruited by (optional) _____

Your name will be placed on our mailing list immediately when your application is received. If you need extra forms or have questions about your membership status, please call Stella Elam at (606)633-8941.