



Back/Bach Genealogical Society

Descendant News

Volume 4, No. 1

June 1997

As we draw strength from our ancestral roots, we should be challenged to nourish those roots for future generations.

Looking for new members!

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.

Plan now for the

1997 Annual Society Meeting

The Annual Meeting for 1997 will be held at the Holiday Inn in Hazard, Kentucky, on Saturday, October 11th.

At the 1996 meeting, the group decided to meet in southeastern Kentucky this year, a location from which to visit some of the sites where many of the Back/Bach ancestors first settled in Kentucky. (Some stayed in the area and some moved on westward.) An article

about a historical tour planned for Saturday is included in this newsletter.

For those who choose not to take the tour, there will be a hospitality room available with refreshments, activities and visiting. The day will end with a banquet and an interesting program.

Details of the meeting and registration forms will be mailed to all members later this summer.

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Welcome, New Members

Welcome to members who have joined or renewed after the 1996-1997 Membership Directory was published:

NEW MEMBERS:

Bach, John E. Sr. and Edith
428 Independence Station Rd.
Independence KY 41041

Back, John R. Sr. and Shirley E.
5822 Monett New Winchester Rd.
Galion OH 44833-7746

Dunlop, Linda
322 Skyline Drive
Council Bluffs IA 51503

Fecek, Ronald and Caroline
209 Front Street
Brownsville PA 15417

Fraze, Wanda
1001 Orange Petal Street
Bakersfield CA 93306

Wagner, Ronald and Mrs.
521 Rader Drive
Vandalia OH 45377-2517

RENEWED MEMBERS:

Back, James C. and Bonnie K.
51 Madrid Drive
Hampton VA 23669-1844

Back, Melvin
733 North Floral
Visalia CA 93291

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Back, Roy and Evalee
2692 North Country Road 525E
Milan IN 47031

Cornett, Dover and Nadine
6790 Hartford Road
Cocoa FL 32927-8323

Ancestral History Tour

Back Across the Cumberlandns

On Saturday, October 11, 1997, all Society members are invited to join a day-long tour through some of the territory covered by their ancestors. The tour will depart from the Hazard Holiday Inn at 9:00 a.m., heading through Whitesburg to Pine Mountain and a stop at the Little Shepherd Trail, with its colorful foliage and scenic overlooks. The trail ends at Pine Mountain State Park, where we will stop for a brown bag lunch.

After lunch, the tour resumes up the Poor Fork of the Cumberland River to the area where Elizabeth Back and her family settled. Two stops in this area will include the site of Oven Fork Baptist Church, where Elizabeth and other family members worshipped, and the Maggard Cemetery, where Elizabeth is buried. Time permitting, there will be a

side visit to an Arts and Crafts Center in the Eolia community.

The next stop will be at Flat Gap, Kentucky, where Elizabeth and family entered Kentucky. From there, we will return back across Pine Mountain to Whitesburg, and then to the cemetery where Henry Jr. and Susanna Maggard Back are buried. At that cemetery we will attend the dedication of a Confederate marker for Lewis Back, son of Henry Jr. and Susanna, by the Sons of the Confederacy. After that historic occasion, we will return to Hazard in time for the evening session of the Society's Annual Meeting.

Further information about the tour and reservation forms will be provided later this summer with Annual Meeting details. (*Tour information provided by Stella Elam and Ray and Beulah Back.*)

*See where early
Back/Bach ancestors
entered Kentucky;
see where they lived
and attended church,
and where some are
buried.*

*Attend the historic
dedication of a
Confederate marker
for Lewis Back,
sponsored by the
Sons of the
Confederacy.*

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Genealogy Updates

As in previous issues, we continue to publish with this newsletter significant corrections to the genealogical information contained in A Back/Bach Family History: The Story of a Major Branch of the Back/Back Family. We will continue to do so, and will include other updates and additions as funds permit. Please store these pages with your book for easy reference.

If you have significant corrections to information already published in the book and wish to have such corrections distributed via this newsletter, please send to: Back/Bach Genealogical Society, PO Box 273, Morehead KY 40351. Identify sources or documentation, and type/number/format whenever possible.

If you did not receive earlier copies of the newsletter, you may purchase a complete set of corrections published to date for \$10.00. Make check payable to Back/Bach Genealogical Society and send to: Mona Proctor, 800 Main St, Paris KY 40361-1706.

Children of Burnis Vinson and Linda Faye (Johnson)

Back:

75A 43-8-4-7-1 Mark Vinson Back, born 17 November 1960 in Fort Eustis VA. He married Debra Susan Fender, 20 June 1982, in Dillon SC. Debra was born 8 April 1962 in Ann Arbor MI.

Children of Mark Vinson and Debra Susan (Fender)

Back:

75A 4-3-9-4-7-1-1 Julian Patrick Back, born 31 March 1987 in Wilmington NC.

75A 4-3-9-4-7-1-2 Carter Eanes Back, born 19 April 1990 in Wilmington NC.

75A 4-3-9-4-7-1-3 Hannah Lauren Back, born 28 Feb 1992 in Wilmington NC.

Children of Thomas Lee and Darlene Kaye (Mitchell)

Back:

75F 10-11-7-2-1 Anna Grace Back, born 21 August 1996 in Somerville NJ.

Old Letter Hints at Military Preparedness

At the Beginning of the Century

Following is an excerpt from a letter written by Oscar Back of Fort Monroe, Virginia, on January 1, 1904, to his cousin, Harvey Back, of Indian Bottom, Ky. This letter was shared by Coy Back, son of Harvey Back. Other sons of Harvey Back are Earl and William Burl Back. After several pages of personal information, Oscar concludes his letter with these observations:

"Say, you ought to come out here on a visit and see what a fine fort we have. It is one of the largest and strongest in the world. And some of the best guns and we certainly know how to use them too, you can bet on that.

In one of our target practices last year we fired five shots in four minutes and twenty seconds from a twelve-inch gun at a range of 800 yards and made four hits out of five. We beat the record all right. So you could guess what we could do for a fleet of war vessels if they was to

come in here. Tell all my people hello for me and anyone who cares to write to me will get an early answer.

*Your only cousin,
Oscar Back
35th Co. C.A."*

Note: The address of Indian Bottom is now Blackey, Kentucky, which is a short distance from Hazard.

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Society Goals:

The Back/Bach Genealogical Society was formed in 1993 in Kentucky, representing a major branch of the Back/Bach family in the United States. This family line can be traced and documented back to Germany in the 1500's.

Hermann Bach immigrated to the U.S. in 1738 and settled in the Virginia colony. He died in Garrard County, Kentucky, in 1799. Many Bach and Back families in the United States today are his descendants.

Upon arrival Hermann's name was Americanized to Harman Back. The "Back" and "Bach" spellings of the surname are both used today, as are a number of other variations. Usage is a matter of family tradition and personal preference; both are 'correct.'

To help promote its goals, the Society holds annual meetings, publishes a newsletter, and also sponsors publications. Our members hail from all across the country. We hereby extend a personal invitation to everyone who has an interest in supporting our goals. Please join us in exploring our roots and sharing our proud heritage!

- ♦ To collect, preserve and share genealogical, biographical and historical data regarding the Back/Bach families in America.
- ♦ To encourage greater understanding and appreciation of our common heritage.
- ♦ To provide a means for family members to become better acquainted and to keep in touch with each other.

Membership Benefits:

- ♦ **Annual Meeting:** An opportunity to visit with relatives you haven't seen for a while, and to meet new cousins! We schedule a variety of programs and speakers on topics of interest. There is no charge for members to attend, except for the price of the optional banquet meal.
- ♦ **Membership Card** (for all members): Wallet size, laminated.
- ♦ **Membership Certificate** (for new members who join at the Sponsor and Lifetime level): Featuring laser-printed calligraphy on heavy parchment paper with a decorative border; personalized with your name and membership information. Suitable for framing.
- ♦ **Newsletter:** Published periodically, containing articles of general interest relating to Society goals and activities. Reader input and queries are invited.

1996-1997 Officers:

President:	Dr. Reedus Back PO Box 273, Morehead KY 40351 (606-784-4730)
Vice-President:	James Gary Back 414 Monticello Blvd., Lexington KY 40503 (606-223-8034)
Secretary:	Carmolyn Back 414 Monticello Blvd., Lexington KY 40503 (606-223-8034)
Treasurer:	Ray Back PO Box 282, Blackey KY 41804 (606-633-9974)
Financial Secretary:	Stella Elam HC71 Box 282, Blackey KY 41804 (606-633-8941)