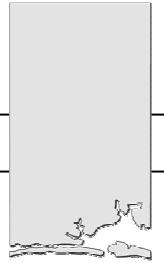


GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF OKALOOSA COUNTY

P.O. Box 1175, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-1175

April 2010



GSOC Calendar

April 10. Regular GSOC meeting at 10 AM at the Heritage Museum, 115 Westview Ave., Valparaiso, FL. Farris Powell, a Seminole/Creek Indian, presents a historical impression of the Seminole warrior around 1800; optional Dutch treat lunch at a local restaurant afterwards. Bring a guest!

May 8. Field trip to the West Florida Genealogical Library, 5740 N. 9th Ave., Pensacola, FL. Shown as "A" on the map below.



Please plan your travel to arrive at the library by 10:00 AM. Bring anything you need to make the best use of the resources that will be available. There will be no officers' meeting in May.

June 12. Regular GSOC meeting at the Heritage Museum at 10 AM followed by an optional Dutch treat lunch at a nearby restaurant.

July 10. Regular GSOC meeting at the Heritage Museum, 10 AM; optional Dutch treat lunch.

MINUTES OF THE GSOC GENERAL MEETING

January 9, 2010

President Malcolm Flanagan called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. at the Heritage Museum in Valparaiso FL. There were 17 members and 2 guests attending.

The December 2009 minutes were read and approved.

New Business:

Malcolm thanked Phil & Marsha Trau for arranging the December Christmas luncheon and providing the musical entertainment. The blue collection box was passed to collect funds for the purchase of library books. Malcolm announced that the following members volunteered to continue their respective positions in 2010: Publicity: Pat Pruett, Historian: Sue Basch, and Genealogist: Margaret Harris

Budget: Bob Basch, announced the balance for the treasury was \$2,444.90.

Membership: Lorna Sainz is collecting the 2010 membership dues. Single and corporate dues are \$24.00 and family is \$35.00. Insure you complete a renewal sheet so that your contact information remains correct. As a reminder please check your email address.

Washington County Historical Society will be holding a workshop on Historical Preservation at 2:00 o'clock on the 25th of January 10, 2010, in Chipley.

A suggestion was made to consolidate the genealogy material into one library. However, due to the volume of material and separation of the population centers of Crestview, Fort Walton Beach, and Valparaiso/Niceville, the idea was rejected. Another suggestion was made to insure that genealogical materials should be cataloged at each library so that any Okaloosa county resident visiting any library could locate any available resource in the county. There was a discussion of GSOC representatives to local libraries. The representatives will act as liaisons between GSOC and the libraries to assist, where possible, in any genealogical issues. The following are the representatives; Fort Walton Beach. Hilma Jenus; Valparaiso Library: Beverly Gross; and Crestview Library: Open (Representative is still needed.)

Newsletter. Malcolm is going to be publishing the last newsletter in the next week. GSOC as yet does not have a volunteer to publish the newsletter and would like a volunteer. Several members offered to assist but none has volunteered to chair the newsletter publication.

Beverly Gross contacted Dan Braxton's widow. She would like to donate the materials left behind by Dan. Beverly agreed to coordinate the review of the materials and asked for volunteers for assistance.

Vice President Donna Elliott introduced next month's program. February is the 34th anniversary of the GSOC. There will be a birthday celebration to include a cake. Members were asked to provide a 5 to 10 minute presentations on their genealogical research. A sign-up sheet was provided. The March 2010 presentation will be by Charlene Grafton, titled Genes Genetics & Genealogy. Donna then introduced Beverly Gross who provided a program titled "Recipe for Genealogy".

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, February 13, 2010, at the Heritage Museum. No further business, meeting adjourned and 16 attendees met for lunch at Woody's Hog Heaven in Niceville.

-- Officer's Meeting January 9, 2010 --

Present: Malcolm Flanagan, Mike Martell, Donna Elliot, Ken Elliot, Bob Basch, James Young, Lorna Sainz, and Beverly Gross. The meeting was held at 9:00 a.m. at the heritage museum, Valparaiso, FL.

Old Business:

Bob Basch reported that he had gotten a bill for bulk postage renewal. The cost was \$185.00 for the year. After discussion it was agreed to renew the bulk postage permit.

State tax exempt status was approved for renewal. (Cost approximately \$65.00)

It was suggested we notify members each year when dues need to be paid. May need to add a notice to renew dues to the newsletter. It was decided that corporate membership will be \$24.00. Corporate membership will be entitled to newsletter and journal. We received corporate membership from Genealogical Society of Utah, Daughters of American Revolution, and Allen County Historical Society.

Discussion on the creation of the journal was tabled till next meeting.

The Treasurer, Correspondence Secretary, and VP Membership will meet separately to establish their procedures for handling new members and renewing member funds. It was agreed to allow the Correspondence Secretary to open all mail sent to GSOC mailbox and distribute the mail as deemed appropriate.

It was agreed that the proposed expenses for 2010 are;
\$500.00 printing of Journals
\$65.00 State tax exempt status
\$90.00 Mailing
\$185.00 Bulk mailing permit
\$90.00 every two months (five occasions for total of \$450.00) for Program costs.
\$250.00 for corporate membership in the Heritage Museum

We received \$250.00 in donations to GSOC. A suggestion was made to purchase a copier with the money. However, there is no place to store the copier and not many copies are made for each meeting. It was decided to pay the Heritage Museum for the few copies needed by GSOC each month.

Journals and newsletters we received are sent to the Fort Walton Beach Library

Next officers meeting at 0900 on the 13th of February 2010 in the Heritage Museum. Meeting adjourned at 10:00

MINUTES OF THE GSOC GENERAL MEETING February 13, 2010

President Malcolm Flanagan called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. at the Heritage Museum in Valparaiso FL. There were 19 members and 2 guests attending. The January 2009 minutes were read and approved.

New Business:

Malcolm welcomed Christina Haughabao and Melody Ray as new visitors. Beverly Gross gave a report on the Journal progress. The Journal team met and hopes to have the Journal ready in March or April. Beverly asked for assistance. Malcolm Flanagan reported that a Blog will be started for GSOC. Chuck Licari will manage the Blog. A volunteer was asked to be the Crestview Library Liaison for GSOC. Martha Trau agreed to be the Crestview GSOC Liaison. The blue collection box was passed to collect funds for the purchase of library books.

Budget: Bob Basch announced the balance for the treasury was \$2,898.60.

Membership: Lorna Sainz reported that 23 Members renewed their membership

Corresponding secretary: Jim Young said he sent out two thank you letters for the recent donations received by GSOC. Jim said any letters that look like checks were opened. If the letter is a membership form the check and form are scanned. The scanned copy of the membership form is emailed to Lorna to add to the membership rolls. Checks are sent to the treasurer.

Historian: Sue Basch, brought photo albums and materials starting in 1976 onward showing the GSOC activities and members.

Vice President Donna Elliott introduced the program and cake was furnished in celebration of the 34th anniversary of GSOC.

Mr. and Mrs. Wagner were in attendance and were recognized as 1976 charter members. Other recognized for their long service include; Marsha Cox, Margaret Harris, Walt Ruckel, Rita Bartmess, Chuck Licari, Beverly Gross, and Flo Lembeck

Donna listed many accomplishments of the GSOC in the last 34 years. These include; three surveys of local cemeteries, digitizing funeral records, producing multiple journals, compiling marriage records for Walton and Santa Rosa county and attending state and national genealogy conventions as well as assisting many in genealogy research.

Donna provided the upcoming program schedule: in March Charlene Grafton, will present Genes Genetics & Genealogy; and the April 10th meeting will have Farris Powell presenting "Blue Heron Living history" a Creek Seminole around 1800". Mr. Farris will appear in Indian costume.

The May 18th meeting will be a field trip to West Florida Genealogy Library on PJC Campus. This library was opened on the 26th of January. A map will be provided to assist in locating the Library.

Donna Elliott then introduced members to give their presentations. These included Jim Young, Martha Trau, Bob Sutherland, Phil Trau, and Pat Pruett

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, March 13, 2010, at the Heritage Museum. No further business, meeting adjourned and 11 attendees met for lunch at Ruby Tuesdays in Niceville.

-- Officer's Meeting February 13, 2010 --

Present: Malcolm Flanagan, Mike Martell, Donna Elliot, Bob Basch, James Young, Lorna Sainz, and Beverly Gross. The meeting was held at 9:00 a.m. at the heritage museum, Valparaiso, FL.

Old Business:

Beverly Gross reported that the Journal group met and that March would be the target date for Journal preparation.

New Business:

A discussion on the web page ended in keeping a single web page advertising GSOC to include meeting times and location. It was also suggested we include an email address. Mike Martell

will create an email address and send address and password to all officers. This email should be added to the web page.

Corresponding secretary: Jim Young said he sent out two thank you letters for the recent donations received by GSOC. Jim said any letters that look like checks were opened. If the letter is a membership form the check and form are scanned. The scanned copy of the membership form is emailed to Lorna Sainz to add to the membership rolls. Checks are sent to the treasurer.

Membership: Lorna Sainz reported that 23 members had renewed.

Discussion on a change to the by-laws concerning the officers tenure. Article 12 (Oct 11,2008) was passed but not incorporated. Lorna Sainz will incorporate change.

It was suggested that a list of members who wish to volunteer should be created so officers can use when activities need to be staffed. Lorna Sainz will create the list. It was suggested that GSOC officer visit the storage unit and review contents for consolidation.

Next officers meeting at 0900 on the 13 of March 2010 in the Heritage Museum.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00

Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County
Officers Meeting, March 13, 2010

The March meeting of GSOC officers was held in the Heritage Museum, Valparaiso, beginning at 9:00 AM on March 13, 2010. It was called to order by Malcolm Flanagan, GSOC President.

Those present were: Malcolm Flanagan, Beverly Gross, Donna Elliott, Bob Basch, Jim Young, and Pat Pruett. Those absent due to a death in the family were Lorna Sainz and Michael Martell.

Malcolm had printed several copies of an expanded renewal form which were placed on the registration desk. Since Lorna Sainz was absent, Bob Basch agreed to pick up any renewal forms that were accomplished at the general meeting today.

The minutes from the previous meeting on February 13th were read. A minor typo in the sentence, "It was suggested that GSOC officer visit the storage..." was corrected to add an 's' to 'officer'. The minutes were approved with this correction. Since the Recording Secretary could not be here, Malcolm asked Jim Young to take the minutes for this meeting.

Bob Basch reported the status of the book account. The expenditure in 2009 for library books was \$54. Roughly \$66 has been collected so far this year and two donations, totaling \$250, have also been received in Dan Braxton's memory. This led to a

discussion of which books would be appropriate and how much should be spent to acquire them. The Valparaiso librarian has provided us a list of genealogical/historical books which the library would like to have and Beverly has reviewed it. Since Dan did quite a bit of Alabama research, a book on north Alabama historical bibliography and another on the Walker County, AL, records were recommended by Beverly for purchase. There are other good candidates on the list if we have the funds for them. After some discussion, it was agreed that we spend at least \$250 on books in Dan's memory. These will be ordered by Beverly with Bob providing a GSOC check for the books, handling, and postage. The books will be sent to the GSOC post office address. After they arrive, they will be stamped as GSOC property and then presented to the Valparaiso Library.

It was suggested that the presentation to the library be publicized, and there was some discussion about the difficulty in getting the Bay Beacon to publicize GSOC activities. Martha Trau will be asked to get a similar book list from the Crestview Library and Hilma Jenus to get a list from the Fort Walton Beach Library.

Bob Basch continued the treasurer's report with the status of the regular account. When the budget for 2010 was drawn up, it was expected that there would be an approximate \$500 deficit for 2010. However, as of today, the renewals are running a little behind and we might have about a \$700 deficit. This is no immediate concern since we have funds left over from last year. However, if this deficit grows much beyond this we'll need to take some appropriate action. The current balance in the regular account is \$3106.37. It was suggested that Lorna contact members who have not renewed and remind them. Wording such as "Dues are due, we miss you!" could be used. A copy of Malcolm's expanded renewal form could be attached to these reminders.

The revised bylaws have been distributed by email. Paper copies have been made for the officers and a copy should be provided to the historian. Beverly suggested that we should put the effective date of the update in the header. That date is October 11, 2008. Lorna will be asked to add that date to the official copy.

There was considerable discussion concerning a GSOC web page. There are several possibilities for hosting it, including RootsWeb and the Florida state genealogical web site. Someone with a knowledge of HTML coding or familiarity with a program that helps create web site code will be needed. Malcolm will ask Chuck Licari if he can help and Malcolm will also investigate the possibility of our page being part of the state site.

The need for a newsletter editor was discussed. Malcolm has been putting out a newsletter about every three months but

hasn't had any feedback concerning what these should contain and how useful the previous content has been. Since we receive quite a few newsletters from other societies, it was suggested that we collect a good sized sample of these and review them to help us decide on what ours should contain. These may also help interest someone in volunteering to become our newsletter editor. Malcolm said that our newsletters have been running about 5 pages and that about half of our members get the email version with some 25-30 paper copies also being produced. The newsletter editor discussion was tabled until we have a chance to review the samples from other societies.

The need for a GSOC Genealogist was also discussed. Beverly said that she could do this if some of her current GSOC tasks, such as library books and the Journal, could be given to others.

Data storage is a growing problem. Malcolm is looking for suggestions concerning what we should store, in what format, and where to store it. Several of the officers will go over after lunch today and see what we have in the current storage site. Malcolm also has some GSOC material at his home, but lots of things are missing which, hopefully, are at the current storage site. The relatively short life of digital storage media was discussed as well as the constant evolution of new media and new devices to read these media. We agreed that there is a need to digitize as much of our data as possible but Beverly reminded us that we need to keep at least one copy in paper form. She is willing to ask if the Valparaiso librarian would be willing to store some of our data in notebooks since it is, in fact, local history. The need for a large, high-speed scanner to convert current paper records was discussed. Donna says they have a good high-speed scanner at the bank where she works. If someone got our documents ready, she could use the bank machine after hours to convert them to PDF form. The time-consuming activity will be to get them ready to be scanned (remove staples, paper clips, etc.) and to decide what should be scanned.

Beverly reported that various people are working on articles for the next Journal; however, it won't be ready until April. She will need help in collating and other tasks and will ask for volunteers at the general meeting today.

Lorna has been consolidating the information from the renewal forms that indicate areas of interest and families/areas being researched. Malcolm said that this was very good information to have and that we need to work on it. Beverly mentioned that the families and areas being researched could be included in the Journal.

Lorna asked, via an email sent to the officers, if anyone knew Lisa Dunn. Lorna has received an application from her but it didn't include any dues. None of the officers knew her. Bob also mentioned an application that came in the mail without any

money. It was from Dorothy Fogle who lives in Eustis, FL, and the application form used was an old one. Jim Young was asked to write her and send her a current application. Neither Lisa Dunn nor Dorothy Fogle appear to be life members.

Donna summarized plans for the next two programs. The April program will allow us to relive the past with Blue Heron (Wah-ka-chobee), a Seminole/Creek Indian, Farris Powell, who will present a unique historical impression of the Seminole warrior at the turn of the 19th century. The May meeting will be a field trip to Pensacola to the West Florida Genealogical Library. Donna will get information about the resources that are available there and will have this for us at our April meeting. There will be no officers' meeting in May.

Jim Young asked for guidance concerning newsletters that arrive via email instead of in paper form. The group concluded that these should be forwarded to all the GSOC members who have email addresses.

Bob Basch reported that the GSOC donation to Favor House was \$300.

The officers' meeting was adjourned at 10:00.

Minutes of the GSOC General Meeting
March 2010

President Malcolm Flanagan called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM, at the meeting room of the Heritage Museum and welcomed the twenty-two members in attendance. Four guests were introduced and also welcomed.

All officers were present, with the exception of Lorna Sainz and Michael Martell who had a death in the family.

A motion was made by Donna Elliott that we dispense with reading the minutes to allow more time for our speaker. Motion was seconded by Ken Elliott and was carried.

Malcolm asked for the status on the Journal. Past Pres. Bev Gross reported that it is to be printed in April.

The Library Book donation box was passed and Pres. Malcolm explained to the visitors that this is our way of raising money for the purchase of new genealogy books for our local libraries. It was noted that cash donations to the libraries are used to pay expenses. It is best to purchase the books and donate them.

Pres. Malcolm passed around two cards to be signed. One to be sent to Chuck Licari who is recovering from surgery and one will be sent to our Recording Sec. Mike Martell on the death of his father.

He, also, passed around a notice from the Crestview Library that our members may use their Heritage Quest website.

The password and info was included for those who are interested. We have this resource at the Val-p library and the Ft. Walton Bch. library, as well.

The Webpage, blog and newsletter - No report. We need a volunteer to take over these activities.

New Business: We were encouraged to write to senators and representatives regarding the House and Senate Transportation and Economic Development committees who have adopted the position to eliminate state funding for libraries. Important to do so immediately, since the vote on this matter is set for 19 March.

Officer Reports:

Treasurer - Bob Basch said we have a checkbook balance of \$3106.37 and outstanding debts of \$255.00.

Corresponding Secretary - Mike Martell -No report

Historian - Sue Basch has displayed the photo album with pictures from the Feb. meeting. The photo album is in a scrap book format along with the pictures and very well done.

Publicity - Pat Pruett mentioned that the Bay Beacon refused to publish the pictures she sent to them from the Feb. meeting. Told they were "not news worthy." Everything else is OK.

Past President's Report - Beverly elaborated on the Journal project and requested volunteers to help her prepare it for printing. Several people offered to help.

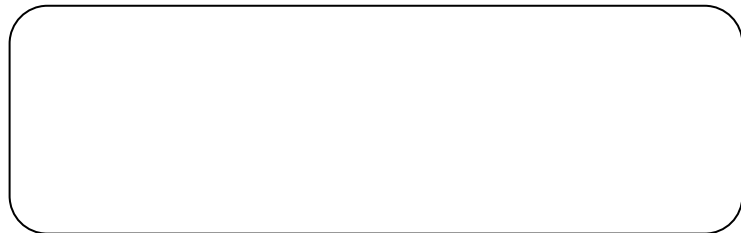
The door prize was won by guest Michelle Hughes and lunch plans were made.

Donna introduced our speaker, Charlene Grafton a lady of many accomplishments, who presented a very enlightening and interesting program on the subject of genes and genetics and the research that is taking place to treat diseases by the knowledge gained in this research. Our audience responded with enthusiasm and quite a number of questions for Charlene. She suggested we look into several websites - The Personal Genome Project, the National Institute of Health and Univ. of Utah's Tour of the Basics.

First Vice Pres. Donna Elliott reported that our April program will be presented by Ferris Powell, who is well know in Okaloosa county for his knowledge of the Creek Indians, of which tribe he is a member. He dresses in full regalia and provides an entertaining and informative program. Donna said our May meeting will be a field trip to the WF Genealogical Library located on the PJC Campus in Pensacola. We will carpool over and after the meeting we will go to lunch. The facility will be open all day so anyone interested may stay and do research.

President Malcolm adjourned the meeting at 11:40 AM.
Respectfully submitted: Pat Pruett (For Recording Sec.)

The Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County
P. O. Box 1175
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-1175



Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County

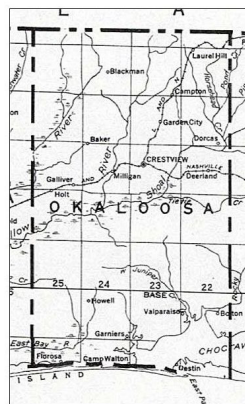
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E-mail: gsocokaloosa@yahoo.com

President, Malcolm Flanagan
1st Vice President (Programs), Donna Elliott
2nd Vice President (Membership), Lorna Sainz
Treasurer, Bob Basch
Recording Secretary, Mike Martell
Corresponding Secretary, Jim Young
Historian, Sue Basch
Genealogist TBD
Publicity, Pat Pruett
Newsletter Editor TBD

Regular meetings are held at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, 115 Westview Avenue, Valparaiso, FL, at 10 AM on the second Saturday each month. There is no admission charge and all are welcome.

Membership dues are \$24 for an individual and \$35 for an individual and spouse at the same address. Checks should be made out to GSOC and mailed to the above address or brought to a meeting.



Florida Maps

The Florida Center for Instructional Technology web site contains two great collections of maps. Over 5,000 historical maps from around the world and over 6,000 historical and contemporary maps of Florida.

The Florida maps include a great collection of historical county maps, including the one at the left. This map from 1932 is only one of many Okaloosa County maps in the collection. They can be seen and downloaded from: <http://fcit.usf.edu/florida/maps/index.htm>

History of Okaloosa County

A well-written, concise *History of Okaloosa County* by Fran Roberts is available at <http://www.fl-genweb.org/how/okaloosa/history.txt>