

# THE GSOC NEWSLETTER

The Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County, Florida

April 1, 2011

## GSOC Calendar

### April 9, 2011

Our April 9th meeting will be held in the conference room of the Holiday Inn Express in Niceville (106 Bayshore Drive, just south of Highway 20), and the speaker will be Jim Moore.



Mr. Moore is an attorney who has written books and articles about Walton County, including *Walton Wickedness*, *Walton Wanderings: A Swing and a Miss at History*, and the recent article in the Walton County Genealogical Society newsletter, *Walton County's Masonic Heritage*.

### May 14, 2011

Wayne Sconiers, President of the Walton County Genealogy Society, will be the speaker for the May 14 meeting at the Northwest Florida Heritage Museum. His presentation will be "Preserving Family Memories on CD Using Photographs and Audio Files". Members of the Walton County Genealogy Society have been invited to be our guests for this meeting.

### June 11, 2011

Our June meeting will be a field trip to the Special Collections Department of the University of West Florida Library in Pensacola. Time and carpool details will be provided as the meeting date approaches.

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## Minutes of the March 12th Meeting

President Malcolm Flanagan opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. at the Northwest Florida Heritage Museum, Val-paraiso, FL. There were 24 members and 3 guests: Megan Byron, Mary Walther and Helen Blair. Malcolm welcomed all members and guests and asked if there were any changes to the posted minutes for February. Mary Skillman made a motion to approve the February minutes as posted. The motion was seconded and approved by the membership.

Donna Elliott, First Vice President, reported no changes to the program schedule but reminded everyone that the April 9 meeting would be in the Conference Room of the Holiday Inn Express in Niceville and James Moore, a local attorney, author and narrator, would be the guest speaker. He will be talking on the early days of Walton County from his books - "Walton Wanderings" and "Walton Wickedness".

Bob Basch, Treasurer, reported a checkbook balance of \$3,247. There is \$547 in the book fund with \$200 allocated for purchase of genealogy research materials for the Crestview library.

Jim Young, Corresponding Secretary, had nothing to report at this time.

Malcolm announced:

Bob Basch will order the books for Crestview library from the list they supplied. He will get as many as the \$200 will buy.

GSOC will check with Gina Marini as to the best option to donate the \$300 to the Northwest Florida Heritage Museum.

March 16<sup>th</sup> Northwest Florida Heritage Museum is hosting "History Sandwiched In" at 11:00 a.m. It is an informal lunchtime education program, call for reservations (850) 678-2615.

March 26<sup>th</sup> Bay County Genealogical Society (BCGS) is presenting a genealogy seminar "Ancestry Detective"

by Debra Fleming. Information about the location and registration may be found in the GSOC Newsletter.

GSOC has had publicity articles in the Bay Beacon the past two weeks, thanks go to Pat Pruitt.

Beverly announced that Saturday in the Park would be on April 30. The Heritage Museum is in need of contributions for the Bake Sale. Bev, as chairman for the bake sale, circulated a sign-up sheet was for those willing to help with the event. Bev also said the Museum was in need of financial support, including new memberships.

Member, Ken Elliott, recommended that the Society consider making a regular contribution to the Museum for the use of the meeting room each month. Malcolm responded that the officers had just approved making a donation of \$300 to the Museum; however, Ken's suggestion regarding the meeting room would be discussed at the next officer's meeting.

Donna introduced today's program – Trips & Tips.

Beverly reported on her trip to the Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference in 2010 and passed around materials that she had found of interest. Her most valuable tip – take a laptop, some of the materials are now being provided on disc.

Hilma Jenus reported on how to maximize visits to facilities for genealogy research, including libraries, archives, cemeteries (oldest graves are nearest the church), etc. Her list of tips will be included in the next newsletter.

Sue and Bob Basch reported on their recent research experience at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah, and some of the items they found most valuable for their visit.

The blue box was passed to collect funds for the purchase of books for Okaloosa County genealogy libraries. The door prize was won by Marsha Cox. Eleven members went to Woody's Barbecue restaurant for lunch following the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted, Frances Hoge, Assistant Recording Secretary

## REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

**From:** Dolly Glisson <[dsglis@gmail.com](mailto:dsglis@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** Need help searching for relative

PLEASE, I need help searching for a relative who taught in Okaloosa Co elementary school in 1951-1954. I have reached a "brick wall" in my research and have been told that Margaret Wallace was an elementary teacher there between 1951-54. She had graduated from Huntington College in Alabama and took a job in your area.

Could someone please look up old teacher directories or let me know who to contact down there to find out. Thank you soooo much.

## New Member

The GSOC welcomes Mary K. Walther from Fort Walton Beach who joined on March 13th.

## Trips and Tips for Genealogy

### 1. Preparation:

- Know what you're looking for - facts? people (live or otherwise)? atmosphere of the place? Both specific and general.
- Take along copies of pedigree charts for checking names, dates, places, etc.
- Read about the area, ahead of time and while there, both non-fiction and fiction.

### 2. During the trip:

- Look for the Visitor Center, historical and/or genealogical library.
- Government offices may come in handy (not on Saturday and Sunday, though). Even real estate offices might come in handy.
- Take photos!
- Take along a laptop computer for note-taking, and a flash drive with your genealogical information on it.
- Keep a list of the names of people you've updated, if you'll need to transfer the information manually to another place such as a home computer)
- Go to local bookstores and find information on the area and perhaps on your family.
- When visiting the local "churchyard" cemetery, expect to find the oldest graves nearest the church.

### 3. After the trip:

- Make a scrapbook which will include your photos and your narrative from the trip, plus some genealogical information for your kids.

Reprinted with permission of Hilma Jenus, GSOC member and contributor (March 2011).

### Other Tips:

- Join the local genealogy and/or historical society.
- Get the name of a person at the society for future contacts.
- Take maps of the area.
- Don't forget pencils because often pens are not allowed in a library reference room.
- You might need dollar bills and change for copy machines, etc.
- Include looking for siblings and other relatives of the person you're searching for.

## Early Residents and Families in Okaloosa County

For information about these communities and towns and to see the maps showing their location, please visit  
<http://www.bakerblockmuseum.org/oldtowns.html>

**Note:** The names and families listed here are not necessarily all of the people who were early settlers or residents of these areas

Town/Community	Names and Families
Arbor Vitae	Mrs. E.T. Hart, McCallum, Bolton, Powell, Hinote, Brown, Jones, Nichols, Miller, Hart, Williams, McSwain
Austin(ville)	Austin Nichols, Powell, Trammell, Nichols.
Baker	Newton, Baker, Barrows
Barrow's Ferry	Barrow, Jeremiah Seville, Robert McKennon & Jesse Bryant
Beaver Creek	Boyette, Martin, Russell
Beech Branch	Cadenhead. Barks. Habbard. Mason, McGraw
Bethel	Bulger, Hollon, King, Steel, Stewart, Turner, Campbell, Clary, Cutts, Davidson, Davis, Howell, Thompson, Tucker.
Blackman	Taylor Blackman, Baggett, Blackman, Kennedy, Steele, Cook and Brown
Black Point	Edge, McKnight, Walton, Gibson, Spenser
Boggy	Donaldson, Anchors, Armstrong, Burleson, Edge, Meigs, Nathey, Parish, Reynolds, Spence, Walton.
Bolton	James T. Bolton
Brick	Julius M. King was postmaster
Bryant	Postmaster J. A. Bryant, later J. B. Sutton
Campton	Moore, Senterfitt
Camp Walton	John T. Brooks, Garniers, Pryor, Gerlach, Staff, Buck, Beal, Harbeson, Newton, Davis, Lewis, Eccles, Condon, Harrie, Hall, Taylor
Chaffin	Brown, Bush, Milligan, and Noyse, Seigler.
Cinco Bayou	Cocke homestead
Claroy	Harbeson, Long, Nathey
Clear Springs	Adams, Busbee, Cawthon, Fountain, George, Lundy
Cobb	Peadon
Corbet	Postmaster J.C. Corbit followed by Hilliard O. Martin and Charles D. Bass
Delaco	James Henry Long
Destin	Captain Leonard Destin, William T. Marler, Melvin, Maltezo
Dixon	Postmaster was Aram B. Dixon, later John Baggett, Jr.
Dorcas	Boothe, McSwain, Powell, Griner, Halford, Hart, Hinote, McCallum, McCellan, Miller, Spoon, Williams
Florosa	Krause Harris. James Buchanan Sutton
Franklin	W.J. Franklin was Postmaster
Galliver	Henderson, Livingston, Tullis, Reeves, Paulk, Carnley, Moore, Kirkland, Ashburn, Kimbro, Brunson, Merritt, Borrow, Locke, Williamson, Anderson, Gillis, Grice, Griffith, Summerlin, Atkins, Adkison, Stanley,

	Shofner, Gordon, Mainor, Ingram, Melvin, Austin, Carr, Yow, Pilant, Campbell, Savage
Garden City	Record, Henry and Charley Clary
Gattis	Thomas C. Gattis was Postmaster
Givens Junction	Thompson, Steele, Hinley, Kennedy, Hobbs, Reed, Foster
Hilton	Ray
Holt	Jim Black, David Holt Mrs. Mabel Ates, Adams, Baldwin, Bois, Cadenhead, Chestnut, Christian, Cooper, Dollar, Edenfield, Fisher, Hart, Rowland, Sanders, Steele, Pippins, Livingston
Howell	Aaron A. Howell, Postmasters were J.S. Howell and later, Annie Weekley
Kellys Mill	Kelly and Cutts family
Laurel Hill	Chestnut, Cadenhead, Hart, Finlayson, Axelson, Campbell, Mapoles, Tyner
Magnolia (Budville, Budtown)	Baggett, Carter, Fowler, Gaskin, Harrison, Holley, Lott, Moore, Morrison, Richbourg, Steele, and Stewart.
Mary Esther	Jesse Rogers, John Newton, Thomas Jefferson Pryor
Metts	D.P. Powell, John W. Sellars, Henry Williams and William Holleman and Simon
Milligan	Bush, Brown, Noysc/Noyes?, Chaffin, Milligan, Wilkinson, Kelly, Rice, Fleming
Niceville	Lewis, Carr, Brabham, Harris, Spence, Walton, Edge, Friewald, Meigs, Padgett, Nathey
Newell	Davidson
Nubbin Ridge	Stewart, Austin, Kilcrease, Bush, McVickers, Holloway, Johnson, Cosson, Langley, Peacock, Brunson
Oak Grove	Thomas, King, Dixon, Hart, Baggett, Franklin, Law, Lewis, Barrow, Peaden and Davidson
Otahite(s)	Wilkinson, Cotton and Peaden Mashburn, Turvin, Snowden
Poverty Creek	Cadenhead, Mason, Brown, Habbard
Rock Creek	Laurence A. Fleming was Postmaster
Shoffner City	Col. A.R. Shoffner
Silver Springs	Davis, Edge, Sapp, Sorrells, Carver, Cody Locke
Sugartown	Henry Griffith, Tom Hinote, Gordon, Hinote, Harris, Hart, Turner, Ingram, Livingston
Valparaiso	Allen Brown, Jr., James E. Plew, C. W. Ruckel
Wardville	Elijah Ward

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## Regional Events & Sites of Historical and Genealogical Interest

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### Civil War Sesquicentennial Speaker Series

Indian Temple Mound Museum  
Lazarus Education Center  
139 Miracle Strip Parkway SE, Fort Walton Beach

This free public speaker series is hosted by the Fort Walton Beach Heritage Park & Cultural Center at the Lazarus Education Center.

The April presentation will be on April 2nd at 1:00 PM. Brian Mabelintini will speak on "Archaeology of Hammock Landing Battery and the Confederate Fortifications of Apalachicola".

The May 7th presentation will be at 1:00 PM. Richard Lewis, Ph.D., of the Bagdad Village Preservation Association, will speak about "Women and Slavery".

For more information, contact Museum Program Coordinator Mike Thomin at 850 833-9595

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### Walton County Genealogical Society

The Walton County Genealogical Society newsletter, *Walton Relations*, is available on line at their website:

<http://www.waltoncountyheritage.org>

The Walton County Genealogy Society meets the second Saturday of each month at 10:00 AM at the Walton County Heritage Museum except during the months of July and August.

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### Santa Rosa County



<http://santarosahistoricalsociety.com/index.htm>

### Genealogical Society

Santa Rosa County GenWeb Project

<http://www.db229.com/>

### Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida 35th Annual Saturday in the Park April 30, 2011

The Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida (HMNF) will host its 35th Annual Saturday in the Park Festival and Heritage 5K and Kid's Fun Run on April 30th in Valparaiso's Perrine Park and in the Museum itself.



Attracting nearly 4,000 visitors, this popular springtime community festival serves to showcase the Heritage Museum and its efforts to preserve and promote Northwest Florida history.

This year the event will boast more than 100 artisans, craftspeople, antique dealers and food vendors. There will be historical re-enactments from the Walton Guard and the Shire of Phoenix Glade (Medieval re-enactors). Throughout Perrine Park will be traditional trade demonstrations from the Emerald Coast Woodturners and Flying Needles guild as well as basketry, tatting and bobbin lace. The Heritage Museum will host exhibits and historical tours, storytelling, old-fashioned games, toys and contests including, bubble gum blowing and watermelon eating contests.

The Heritage Museum 5K and Kid's 1 Mile Fun Run will kick off the festivities at 7:30 a.m. Official opening ceremony starts at 9 a.m. which will feature the combined ROTC detachments from Choctaw and Niceville, the Emerald Coast Pipe and Drum Corp and the National Anthem sung by the Niceville High Belle Voci.

For information about vendor spaces, contact the Heritage Museum at (850) 678-2615



# Baker Block Museum, Reference Library, and Heritage Park

The Baker Block Museum (BBM) is sponsored by the North Okaloosa Historical Association, and it is located at the intersection of Florida highways 4 and 189 in Baker, FL.

It features museum exhibits, pioneer buildings in the Jeanette and Charles Henderson Heritage Park, and a large research library.

The museum exhibits include artifacts from the turpentine and timber industry of the late 1800s and early 1900s, local mercantile stores, farm tools, native American artifacts, pioneer households, and military uniforms and equipment associated with Okaloosa County.



Jeanette and Charles Henderson Heritage Park

Pioneer buildings in the adjacent Heritage Park include log cabins from the late 1800s, a turn of the century post office and general store, and the Jackson veneer mill tool company. A farm wagon and farm tools are also displayed.

Approximately one-fourth of the museum space is used for the extensive research library. The material here was recently increased by the transfer of some of the genealogical material from the Crestview Library.

The library includes area family genealogies; local church, community, and school history; maps; photos; and historical documents. A photocopy machine is available so that copies of items can be made at a nominal cost. Museum staff volunteers are present to help researchers find documents that may be relevant.

Computers are also available for internet research.

The Museum is open Tuesday through Friday and the third Saturday of each month. The hours are from 10 AM

to 3:30 PM and by appointment. The telephone number is (850) 537-5714.



Portion of Research Library

The major annual event is the Baker Heritage Day which is held on the 1st Saturday in November.

The museum website contains a tremendous amount of information. It is located at:

<http://www.bakerblockmuseum.org/>

Here are some of the links to portions of the BBM website. For a detailed index of the website content, click on "Sitemap" below

- [Exhibits](#)
- [Collections](#)
- [Events and Programs](#)
- [Library Holdings Index](#)
- [Educational Services](#)
- [Bulletin Board](#)
- [Book Store, Gifts](#)
- [Contact us](#)
- [Links](#)
- [Sitemap](#)

The Baker Block Museum Educational Services is presenting a course in the History of Florida and Okaloosa County. The complete package includes a 43-page narrative booklet. This package content complies with State Sunshine Curriculum Standards and includes teaching tools and lesson plans, student activity sheets, and student quizzes.

A large portion of this program is on the BBM website. The booklet is not, but it can be ordered from the museum. It contains additional lesson plans, biographies, activity sheets and quizzes. Go to [bakerblockmuseum.org](http://bakerblockmuseum.org) and click on the site map to see "shopping" and click on "books". The booklet title is BBM Educational services: History of Florida Curriculum Packet. The \$5 price helps the museum to recover the cost of printing.

## Fort Walton Beach Library History & Genealogy Collection Includes Journals and Newsletters Donated by the GSOC

Our Society exchanges journals and newsletters with other historical and genealogical societies around the nation. The ones we receive from these societies are normally displayed at our monthly meetings so that GSOC members can see them. After the meeting, Hilma Jenus takes them to the Fort Walton Beach Library.

This photo shows part of the room in the library which is dedicated to history and genealogy. The GSOC-provided journals and newsletters are neatly filed in holders on the far wall, as seen here.



Other documents kept in the room and photographs on display there contain information about the history of the Fort Walton Beach area, Okaloosa County, and Eglin Air Force Base.



The room is usually outfitted with several tables to make it easy to work with the material there. However, the configuration is temporarily changed during tax season to accommodate people who may be waiting to see a tax advisor.

## Braxton Memorial Established at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and staff of the  
*Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida*, Trustees



and GSOC (Genealogy Society of Okaloosa County) members, Beverly Gross and Ken Elliott (right) presented the family of the late Dan Braxton with a memorial plaque during the February GSOC meeting at the Heritage Museum. The plaque will be displayed in Mr. Braxton's honor in the Archival Library of the *Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida* where his extensive genealogy research, generously donated by his family, will be preserved for future generations. **[Heritage Museum Press Release]**

Daniel "Dan" W. Braxton, Jr., died on Dec. 11, 2009. He was 74. Dan, a native of Chipley, Washington County, FL, was a longtime resident of Valparaiso.

Dan served in the U.S. Air Force and received a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering degree from the University of Florida in 1963. He worked in Florida and Georgia and from 1974 until 2004 he was a civilian employee of the Department of Defense specializing in Range Threat Systems eventually becoming Development Systems Manager.

Dan was a dedicated genealogist and family historian and a loyal member of the Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County where he served on the board in various capacities. He served on the board of the Valparaiso Library and also held membership in the Washington County Historical Society and made numerous contributions to the publication, "The Heritage of Washington County, Florida."



## Confederate Pension Applications Filed from Okaloosa County

Extracted from data compiled by Mary Ellen Wexler, 1997,  
and contributed by her for use in USGenWeb Archives.

Veteran's Name		State or Unit of Service	Widow's First and Maiden Name	First Applied
ADAMS	John C.	Alabama		1931
ADKINSON	John W.	Alabama		1916
ATKINS	Russell H.	Alabama		1924
BANHILL	Alexander	1st Regt Inf	Henrietta (Harsey)	1928
BOWDEN	Eli A.	Alabama	Polly (Spurlier)	1922
BROWN	Alexander	3rd Bttn Cav	Mary (McSween)	1916
BROXSON	William H.	Alabama	Ruth Jane	1916
CAMPBELL	George William	Mississippi	Sarati (Jay)	1903
EDWARDS	John R.	Georgia	Lissie (Vance)	1936
FLOYD	Ben	Alabama	Susie (Celest)	1939
FRANKLIN	J.J.	Alabama	Sarah (Tisdale)	1901
GRIMES	Wiley J.	1st Regt Inf	Mary (Bishop)	1904
HAMOND	D.C.	Alabama		1916
HART	James F.	1st Regt Inf	Mary (Thompson)	1927
HUTCHINSON	Alex	Labor Forces		1925
IRVIN	John	Alabama		1926
JONES	Isom	Georgia	Eliza (Parker)	1926
KELLY	Charles S.	**		1916
LAWSON	John Pink	N.Carolina		1923
LEE	Winfield S.	Georgia	Maggie (Moore)	1925
LUNDY	William A.	Alabama		1931
MANNING	Stephens J.	15th Conf Cav		1922
MASON	Henry M.	Alabama		1931
MATHEWS	W.A.	Alabama		1921
MATTHEWS	Daniel J.	Alabama		1924
McCALLUM	W.A.	**		1931
McCLENNY	Moses J.	Alabama	Susan (Walton)	1916
McDANIEL	John C.	Alabama		1924
MILLER	Jacob	1st Regt Inf	Elizabeth (Gilmore)	1926
NICHOLS	John	**		1931
OWENS	William L.	Home Guard	Bettie (Phillips)	1942
PARKER	Irvine A.	Alabama	Sarah (Hall)	1903
PAUL	James W.	11th Regt Inf	Mary (Faircloth)	1899
PEACOCK	Noah P.	Alabama	Martha (Bridges)	1902
REDDICK	George	**	Nancy (Tanton)	1929
REEVES	John V.	Alabama		1931
RICHARDS	James W.	Alabama		1918
TYNER	W.H.	Alabama	Vienna (Taylor)	1923
WILKINSON	John	*		1927
WRIGHT	William P.	Alabama	Bulah (Henderson)	1926

\* Pension by legislative act    \*\*Home Guard

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<http://files.usgwarchives.org/fl/okaloosa/military/pension.txt>

## GSOC INFORMATION

### Officers

President, Malcolm Flanagan  
1st Vice President (Programs), Donna Elliott  
2nd Vice President (Membership), Lorna Sainz  
2nd Vice President (Membership) Asst, Carol Lessard  
Treasurer, Bob Basch  
Recording Secretary, Mike Martell  
Recording Secretary Assistant, Frances Hoge  
Corresponding Secretary, Jim Young  
Immediate Past President, Beverly Gross  
Historian, Sue Basch  
Genealogist, Margaret Harris  
Publicity Chairperson, Pat Pruett  
Webmaster & Newsletter Editor, Jim Young  
(Elected and Appointed positions)

### Addresses

Web Site: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~flocgs>

Email: [gsocokaloosa@yahoo.com](mailto:gsocokaloosa@yahoo.com)

Newsletter Editor: [youngimy@cox.net](mailto:youngimy@cox.net)

P.O. Box 1175, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549\* 1175

### Meetings and Membership

Regular meetings of the GSOC are held at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, 115 Westview Avenue, Valparaiso, FL, at 10 AM on the second Saturday of each month. There is no admission charge and all are welcome. The meetings are usually followed by an optional Dutch treat lunch at a nearby restaurant.

### The Journal

The GSOC Journal, *A Journal of Northwest Florida*, is published once each year. The 2010 issue, Volume XXXII, Issue 99, was published in September 2010.

### The Newsletter

The GSOC Newsletter is published on or before the first Friday of each month. Suggestions for articles are welcome. The editor, Jim Young, can be contacted by phone at 850 862-8642 or by email at [youngimy@cox.net](mailto:youngimy@cox.net). Letters to the editor are welcome and may be published.

### The Web Site

The GSOC web site is hosted by Rootsweb at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~flocgs>. It is updated frequently and provides information about future programs as well as information about Okaloosa County and the GSOC itself.



## **Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County**

**Next meeting: Saturday, April 9, 2011**

**Location: Holiday Inn Express Conference Room**

**106 Bayshore Drive (Just South of Highway 20)**

**Niceville, Florida**

**Time: 10:00 AM**

**Genealogical Society of  
Okaloosa County (GSOC)**

**P.O. Box 1175**

**Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549\* 1175**

