

THE GSOC NEWSLETTER

The Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County, Florida

April 6, 2012

GSOC Calendar

April 14, 2012



Our April 14th meeting will be held at the Heritage Museum. The officers will meet at 9 AM and the General Meeting will begin at 10 AM. The program will be a Show-and-Tell by GSOC members. Bring some

item or items that have been handed down in your family and tell everyone about it/them. If some prized item is not available to bring and show, tell us about it anyway!

May 12, 2012

The May 12th program will be presented by Tony



Mennillo, Arturo Studios, and will be held at the Heritage Museum. Mr. Mennillo's recent book, *Salty Memories Along the Coastal Highway*, contains historical stories of Destin and the Emerald Coast and features 492 vintage photographs. The book,

which showcases the photos of Tony's father Arturo, brings us back to a simpler time when we were captains of our own destiny, a time before highways and condos, a time when the fisherman rather than the tourist was king.

Civil War Highlights for April 1862	2
Minutes of the March 10, 2012 Meeting	3
Research the 1940 Census	4
Mr. Brasher's Predictions by Monette Young	5
Grandma Climbed the Family Tree	6
Request for Information: Old Bethel Field Stones	6
A History of Trinity United Methodist Church	7
Events and Sites of GSOC Interest	8
GSOC Information	9

This may be your last GSOC Newsletter

We will be sad to have you leave us, but unless you have renewed your GSOC membership for 2012 or are a Life Member of the GSOC, this will be the last newsletter that we are able to send you.

What to tell someone who asks "Why Should I Join the GSOC?"

"My ancestors are not from this area, so why should I join the local genealogical society?"

Many people share this "why should I join" attitude? I know that I did for many years after the Air Force assigned me to Eglin Air Force Base and I moved from California to Fort Walton Beach. My ancestors were from Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, North Carolina, Virginia, Ireland, and Wales. None of them, so far as I know, had settled in Florida. So I wondered why I should join the Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County.

Eventually, someone I had worked with at Eglin and who was a member of the GSOC invited me to attend a meeting. Little did I know how this would influence my life as a genealogist. I found a group of passionate family historians who were eager to share their experiences and knowledge. It did not matter that our ancestors were from different parts of the world. In fact, most of the members did not have northwest Florida roots.

So how, you may ask, can a GSOC (or other local society) membership help us as genealogists? Here are some reasons:

You are not alone. You probably don't realize that there are scores of genealogists within a few miles of where you live. You can share your passion with other like individuals. More important, you can get plugged into a friendly network that alerts you to new products, news, and educational opportunities locally and nationwide.

You can learn new research skills. The guest speakers at monthly meetings and at workshops held throughout our area can teach you to prepare a research plan, how to evaluate evidence, and suggest more techniques to discover new sources.

You can learn about the history and the early families of the area where you now live. Guest speakers present interesting information about a variety of subjects.

You can learn how to evaluate genealogical software. Choosing the right software for your specific needs may be confusing. Hearing the experiences and recommendations of other members can be very helpful.

You can improve your skills in reading old handwriting. My personal research included transcribing old documents, but until I became involved in the society, I didn't realize that my skills were elementary.

(Continued on Page 2)



Civil War Sesquicentennial

Selected Highlights of April 1862

<http://blueandgraytrail.com>

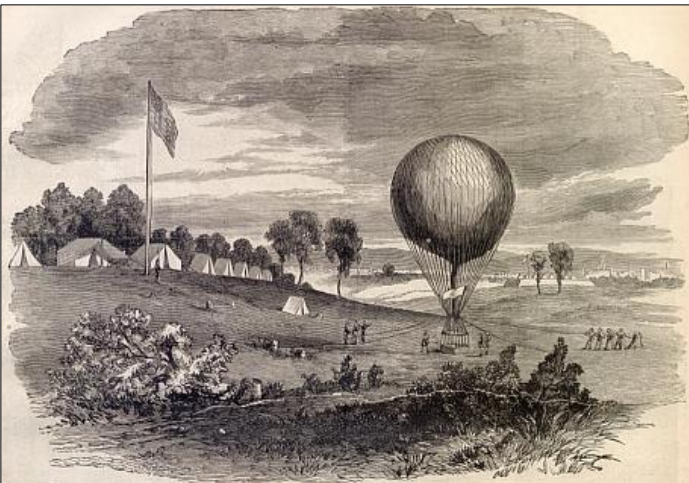
April 6-7 Battle of Pittsburg Landing [Union], Battle of Shiloh [Confederate]. On the first day of the battle General Albert Sidney Johnston, commander of the Department of the West, is killed while leading an advance against a Union position in a peach orchard. P. G. T. Beauregard assumed command following Johnston's death

April 7 Island No. 10 in the Mississippi River downstream from New Madrid is captured. More than 5000 Confederates are taken prisoner

April 8 Following a disastrous second day at Pittsburg Landing Confederates withdraw to Corinth Mississippi

April 11 Halleck [US] assumes personal command of the forces at Pittsburg Landing, the Army of the Tennessee and the Army of the Ohio

April 11 General Fitz-John Porter [US] decides to ride in an observation balloon alone when inventor Thaddeus Lowe takes a sick-day. In flight the balloon tether breaks and Porter nearly crosses into enemy territory. A last minute change in wind direction returned him to Union lines.



HARPER'S WEEKLY

April 12 The Great Locomotive Chase

April 12 President Jefferson Davis creates the Army of Northern Virginia by combining several Armies.

April 14 Federal fleet under Commodore David Farragut appears at the mouth of the Mississippi River.

April 15 Union naval forces enter the mouth of the Mississippi and sail up the river to Fort Jackson

April 16 President Lincoln signs legislation freeing the estimated 3500 slaves in Washington D. C.

April 16 Confederate Congress passes a conscription law

April 25 After a duel with Confederate ships at English Turn, Commodore Farragut's fleet weighs anchor at New Orleans and demands the surrender of the largest city and most important port in the South. By the time Farragut arrives the city was partially on fire

April 28 City of New Orleans surrenders to Union forces.

Join GSOC From Page 1

You can learn from other members. Our society encourages members to share their latest breakthrough or discovery at our local meetings. This sharing is not only fun, but gave me ideas on how to solve my own brick wall research problems.

You can gain an appreciation of other local societies. The exchange program for periodicals that the GSOC participates in, for example, allows you to review the publications and activities of other societies around the country.

You can develop leadership skills. As an active and involved member, you will be given opportunities to participate in the leadership of the organization. While serving on committees and board member positions, you can develop skills that are valuable in future roles.

You may not find a cousin, but someone else might. I'm always amazed at the odd connections that are made at meetings. For example, someone will casually mention they are researching the Phillips family in Alabama. Another member will answer that they are too. After comparing notes, they discover they are related six generations back into time. It happens more often than you may think! Members will also find others researching the same geographical areas and can help each other with resources, etc.

You can develop lifelong friendships. Common interests create friendships, and I have gathered many through genealogical connections. Can you imagine what it might be like if you didn't have an understanding genealogical friend to call when you make a major discovery or solve the problem you've been working on for several years?

It's useful to belong to more than one society! While you may not be able to attend meetings, the obvious benefit of joining any local society is that of receiving the society's publications. One of the primary goals of local societies is to index, abstract, or transcribe local records and publish the results in their journals and/or online. If you have roots in Butler County, AL, for example, you may want to join the Butler County Historical & Genealogical Society in order to receive notice of their publications and projects.

Jim Young

Suggested by an article by [Kathleen W. Hinkley, CGRS](#) in www.genealogy.com

GSOC Meeting Minutes March 10, 2012

The Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County met for the regular monthly meeting on 10 March 2012 at the Valparaiso Community Library. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by President, Donna Elliott. A welcome was given to 22 members in attendance and four guests.

Mrs. Elliott announced that due to the resignation of Mary Walther, the Recording Secretary, Mary Ellen Ahlstrom will assume those duties effective at this March meeting.

The minutes of the February meeting as printed in the newsletter were approved by the membership in attendance.

The society Treasurer, Bob Basch reported a balance of the treasury as \$2,164.01. He passed around the "Blue Box" for donations.

Sue Basch, 2nd Vice President (Membership), gave an update on the membership. As of this date, there are only three unpaid members.

1st Vice President (Programs), Ken Elliott announced that the program for the April meeting would be a show and tell. He asked members to bring family items, historical items, or any interesting item to show and give the historical information for each.

Jim Young asked those present to send him any interesting information he could print in the monthly newsletter that goes out to the entire membership.

Hilma Jenus reported that she had placed all journals received by the GSOC in the Fort Walton Beach library.

Pat Pruitt reported that she had sent the meeting announcement to both the Bayou Times and the Northwest Florida Daily News. One of the visitors commented that she had seen the announcement in the Daily News.

Sue Basch asked for a volunteer for the scrapbook. Mike Weaver, a new member, volunteered to assist with the scrapbook and took some snap shots during the meeting.

President Elliott stated there was no old business from the previous meeting and asked if there was any new business. Hearing none, she then made the following announcement: The GSOC will participate in the "Saturday in the Park" on 21 April. She reminded the membership that the society could not have any items for sale but could have contact information of the society to give to anyone interested. Those interested could then contact the society for any additional information or to become a member. Volunteers are needed to assist with the GSOC booth from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Signups will be taken at the April meeting.

It was announced that the members who wished to go out for a Dutch treat lunch would meet at the Sunset Café immediately following the meeting.

Following the business session, Ken Elliott, Program Chairman, introduced the speaker for the day. Mr. David Weatherford, Director of the Valparaiso Library, History Professor, and Historian gave a very interesting and informative program. He also announced that he conducts a program on history at the library each Wednesday morning for anyone interested.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Ellen Ahlstrom, Recording Secretary



Valparaiso Community Library Director, Mr. David Weatherford



March 2012 Meeting of the GSOC
at the Valparaiso Community Library

Photos by Mike Weaver

The 1940 Census

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) released the 1940 census images for free online access on April 2, 2012. The web site promptly crashed due to the enormous number of people trying to access it and remained crashed until the early morning hours of April 3rd. NARA now says that it is working correctly.

Editor's Note: The web site is working fine now. I have successfully read the 1940 census images on line and have also been able to download and print the images.

Researchers may search the 1940 census using any computer with internet access by going to this address:

<http://1940census.archives.gov>

Here are some questions and answers provided by NARA. Click on the underlined areas to see more information.

Q. Is there a fee to search or download from the 1940 census web site?

A. No. The 1940 census web site is free. Users will be able to download the results of their searches.

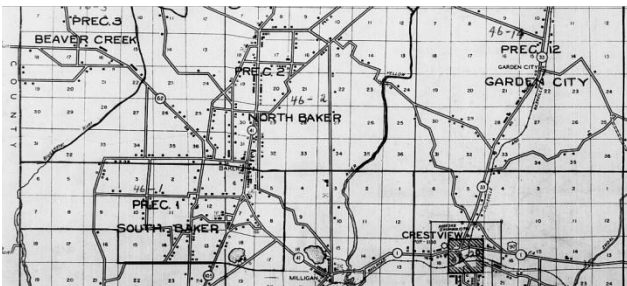
Q. Is there a name index to the 1940 census?

A. No. A name index does not exist for the 1940 census. However, Ancestry.com and FamilySearch have both announced plans to index the census after it opens.

Q. If there is no name index, how can I locate people in the census? **A.** You can locate people by identifying the enumeration district in which they lived in 1940 and then browsing the census population schedules for that enumeration district. The National Archives has placed copies of the enumeration district maps and descriptions in NARA's Online Public Access catalog (OPA). For more information go to ***How to Start Your 1940 Census Research*** (address in next column.)

Editor's Note: The 1940 Census Enumeration District maps for Okaloosa County are located at <http://research.archives.gov/description/5829721>

The Enumeration District numbers are handwritten and are in the range of 46-1 to 46-30. North Baker is ED 2, for example. The ED number isn't always the same as the precinct number.



Sample of a portion of one of the Okaloosa ED Maps

Q. What questions were asked on the 1940 census?

A. A list of questions, including those on the supplemental schedules, is on our web site at [Questions Asked on the 1940 Census](#).

Q. I heard that there were supplemental questions asked on the 1940 census. Will I find information about my family in the supplemental questions?

A. The supplemental questions were asked for the people listed on two lines on each page of the census schedules (about a five percent sample of the census). The supplemental schedule asks the place of birth of the person's father and mother; language spoken in earliest childhood home; if the person was a veteran; if the person was a child whose father was a veteran; did the veteran serve in a specific war or in peacetime military service; for persons 14 years old or older, does the person have a Social Security number, were deductions for Federal Old Age Insurance or Railroad Retirement made in 1939; the person's usual occupation, not just what they were doing the week of March 24-30, 1940; and for all women who are or have been married, has this woman been married more than once, age at first marriage, and number of children born.

Q. Where may I find a blank copy of the 1940 census population schedule form? **A.** We have blank forms available online at [1940 Census Forms](#).

Q. What do the codes used on the 1940 census mean?

A. A complete list of occupational and industrial codes is at [Occupation and Industry Classifications](#)

Q. Is it possible to purchase a copy of the entire 1940 census or of a particular state?

A. Yes. The National Archives Trust Fund is selling copies of the entire 1940 census as well as copies of individual states in both digital and microfilm format. For more information please visit their web site at http://estore.archives.gov/Category/105_1/1940_Census.aspx

Editor's Note: These are expensive. For example, the cost for the digital images for the entire state of Florida is \$6,000 and the estimated cost for microfilm for the entire state (63 rolls) is \$7,875.

Q. Can I purchase a copy of an entire county or enumeration district from the 1940 census?

A. No. We are only selling either the entire census or individual states. However, beginning April 2, 2012, you can go to the 1940 census web site and download all the images for a particular county or enumeration district for free.

For helpful tips, go to ***How to Start Your 1940 Census Research*** at:

<http://www.archives.gov/research/census/1940/start-research.html>

Computers to research the 1940 census are available at the Valparaiso Community Library. Call the library at 729-5406 to set up a one-hour reservation.

MR. BRASHER'S PREDICTIONS

Monette Morgan Young

In the early summer of 1859, a Mr. Brasher was dying in Calhoun County, Mississippi. This was a rural county made up of pioneer settlers from the great migration from the Carolinas, Virginia, Tennessee, Alabama, and Georgia.

He lived in the Skuna River bottom area, in the hills just north of the river and its fertile little valley, and in an area just opposite the Rocky Mount community which was on the south side of the river just up in the hills.

In the final hours of his illness, he told his sorrowing family that his coffin would come near to being lost in the river on the way to Rocky Mount church for his funeral service and that a tree would be struck by lightning near the head of his grave as they started to lower his body into it and that he would "have plenty of toothpicks for his teeth".

A short time later, he died. It was a Saturday. Smooth lumber was kept stored in the barns of certain people in the community who were proficient at carpentry and could make coffins. Black cotton flannel was used to cover the outside and white sheeting material was used to line them.

Two little Morgan boys who lived some miles away in what would later be called the Poplar Springs community went to visit their married sister in the Rocky Mount community on the day that Mr. Brasher died.

The boys were Reuben Reese Morgan, twelve years old (he would become my grandfather), and William H. (Billy) Morgan, his ten-year-old brother. They lived with their parents John and Adaline Todd Morgan further up the valley on the same side of the river about six miles away, so the little boys had walked a long way.

Their sister was Catharine Morgan Haire, the wife of John Haire. The Haire's lived slightly northwest of Rocky Mount church in the last outcrop of hills overlooking Skuna Valley.

Reuben and Billy spent Saturday night with their sister, her husband, and their two small children, and they learned of the burial service to be held the next day. They wanted to stay for it. Community gatherings were rare. There was no Sunday School and preaching services were held only occasionally. So even a funeral became a chance for the residents to come together and mingle, even if in sorrow.

To the children of that time, death was a part of life and they were not frightened or puzzled by it. A burial held no terror for them. They would see friends whom they would not otherwise see often. So the boys planned to go to the "burying" and then to make the long walk home afterward.

On Sunday morning, Catharine watched the darkening, glowering sky for some time and saw in its color and movement that a "bad cloud" would come later. So she advised her brothers to start for home in a hurry and to try to get there before the cloud "made".

They started home, but only got about two and a half miles before the storm hit in its fury. They reached a place where, over fifty years later, Mr. Jim Hannaford would have his home. But someone had a house there in 1859 and Billy and Reuben were given shelter.

Meanwhile, the funeral cortege was making its way toward Rocky Mount. The funeral party was traveling by ox wagon. Remembering Mr. Brasher's prediction of how his coffin would almost be lost in the river, his neighbors had selected the most placid and gentle pair of oxen that they could find to draw the funeral wagon. They were called a yoke of oxen. Wagons of friends and family followed, also drawn by oxen.

Bridges across the creeks or rivers of the area were frightening things in those days, narrow with no side rails. I have ridden across them when I was a child, terribly afraid, knowing that a sudden whim of the animal or animals pulling the vehicle would plunge us into the water.

This day while the funeral wagon was crossing the river, one of the "gentle" oxen "spooked" at something and in its fright almost threw the wagon, the driver, and the team into the river. However, they quieted the animal without that mishap and continued on to the church.

The threatening clouds that had been overhead all the journey were getting worse. At the church, the people saw more darkness and massing of black thunderheads. The preacher cut short a usually long funeral oration and everyone hurried to the graveyard to try to get the coffin lowered and covered with dirt before the storm broke.

This had only been partially done when the rain began falling very hard and thunder and lightning were crashing all around. The congregation ran back to the church to wait out the storm's fury. Just as they got inside the safety of the church, the lightning struck a tree near the head of the grave and shattered it into splintery fragments.

After the "bad cloud" had passed, the men returned to the cemetery and finished filling the grave. Then mourning relatives and friends returned to their homes, remembering and discussing Mr. Brasher's predictions and how they had come to pass as he had foretold.

After the rain ended, Billy and Reuben Morgan left the house where they had taken shelter and went on home.

Billy and Reuben were not to have too many more trips together or times of shared work or play, for on December 23, 1859, Billy died. His death was fairly sudden. He had been feeling "poorly" all week, then on the following Saturday night while his eldest brother Stephen Bennett Morgan was being married to Gilly Hardin at her parents' home, Billy died.

When the newlywed couple returned to his parents' home for their little honeymoon, as was the custom then, they found that death had marred any festivities.

Editor's Note: This story which has been passed down in my family was told to my mother, Monette Morgan Young, granddaughter of Reuben Reese Morgan, by Clarence Morgan, grandson of Stephen Bennett Morgan and Gilly Hardin Morgan.

Reuben Reese Morgan joined the Confederate Army at the age of 16 and lived until December 1942. He was my great-grandfather. I remember sitting on his lap and holding his hand.

Jim Young

One day I sat down with my daughter and explained with great pride that her grandfather was a preacher, her great-great grandfather was a preacher, and her great-great-great grandfather was a preacher. To which she replied, "Wow! We sure come from a long line of grandfathers."

**Linda Click, Adrian, MI
Christian Reader**

Grandma Climbed The Family Tree

There's been a change in Grandma,
we've noticed her of late,
She's always reading history
or jotting down some date.
She's tracking back the family,
we'll all have pedigrees.
Oh, Grandma's got a hobby,
she's climbing Family Trees.

Poor Grandpa does the cooking now,
or so he states,
That worst of all, he has to wash
the cups and dinner plates.
Grandma can't be bothered,
she's busy as a bee
Compiling genealogy -
for the Family Tree.

She has no time to baby-sit,
the curtains are a fright,
No buttons left on Granddad's shirt,
the flower bed's a sight.
She's given up her club work
and the serials on TV,
The only thing she does now days
is climb the Family Tree.

We know more about our forebearers
than we ever knew before.
The books are old and dusty,
they make poor Grandma sneeze,
A minor irritation when you're
climbing Family Trees.

Last week she got the proof she needs
to join the DAR.
A worthwhile avocation,
to that we all agree,
A monumental project,
to climb the Family Tree.

Now some folks came from Scotland
and some from Galway Bay,
Some were French as pastry,
some German, all the way.
Some went west to stake their claim,
some stayed near by the sea,
Grandma hopes to find them all
as she climbs the Family Tree.

She wanders through the graveyard
in search of date or name,
The rich, the poor, the in-between,
all sleeping there the same.
She pauses now and then to rest,
fanned by a gentle breeze
That blows above the Fathers
of all our Family Trees.

There were pioneers and patriots
mixed in our kith and kin,

Who blazed the paths of wilderness
and fought through thick and thin.
But none more staunch than
Grandma,
whose eyes light up with glee
Each time she finds a missing branch
for the Family Tree.

Their skills were wide and varied,
from carpenter to cook
And one (Alas!) the record shows
was hopelessly a crook.
Blacksmith, weaver, farmer, judge,
some tutored for a fee,
Long lost in time, now all recorded
on the Family Tree.

To some it's just a hobby,
to Grandma it's much more,
She knows the joys and heartaches
of those who went before.
They loved, they lost,
they laughed, they wept,
and now for you and me
They live again in spirit,
around the Family Tree.

At last she's nearly finished
and we are each exposed.
Life will be the same again,
this we all supposed!
Grandma will cook and sew,
serve cookies with our tea.
We'll all be fat,
just as before
that wretched Family Tree.

Sad to relate, the Preacher called
and visited for a spell,
We talked about the Gospel,
and other things as well,
The heathen folk, the poor
and then - 'twas fate, it had to be,
Somehow the conversation turned to
Grandma and the Family Tree.

We tried to change the subject,
we talked of everything
But then in Grandma's voice
we heard that old familiar ring.
She told him all about the past
and soon as plain to see
The Preacher, too, was nearly snared
by Grandma and the Family Tree.

He never knew his Grandpa,
his mother's name was ... Clark?
He and Grandma talked and talked,
outside it grew quite dark.
We hoped our fears were groundless,
but just like some disease,
Grandma's become an addict -
she's hooked on Family Trees!

Our souls were filled with sorrow,
our hearts sank with dismay,
Our ears could scarce believe the
words we heard our Grandma say,
"It sure is a lucky thing
that you have come to me,
I know exactly how it's done,
I'll climb your Family Tree!"

(author unknown)

Thanks to Mary Skillman

Request for information: The Field Stones in Old Bethel Cemetery

As part of a Master's thesis project at the University of West Florida, I am interested in gathering information about the story of the field stones in Old Bethel Cemetery on Old Bethel Road in Crestview. If you know about the legend surrounding the field stones and wish to share your story or photographs of Old Bethel Cemetery, please contact Tara Giuliano at the Florida Public Archaeology Network at (850) 595-0050 or Tmg29@students.uwf.edu (text FL02168 to 56654)

Northwest Florida Daily News, March 25, 2012

Editor's Note

Old Bethel Cemetery is an historic and active cemetery near Crestview, FL, and is the site of a local Civil War tale.

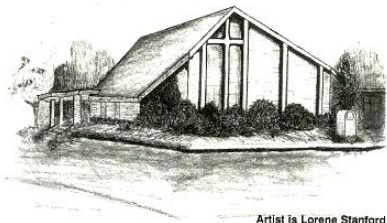
The legend has formed around a few sandstone rocks located in the cemetery which the community believes mark a mass grave from the Civil War after a nearby skirmish on the Yellow River. Although limited historical research has been unsuccessful in determining if a skirmish did indeed occur at this location, the legend of the field stones and the skirmish is still a popular tale.

Currently, research focusing on the legend of the field stones is ongoing as a thesis project in Anthropology at the University of West Florida.

Source: <http://www.flpublicarchaeology.org>

Trinity United Methodist Church

403 Racetrack Road NW, Fort Walton Beach, FL



Elmer Dean, a jeweler by trade, along with 37 other charter members, organized the Trinity Methodist Church* in Fort Walton Beach on October 30, 1960. Dwight Eisenhower was president and

a gallon of gas cost 31 cents. In lieu of a church home, the members met in the cafetorium of W.C. Pryor Jr. High School.

Church leaders got the OK to begin the search for a 3- to 5-acre tract for a church home. They almost immediately honed in on property on Racetrack Road. The land was acquired on January 3, 1961 at a price of \$14,200.

The church struggled for months with low membership and an even lower cash flow; but, after months of prayer, the membership grew and they set to building a church home of their own. The church's groundbreaking ceremony landed it on the front page of the Playground Daily News, which later would become the Northwest Florida Daily News.

In February 1963, District Superintendent Si Mathison met with church leaders and predicted that in five to 10 years, "Trinity will be one of the stronger churches of our area." In the meantime, however, they would have to share a full-time pastor with the Destin Methodist Church until both churches reached a place where they could stand alone. Amid their own financial struggles, members of Trinity Methodist had also regularly supported the newly organized Destin Methodist church with \$50 contributions.

Pastor Douglas Newton moved into the recently acquired parsonage in early June of 1963 and became Trinity's first ordained pastor. He also served the Destin Methodist Church. Construction work on the church was completed in late August, and the consecration service was held on Sept. 1, 1963.

Over the next few months, membership in the Sunday school program and church grew and grew. By January 1964, membership had tripled to almost 160. Trinity had outgrown its new church and was already looking at expanding. The second phase of construction began that year and was completed a year later.

Trinity's growth over the years continued, and in 1973 the congregation began praying and dreaming of expanding the facilities even further. A new sanctuary was completed in September 1976 and a new education wing was added in 1981. The vision continued to evolve. In its 50th year in 2010, Trinity embarked on a

building program to renovate its sanctuary and this was completed by the beginning of 2011.

Today, more than 1,100 members call Trinity their church home. The church includes almost every type of ministry from prison wards to soup kitchens, from the streets of Fort Walton Beach to the mountains of Ecuador, from a vibrant youth ministry to a thriving retiree base.

Charter Members of Trinity Methodist Church

Elmer F. Dean	Jean Dean
William Dean	David Dean
David H. Greer	Virginia Greer
Berta Jones	Edna S. Nelson
Ed R. Bilby	Barbara Bilby Cable
Harold Showers	Lillian Showers
Alden Derthick	Wilna Derthick
Howard W. Wolford	Madge Wolford
Janette Mills	Martha Roberts
Richard B. Roberts	Clyde Howard Nicholson
Thomas F. Nelson III	Burnetta Nicholson
Carl George Gicker	Dorene Gicker
David H. Greer II	Ben Bilby
Ken Bilby	Claudia Adams
Jack Bilby	Roberta Lamont
Clarence Fetting	Lula Fetting
Thomas F. Nelson Jr.	Linda Nelson Smith
Lawrence Allmon	Frances Allmon
Harold D. Visser	Adele Visser

Senior Pastors

Elmer F. Dean 1960-1963
Douglas C. Newton 1963-1968
Walter E. Edwins 1968-1970
Robert V. Greenwood 1970-1972
Joseph H. Bullington, Jr. 1972-1978
James T. Ross 1978-1985
John W. Bryan 1985-1986
Thomas Lane Butts 1986-1993
Wesley H. Wachob 1993-1997
Paul D. Wolfe 1997-2001
John H. Bonner 2001-2008
Bobby Ellisor 2008-2011
Sterling Boykin 2011- present



*Changed to 'United Methodist Church' in 1968 by the union of The Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church

Events, Groups, and Sites of GSOC Interest

Wednesday, April 18, 9:30 AM

**Valparaiso Community Library
459 Valparaiso Parkway, Valparaiso, FL
*American History for Genealogists***

Studying the 1920s - 1930s. The movie "History Boys" will be shown and the class will be followed by a picnic. All are welcome! For more information, call (850) 729-5406

<http://vcl.valp.org/>

April 20 - 22

Fort Walton Landing,

139 Brooks Street, Fort Walton Beach, FL

Begins noon, April 20th, and continues through 3:30 PM on April 22nd. ***Musical Echos 2012***, a celebration of Native American culture, art, and music, highlighting the Native American flute. Internationally acclaimed Native American musicians and dancers. Interact with Native American craftsmen demonstrating their arts and selling their wares. Attend seminars, learn to play a Native American style flute. Free to the public. Call 850-243-9807 or visit www.musicalechos.org for more information.

Saturday in the Park, April 21, 9:00am – 4:00pm

**Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida,
115 Westview Ave., Valparaiso, FL**



Featuring: Heritage 5 K Run/Walk, Kids Fun Run, Craft & Food Vendors, Re-enactments, Car Show, Live Entertainment, KidZone, Games & Contests, and Bake Sale, Wood Turning and more! **The GSOC will have a booth.** Handicap Parking and a Golf Cart Shuttle Service will be available.

Contact (850) 678-26-5 for more information.

www.heritage-museum.org/wp/

June 9

Destin History and Fishing Museum, Destin FL

Annual Old Fashioned Fish Fry
Community Center
11 AM—2PM

<http://www.destinhistoryandfishingmuseum.org>

June 14-16

Destin History and Fishing Museum, Destin FL

Swordfish Shootout
Benefitting Museum

<http://www.destinhistoryandfishingmuseum.org>

July 14

Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso FL

A Guided Tour featuring historic exhibits and a Wine and Food Tasting experience. Saturday, July 14, 7 p.m. Enjoy Live Entertainment – Silent Auction – Raffles – 50/50 – Local Restaurants. Advanced ticket sales Only \$30 each

www.heritage-museum.org/wp/

August 25

Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso FL

Annual Yard Sale. Saturday, August 25, at 7 am.

www.heritage-museum.org/wp/

October 13

Laurel Hill FL Hobo Festival

Begun in 1992, the Laurel Hill Hobo Festival is an annual event scheduled for the second Saturday in October.

www.laurelhillnow.com/hobo_festival.htm

November 3

Baker Block Museum, Baker FL

Annual Heritage Festival

<http://bakerblockmuseum.org/clouds/inthecLOUDS/index-a.html>

November 8, 9, & 10

Florida State Genealogical Society 2012 Conference

"The Best of Times: Family History + Technology!"

Mark your calendars. Details will be announced later.

www.flsgs.org

November 10

Rocky Bayou State Park, Niceville FL

Annual Fall Pioneer Day

The GSOC will participate in this event by having a booth at the park instead of the usual meeting.

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flocgs/

December 8

Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County

Annual Holiday Party and Installation of Officers

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flocgs/

December 8

Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso FL

Yule of Yesteryear Holiday Celebration & Victorian Tea

www.heritage-museum.org/wp/

STATE-WIDE EVENTS

For a comprehensive listing of upcoming Florida genealogy events, go to www.flsgs.org/events.php

The Florida State Genealogical Society website is located at

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

GSOC INFORMATION

Officers for 2012

President, Donna Elliott
 1st Vice President (Programs), Ken Elliott
 2nd Vice President (Membership), Sue Basch
 2nd Vice President (Membership) Asst, Carol Lessard
 Treasurer, Bob Basch,
 Recording Secretary, Mary Ellen Ahlstrom
 Corresponding Secretary, Jim Young
 Immediate Past President, Malcolm Flanagan
 Journal Editor, Beverly Gross
 Historian, Sue Basch
 Genealogist, Margaret Harris
 Publicity Chairperson, Pat Pruett
 Webmaster & Newsletter Editor, Jim Young

(Elected, Appointed, and Ex Officio positions)

Addresses

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

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

Email: gsocokaloosa@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor: youngjmy@cox.net

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.

Annual membership dues are \$24 for an individual and \$35 for an individual and spouse at the same address. If you would like to become a member, want to renew your membership, or want to update your membership record, please go to the GSOC web site and get one of the appropriate forms.

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 youngjmy@cox.net. Letters to the editor are welcome and may be published.

The Journal

The GSOC Journal, *A Journal of Northwest Florida*, is published once each year. The 2011 issue, Volume XXXII, Issue 100, was published and distributed in November 2011.

The Web Site

The GSOC web site is hosted by Rootsweb at:

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

The site is updated frequently and contains information about future GSOC meetings, minutes of past meetings, copies of the newsletters, articles and items of genealogical and historical interest, and much more.



The symbol on the left is the QR code for the address of the GSOC web site. Scanning this symbol with properly equipped mobile devices will connect that device to the GSOC website.

Usual Meeting Location



Arrow indicates the door to the room used for GSOC meetings at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida

GSOC Publications

Volume I (out of print), Cemeteries of Okaloosa County, Florida 24 cemeteries east of the Yellow River & north of the Shoal River	Out of print but available on CD, see below
Volume II (out of print), Cemeteries of Okaloosa County, Florida 26 cemeteries north and east of the Yellow River	Out of print but available on CD, see below
Volume III Cemeteries of Okaloosa County, Florida 11 cemeteries south of the Shoal River	\$5.00 plus \$3.00 postage
Funeral Records of Okaloosa County Records from McLaughlin Funeral Home, Crestview, FL, from 1927 - 1984. Over 11,000 entries. Includes the names of the deceased and, when given, the names of parents. Deceased are listed alphabetically, parents names are indexed.	\$5.00 plus \$3.00 postage
Santa Rosa County Marriages 1869-1906 Over 7,000 names with every-name index, 123 pages.	\$5.00 plus \$3.00 postage
Walton County Marriages (out of print), 1895-1915 Over 10,000 names with every-name index, 165 pages.	Out of print but available on CD, see below
The GSOC Publications Disk This compact disk (CD) contains all of the books listed above: <i>Cemeteries of Okaloosa County, Volumes I, II, and III; Funeral Records of Okaloosa County; Santa Rosa County Marriages 1869-1906; and Walton County Marriages 1885-1915</i>	\$15.00 plus \$2.00 postage

For ordering information on GSOC publications, please go to:
<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flocgs/GSOC-BookSale.html>



The next GSOC meeting will be on April 14, 2012,
at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida at 10 A.M.

The program will be a Show and Tell where members bring
items that have been passed down in their families and tell
why they are treasured.

*"Whatever you know, whatever you learn –
Pass it On!"*

**Genealogical Society of
Okaloosa County (GSOC)**
P.O. Box 1175
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-1175

