

# THE GSOC NEWSLETTER

THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
OF OKALOOSA COUNTY,  
FLORIDA

APRIL 5, 2013

## Next GSOC Meeting

April 13, 2013



Our April meeting will feature genealogist and former GSOC president, Beverly Gross. Beverly's program will be *Living as a Genealogist Through Photography*.

She will discuss the evolution of photography through time and how the type of photograph can help to determine the time it was made. She will also provide useful hints on other ways to date photographs by the clothing, shoes, uniforms, etc. that are pictured.

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## GSOC Meeting Minutes March 9, 2013

Pat Pruett, Recording Secretary

President Donna Elliott called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM at the Heritage Museum, Valparaiso, FL, and welcomed twenty members and three guests.

Donna asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the 9 February 2013 meeting as included in our March GSOC newsletter. There being none, she called for a motion to approve the minutes as printed in the newsletter. Motion was so made by Tom Stiles and seconded by Bob Sutherland. Motion was passed.

### Officers' reports:

**Programs:** Vice President Ken Elliott gave a rundown on some of the programs he is planning for 2013. Today, Dale Cox, noted author; April, Beverly Gross; May, Charlene Grafton, speaking on DNA; June, Farris Powell; Aug. "Show and Tell". These are tentative and to be confirmed at a later date.

**Treasurer's Report:** Bob Basch stated that we have a balance of \$2195.00 in our checkbook. He, also, stated that the 2013 Budget that he presented at the officers' meeting today has been approved. Bob explained the significance of the blue box being passed around for donations for genealogy books for our local libraries.

**Corresponding Secretary:** Jim Young reported that the journals we receive are placed in the Fort Walton Beach Library. He said that our Website will soon have a Members Only section. This will include publications we receive in digital form from other Societies and which are not intended to be public. It may also include GSOC publications which are intended for GSOC members and not to be made public.

### Committee Reports:

**Membership** - Committee Chairman, Sue Basch reported on the membership renewals. Most members are up to date. Just a few stragglers.

**Newsletter and Website** - Chairman Jim Young reported everything is going fine. He has had an offer from Mr. Hank Klein to supply an article on the "East Pass Blockade" for the Newsletter. Jim would appreciate having articles from our members to be included in the newsletter. He asked if anyone had an idea who the "Mystery Couple" pictured in the March Newsletter might be? The correct answer is Anne and Bob Sutherland.

**Publicity** - Chairman Pat Pruett reported all is going well. We still need a volunteer to take over the job of Publicity Chairman.

**Genealogist** - Margaret Harris, who was present after a long absence, was welcomed back. She spoke of the recent changes in her life, as well as the fact that this marks the 10<sup>th</sup> year since she started teaching genealogy classes at the Center for Life Long Learning. There are now a lot more classes on genealogy being taught there.

### Library Reports:

Fort Walton - Hilma Jenus stated the section on genealogy there seems to get very little use. It was suggested that perhaps a sign-in sheet located there would show how much use it does get.

Valparaiso - Beverly Gross not present

Crestview - Martha Trau not present

Donna mentioned that her "Suggestion Bag" for members to submit ideas for speaker, field trips, etc., is on the table in the back, along with the publications recently received from other Societies and our March newsletter.

**Old Business:** Need for a publicity chairman still exists.

**New Business:** The officers agreed that the GSOC should take part in the **Saturday in the Park**. Therefore, Donna announced that we need volunteers to set up our table and man it during the day. Saturday in the Park will be held on 20 April from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM at Perrine Park. She is giving advanced notice so that we might sign up for two-hour segments to serve at our table and pass out literature and have forms available to join the GSOC. She said that sign-up sheets are on the table.

**Announcements:**

Donna announced that two events will take place on Saturday, 16 March: **The Walton County History Fair** will be held at the Walton County Fairgrounds, located in Defuniak Springs, at 790 Hwy 83 North, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. \$5.00 admission; and an **Eglin Archaeology Day** will be held at Jackson Guard on Hwy 85, Niceville, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Member Glenda Manis announced that the Daughters of the Confederacy will hold a meeting at the First Baptist Church, downtown Pensacola, on Thursday 14 March, at 1:00 PM. The program will be about the involvement of American Indians in battles in this area during the Civil War.

Margaret Harris announced that the Family History Center in Ft. Walton will now be open on Tuesdays from 9:00 AM and Margaret will be there volunteering. It is also open on Thursdays.

Following the announcements, Ken gave away two door prizes, and then plans were made to have lunch at Ed's restaurant, for those interested.

**Program:**

Ken Elliott introduced Mr. Dale Cox. Mr. Cox is a writer and historian with a unique literary style and depth of research which is evident in his books which range from local histories to widely acclaimed volumes on small but significant Civil War battles. His topic today was based on his latest book, **The Scott Massacre of 1817: A Seminole War Battle in Gadsden County, Florida**. He completely held the attention of his audience with his thorough knowledge of his subject and his enthusiastic presentation; all without notes. It was a privilege to have him as our speaker.

President Elliott adjourned the meeting at 12:15 PM.

## Publications Recently Received by the GSOC

**The Butler County Historical & Genealogical Quarterly**, Greenville, AL, Vol. 48, No. 3, July 2012 [Received by GSOC on 2 March 2013 and apparently written in February 2013], 22 pages

**Yakima Valley Genealogical Society Bulletin**, Union Gap, WA, Vol. 45, March 2013, No. 1, 28 pages

**Genealogical Gazette, Quarterly**, Southwest Georgia Genealogical Society, Inc., Albany, GA, Vol. 31, No. 1, February 2013, 50 pages

**Oklahoma Genealogical Society Quarterly**, Oklahoma City, OK, Vol. 58, No. 1, March 2013, 43 pages

**Pea River Trails**, Pea River Historical & Genealogical Society, Enterprise, AL, Vol. 37, No. 4, Winter 2012, 39 pages

**Kinfolks**, Southwestern Louisiana Genealogical Society, Inc., Lake Charles, LA, Vol. 37, No. 1, March 2013, 39 pages

**American Spirit**, Daughters of the American Revolution, Washington, DC, March/April 2013, 50 pages

**Suwannee Valley Genealogy**, Suwannee Valley Genealogy Society, Inc., Live Oak, FL, Spring, Vol. XV-2013, No. 1, 20 pages

## Member Notes

Do you recognize this GSOC member? He attended the March 9th meeting and he says that the puppy's name was 'Boss'.

The Mystery Couple in the March 2013 Newsletter were Ann and Robert Sutherland.

We welcome our newest member, Sara Anne "Sally" Long from Fort Walton Beach, FL.



## 37<sup>th</sup> Saturday in the Park

Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida,  
Saturday, April 20, 8 am – 4 pm  
115 Westview Avenue, Valparaiso, FL

The day begins with the *Heritage 5K Run/Walk and Kids Fun Run*, and also features the *People's Choice Car Show and Parade*. There will be folk artists, traditional heritage craft demonstrations, re-enactors, live entertainment, food and craft vendors, a children's Kid Zone with old-fashioned games and toys, face painting, a bounce house and so much more! The Museum will be open free of charge all day and will showcase a variety of awesome exhibits including "VivaFlorida-Colonial Homestead" to commemorate 500 years of Florida history. This family-fun event is free and open to the public and supports the Museum's mission to promote the rich history of Northwest Florida.

For information and registration forms for 5K, Car Show, and Craft Vendor Space visit: [www.heritage-museum.org](http://www.heritage-museum.org) or call (850) 678-2615. Free and open to the public. Registration fees for 5k, Car Show, and Craft Vendors.

### Vendors Sought for Saturday in the Park

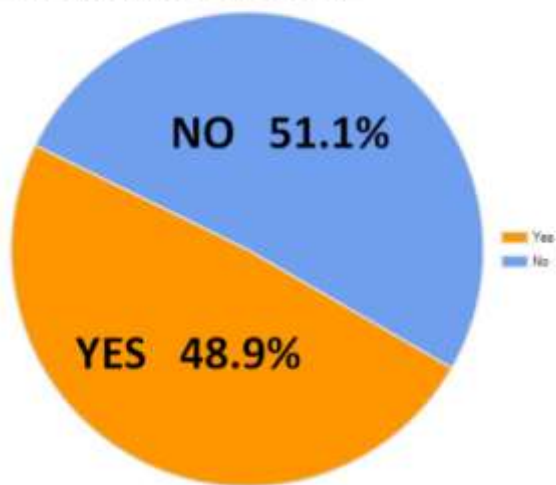
The Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida seeks Arts/Craft/Antique Vendors for the 37th Saturday in the Park. Craft vendors must produce quality, hand-crafted, original items only. To register, go online to [www.heritage-museum.org](http://www.heritage-museum.org) or call 850 678-2615.

# Florida State Genealogical Society Survey Results

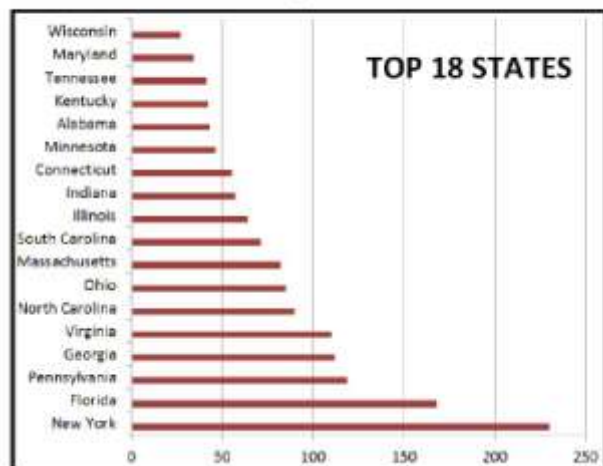
This information is shown here with the permission of the FSGS. It is based on a survey made by the FSGS in October 2012 and these results appeared in the February 2013 issue of the FSGS Newsletter.

There were 505 responses from the members of 86 different Florida societies representing 629 society memberships.

## Do you have personal interest in Florida History and Genealogy?



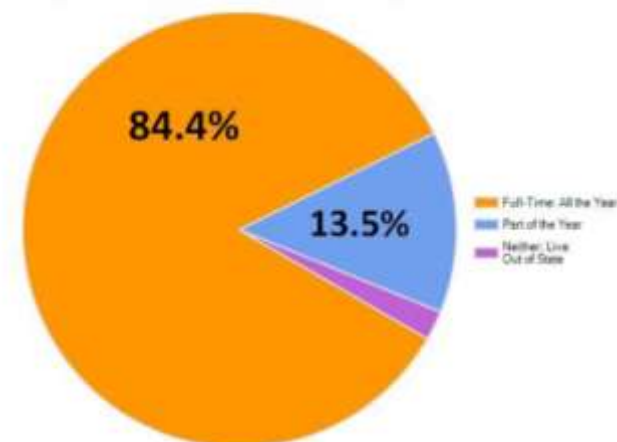
## States in Which Respondents Research



90.3% of the respondents were members of genealogical societies in Florida.

The main reasons given for becoming a member of a Florida genealogical society were: networking, outreach, camaraderie, learning from others, education, connections, and finding cousins

## Do you reside in Florida all year?



## Countries in Which Respondents Research



## Events, Groups, and Sites of GSOC Interest

**West Florida Genealogical Society Regular Meeting**  
5740 N. 9th Ave., Pensacola, FL, (850) 494-7373  
**April 6, 10 AM**

The speaker will be Jeff Neely, retired Marine Corps pilot, with degrees in geography and in computer resource management. He served as Webmaster for the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing during *Operation Iraqi Freedom*.

His presentation will show how to use Google Earth as a research tool to locate family related historical landmarks (old maps with home sites, cemeteries, district lines, other structures) by overlaying older maps onto current satellite imagery. This overlay technique works for both urban and rural settings, as well as uses Google Earth Street View to view current locations. By getting latitude/longitude coordinates a visit to the sites would be possible.

Members can download Google Earth to their laptop, and a map of interest to their desktop, and follow along during presentation. The PowerPoint will be available on the WFGS web site for download following the presentation.



# Civil War Blockade of East Pass – USS *Water Witch*

By H. C. "Hank" Klein  
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Leonard Destin, the founder of Destin, Florida was accused of trading with the enemy while he was living at East Pass during the Civil War. Having been born in New London, Connecticut Leonard was a Yankee living in a very vulnerable place considering the Union Navy was blockading the entrance to Choctawhatchee Bay with the steam gunboat USS *Water Witch*. Thus he was moved by the Confederate Walton Guards to Four Mile Landing (present day Freeport) in early August, 1861.<sup>1</sup>

In an effort to discover just what Leonard Destin might have been trading with the enemy (Union) we had hoped reviewing the original log of the Union steam gunboat the USS *Water Witch* might disclose any misdeeds. While there was some mention of local residents and the crew of the *Water Witch* interacting there was nothing indicating any trading actually was taking place. While no misdeeds by Leonard Destin were found there were many interesting things mentioned in the original log which is on file at the National Archives in Washington, DC.

One of President Lincoln first actions, once the southern states seceded from the Union, was to blockade the southern ports to stop commerce at all southern ports – this included East Pass.

Blockading a port conjures up in our minds a vision of a Union ship anchored at East Pass either in the Gulf of Mexico or in the center of the pass. The vessel would stop any vessel attempting to leave or enter the pass, but this was not the case. Reading the log we discovered that while the USS *Water Witch* (and other Union naval vessels) might have cruised by East Pass no vessel actually stayed on site full time, except for a 11 day period in July of 1861.

The USS *Water Witch* was in originally commissioned on February 8, 1853 as a wooden-hulled side wheeler steam gunboat in the US Navy. On November 1, 1860 she went



to the Philadelphia Navy Yard for repairs and was decommissioned. When the Civil War broke out she returned to active duty on April 10, 1861. That was just two days before General Beauregard's

bombardment of Fort Sumter which started the hostilities between the South and the North. Steaming to her base at Key West, Florida she joined the Gulf Blockading Squadron off Pensacola, Florida on May 2, 1861 and served as a mail runner, re-supply ship, and blockader.<sup>2</sup>

## Log of the USS *Water Witch*

In reviewing the original log of the USS *Water Witch* which began in April 10, 1861 and continued through April 14, 1862 we found that she sailed back and forth from Key West to Fort Pickens (and sometimes to Havana, Cuba). While she sailed past East Pass a number of times she only anchored at East Pass (or East Pap, Santa Rosa Island, Florida as it was called in the log) for a 11 day period of time from July 5 – 15, 1861. Interesting entries in the log were as follows:<sup>3</sup>

*July 5, 1861 - She is sailing from Ft. Pickens along Santa Rosa Island for 37 ½ miles to East Pap, Santa Rosa Island, Florida.*

*July 6, 1861 - They arrived at East Pap and logged some interesting entries from 8:00 am to 12 noon. They sent a cutter to cross the bar and found that they had only five feet of water. They went across the bar and into the lagoon and "found a sloop at anchor and a house apparently abandoned by its inhabitants." Most of the other entries that day pertain to the weather or seas.*

The house and sloop at anchor "apparently abandoned by its inhabitants" were most probably those of Leonard Destin. I picture in my mind what I would do in such a situation. With a war going on if a 163 foot steamer had anchored at my back door with large guns and 64 officers and men of the Union Navy on board and I had a wife and 4 small children I would be terrified for myself and my family. My wife would probably say, "I'm scared! Let's go hide in the woods until they leave."

Leonard Destin and his wife Martha at that point had 5 children. Elizabeth Porter, an orphan from Mobile, Alabama who they raised as their daughter – she would have been was 9-years-old. Their daughter Jane, 5-years-old, and their sons George, 8-years-old, William, 4-years-old, and Leonard Jr. who had turned one year old that very day – what a birthday present! Most probably they gathered some clothes, blankets, food and water, and ran to their small boat. Then rowed along the shore along Choctawhatchee Bay towards Point Washington until they found a place where they believed they could hide their small boat along the shore. Then tied up their boat and disappeared into the woods.

*July 7, 1861- Most of the entries in the log pertain to mustering the crew, having "Divine Services," the wind direction, and types of seas they observed. However during the 4:00 – 8:00 am entry there is mention of seeing a "schooner beating up from the west inside."*

The schooner mentioned in the July 7, 1861 entry was most probably the schooner Lady Luck which the Walton Guards used for supplies and mail. It sailed to Camp

Walton regularly from Alaqua Creek (at present day Freeport, Florida) supplying the Walton Guards needs.

*July 8, 1861 - There is only mention of mustering the crew and weather information.*

*July 9, 1861 - Most of the entries in the log pertain to mustering the crew and weather information. In the 8:00 am to noon entry there is mention of seeing smoke and believing it is a steamer bearing WSW. From 4:00 – 6:00 pm there is an entry that they exercised the 1<sup>st</sup> division at single sticks (wooden swords used for battle practice) and the 2<sup>nd</sup> division at the howitzer.*

*July 10, 1861 - Again there is a lot of information about the weather and wind direction. There were stiff winds, lightning, and squalls so the USS Water Witch “got up anchor and steamed seaward.” They re-anchored 2 miles off East Pap in deeper water.*

*July 11, 1861 - They mustered the crew, exercised the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> divisions, and reported on the weather. On each day they logged the provisions on board. On this day they mention that they had expended 2,250 pounds of coal and still had 192,180 pounds of coal on hand. They also had expended 61 gallons of water and still had 1,895 gallons on hand. They also had 1,085 pounds of pork on hand, had expended 85 pounds of beef and had 1,413 pounds of beef on hand. Additionally, they had expended 18 sticks of wood and still had 513 sticks of wood on hand. There is also a special mention that “the allowance of water for the officers and crew had been reinstated to the normal one gallon per day by the order of the commanding officer.”*

*July 12, 1861 - At 4:50 am they “sent the second cutter ashore with armed men. As they neared the beach they were fired upon (three discharges) by 20 men. The cutter returned to the ship immediately and no one was hurt.” At 6:30 am they steamed closer to the land and called all hands to quarters. They then “sent a cutter to ashore with 11 men who scoured the eastern end, but without finding anyone.” They returned to the ship bringing 10 baskets of sand and re-anchored the ship in 3 fathoms of water with 8 fathoms of chain. There is very interesting information in the log at the 8:00 am to Noon entry. The “first cutter landed with men and took possession of the sloop that was anchored and moved it down towards East Pap.” “At 10:00 am got underway and steamed close along the beach – expending 1, 24 Pdr (pounder) shell and 1, 24 Pdr (pounder) shrapnel.”*

*In the log from 12:00 to 4:00 pm they “sent the gig to assist in towing the sloop about a ½ mile inside East Pap and was abandoned after taking out the following articles – 1 double barreled fowling piece, 1 compass, 2 pairs of shoes, 1 time piece, 1 spring balance, 1 hat, 1 coffee mill.” The steamer anchored ½ mile off the split and “a small boat came off containing one man with a flag of truce.”*

The crew of the USS Water Witch had a very busy day on July 12, 1861. First they tried go ashore in their cutter. On the way they were attacked by the Confederate Walton Guards. This is known as the “Battle of East Pass” and will

be discussed later in this paper from both the Confederates and Union point of view.

Secondly, they took possession of Leonard Destin’s sloop and anchored it a ½ mile inside East Pass. They didn’t stop there however. The Union crew also took the valuables they found aboard Destin’s sloop and inventoried them in their log.

Additionally, someone in a small boat came aboard waving a flag of truce. That was most probably the hired hand of Leonard Destin’s, Frederick Lawmaster, who we will see later was from Pensacola, Florida.

*July 13, 1861 - At the 4:00 to 8:00 am log entry that states “saw a schooner in the bay 5 miles to WNW of us.” Most of the other entries were about the weather; however they mustered the crew during the 4:00 – 6:00 pm watch. Also during that watch “a boat came from off the sloop anchored inside and received all of the property belonging to her except a double barreled shot gun which was not returned.”*

Apparently Leonard Destin returned close enough to his home to realize that his sloop had been moved. Going aboard his sloop he found that his personal property had been taken by the Union Navy. According to the entry in the ships log on July 13, 1861 he left his sloop late in the afternoon and went to the USS Water Witch and confronted the crew and asked for his belongings back. They returned each of his belongings which they had taken, except for his double barreled shotgun. If there was any “trading with the enemy” it looks like this is as close as it got – Leonard Destin retrieving his own belongings.

*July 14, 1861 – This must have been a Sunday because in addition to entries about the weather and mustering the crew there is mention of having Devine Services.*

*July 15, 1861 - The USS Water Witch left East Pap and sailed along Santa Rosa Island to Fort Pickens.*

Reviewing the pages of the USS Water Witch log you find trips to the Mississippi River, then return trips to Fort Pickens, Key West, Havana, and back again to Fort Pickens. Although she steamed by East Pass while cruising along the coast of Florida, we did not find any additional pages of the log showing that she actually stopped at East Pass.

### **Confederate Version of the Battle of East Pass**

In the book written by Lt. Henry W. Reddick of the Walton Guards he mentions the details of what he calls “The Battle of East Pass” in chapter II. His book on the Civil War titled Seventy-Seven Years in Dixie – The Boys in Gray 61-65 was published in 1910.

It is interesting to compare the log of the Union steam gunship USS Water Witch with the Confederate version of events at East Pass in Reddick’s book. There are differences of opinion held by each side of the same event.

Concerning the attack by the Confederate soldiers on the crew of the *Water Witch* in Reddick's book he states on page 11:



*"During our stay at Camp Walton it was reported to Captain McPherson that a Yankee gunboat was lying off at East Pass on blockade duty and that she was landing troops there. This was reported to General Bragg at Ft. Barrancas [west of Warrington Navy Yard] and he instructed Captain McPherson to send a force over there and drive them off. Under these instructions Captain McPherson ordered a detail of forty men to go over there with*

*the best guns we had, which were long-range muskets. When the men were lined up he gave them a little speech, and it must be admitted that some of the boys turned white, for it was known that this meant a fight and that at the time was a new business to them. However, they were ready to go, but when the matter was investigated, it was found that a part of the men who had the muskets were on picket duty, and so there were twelve of the force who were only armed with shotguns.*

*We had a long-boat with twelve long oars or sweeps and with these the boys pulled over to the head of Joe's Bayou [Destin] and, disembarking, marched two miles through the thick brush to the big red bluff opposite the pass where they lay in ambush watching the enemy. From this point they saw two boats leaving the gunboat, one some little distance in advance of the other. Our boys waited until they were within about 150 yards when the command was given to fire, and our boys poured in a volley which killed or wounded nearly every man in the boat, but the wind blowing off-shore drove the boat up on the island. A number of volleys were fired at the other boat but it was further off and not so much damage was done to it.*

*It was the Yankees' turn next and the gunboat turned her big guns loose in their direction, and Captain McPherson ordered a retreat to the boat and back to Camp Walton where the boys arrived without loss. We learned afterward that every man in the first boat except two was either killed or wounded, though some of our shotgun crowd told me that they saw their buckshot strike the water far short of the boat. I was on picket duty that day and did not get to go, though of course, the boys had my best wishes."*

When you compare the Confederate's version of the 'battle' (above) to the Union's version (below) there is quite a difference. The first part of the July 12, 1861 log of the *Water Witch* states:

*"At 4:50 am they "sent the second cutter ashore with armed men. As they neared the beach they were fired upon (three discharges) by 20 men. The cutter returned to the ship immediately and no one was hurt." At 6:30 am they steamed closer to the land and called all hands to quarters. They then "sent a cutter to ashore with 11 men who scoured the eastern end, but without finding anyone." They returned to the ship bring 10 baskets of sand and re-*

*anchored the ship in 3 fathoms of water with 8 fathoms of chain.*

While Lt. Reddick's version states that "every man in the first boat except two was either or wounded, though some of our shotgun crowd told me that they saw their buckshot strike the water far short of the boat." The log of the *Water Witch* has another version of the incident and states "no one was hurt." Of course, Reddick does say that he "was on picket duty that day and did not get to go" so he heard the stories second hand when the troops got back to Camp Walton and it is obvious there were some exaggerations that day.

Reddick's story of that battle continued with some additional action that occurred that same morning as follows:

On their return, the Yankees got their guns on the beach and fired twenty-one shots at our schooner, *Lady of the Lake*, which was bringing up our supplies and was becalmed at the time and could not get out of the way. Lieutenants Chas. L. McKinnon and A. B. McLeod and eight men were on board of her at the time and, in addition, General William Miller, who at that time had no command, not having been mustered into the Confederate service. The men said that when the shots began coming. General Miller got up on the taffrail of the boat and shook his hat at them and gave them the rebel yell, but others of the men got down in the hold of the boat. Old Lee Ranier got behind the center case for better protection and when things were quiet would stick his head up, but when another shot was heard would say, "Here comes another," and dodge down again. Captain Madison Reddick [author's brother—died at the Battle of Chickamauga] was in command of the schooner, and when a breeze sprang up, got out of range and then landed the supplies on the mainland side.<sup>4</sup>

Again, the log of the Union *Water Witch* also tells of this shelling but in more subdued terms as follows:

*"At 10:00 am got underway and steamed close along the beach – expending 1, 24 Pdr (pounder) shell and 1, 24 Pdr (pounder) shrapnel."*

The log of the *Water Witch* also contained information that coincides with Confederate reports. On August 26, 1861 the Walton Guards commander, Captain William McPherson, reported by letter to his superior, General Braxton Bragg at Pensacola of the recent events. One piece of information he reported in his letter was the following:

*Frederick Lawmaster, a man in the employ of Lenn, on the day I removed Lenn, so it has been reported to me, took a small boat belonging to Lenn, and went off, no one knew where. He was not seen to go into Choctawhatchee Bay nor did he pass down the narrows. He is suspicioned of having gone out to the ship; as nothing can be heard of him. He is reported as having had a family in Pensacola last winter and spring.*



Once again the Water Witch also mentions this event in their log on July 12, 1861 as follows:

*"The steamer anchored ½ mile off the spit and "a small boat came off containing one man with a flag of truce."*

While Leonard Destin's employee is not mentioned by name Frederick Lawmaster most probably decided to go back to Pensacola to his family with the help of the crew of the USS Water Witch or he may have possibly used this opportunity to join up with the Union troops. The Water Witch left its blockading duty at East Pass (or East Pap as they called it) on July 15, 1861 sailing that evening to Fort Pickens.

### So What Happened to the USS Water Witch?

According to Wikipedia on January 20, 1862, the Gulf Blockading Squadron was divided into two squadrons to create the West Gulf Blockading Squadron and the East Gulf Blockading Squadron. The USS *Water Witch* was assigned to the East Gulf, and her area of operations became the gulf coasts of Alabama and Florida. She served most frequently off Mobile, Alabama and Pensacola, which would have included East Pass. But she also performed the duty of dispatch vessel and mail packet.

Later in the Civil War the USS *Water Witch* continued to performed blockade duty at several points along the coasts of South Carolina, Georgia, and northern Florida in 1864. She most frequently performed duties at Ossabaw Sound between Ossabaw Island and the Georgia mainland about 15 miles due south of Savannah, Georgia. That remained her primary duty station well into 1864. But on the night of June 3, 1864, a Confederate force under the command of First Lieutenant Thomas P. Pelot, CSN, succeeded in boarding and capturing the USS *Water Witch* in Ossabaw Sound. After a brief scuffle which cost the Union ship two killed and 12 wounded (13 officers and 49 men were captured) the ship was taken. Confederate losses were 6 killed and 17 wounded.

The Union steam gunboat the USS *Water Witch* was subsequently taken into the Confederate Navy and she became the CSS *Water Witch*. She retained the name *Water Witch* and Lt. W. W. Carnes, CSN, commanded the ship during her service for the South. Plans were being made to move her to Savannah for some special assignment, but she remained at White Bluff, Georgia, until December 19, 1864. The Confederates burned her to prevent recapture. Carnes was later ordered to Columbus, Georgia to take command of the CSS *Jackson*.

<sup>1</sup> Leonard Destin - A Yankee in the Wrong Place During The Civil War by Author

<sup>2</sup> USS *Water Witch* (1851) - [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS\\_Water\\_Witch\\_\(1851\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Water_Witch_(1851))

<sup>3</sup> Log of the USS *Water Witch* – RG 24: Bureau of Naval Personnel, Entry 118 Logs of US Ships and Stations 1801-1947 – Location, 18W4, Row 12/4/3, Volume 12 of 14 – National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC

<sup>4</sup> *Seventy-Seven Years in Dixie – The Boys in Gray* 61-65 – Henry W. Reddick, 1910.

<sup>5</sup> National Civil War Naval Museum - <http://portcolumbus.org/exhibits/waterwitch/>

### Believe It Or Not You Can See The USS/CNS *Water Witch* Today!

The National Civil War Naval Museum located at Columbus, Georgia constructed a full-scale reproduction of the USS/CSS *Water Witch* using her original plan drawings. The museum is also home to the *Water Witch*'s original bell, one of her flags, and an original Bible taken from the ship. The museum's *Water Witch* exhibit opened to the public on April 4, 2009.<sup>5</sup>



Muriel and Hank Klein standing behind the full-scale replica of the USS/CSS *Water Witch*

The author of this article, H. C. "Hank" Klein, has long been interested in the history of Northwest Florida, and the genealogy of his father-in-law's and mother-in-law's families (Marler and Shirah). Both came from pioneer Destin families and both were related to Leonard Destin, the founder of Destin, Florida.

Hank's father-in-law's aunt, Emma Marler, married George Destin the first born son of Leonard and Martha Destin. While Hank's mother-in-law's sister, Alice Shirah, married George D. Destin the son of George Destin and grandson of Leonard and Martha Destin.

Klein has written books documenting he and his wife's family genealogy. Hank has also contributed historical research for Tony Mennillo's recently published book *Salty Memories along the Coastal Highway – Historic Stories of Destin and the Emerald Coast*. Copies of this book containing 492 vintage photographs of Destin and the Emerald Coast can be obtained by contacting Arturo's Studio at [www.arturosstudio.com](http://www.arturosstudio.com) or 850/585-2909 or from Amazon.com.

Klein lived for many years in both Okaloosa and Bay Counties. He is now retired from his credit union management career, and he and his wife (the former Muriel Marler of Destin, FL) live in North Little Rock, Arkansas. He can be contacted at [klein@aristotle.net](mailto:klein@aristotle.net) or at 501-256-7474.

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## Civil War Sesquicentennial

### Selected Highlights of April 1863

<http://blueandgraytrail.com>

**April 2** A mob demands bread from a supply wagon in Richmond, starting the so-called Bread Riot. The mob looted other stores and was personally addressed by Jefferson Davis, who tossed the money from his pocket into the crowd. Police and soldiers eventually dispersed the crowd.

**April 7** A fleet of 9 Union ironclads under the command of Samuel Dupont sailed into Charleston Harbor and attacked Fort Moultrie and Fort Sumter. Sumter is visibly damaged but the Confederate batteries from the shore heavily damage the 9 ironclads and they are forced to withdraw. Naval occupation of the harbor is ruled out.

**April 13** Federal forces engage Fort Bisland in Bayou Teche



Ambrose Burnside

**April 13** General Ambrose Burnside [US] issued General Order 38 in which he stated "anyone found guilty of committing acts for the benefit of the enemies of our country will be subject to execution."

**April 16** Rear Admiral David Porter sent 12 vessels south on the Mississippi past Vicksburg. Although hit a number of times by Confederate gunners, the vessels suffered little damage

**April 19** The Nebraska Territory enabling act, the first step in statehood, is signed into law.

**April 20** Lincoln proclaims that West Virginia would join the Union on June 20

**April 22** Grant's forces south of Vicksburg are resupplied by Porter's fleet, which suffered heavy losses when transports and barges steamed by Confederate batteries

**April 22** Comprehensive "tax-in-kind" plan passed by the Confederate Senate. It required 10 percent of everything produced or grown be given to the Confederate government.

**April 30** Army of the Potomac forces set up camp in The Wilderness surrounding the Chancellor family home after crossing the Rappahannock River

**April 30** About noon, Ulysses S. Grant begins crossing the Mississippi and landing U. S. troops south of Vicksburg

## BILLY D. TEEL JUNE 20, 1931 - DECEMBER 17, 2012



Billy D. Teel, age 81, passed away Dec. 17, 2012. He is survived by his wife of sixty years, Clara Jo, and children, Ann Teel Hatcher and Bruce B Teel and wife, Jenny; grandchildren, Jordan Teel Smith and husband, Daniel, Lance Teel Hatcher, Morgan Teel, and Chancer Teel; great-grandchild, Ryan Lee Smith; brother, Bob Teel and wife, Dixey; sister-in-law, Louise Kimbrell; and numerous beloved aunts, cousins, nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Dewey and Pauline Teel.

Billy was born June 20, 1931, in Opp, Ala., and moved to Crestview, Fla., in 1944 with his parents and baby brother, Bob. Billy graduated from Crestview High School, playing baseball, football, and basketball and was a member of the band. He played baseball at Florida State University and graduated with a degree in Business. He served in the United States Air Force as an air traffic controller at Eglin Air Force Base. Billy received his private plane pilot license for single-multiengine-instrument-land and enjoyed flying for years. He attained professional certifications as a MAI Appraiser, Real Estate Broker, and Expert Court Witness in Real Estate Valuation. His respected friend and colleague, Mike Chesser, fondly referred to him as "The Dean of Real Estate in Okaloosa County."



Billy founded Teel and Waters Real Estate, Inc., and State Farm Insurance in Crestview, retiring in 2009 with 54 years of outstanding professional service to his many clients and customers. Billy served his community in many aspects as a lifelong member of the First Baptist Church, Sunday school teacher, Deacon, Chamber of Commerce President, Board of Directors of First National Bank of Crestview, Kiwanis Club as well many other organizations and worthy endeavors.

He was a respected man and leader in our community. He mentored many individuals, professionally and personally, over the years. He loved life and spent his free time staying fit, mentally and physically. With his steely blue eyes, he always expressed his compassion for children, families in need, and the fine and performing arts. He was esteemed by Senators, Representatives, Judges, Attorneys, Doctors, and many other professionals and leaders of our community and state.

Funeral services were held Thursday, Dec. 20, 2012, at the First Baptist Church of Crestview. Burial followed in Liveoak Park Memorial Cemetery. Because of Billy's love for children and families in need, donations can be made in his memory to Crestview Family YMCA, 298 N. Wilson St., Crestview, FL 32536 or the Building Fund of First Baptist Church, Crestview.

**Mr. Teel was a life member of the Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County.**



# GSOC INFORMATION

## Officers for 2013

President, Donna Elliott (850 585-1739)  
 1st VP (Programs), Ken Elliott (850 678-5452)  
 2nd VP (Membership), Sue Basch (850 865-6637)  
 2nd VP (Membership) Asst, Carol Lessard (850 678-4567)  
 Treasurer, Bob Basch (850 897-3310)  
 Recording Secretary, Pat Pruett (850 678-2023)  
 Asst Recording Secretary, Frances Hoge  
 Corresponding Secretary, Jim Young (850 862-8642)  
**Immediate Past President**, Malcolm Flanagan  
**Journal Editor**, Malcolm Flanagan (850 217-9455)  
**Historian**, TBD  
**Genealogist**, Margaret Harris (margmarieh@cox.net)  
**Publicity Chairperson**, TBD  
**Webmaster & Newsletter Editor**, Jim Young (850 862-8642)

(Elected, Appointed, and Ex Officio positions)

## Addresses

P.O. Box 1175, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-1175  
 Web Site: <http://www.rootswest.com/~flocgs>  
 Email: [gsocokaloosa@yahoo.com](mailto:gsocokaloosa@yahoo.com)  
 Newsletter Editor: [youngjmy@cox.net](mailto: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](mailto: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 2012 issue, Volume XXXIV, Issue 101, was published and distributed in November 2012.

## The Web Site

The GSOC web site is hosted by Rootswest at:  
<http://www.rootswest.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.

## Meeting Location



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

## GSOC Publications

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Volume I (out of print),<br/>Cemeteries of Okaloosa County, Florida</b><br>24 cemeteries east of the Yellow River & north of the Shoal River and I-10  | <b>Out of print</b><br>but available on CD, see below |
| <b>Volume II (out of print),<br/>Cemeteries of Okaloosa County, Florida</b><br>26 cemeteries north and west of the Yellow River   | <b>Out of print</b><br>but available on CD, see below |
| <b>Volume III<br/>Cemeteries of Okaloosa County, Florida</b><br>11 cemeteries south of the Shoal River  | \$5.00<br>plus \$3.00 postage                         |
| <b>Funeral Records of Okaloosa County</b><br>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<br>plus \$3.00 postage                         |
| <b>Santa Rosa County Marriages<br/>1869-1906</b><br>Over 7,000 names with every-name index, 123 pages.  | \$5.00<br>plus \$3.00 postage                         |
| <b>Walton County Marriages (out of print),<br/>1895-1915</b><br>Over 10,000 names with every-name index, 165 pages.   | <b>Out of print</b><br>but available on CD, see below |
| <b>The GSOC Publications Disk</b><br>This compact disk (CD) contains <u>searchable</u> PDF files containing the books listed above:<br><b>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</b> | \$15.00<br>plus \$2.00 postage                        |

Please send your order information with your check to  
**GSOC, P.O. Box 1175, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-1175**  
 and mark your envelope "Book Sales"



The April GSOC meeting will be on Saturday, April 13, at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, 115 Westview Avenue, Valparaiso, FL, at 10:00 A.M.

Our speaker will be GSOC member and former president, Beverly Gross, who will discuss ***Living as a Genealogist Through Photography***

*"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

