



The GSOC Newsletter

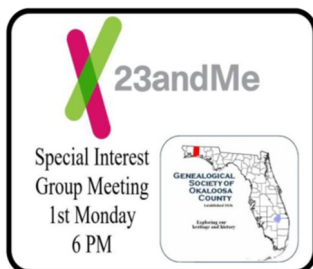
The Genealogical Society of
Okaloosa County, Florida

April 12, 2021

At our March meeting on March 27, Janeen Bjork gave a fascinating presentation on how to “Create a Book” about your family and your history. Her handout is attached at the end of this newsletter. We hope it inspires you to create something that you and your family will enjoy. It may seem to be an overwhelming idea, but Janeen’s notes and suggestions make it very “doable.”

Saturday, April 24 — “How to Get the Most from Your atDNA Results” (More info on Page 2)

Saturday, May 22—We’ll have a video presentation entitled “Home of the Brave—Land and Military Research.” This is the first part of a two-part session, and this one focuses on Alabama genealogy and land research, but will have information that could be helpful in your own research topics. (More info on Page 5.)



The Monthly DNA Special Interest Group meetings have been discontinued. If you have a specific question or concern, Immediate Past President Cindy Barber has graciously offered to assist.

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF OKALOOSA COUNTY

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

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April GSOC Meeting



The graphic has a purple-to-blue gradient background with a stylized DNA double helix in red and blue. On the left is a portrait of Kristina Gow Clever, a woman with glasses and a patterned top. To the right of the portrait is the text 'Getting the Most from your atDNA Results' with a bullet point. Below this is a horizontal line and the name 'KRISTINA GOW CLEVER'. At the bottom, in white text, is 'SATURDAY, APRIL 24 - 10:30 AM VIA ZOOM'.

- Getting the Most from your atDNA Results

KRISTINA GOW CLEVER

SATURDAY, APRIL 24 - 10:30 AM VIA ZOOM

Program Details: DNA has become an important piece of evidence to supplement our document research. Join us as Kristina explains the benefits of using DNA, provides ideas to keep those cousin lists organized, and introduces some must-have tools to help it all make sense.

Speaker Bio: Kristina Gow Clever is a Professional Genealogist in Eufaula, Alabama, and founder of Clever Genetic Ancestry. She has been researching her family for over 30 years and has been using genetic evidence to help people discover their biological roots for nearly 10 years. She received the Boston University Certificate in Genealogical Research, participated in the ProGen Study Group, and has completed several advanced courses at genealogy institutes. She is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists and has applied for certification with the Board for Certification of Genealogists. Kristina also serves as President of the West Florida Genealogical Society in Pensacola.

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<http://www.rootsweb.com/~flocgs> E-mail: gsocokaloosa@yahoo.com

I hereby apply for membership or the renewal of my membership in the Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County

ANNUAL DUES (Membership Year 1 Jan-31 Dec)

Dues have been suspended for 2021 because of the pandemic.

Please PRINT or TYPE all information:

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Preferred Telephone (Home/Cell): _____

E-Mail: _____ Date: _____

Can your information be shared with other members?

Name: Yes ___ No ___ Address: Yes ___ No ___ Phone: Yes ___ No ___ Email: Yes ___ No ___

Please circle your level of experience: Beginner Intermediate Advanced Family Genealogist Professional

Please indicate areas of GSOC in which you can serve or contribute

Newsletter Editor ___ Write Newsletter Articles ___ Webmaster ___
Journal Editor ___ Journal Staff Member ___ Write Articles for Journal ___
Serve on Short-term Committee ___ Nomination Committee ___ Organize Field Trips ___
Christmas Party Organizer ___ Give Genealogy Presentation ___
Workshop Leader ___ Workshop Volunteer ___ Special Event Organizer ___ Special Event Volunteer ___
Librarian ___ Publicity ___ Other _____

Research: Names of families and states you are researching. If no change so indicate.

If family membership- use left column for husband's family and right column for wife's.

Surname	State or Area


Surname	State or Area

PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM ALONG WITH YOUR CHECK TO THE GSOC POST OFFICE ADDRESS ABOVE
(OR BRING THE FORM AND YOUR CHECK TO THE NEXT MEETING OF THE SOCIETY)

Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County

Zoom Meeting Minutes

GSOC Meeting:	2021_03_27
Call to Order:	10:30 am
Attendees:	<p>8 - Barbara Bethea, Jodie Biles, Jim Young, Cindy Barber, Margaret Harris, Sue Basch, Eppi Azzaretto, Betsy Christian-son</p> <p>8 - Visitors: Janeen Bjork, Auriette Lindsey, Doug McCown, Steve and Linda Lant, Judy Jehn, Pam Murray, Martha Woodcock</p>
Presidents Report: (Margaret Harris)	One of our members Jerry Rush passed away March 10.
Membership Report: (Jodie Biles)	59 members
Programs Report: (Jodie Biles)	<p>April program: Kristina Clever, President of the West Florida Genealogy Society "Getting the Most from Your atDNA Results".</p> <p>Working on May program for a geographical location. Jodie has several different Alabama genealogy programs in mind. A time of 30-45 minutes was suggested.</p>
Recording Secretary: (Barbara Bethea)	Approval of February 2021 Minutes – Jodie moved we approve the minutes with the change to 60 members in and Eppi seconded. All approved.
Corresponding Secretary: (Donna Elliott)	Nothing to report.
Treasurer: (Phil Hoge by Barbara)	<p><u>Financial Report for board meeting:</u></p> <p>Blue Book Balance: \$884.82</p> <p>Treasury: \$1,056.43</p> <p>Bank Balance \$1,941.25</p> <p>Expenses since my last report are as follows:</p> <p>Reimburse Phil Hoge \$14.99 for monthly zoom payment from his credit card</p> <p>Deposits since my last report as follows:</p> <p>Received donations from Sue Basch (\$25.00) and Gail Meyer (\$24.00) of \$40.00.</p>
Newsletter: (Eppi Azzaretto)	Nothing to report
Website: (Jim Young)	Nothing to report
Sig Reports:	<p>23&Me - Jodie - 1st Monday 6pm</p> <p>Family Tree Maker - Cindy- 1st Wednesday 6pm</p> <p>Family Search - Margaret - 3rd Wednesday 6pm</p>
Presenter:	Janeen Bjork - You Should Write a Book: Writing your Family Story. There is a handout in the chat.

Questions Asked:	Lots of questions were asked.
Meeting Adjourned:	12:17 am
	



We'll watch this 28-minute video together as a group, and then discuss ways in which the concepts presented might be helpful to each of us in our own research.

The following four pages are the handout from Janeen Bjork, who was our March presenter.

“Create a Book” (in as few as four pages)

Saturday, March 27, 2021, 10:30 a.m. Central Time

Presented by the Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County

Janeen Bjork, Genealogy Teacher, info@JaneensList.com

Calendar of events: <http://janeenslist.com/events/>

<https://www.facebook.com/janeen.bjork.3>

IF YOU ARE MORE COMFORTABLE WITH WORDS THAN IMAGES

- Scrapbooking
- A Book on a Wall (a mural)

What I learned from working with a professional book designer:

FOUR ASPECTS TO CREATING A BOOK

1. Content
2. Organization
3. Design
4. Printing

1. Content

- Elements
 - Photos and/or photo albums
 - Invitations, letters, old ads, etc.
 - Articles and publications
 - Photos of heirlooms
 - Family charts
 - Narrative, including family stories that have been passed down.
- Scan images at same size or larger at 300 dpi (dots per inch). If not, they won't be large enough or the resolution will suffer.
- Scan in RGB for color or sepia photos, convert to CMYK in Photoshop; Scan in Grayscale for Black & White
- Use “descreening” for printed material
- File in separate folders on your computer
- Back up everything!
- Newspaper articles are usually 144 dpi.
 - They need to be brought into Photoshop and saved as 1200 dpi in a black & white bitmap file.
- Organize your scans and photos in files by family and by individual.
- Organize your narrative in computer files, too.

When you write, work on one thought at a time.

- Take it slow. Write as you research.

- I create abstracts for each new find and upload them to the subject's ancestry.com profile. They can be highlighted and copied into Word.
- Author Lisa Alzo says, "You can't edit a blank page."
- Keep going. Be disciplined. I use MS Office tools to organize my work.
- Write every day. A little every day adds up.

Online research resources

- <https://www.worldcat.org/> for books and the libraries holding them
- <https://www.hathitrust.org/> for books that have been digitized.
- <https://books.google.com/> for books that have been digitized.
- <https://archive.org/index.php> a free non-profit library, the WayBack Machine.
- https://www.ebay.com/b/Genealogy-Items/20925/bn_1865583
- <https://www.facebook.com/groups>
- <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/search/titles/> to find 156,000+ newspapers.
- <https://www.theancestorhunt.com/newspapers.html> for digitized newspapers.

Lay out Your Family Tree

- It does not have to be perfect. The designer will take care of that.

2. Organization and decision making ¹

- You can start with an introduction and a family chart. I added a map.
- Family units or individuals can be chapters.
- Our book evolved, we had too many chapters and not enough writers. We ended up with 13 chapters, the Introduction to Ord, 11 people, and the reunion chapter.

You need to find your style, an inventory system, and stick to it. I prefer to organize online. But confronted with file cabinets and boxes of books and papers, I had to make quick decisions, on what was most important, as I couldn't take it all home with me.

BACK-UP ON PAPER: After the images, documents, abstracts and notes are uploaded into ancestry.com profiles, text from the profiles can be highlighted, copied and pasted into a Word document. An entire family can be saved in a single document. You can search for key words within. Like a specific address, a person who visited, event types, etc. (CONTROL+F on Windows, or COMMAND+F on a Mac).

BACK-UP PAPER FILES BY DIGITIZATION: Word docs can be saved and shared to a thumb drive, to the cloud (e.g. Google Docs or Dropbox), or printed out and distributed to older family members who don't use computers. I prompted some interesting memories and responses from octogenarians (the next generation) and nonagenarians (our client) for the book when I handed them something they could read.

¹ Read Marian Burk Wood's book, "Planning a Future for Your Family's Past." 98 pages, \$12.
<https://www.amazon.com/Planning-Future-Your-Familys-Past/dp/1539124428>

3. Design

- Design happens *after* the content is determined
- Give your files, as they're ready, to the designer.
- The designer starts by designing a cover. The title page can resemble it.
- The Table of Contents doesn't get page numbers until the book is done.
- The designer will create a sample chapter for approval.
- Our sample chapter of one family member was sent to the client and the next generation in the family for their approval. Once everybody agreed on a look, the other chapters were variations on that theme.
- Our first and final chapters were bookends to the individual family member chapters, and they had common elements, one with a map of Nebraska, and one with a timeline of the family reunions that happened in different locations, displayed chronologically by the time zone.
- The book gained authenticity from the words of family members, that we found written in diaries, books, emails, letters, and family newsletters.
- The book had additional authenticity by the hundreds of newspaper items we included. NOTE: Get permission to use copyrighted material <95 years old.

4. Printing

- When the designer starts working on the book, printing prices can be estimated.
- Final quote is requested towards the end of project.
- Printing costs are based on
 - Page size/Book size
 - Material selected for the cover
 - Bleed or non-bleed
 - Color or Black & White
 - Number of pages
 - Paper quality
 - Quantity of books
- Do-overs will cost additional money, send the book to the printer when you're sure you've got it right.

MY ORGANIZATIONAL SYSTEM (YOURS HAS TO WORK FOR YOU)

- Online trees (I teach Genealogy, I have over 90 of them, w/ images + abstracts)
- GEDcoms (as backups and to share)
- A personal website, a Facebook page
- Cloud storage (iDrive, OneDrive, GoogleDrive)
- External devices (Floppy? CD? Thumb drive?)
- Word documents; Excel spreadsheets; PPTs
- I work with 50 or more tabs open on my computer (not recommended)
- I cover every flat surface available with whatever I am working on...
 - You can only do that if you live alone or have your own room.

WRITE IN SMALL BITES, YOU CAN WRITE ABOUT...

1. A photo
2. An heirloom
3. A memory – your first day of school, your wedding day, a parent's funeral

MAKING IT INTERESTING

How do you write to interest other people? Ask them what interests them. What format.

- Write as if it were a historical novel.
 - Every good story has conflict, empathy, and suspense.
- Include graphics (timelines, graphs, maps) and images.

SOME THOUGHTS FOR DO-IT-YOURSELFERS

There are many options for printing a book yourself (Lulu, Shutterfly, Blurb, etc.). My biggest concerns would be, will there be a PDF to save, and will that company exist?

- You may want to hire a designer as a consultant to look over your book before it goes to the printer.
 - **EXAMPLE:** A friend's DIY book of beautiful photos was disappointing. The text on the cover did not line up. The text within the book was too close to the photos and ran into the gutter (so did some of his photos). Oops.
 - **EXAMPLE:** Same friend, different book. He had page numbers in the Table of Contents, but they never appeared on the actual pages

There are many options for publishing an eBook.

- You may want to create a professional-look by creating your own cover. I have used the templates in <https://www.canva.com/> for social media, menus, invitations, and resumes, when I didn't have a budget for a designer.

There are also full-service companies that will help you write and print your book. One of them is <https://legacybooks.com/>.

- I recommend you read their blogs. You will get insights, inspiration and tips. Like John Catron's "26 things to include in a family history book beyond photos and text."
- <https://legacybooks.com/26-things-to-include-in-a-family-history-book-beyond-photos-and-text/>
- And here's a warm and fuzzy video about one of their projects.
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AXp8384QRWc&feature=emb_logo

Note: Another I'll be presenting another program on books at 7:30 p.m. ET Tue. 4/13 from the Central Florida Genealogical Society. And a program on Genealogy and Newspapers at 7 p.m. ET from NYGB&S.