

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF OKALOOSA COUNTY (GSOC)

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Email Update for GSOC Members – August 7, 2010
by Jim Young, GSOC Corresponding Secretary, youngjmy@cox.net

GSOC Calendar for August



August 14, 2010. The speaker for our regular GSOC meeting at the Heritage Museum at 10 AM will be fellow GSOC member Hilma Jenus. Her topic is ***We Are So Connected.***

Hilma will talk about how interesting it is to make connections that go far beyond "Name - Date of Birth - Marriage - and Death" (the so-called HATCH, MATCH, and DISPATCH approach). She will discuss ways to connect through everyday experiences as well as through research, while telling family stories to make her points clear. Sharing what we know about our own genealogy (in organizations and conferences, for example) makes even more connections. And, after all, connecting with our own background is a goal of genealogy. Doing so then helps us connect with others who want to share thoughts of their (and our) ancestors' lives.

This meeting will be followed by an optional Dutch treat lunch at a nearby restaurant.

Minutes of July 10th General Meeting

Donna Elliot, First Vice President, opened the meeting at 10:00 at the Northwest Florida Heritage Museum. Seventeen members were present. Members had no changes to the June general meeting minutes so the minutes were accepted as written.

Bob Basch, Treasurer, reported a budget balance of \$3,056.44.

An Historical Records Committee was established to organize the GSOC records currently in storage. A sign-up sheet was started to ask for volunteers to assist in organizing the records. At the August meeting Historical Records will be divided between the volunteers along with instructions. The volunteers should return the sorted records at the September meeting where they will be combined and given a final sorting in preparation for scanning.

Jim Young, Corresponding Secretary, provided GSOC business cards to attendees. These cards had GSOC contact information. Donna thanked Jim for his administration of the GSOC web site.

Martha Trau, Crestview Library GSOC Representative, reported that the Crestview library was unable to purchase access to Ancestry.com with money provided by GSOC. The

GSOC check was returned. The Crestview library suggested GSOC purchase books instead of Ancestry.com. Martha will obtain a list of books once the Crestview Library provides their selection. The cost for books will not exceed the price set aside for Ancestry.com.

Beverly Gross stated that the Journal will be ready for printing in September. A draft was given to Pat Pruett for final editing. Bob Basch stated that \$770.00 had been budgeted for Journal printing.

Walt Ruckel reported on his trip to Salt Lake City Utah and the National Genealogy Society. He provided information, programs, maps and a handout to the members and encouraged members to attend the next National Genealogy Society meeting to be held next year in Charleston, South Carolina.

Donna thanked the attendees and provided the schedule for the future programs. **August:** *We are so connected*, by Hilma Jenus (people you connect with when conducting genealogical research); **September** will be a "show and tell" with members providing a short program on their genealogy research; **October** will be Mr. Dale Cox, Civil War historian and author who will talk about the Civil War in Northwest Florida.

Donna introduced Mike Martell who provided the program *Diary of a Lonesome Soldier*, (American Soldiers fighting in Russia against the Bolsheviks 1918 -1919).

Diary of a Lonesome Soldier was the title that Mike's grandfather wrote at the beginning of his diary, the secondary title of which could be *US Soldier Fighting the Bolsheviks (Red Army) in 1918 to 1919*. Mike's grandfather was Wilfred Martell who served in the Signal Detachment, HQ Company, 339th Infantry, American Expeditionary Force, Northern Russia (also known as the Polarbear Division). Mike told how he began his research, what worked, and how he found additional information to enhance the details in his grandfather's journal. He also discussed the little-known story of how the US ended up fighting the Red Army in Russia during and after World War I; and he described the weapons, food, the cold, and the Russian people that his grandfather encountered. Mike's talk was richly illustrated with pictures and a display of artifacts that he has collected. Mike's grandfather's complete diary and photograph can be found at:

<http://home.comcast.net/~mvgrobbel/military/martell.htm>