THE GSOC NEWSLETTER

The Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County, Florida

August 5, 2011

GSOC Calendar

August 13, 2011

The August meeting of the GSOC will be at 10 AM at the Heritage Museum. Our speaker will be Kathy Marler Blue, Associate Director, Destin History and Fishing Museum. She is a lifelong resident of Destin and fourth generation descendent of the Marler family of Destin. She was locally educated and



holds a B.A. in Early Childhood K-3 and Elementary Education 1-6 as well as a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership & Supervision from the University of West Florida. She taught at Destin Elementary School for 31 years retiring in 2005 and earned the school's Teacher of the Year award in 1981 and 1986.

During her teaching career she was professionally active in numerous school and county committees and organizations. Her civic accomplishment include membership on the City of Destin Charter Review Committee, Destin Planning Commission holding positions of both vice-chairman and chairman, and was the first elected councilwoman in 1992.

She began work at the museum June of 2009, a position she feels has "brought her home" to the genealogical and local history research she had started when her paternal grandmother passed away in 1968. An educator "at heart", she feels that every visitor to the museum, both local and visitor, are learners to Destin's unique 176 year history from the Destin Fishing & Heritage Museum. She will be speaking on the history of Destin and the early families who lived there.

September 10, 2011



Our field trip to the Special Collections Department of the University of West Florida Library in Pensacola will now be our September 10th meeting. Time, carpool details, and a map will be provided in the September newsletter.

October 8, 2011

Our October meeting will be held at the Valparaiso Community Library, 459 Valparaiso Parkway. Mr. David Weatherford, Library Director, will provide a tour of the library's genealogy materials and



give us his tips on genealogy research.

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Minutes of the July 9th Meeting

Michael Martell, Recording Secretary, opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. in the Northwest Florida Heritage Museum in Valparaiso, Florida. Bonnie Brooks was recognized and welcomed as a guest at the meeting.

Bob Basch, Treasurer, announced a balance of \$2719.16. The blue box was passed around to collect money for library books for the various Okaloosa county libraries.

Lorna Sainz, 2nd Vice President Membership reported 22 members and one guest in attendance. Lorna said badges for paid members will be available at the next meeting. Jim Young, Corresponding Secretary and Web Master, said the Web site was up to date and minutes and newsletter were complete.

Beverly Gross, GSOC Niceville Library Representative, reported that the Niceville Library had no issues. However, Beverly asked for assistance in publishing this year's Journal. The Journal will target the period from 1890 to the end of the depression.

Martha Trau, GSOC Crestview Library Representative, said the Crestview Library gave heart-felt thanks for the donation of books by GSOC last month. Hilma Jenus, GSOC Fort Walton Beach Library representative, said all journals received by GSOC have been filed. Ken Elliot was not available for a report from the Baker Block Museum. However, Glenda Manis said the Baker Block Museum held a family day, on the 4th of July, which was well attended. Baker Block Museum is very short on funding and may close. Glenda asked members to send a donation to the Baker Block Museum.

Pat Pruitt, GSOC Publicity Chairman, and Sue Basch, Historian, were not available for a report.

Gina Marini, Northwest Florida Heritage Museum, Manager, appreciated GSOC using the Museum for their meetings. Gina asked members to attend a night at the Museum on Friday the 15th of July. Their will be a guided tour with a wine and food tasting at the various exhibits. Food is provided by six restaurants in Niceville and Valparaiso. The cost is \$30.00 for non-museum members and \$25.00 for members.

Sue Hicks made a motion to accept the June minutes as posted. The motion was seconded and approved by the membership. It was reminded that the GSOC portable hard drive is held by the recording Secretary and anyone wanting to add files to the hard drive can contact Mike Martell.

The upcoming programs were outlined. On the 13th of August Kathy Marler Blue will talk about the Destin Fishing & Heritage Museum, here, at the Northwest Florida Heritage Museum. September the 10th will be a field trip to Pensacola and the Special Collections Library at the University of West Florida. The October meeting will be at the Valparaiso Community Library, Valparaiso Florida. Mr. David Weatherford, Valparaiso Community Library Director, will provide a tour of the library's genealogy materials and his tips on genealogy research. November will be a member show and tell.

Beverly Gross presented a program called Tracing Your Family Backwards to Find Their Roots: Migration, Immigration, and Emigration Routes. Upon the conclusion of the program 17 members went to the Woody's Hog Heaven for lunch.

Respectfully Submitted, Mike Martell, Recording Secretary

Heritage Museum Yard Sale Spectacular Scheduled

The Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida will host its popular community Yard Sale Spectacular with the Niceville-Valparaiso Kiwanis on Saturday, August 27 from 7:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at 115 Westview Ave., Valparaiso.

Help us preserve the past by donating whatever you are past needing! Donations (no clothes please) are accepted during regular museum hours, Tue. – Sat. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Limited 10' x 10' spaces available for sellers for \$10. Visit the museum and reserve your spot today.

Info: (850) 678-2615 or www.heritage-museum.org

The Society of Sons and Daughters of World War II Veterans is Created

The Society plans to actively identify and make available publically available records arising from the conflict that will assist later generations research and comprehend the participation of their own ancestors in that global endeavor. More information is available at:

www.sonsanddaughtersofww2veterans.org

Civil War Sesquicentennial Selected Highlights of August 1861

August 1, Tennessee votes to adopt the Constitution of the Confederate States of America



August 3, Off the coast of Virginia a Union naval officer ascends in a tethered balloon to look at Confederate controlled Hampton Roads. It is the first balloon ascent from a ship in naval history.

August 6, First Confiscation Act, or The Confiscation Act of 1861, allows federals to seize property used in the insurrection, essentially freeing slaves forced to participate in the Confederate war effort.

August 7, The Maryland legislature adjourns without seceding, but votes to reconvene in September

August 15, General George **McClellan** assumes command of the Army of the Potomac

August 24, President **Davis** names James M. **Mason** as commissioner to Great Britain and John **Slidell** as commissioner to France

August 26, General Benjamin **Butler** leads a successful amphibious landing on Cape Hatteras

August 26, King **Kamehameha** IV proclaimed the neutrality of the Hawaiian Islands during the Civil War.

August 27, Union forces take fortifications on Cape Hatteras

August 28, Ulysses S. **Grant** is given command of federal forces in Southern Illinois and Southeastern Missouri

August 30, John C. **Fremont** declares martial law in Missouri and frees slaves of Missouri Confederates.

August 31, Samuel **Cooper**, Robert E. **Lee**, Albert Sidney **Johnston**, Joseph E. **Johnston** and P. G. T. **Beauregard** are promoted to full general.

Purgings and Home Treatments in the Early 1900s

by Monette Morgan Young

As I write this, it is autumn. I'm living in an apartment in a city and the leaf color is fading in north Mississippi where I grew up. I think again how, as much as I would come to love it in my later years, I never noticed that beauty when I was young. In my mind's eve, I can still see the deep burgundy the sumac berries had turned by very late summer. People used to talk of some medical uses of sumac berries, but I never knew exactly what disease or condition they were supposed to be good for.

In my early days and well before, doctors had only over-thecounter or patent medicines for ailments. Doctors would carry with them tablets or powders containing opiates, including laudanum and, very early on, maybe up until 1910-1915, "gray powder" and "blue powder." Those powders were powdered opium or morphine and the doctors gave it to people in very great pain. They'd have it already measured out in tiny wax papers and folded into a neat precise amount. Some people told of the old doctors who measured those on their knife tips, the same knife they also used to cut their chew of tobacco. The doctors knew just how big a dose rested on the knife tip.

Around 1920, even the smaller towns had a drugstore or a general store that carried a variety of medicines and drugs. Until 1923, a prescription for morphine and the other powerful painkillers was not required. If more opiates were

needed than could be left by the doctor, he would tell the family what was needed and they would go to town and get it. After 1923, though, a prescription had to be carried there for the opiates to be bought.

Treatment for flu, heavy colds, pneumonia, etc., was always a dose of calomel followed by castor oil. Calomel, which is mercurous chloride, was constantly given to people. We now know that mercurous chloride is toxic but it was used as a diuretic and purgative (laxative) from the early 1830s through the 1860s in most of the U.S. but even through the 1920s in rural areas. After being dosed with calomel, weakened and sick, near to unconscious, the patient would be swaddled in cloths in the chest area front and back, saturated in Vicks Salve or a mix of lard and turpentine. A "thru of calomel" was always taken in the spring but at any other time when people decided it was needed. Calomel came in tiny, tiny tablets, one to be taken every hour until two or three were taken, followed then by a dose of castor oil. This produced about 24 hours of the sickest and most nauseated condition ever endured. Certain rules were to be followed or one would "salivate" (gums would get all sore and swollen, a sign of mercury poisoning.) Finally the body would be purged of all digestive fluids and much bile. Bile is actually a necessary secretion produced in the body, but folks thought it to be a deadly poison. In those purged fluids the green-brown of the bile could be seen and the calomel givers and willing takers were sure they'd avoided dire illnesses because all that "poisonous green stuff" was out of the body. Oh my, for hundreds of years calomel was dosed even to tiny babies. The purged one was weak for days. The fact that mucous was seen in the excretions follow-ing the purging made them sure it was coming from the lungs into the

gastrointestinal area. That's why the initial purging was done for colds.

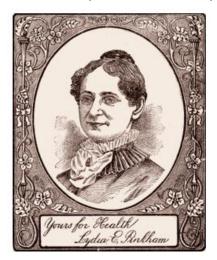
I had to endure a lesser purging every Friday night during school times. Two or three Lane's Pills on Friday night, then Epson Salts on Saturday morning. Every school weekend was a time of dread. How weak and sick I would feel. Finally at age 13 or 14 I began to throw the pills out the window and pretended they accomplished their work and to some extent got that out of my life. But any "cold" (virus) was still treated first with the purging.

Coughs were treated with drops of liniment on sugar, or by coal oil (kerosene) on sugar. Nowadays if a child ingests even a small bit of kerosene it is usually rushed to the emergency room since that can cause pneumonia if it gets in the lungs. Turpentine on sugar was also often given. We now know now that turpentine, too, can cause pneumonia if it gets in the lungs. A favorite treatment for cuts and puncture wounds on the feet was to soak the injured foot in kerosene.

We almost never had malaria up in our hilly area since we had so few mosquitoes there. Malaria was seen in the areas near rivers and swamps. Even so, one patent medicine, "666" (called Three Sixes), was given widely during summers. We took it. (I was forced to.) No one had any idea why it was supposed to be such a good tonic. It was an almost clear yellowish liquid, very bitter. I think it was full of quinine.

Medicines then were only "patent" medicines. Very potent drugs could be purchased anywhere. "Nervine" compound contained bromine, a heavy tranquilizer which if taken for a long time and in great quantity caused brain damage. Tonics were on all the store shelves, touted as

great curatives. They all were heavily laced with alcohol, and many a church lady who would never allow liquor to touch her lips



took her tonic regularly. Medicine ingredients were not required to be listed in those days. People dosed themselves.

People often decided that their children were wormy. Some actually were and other parents were convinced that theirs were, so many children were given White's Vermifuge. Oh! What a horrible taste People were being dosed and all the time for every thing they or their parents dreamed up. The "better" parents did the most dosing. They thought they were being so careful of their children. The poorer children fared better. Noxious doses were not always being forced down them.

Early on, no one ever heard of heart attacks. Even in my childhood. Those deaths were said to be caused by a condition diagnosed by those pioneer people as "acute indigestion". They gave various reasons and causes for that. If someone died suddenly after a lot of strenuous exercise and then drinking cold water from a deep well, they were sure it was because of the cold water. So no one would drink as much cold water as they wanted after exercise.

By the time of my childhood they did know what appendicitis was. There was a hospital about 20 miles away from our community, and the lives of many people with appendicitis would be saved by that little place. In the early days, appendicitis was called cramp colic. Of course the patient usually had a ruptured appendix and many died from peritonitis.

I would hear old people talk of what probably caused certain deaths in the community. Spiders were considered the cause of many deaths. Not spider bites, but the accidental eating of a spider. And, of course, all spiders were thought to be deadly poisonous. Spider eggs were also thought to be deadly poisonous. In the long ago, one of my grandmother Murphree's neighbors died suddenly after walking home from a neighbor's house. She'd picked and eaten blackberries on her way home. People were certain she'd eaten a spider's poisonous eggs. Most likely, her heart had given out or she had a stroke.

People were also sure that locusts (cicadas) were poison. In the years of the locusts, my parents were on constant alert for this deadly poison! One must never eat any piece of fruit directly from the tree or bush since they were sure that locusts cut a small half moon in plums, etc., and put their poisonous eggs inside. I could never, if my parents were looking, just pull a piece of ripe fruit from a tree and gobble it down in rapt enjoyment. It must be washed and carefully inspected for a puncture mark to see if a locust had inserted a poisonous egg.

I didn't believe any of that foolishness and I ate as much unwashed fruit as I could sneak: ripe black cherries at Grandaddy's house, scuppernongs in August and September until I was sated with their sweet grapeness, and peaches, apples, plums, and wild muscadines.

Measles was a big bugaboo. People in our area were sure that unless helped by horrible tasting hot drinks, measles would not erupt into the bright red typical rash, therefore measles would stay inward and kill. Hot teas were forced upon the sick kid, teas that in my day were made of some herbs, grasses or such things. However in my case I was not forced to drink the hot teas when I came down with the measles. What I craved was very cold water. It was winter and for once I was allowed to have what I craved during an illness. My parents kept water out on the back porch until it was full of ice crystals, and I'd often call for a glass full. I broke out just fine. In my father's childhood, parents were told and believed that a tea made of the small pill-like droppings of sheep, i.e. "sheep pill tea", would bring out the measles in a child and he was given it to drink. For whooping cough, they believed that mare's milk was helpful and he had that given to him.

Despite the weekend purgings that I had to endure during the cold season, for me winter was a pleasure in a way. The worst of the very hard work was over. The purging took its toll, but the corn and hay was all in the barn, the smoke house was full of meat, the potato shed full of potatoes and onions and canned goods, and the garden was still producing the fall and winter greens and collards.

This article, by Monette Morgan Young, (1915-2000) is one of a small series of stories and articles extracted from her book, *The Cherry Hill – Poplar Springs – Reid Community in Calhoun County, Mississippi* and used here with permission.

By her son, Jim Young

"Patent" Medicines

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Patent medicine refers to medical compounds of questionable effectiveness sold under a variety of names and labels. The term "patent medicine" is somewhat of a misnomer because, in most cases, although many of the products were trademarked, they were never patented (most avoided the patent process so as not to reveal products' often hazardous and questionable ingredients). The phrase "patent medicine" comes from the late 17th century marketing of medical elixirs, when those who found favour with royalty were issued letters patent authorising the use of the royal endorsement in advertising. Few if any of the nostrums were actually patented; chemical patents did not come into use in the United States until 1925. Many familiar names from the era live on today in brands such as Luden's cough drops, Lydia E. Pinkham's vegetable compound for women, Fletcher's Castoria and even Angostura bitters, which was once marketed as a stomachic.

Within the English-speaking world, patent medicines are as old as journalism. A number of American institutions owe their existence to the patent medicine industry, most notably a number of the older almanacs, which were originally given away as promotional items by patent medicine manufacturers.

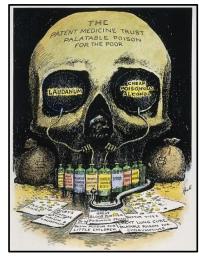
Contrary to what is often believed, many patent medicines did, in fact, deliver the promised results, albeit with very dangerous ingredients. For example, medicines advertised as "infant soothers" contained opium, and those advertised as "catarrh snuff" contained cocaine. While various herbs, touted or alluded to, were talked up in the advertising, their actual effects often came from procaine extracts, or grain alcohol. Those containing opiates were at least effective in relieving pain, though they could result in addiction. This hazard was sufficiently well known that many were advertised as causing none of the harmful effects of opium (though many of those so advertised actually did contain opium). In the case of medicines for "female complaints", the principal "complaint" that the medicine was intended to treat was early pregnancy; such products contained abortifacients, such as pennyroyal, tansy and savin.

Until the twentieth century alcohol was the most controversial ingredient, for it was widely recognised that the "medicines" could continue to be sold for their alleged curative properties even in prohibition states and counties. Many of the medicines were in fact liqueurs of various sorts, flavoured with herbs said to have medicinal properties. An example is Peruna which was a famous "Prohibition tonic," weighing in at around 18% grain alcohol. People who took them feel better, and in the eyes of the advertisers this was scored as a "cure."

Muckraker journalists and other investigators began to publicize instances of death, drug addiction, and other

hazards from the compounds. This took some small courage on behalf of the publishing industry that

circulated these claims, since the typical newspaper of the period relied heavily on the patent medicines, which founded the U.S. advertising industry. In 1905, Samuel Hopkins Adams published an exposé entitled "The **Great American Fraud"** in Collier's Weekly that led to the passage of the first Pure Food and Drug Act in 1906. This statute did not ban the alcohol, narcotics, and stimulants in the medicines; it required them to be labeled as such, and curbed some of the more



A series of articles published in Collier's in 1905-1906, exposed the patent medicine fraud

misleading, overstated, or fraudulent claims that appeared on the labels.



From: *The Okaloosa Leader*, Laurel Hill, Fla, Thursday, January 13, 1916

UGH! CALOMEL MAKES YOU SICK! CLEAN LIVER AND BOWELS MY WAY.

Just Once! Try "Dodson's Liver Tone" When Bilious, Constipated, Headachy – Don't Lose a Day's Work

Liven up your sluggish liver! Feel fine and cheerful; make your work a pleasure; be vigorous and full of ambition. But take no nasty, dangerous calomel, because it makes you sick and you may lose a day's work.

Calomel is mercury or quicksilver, which causes necrosis of the bones. Calomel crashes into sour bile like dynamite, breaking it up.

That's when you feel awful nausea and cramping.

Listen to me! If you want to enjoy the nicest, gentlest liver and bowel cleaning you ever experienced just take a spoonful of harmless **Dodson's Liver Tone**. Your druggist or dealer sells you a 50 cent bottle of Dodson's Liver Tone under my personal money back guarantee that each spoonful will clean your sluggish liver better than a dose of nasty calomel and that it won't make you sick.

Events, Groups, and Sites of Genealogical Interest

Walton County Genealogical Society



The Walton County Genealogical Society newsletter, Walton Relations, is available on line at their website: http://www.waltoncountyheritage.org

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

Bay County Genealogical Society

BCGS meetings are held the **third** Saturday of each month at 1:00 p.m. in the conference room of the new Bay County Public Library at 898 West 11th Street, Panama City, Florida. (Exception: meetings are NOT held in July and August.) The BCGS web site is located at:

http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flbcgs/

Santa Rosa County

http://santarosahistoricalsociety.com/index.htm

Santa Rosa County GenWeb Project http://www.db229.com/

West Florida Genealogical Society, Inc.



The WFGS holds monthly meetings (except in July) at the new West Florida Genealogy Library. at 10 a.m. with a brief busness meeting and then a program. Refer to the section on the WFGS web site entitled, "2011 Calendar," for complete information.

Click Here For Map to West Florida Genealogy Library.

The WFGS web site is at: http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flwfqs/

Mobile Genealogical Society Fall 2011 Seminar



John Philip Colletta, Ph.D.

Lecturer Saturday, October 8, 2011

Spring Hill Baptist Church Dining Hall 2 South McGregor Avenue Mobile, Alabama 36608 251-414-1995 (MGS)

Dr. Colletta has been a faculty member of the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research at Samford University for fifteen years and the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy. He has taught workshops at the National Archives and courses for the Smithsonian Institution. He appears frequently on podcasts, local and national radio and television. Dr. Colletta's doctorate is in medieval French from the Catholic University of America. He is the author of a numerous books and articles.

The seminar is in three sessions covering advanced problem solving in: Passenger Arrival Records, Naturalization Records, and Breaking Through Brick Walls.

For more information and a seminar registration form see the MGS Newsletter at:

http://mobileroots.org/news/upload/Newsletter.pdf

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2011 FSGS Annual Conference November 11th and 12th

November 11th and 12th Sheraton Orland North Hotel 600 Lake Destiny Drive – Maitland, FL

Conference Topics: "Finding the Maiden Names of Your Female Ancestors", "The War of 1812 and Its Genealogical Consequences", "Migrations 1607-1850", and "Newspaper Genealogy."

The keynote speaker is **Lloyd de Witt Bockstruck**, nationally known professional genealogist, educator, librarian, author, and columnist.

Go to http://www.starwoodhotels.com for hotel details. A block of rooms has been reserved for conference attendees at \$88 per night. Be sure to mention that you are attending the FSGS conference when reserving accommodations.

The Social Security Death Index

The **Social Security Death Index** (**SSDI**) is a database of death records created from the Social Security Administration (SSA) Death Master File. Most persons who have died since 1962 who had a Social Security Number <u>and</u> whose death has been reported to the Social Security Administration are listed in the SSDI.

For most years since 1973, the SSDI includes 93 percent to 96 percent of deaths of individuals aged 65 or older. It is frequently updated; the version of 22 June 2011 contained 89,835,920 records.

Unlike the Death Master File, the SSDI is available free online from several genealogy websites. The SSDI is a popular tool for genealogists and biographers because it contains valuable genealogical data.

The data include:

- Given name and surname; and since the 1990s, middle initial
- Date of birth
- Month and year of death; or full date of death for accounts active in 2000 or later
- Social Security Number
- State or territory where the Social Security number was issued
- Last place of residence while the person was alive (Zip code)

Once a deceased person is found in the database, the person's original application for a Social Security card (Form SS-5) can be ordered from the Social Security Administration. The SS-5 contains additional genealogical data, such as birth place, father's name, and mother's full maiden name.

The website http://ssdi.rootsweb.ancestry.com/ is a good choice to begin exploring the SSDI. For other sites, Google "Social Security Death Index".

For best results when searching the SSDI, enter only one or two known facts and then search. If the individual had an unusual surname, you may even find it useful to search on just the surname. If the search results are too large, then add more information and search again. Get creative. Most SSDI databases will allow you to search on any combination of facts (such as a birth date and first name).

GSOC INFORMATION

Officers for 2011

President, Malcolm Flanagan

1st Vice President (Programs), Donna Elliott

2nd Vice President (Membership), Lorna Sainz

2nd Vice President (Membership) Asst, Carol Lessard

Treasurer, Bob Basch

Recording Secretary, Mike Martell

Recording Secretary Assistant, Frances Hoge Corresponding

Secretary, Jim Young

Immediate Past President, Beverly Gross

Historian, Sue Basch

Genealogist, Margaret Harris

Publicity Chairperson, Pat Pruett

Webmaster & Newsletter Editor, Jim Young

(Elected and Appointed positions)

Addresses

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 Journal

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

The Newsletter

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

The Web Site

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



Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County Next meeting: Saturday, August 13, at 10 AM

The History of Destin and the Early Families Who Lived There by Kathy Marler Blue

Location: Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida 115 Westview Avenue, Valparaiso, Florida

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

