

THE GSOC NEWSLETTER

THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF
OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

AUGUST 3, 2012

GSOC Meeting Minutes July 14, 2012

Mary Ellen Ahlstrom, Recording Secretary

The monthly meeting of the GSOC was held on Saturday, 14 July 2012, at the Heritage Museum in Valparaiso.

President Donna Elliott called the meeting to order at 10:08 AM with a welcome to the twenty-two members present.

She called for a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as printed in the newsletter. A motion to accept the minutes as printed was made by Malcolm Flanagan and seconded by Bob Basch. The motion passed.

Ken Elliott, Vice-President and Programs Chairman, gave a report of programs planned for future meetings. He also asked for suggestions on other possible programs. The program for August will be a Show & Tell of anything that concerns genealogy. The September meeting will be presented by Charlene Grafton on the use of DNA in genealogical research.

Sue Basch, Membership Chairman passed around a list of current members and asked for any corrections that need to be made on any part, such as name, address, phone, or e-mail.

Bob Basch, Treasurer gave a financial report on the Treasury, stating the current bank balance is \$2,442.87 with no outstanding checks. He passed around the little "Blue Box" for donations to purchase genealogical books for local libraries.

Newsletter Editor, Jim Young announced that he would be reprinting a few articles from old GSOC Journal publications. As Corresponding Secretary, Mr. Young gave a report on the publications that the Society receives from other organizations. He brings these items to the monthly meetings for anyone to review before Hilma Jenus takes them to the Fort Walton Beach Library where they are kept.

There was discussion of placing publications in the three county libraries.

A letter was read from Gayle Meyer, Museum Manager, City of Fort Walton Beach Heritage Park & Cultural Center requesting a speaker for an upcoming meeting. She needs someone to give a program on preserving documents and photos for future generations.

There was no old business to discuss and no new business was brought before the membership.

Malcolm Flanagan, Nominating Committee Chairman announced he had a slate of nominees lined up for 2013 GSOC officers with the exception of Recording Secretary and Historian. Mrs. Elliott asked if anyone was interested in filling these offices. Martha McDonald volunteered to serve as Historian.

Announcements were made of upcoming events in the area. Dates and time of most of these events are listed in the newsletter.

The speaker for the program of the day was unable to attend due to unknown circumstances but possibly due to the unpleasant weather conditions. He could not be reached by phone. Mr. Elliott will notify the members at a later time of the problem. This speaker can possibly be rescheduled for a later date.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15.

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Next GSOC Meeting

August 11, 2012

The August meeting of the GSOC will begin at 10:00 AM at



the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida. The program will be a show-and-tell session with members bringing interesting items connected with their family genealogy

and/or telling of events that have genealogical significance.

The meeting will be followed by an optional Dutch Treat lunch at a nearby restaurant.

The Back & Forth (B&F) Railroad

In 1941, the U.S. Government began considering building a railroad line that would serve the various areas of the huge Eglin Air Force Base. Ten years later, 45 miles of track were operational and served two auxiliary air fields and an ammunition dump, among other locations. The railroad, called the B&F, or the "Back & Forth", had a single connection to the outside world at Mossy Head, where it interchanged with a Louisville & Nashville line (still in use today by CSX). It operated three ALCO RSD-1 military diesel-electric locomotives, which have since been donated to the Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum. The line was abandoned in the late 1970s but some of the tracks remain. A small section of track is still in use near the wye with the former Louisville & Nashville line.¹

Planning for this Eglin AFB access railroad began in 1941 when Air Proving Ground Command (APGC) officials saw a need to transport materials in support of aircraft and armament testing on Eglin's ranges. Other means of transportation were inadequate at the time. Engineers surveyed the right of way, and during WWII German prisoners of war cleared the right of way past a turnout to Field #1².

Lack of funds, curtailment of testing activities following the war, and opposition from other transportation means delayed the project. In 1949 a government railroad that connected Camp Polk and Camp Claiborne Louisiana became surplus and the Air Force contracted with a Montgomery, Alabama firm to dismantle and move it.

Installation began June 1950. Maj. Clarence A Ebbert directed the construction including several bridges that ran about 36 miles from Eglin to the Louisville and Nashville mainline at Mossy Head. Using military and civilian personnel the work was completed within a year for \$630,000. From the round-house where the railroad ended on the main base, the track curved along the southern edge of the runway and headed eastward. After exiting the main base area, it crossed Highway 85 north of Niceville and Highway 285 at Field #2³. The railroad paralleled Highway 285, turning east on the north side of Bob Sikes Highway to parallel it. Then it turned north to the Old Reliable at Ely Junction at Mossy Head.



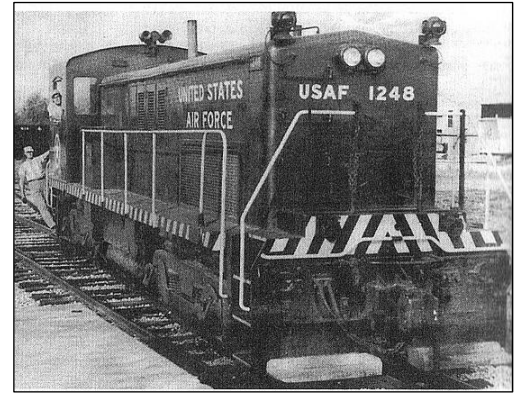
The tracks of the B&F Railroad ran from Mossy Head to Eglin AFB¹

On February 1, 1952 J.E. Tillford, president of the L&N, and Major General Bryant B. Boatner, commander of the APGC, drove a

"silver spike" into a crosstie, signifying linking the two lines.

The railroad began operations on March 17, 1952. Though formally named the Mossy Head Line, it was called the B&F (Back and Forth). During the first year 93,000,000 pounds of cargo ranging from fresh meat and produce to 33 ton armament tanks were moved. Later cargo included rocket boosters, Nike rockets used in space probes, equipment to support BOMARC launches, household furnishing, tile, slag and construction materials.

The equipment inventory included 3 diesel engines, a steam engine that they named the "Eglin Queen", 4 flat cars, 2 hoppers, 3 motor cars, 2 push cars, and a crane.



**B&F Railroad Engine #1248
Engineer Ed Franklin (cab) and
Conductor Newton Brown (side)**

The B&F became the longest railroad in the USAF with 60 miles of track. It directly supported 19,000 square miles that comprised the APGC and its Eglin Gulf Test Range.

The Interstate Highway system brought much improved accessibility by the trucking industry to northwest Florida. This, along with economics and reduction in personnel, caused the railroad to become impractical for its mission. After 23 years the B&F discontinued operations in January 1975.

Eleven years later the railroad was turned over to the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office in November 1986. Once again the rails and crossties became surplus. It was sold to the G. W. Northrup Corporation in New York for about \$233,000. Workers were sent in to disassemble and move the track except for eight miles near Field #1.

The "silver spike" and a plaque with the words of Major General Boatner are on display in the Air Force Armament Museum at Eglin.

¹ http://www.abandonedrails.com/Mossy_Head_to_Eglin_Air_Force_Base

²Wagner Field, Formerly Field #1, is located northeast of the main base, 13.9 miles northeast of Valparaiso, FL. This site became notable as the training location for the Doolittle Raiders in early 1942, and was the test location for the YMC-130H aircraft used in the 1980 Iranian Hostage rescue attempt.

³Field #2 is now known as Site C-3

Based, in part, on an article published in "The Heritage of Okaloosa County, Florida", Volume I, 2004, which was submitted by: Fannie Lou Brown, Baker, FL. Sources: "The Command Courier" 3/10/1954, "The Eglin Eagle" various issues; "AFSC News Review", and family stories.

Laurel Hill, Florida, and The Struggle for Incorporation

Taken from *A Journal of Northwest Florida*, Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County, GSOC Volume XIV, Number 51, Winter 1990 (Author not named)

The original name of Old California was used for Laurel Hill until about 1900. The new name was derived from a large laurel tree used as a common hitching post for horses, oxen and mules in the center of town. Continuous use of the tree eventually killed it.

In 1887, the first post office was opened after relocating from Oak Grove. In that same year the Yellow River Railroad was incorporated. and a logging railroad was put under construction and was finished in 1894, when regular passenger and freight service was inaugurated

The People's Bank of Laurel Hill opened for business on Oct. 18, 1907, with capital stock of \$20,000 and \$20,000 in share deposits. W.E. Mathis-Pres., A. E. Campbell-V.P., John T. Mathis-cashier with Allen Campbell, Enoch Henderson, W. P. Clary, Wm. E. Mathis and A. E. Campbell-directors. By 1911 the Bank had assets of \$104,311.65 shown in a statement in the Laurel Hill News, Vol 3-Jan. 10,1912 issue.



In 1891, the first school was opened, and under the supervision of Henry Steele the patrons build a one-room log school house east of the town site about three quarters of a mile from out of town. The first teacher was Miss Dora White. She taught three months for a very low salary and boarded among the patrons. After 5 years, a two-room section house was used until a two-room school house was built and two teachers carried on the work through the grammar grades only. Miss Adele Williamson and Mr. Tom King were the teachers.

In the Sept. 13, 1907, issue of the newspaper it was stated that Laurel Hill High School opened last Monday with 84 pupils and that the faculty has been employed for eight months. Prof. R. E. Turner was Principal; Miss Maggie Cobb was First Assistant and Miss Willie Belle McDonsals was Second Assistant. "It is believed that had it been known definitely that school would open, there would have been at least 100 enrolled the first day. However, it is an awful busy time of the year with the farmers. A good many of their children being kept out of school on account of having to have them to pick cotton".

The above statements about the school system in the beginning days of Laurel Hill were found in early newspapers found in the Special Collections of the UWF Library.

The town was first incorporated in 1905 and Earnest Campbell served as the first mayor. The Laurel Hill Gazette was the newspaper first published there. In order to install infrastructure improvements and to re-stimulate the community, Laurel Hill was reincorporated in 1953.

[The initial incorporation of Laurel Hill as a town, although finally approved, did not go smoothly, as the following letter to Florida's Governor Broward from Eric von Axelson indicates.]

Laurel Hill, Fla.
June 14th, 1905

Hon. N. B. Broward,
Governor State of Florida,
Tallahassee, Fla.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 10th inst. at hand and I thank you for the opportunity to lay the following facts before you in regard to House bill No. 500, or the incorporation of Laurel Hill.

About the first days in May the citizens of Laurel Hill were called to a mass meeting for the purpose of considering the incorporation of Laurel Hill. After discussing the matter fully, a resolution was passed, without a dissenting vote, asking the legislature to have the town incorporated.

A few days after this meeting a few persons, who as far as I know never have done a thing for the advancement of the town, got a petition against the incorporation. On that list are a number persons who do not live or own property in the corporation.

In order to strengthen our cause we then got all them that were interested in the incorporation to sign a petition to this effect. There are 51 qualified voters at Laurel Hill. Of these we have 37, or more than a two third majority, 3 of the persons on our petition had signed the other petition, but by letter to our representative they withdrew their names from that petition. It is claimed that one person on our list is a resident of Santa Rosa County, namely Mr. J. D. Cobb. The fact is that Mr. Cobb has been a resident of that county but he is and was a qualified voter in last year's primary and election, and did vote at Laurel Hill at that time.

I drew up the acts of incorporation, which were accepted at above stated mass meeting. I went personally to Tallahassee to see our representative and Hon. John Neel, our senator. The resolution, petition and acts of incorporation were given to them also a number of letters from none resident property owners not voters here.

As to property owners I wish to state that I am the largest individual property holder, having over 100 acres inside the corporation. W. B. Wright Company of Pensacola, which firm I represent here owns more than half of the lots in town. Of them that have signed the petition for incorporation, J. F. Merrill owns 60 acres, S. G. French, Sr. 40 acres, or I may say that the people in favor of the incorporation own about 5/6 of the property, and those against only 1/6.

Mr. Governor, I am deeply interested in Laurel Hill. Nine years ago I came here to take charge of the landed property of the W. B. Wright Co., Laurel Hill was not on the map. Its only communication with the outside world was over a log train. The one store in the place belonged to the company also all the shanties. We had one mail a week. The postmasters compensation for the first quarter was the magnificent sum of \$4.16. The first thing I undertook was to establish a weekly paper here. I had the company sell out their store to private parties. The town was laid out in lots and sold on reasonable terms. Today there is a daily passenger train to Pensacola. We have a daily mail, the postmaster makes his living entirely from this office. We have nine stores. We have churches. A good school which we expect to make a high school next year. But the incorporation is needed as without it our town will stand where it is now. With the incorporation we will get a bank and we have other prospects for the town's progress.

In regard to the objection that our worthy representative made to you I will state that he did this at the instigation of Mr. Peaden, representative of Santa Rosa county. The leader of the opposition. Mr. Hart is part owner in a store and owns about 30 acres of land in the incorporation.

I enclose you a list of the qualified voters. The names underlined are of those who took part in the meeting June 7th. for the nomination of officers, five of these belong to the opposition, but they took part in the meeting and voted.

Now these are facts and I hope that when you have fully looked into these matters you will see your way clear to sign the bill.

It is a question of, if the majority shall rule or the minority. It is a question of progress or lethargy.

Now Mr. Governor the bill is in your hands, you have the power to make this one of the best little towns in West Florida or to kill it.

I am under great obligations to you for your kindness to hear me and I beg you to excuse my lengthy letter.

I remain, dear sir

Your truly
(Eric von Axelson)

Qualified voters in corporate limits of the
town of Laurel Hill, Section 5, Tp 5 n., R. 22 W.

Atwell, John.
Clary, J. L.

Clary, W. P.
Craig, J. N.

Cobb, O.
Chestnut, Jim
Campbell, Ernest
Barlow, Joe
Finlayson, D. T.
Fountain, John
Fountain, W.
Gordon, M. A.
Givens, J. W.
Howell, J. S.
Hemphries, Jim.
Jones, C.
Laird, Jim.
Merrill, J. F.
Martin, W. F.
Richbourg, J. F.
Richbourg, J. L.
Richbourg, Jeff
Stokes, H. M.
Sanders, J. E.
von Axelson, Eric
Whitehurst, T.
Cobb, J. D.
Gavin, Allen

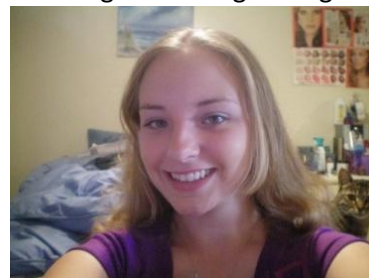
Chestnut, W. J.
Campbell, A. D.
Crawford, Geo.
Francis, Henry
French, Jr., S. G.
Fountain, R. R.
Fountain, Allen
Givens, Henry
Garrett, W. J.
Hart, R. J.
Jones, Allen
Jones, Wm.
Labors, C. A.
Martin, J. M.
Moore, Dan.
Richbourg, C.
Richbourg, Allen
Richbourg, Wm.
Strickland, Ed.
Tucker, B.
Williamson, O. H.
Whittington, John
Hugely,

[The above is] A copy of the original letter found in the Special Collection in the UWF Library.

Getting the Next Generation Involved in Genealogy Societies

Elyse Doerflinger is a full-time college student studying to become an elementary school teacher. She has researched her family tree for nearly 8 years and writes Elyse's Genealogy blog to share her genealogy knowledge and information about her family.

Two years ago she began speaking at genealogy society meetings and conferences because she loves to share her knowledge and to interact with other genealogists. She also began writing for genealogy magazines such as



Internet Genealogy Magazine and *Family Tree Chronicle*, and has been featured in *Family Tree Magazine*.

She has posted an excellent video on YouTube which discusses an issue of concern to most genealogical groups: getting the next generation involved in genealogy societies.

You can see this video at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xaJadShL064>

and you can view her blog at:

<http://elysesgenealogyblog.com/>

Thanks to Chuck Licari



Civil War Sesquicentennial

Selected Highlights of August 1862

<http://blueandgraytrail.com>

August 2 The U. S. Congress passes the first federal income tax, 3% on earnings greater than \$800 dollars

August 5 Battle of Baton Rouge, Major General John Breckinridge [CS] lost to Brigadier General Thomas Williams [US]

August 6 Union Brigadier General Robert McCook, ill and riding in an ambulance, is attacked by Confederate raiders between Athens, AL and Descherd, TN. He dies from his wounds.

August 9 Battle of Cedar Mountain [US], Battle of Slaughter Mountain [CS] Stonewall Jackson [CS] defeats Nathaniel Banks [US]

August 13 Robert E. Lee issues orders in preparation for the Army of Northern Virginia's movement north to engage John Pope's [US] Army of Virginia

August 14 Under orders from Halleck, McClellan withdraws from the Peninsula

August 16 George McClellan completes the evacuation of Harrison's Landing, ending the Peninsula Campaign. His men land at Aquia Creek, VA and Alexandria, VA, within the week, but most are reassigned to John Pope's Army of Virginia

August 17 J. E. B. Stuart assumes command of the cavalry of the Army of Northern Virginia

August 22 General Benjamin Butler [US] authorizes the enlistment of "free Negroes".

August 26 Fitzhugh Lee [CS] captures the rail depot at Manassas Junction setting in motion a chain of events that culminate in Second Manassas

August 27 Stonewall Jackson [CS] destroys Army of Virginia supply base at Manassas Junction

August 27 With Stonewall Jackson on his flank, John Pope is forced to withdraw from the Rappahanock. Pope does not realize that roughly half the Confederate army is between his position and Washington, D. C.

August 28 Federal Bureau of Printing and Engraving begins operations.

August 28 Robert E. Lee and James Longstreet arrive at Manassas from the peninsula

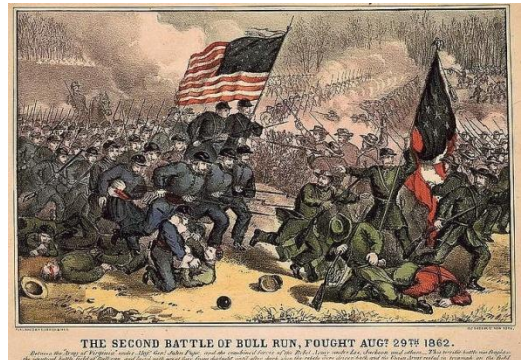
August 28 - August 30 The **Second Battle of Bull Run** or **Second Manassas** was the culmination of an offensive campaign waged by Gen. Robert E. Lee's [CS] Army of Northern Virginia against Maj. Gen. John Pope's [US] Army of Virginia and a battle of much larger scale and numbers than the First Battle of Bull Run (First Manassas) fought in 1861 on the same ground.

Following a wide-ranging flanking march, Confederate Maj. Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson captured the Union supply depot at Manassas Junction, threatening Pope's line of communications with Washington, D.C. Withdrawing a few miles to the northwest, Jackson took up defensive positions on Stony Ridge. On August 28, 1862, Jackson attacked a Union column just east of Gainesville, at Brawner's Farm, resulting in a stalemate. On that same day, the wing of Lee's army commanded by Maj. Gen. James Longstreet broke through light Union resistance in the and approached the battlefield.

Pope became convinced that he had trapped Jackson and concentrated the bulk of his army against him. On August 29, Pope launched a series of assaults against Jackson's position

along an unfinished railroad grade. The attacks were repulsed with heavy casualties on both sides.

At noon, Longstreet arrived on



the field from Thoroughfare Gap and took position on Jackson's right flank. On August 30, Pope renewed his attacks, seemingly unaware that Longstreet was on the field. When massed Confederate artillery devastated a Union assault by Maj. Gen. Porter's V Corps, Longstreet's wing of 25,000 men in five divisions counterattacked in the largest, simultaneous mass assault of the war. The Union left flank was crushed and the army was driven back to Bull Run. Only an effective Union rearguard action prevented a replay of the First Manassas disaster. Pope's retreat to Centreville was nonetheless precipitous.

General James Longstreet's [CS] 28,000 man assault on August 30 was the largest simultaneous assault of the war in this Confederate victory. Union losses 13,830, Confederate losses 8,350.

August 29 General P. G. T. Beauregard assigned to command the Department of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida

August 30 Battle of Richmond, In an impressive victory, E. Kirby Smith [CS] defeats William "Bull" Nelson [US]



GenealogyInTime Magazine is a free online genealogy magazine. It can be found at <http://www.genealogyintime.com>.

According to the web site, the magazine supports a passion for genealogy and a determination to make it better. Their mission is said to be to find new and innovative ways to help people connect with their ancestors.

The magazine was launched in December 2008. According to Alexa (the internet traffic people), it is now the top genealogy magazine in the world. It is based in Ottawa, Canada.

The most popular features of the magazine are described in more detail in [Highlights of GenealogyInTime Magazine](#). These include:

- Search 1.8 billion free ancestral records using the powerful and extremely popular [Genealogy Search Engine](#).
- Search 3.5 billion records from genealogy forums and online family trees with the [Family Tree Search Engine](#).
- View the most comprehensive list available on the internet of the [Newest Genealogy Records](#) and [Newest Genealogy Records by Country](#).
- Read over 80 original [Genealogy Articles](#).
- Check out the [Genealogy News](#), [Genealogy Blog](#) and [Genealogy Twitter](#) gadgets.
- Access a [Rare Book Search Engine](#) to find over 40 million out-of-print books.
- Browse 500+ [genealogy images](#) for your computer and iPad.
- Download the [Genealogy Toolbar](#) used by thousands of people looking for their ancestors.

Another useful feature is a listing of the 100 most popular genealogy web sites in the world, free and paid. It can be accessed at:

<http://www.genealogyintime.com/NewsStories/2012/Q1/top%20100%20most%20popular%20genealogy%20websites%20page3.html>

It is current as of January 2012 and lists the following characteristics of each of the web sites:

Website – gives the name of the website.

Category – lists the primary purpose or function of the website.

Country – gives the primary country for the website.

Free/Pay – many websites incorrectly label themselves as free. To be considered free, the vast majority of the online and offline content of the website had to be accessible for free. In addition, websites that offer 'premium' capabilities for a fee are considered pay sites.

Traffic Rank – this is the Alexa traffic rank. Alexa ranks 30 million websites worldwide. A lower Alexa traffic number implies a more popular website. For example, Google.com has a traffic rank of 1 since it is the most popular website in the world.

Address – provides a link to the website.

The complete listing is shown at the address listed, however, here are the top 10 genealogy sites in the world, based on traffic rank:

Rank, Website, Category, Country, Free or Pay, Traffic Rank, Address

- 1, Ancestry.com, ancestral records, USA, pay, 977, www.ancestry.com,
- 2, MyHeritage, genealogy forum, USA, free, 3,581, www.myheritage.com,
- 3, FamilySearch, ancestral records, USA, free, 6,504, www.familysearch.org,
- 4, Find, A, Grave, cemetery/obit records, USA, free, 6,685, www.findagrave.com,
- 5, Geni.com, genealogy forum, USA, free, 7,484, www.geni.com,
- 6, Archives.com, search engine, USA, pay, 8,593, www.archives.com,
- 7, Genealogy.com, genealogy forum, USA, pay, 10,825, www.genealogy.com,
- 8, Ancestry.co.uk, ancestral records, UK, pay, 12,058, www.ancestry.co.uk,
- 9, GeneaNet, genealogy forum, France, free, 12,480, www.geneanet.org,
- 10, MyFamily, genealogy forum, USA, pay, 14,977, www.myfamily.com,



Sample of the free high resolution photographs available.

Image courtesy of GenealogyInTime™ magazine
www.genealogyintime.com



Genealogy Book Links

"...simplifies searching for our ancestors by identifying and linking to the freely available digitized American biographies, genealogies, and history books ..."

The following article is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright by Richard W. Eastman. It is re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at <http://www.eogn.com>.

Mollie Lynch of Clarkston, Michigan, is a retired librarian who decided to assist people wishing to find genealogy books. She knew that thousands of American biographies, genealogies and history books have been digitized and made available on the Internet, usually free of charge. However, there was no single resource of "what is available and where." Mollie decided to create that resource.

Mollie's web site, GenealogyBookLinks.com, provides links to freely available digital books, focusing on American biographies, genealogies, and history books. The site now contains more than 30,000 links from more than 35 sources (only the top sources are listed on the site). New books are being added to the list daily. The current focus is on surnames, directories, vital records, and identifying smaller sites with local area-specific books.

Using the Genealogy Book Links web site is simple: you either scroll through the list of available books or else use the site's search capability to find a surname or location of interest. Once you find something that looks interesting, click on the link and you are taken to the book as stored on another web site. In other words, it works like Google or any other search engine or like Cyndi's List. I love the fact that you can easily "stroll through the stacks" in about the same manner as any other library: go down the list of available books in whatever topic you wish and click on anything that looks interesting. A few seconds later you are "thumbing" through the pages of the book of interest.

I was pleasantly surprised when I did a search for my own surname and found a number of books available, including one I had not seen before. A few seconds later, I was reading that book. It worked quickly and easily, all at no charge.

When searching through the thousands of digital books listed on this site, I noticed that the links lead to Google Books, The Internet Archive, Brigham Young University's ebooks, OpenLibrary.org, many university libraries, as well as to several other major and lesser-known online libraries of digital books.

In some ways, this is sort of the equivalent of "Cyndi's List" but for digital genealogy and history books. I also believe this is a perfect example of the digital libraries of the future: being able to find books on any topic, regardless of where they are available.

Biographies & Family Genealogies		
General Biographies	Men	Women
A B C D E F G H I J K L M		
N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z		
Books  by State		
Alabama	Maine	Oregon
Alaska	Maryland	Pennsylvania
Arizona	Massachusetts	Rhode Island
Arkansas	Michigan	South Carolina
California	Minnesota	South Dakota
Colorado	Mississippi	Tennessee
Connecticut	Missouri	Texas
Delaware	Montana	Utah
Florida	Nebraska	Vermont
Georgia	Nevada	Virginia
Hawaii	New Hampshire	Washington
Idaho	New Jersey	Washington DC
Illinois	New Mexico	West Virginia
Indiana	New York	Wisconsin
Iowa	North Carolina	Wyoming
Kansas	North Dakota	
Kentucky	Oklahoma	
Louisiana	Ohio	
Material Type		
DAR & SAR	Genealogy Books	Newspapers
Directories	Magazines	Reference
Encyclopedias	Maps, Atlases	

One Index on the Site

Lynch's efforts could help hundreds of thousands, possibly millions, of people find information about their ancestry or about the places where their ancestors lived.

I also might disagree with Mollie Lynch's use of the words "retired librarian." I don't think she is retired at all. In fact, it looks to me like she is now helping more people than ever!

GenealogyBookLinks.com focuses solely on American biographies, genealogies, and history books. However, as the years go by, I expect that we will see similar resources for thousands of other topics, thereby creating true digital libraries of books of all topics.

To use Mollie Lynch's GenealogyBookLinks.com, go to <http://genealogybooklinks.com>

Thanks to Sandra Dreaden,
Crestview Library

GSOC Newsletter Editor's Note: I went to this site and was impressed by the number of links available and by the many different ways that they are indexed. I am pleased that my mother's book, "The Cherry Hill - Poplar Springs - Reid Community in Calhoun County, Mississippi" (from which a number of stories have been extracted and published in the GSOC newsletter) is now included. - Jim Y

Events, Groups, and Sites of GSOC Interest

August 18

**Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso FL
Free Lunch-time Lecture,**

Air Raid Nights and Radio Days, Don Schroeder,
Author, 12 PM, Call (850) 678-2615 to reserve a seat
www.heritage-museum.org/wp/

August 25

**Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso FL
Annual Yard Sale. Sat., August 25, 7 am. - 12 pm**

Help us preserve the past for the future by donating items you no longer need for the Kiwanis Annual Yard Sale Spectacular to benefit the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida. Donations are now being accepted Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am - 4 pm (NO clothes please)

www.heritage-museum.org/wp/

October 13

Laurel Hill FL Hobo Festival



Gene Clary Park, Laurel Hill
Laurel Hill turns out for a free community celebration on the second Saturday of October. Vendors offer food, arts and crafts, and more. Activities for children are available. Enjoy live entertainment. Learn more at:

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 2012 FSGS Annual Conference, "The Best of Times: Genealogy + Technology" will be held at the Hilton Deerfield/Boca Raton in Deerfield Beach, Florida. The

Hilton is located between Ft. Lauderdale and Palm Beach next to the Deerfield Country Club and an 18-hole executive golf course just off I-95.

The Atlantic Ocean and beaches are less than two miles away with plenty of shopping and cultural venues within minutes from the hotel. The Hilton is offering the same nightly rate three days before the conference arrival date and three days after the conference departure date.

www.flsgs.org

November 10

**Rocky Bayou State Park, Niceville FL
Annual Fall Pioneer Day**

Model of a turpentine still that was shown at the fall 2011 Pioneer Day.



The GSOC will participate in this event by having a booth at the park instead of our monthly 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
and Victorian Tea**
www.heritage-museum.org/wp/

STATE-WIDE & REGIONAL EVENTS

August 29 through September 1

Federation of Genealogical Societies 2012 Conference:
Indians, Squatters, Settlers & Soldiers in the "Old Southwest." *Gather with the nation's genealogists in Birmingham, Alabama for the Federation of Genealogical Societies 2012 Conference*

<http://www.fgs.org/2012conference/index.php>

More Florida genealogy events are posted on the Florida State Genealogical Society website at
www.flsgs.org/events.php

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.rootsworld.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 Rootsworld at:

<http://www.rootsworld.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



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 searchable PDF files containing 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

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 August GSOC meeting will be on August 11, 2012, at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida at 10 A.M.

The program will be a Show & Tell by volunteers from the GSOC membership.

"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

