



THE GSOC NEWSLETTER

**THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF OKALOOSA COUNTY,
FLORIDA**
AUGUST 14, 2017

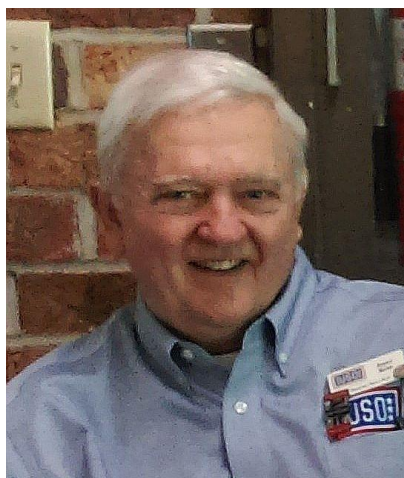
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**Next scheduled GSOC
meeting:**

August 26, 10:30 AM

Fort Walton Beach Library
185 Miracle Strip Parkway SE, Fort
Walton Beach, FL.



**August's Feature Speaker is
Mr. Jerry Rush
Presenting**

***Family Stories, Mysteries and
Brickwalls***

**Uncovering mysteries and solutions to
conquering "brick walls"**

Mr. Jerry Rush

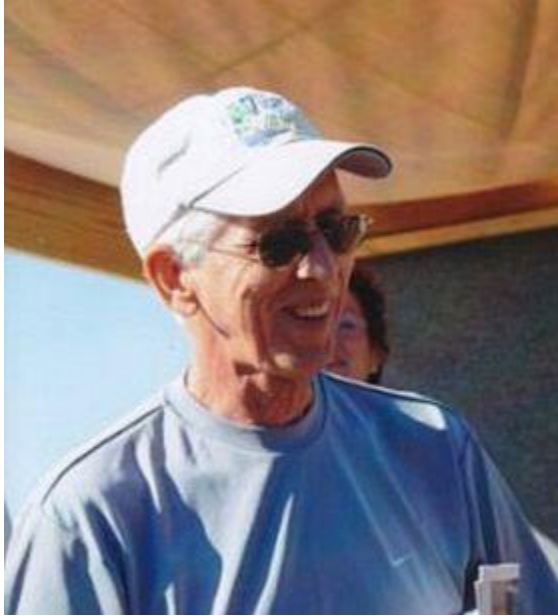
Mr. Rush has always been intrigued by the stories that families pass from generation to generation. Those stories make family history much more than just names and dates. They are also highly perishable.

As his own Rush history had already been well documented, he concentrated on other families and has worked on some 45 to date. Along the way he has also uncovered some mysteries and fresh solutions to conquering "brick walls".

GSOC member Jerry Rush was born in northwest New Jersey in 1941 and served in the US Air Force from 1959 until 1979. He retired from the USAF in 1979 while living in Hawaii and went back to school to finish his BA degree and to earn an MA in Counseling Psychology. He then joined the federal civil

service and continued his career in military intelligence. In 1993, he accepted an assignment to Hurlburt Field, FL and worked there until his retirement in 2005.

Mr. Rush, now a widower, has three sons and four grandchildren, and lives in the Poquito Bayou subdivision of Shalimar. He says that he loves to do genealogical research and has worked on over 40 families thus far. He likes to get people interested in genealogy and get them started in discovering their family story.



THOMAS SAJWAJ TO SPEAK AT THE SEPTEMBER 23rd MEETING

Thomas Sajwaj will be GSOC's September's quest speaker giving a presentation titled, "Fact and Fancy in Oral Family History: A Psychological Perspective."

In October of last year Mr. Sajwaj was GSOC's quest speaker who gave a very informative presentation about ethics in genealogy.

Dr. Thomas Sajwaj is a Ph.D. psychologist, now retired, was active in clinical research with children and their behavioral therapies, and directed an urban mental health center in Nashville.

Dr. Sajwaj has been involved with genealogy since 1999. He taught Beginning Genealogy for three years, published two articles in genealogical journals, and completed a biography of one of his great-grandfathers.

"Genealogy in Time" Magazine's Top ten interesting facts about US censuses

1. The census is the US government's largest peacetime operation. At its peak for the 2010 census, more than one million census workers counted roughly 310 million people in some 120 million households. This works out to 1 census worker for every 310 residents. By comparison, the 1900 census required 53,000 census workers to count an average of 1,400 residents each. Not surprisingly, the cost of each census keeps increasing and the 2010 census cost a staggering \$15 billion. This works out to about \$50 to count every man, woman and child in the nation, which makes census data very

expensive to collect. The other major problem with a traditional once-in-a-decade census is that it is out of date the day after the census is taken as people are born, die and move every day. Other countries facing the same issues have considered alternatives, including possibly switching to real-time databases (see [UK Considers Scrapping the Census](#)).

2. Since the first US census in 1790, certain segments of the population have been consistently underreported (see [Does the US Census Underreport](#)). In particular, the poor, the transient, and illegal immigrants are difficult to track down. They also often have a vested interest in avoiding the watchful eye of the government. The 2010 census was particularly challenging in this regard as the deep US recession has increased the number of people living in garages, basements, tents and motels. The numbers of displaced people are both staggering and unprecedented. One in nine US households were either behind in their mortgage payments or have already defaulted. These people were difficult to find as many are no longer lived at their previous address.

3. Traditionally, various agencies of the US government have backed away from aggressively pursuing and deporting illegal immigrants ahead of the official census count day. The Census Bureau allocated an additional \$250 million for the 2010 census for advertising and outreach programs to help boost participation rates in the traditionally underreported groups. As well, more than one thousand national and local groups have partnered with the Census Bureau in an attempt to better reach the underserved segments of the population.

4. The United States was the first country in the world to make a census a mandatory part of its constitution. Article 1, Section 2 of the US Constitution mandates that a census must be done every ten years and that representatives of Congress and direct taxes “shall be apportioned among the several states which may be included within this union, according to their respective numbers”.

5. There is a lot riding on the US Census Bureau getting an accurate count of the population. The US Supreme Court has ruled that federal funds and Congressional representation must be based on the actual count of individuals within a district and not on any kind of statistical sampling technique that attempts to estimate the number of underreported people. Originally, there were 65 members in the US House of Representatives. This number grew to 106 members after the 1790 census showed the nation had grown to 4 million people. The number of members in the House of Representatives continued to grow until 1911 (after the results of the 1910 census were released), at which point the size of Congress was permanently capped at 435 representatives. Thus, areas of the nation that undercount people will not only lose federal funds but will also have less proportional representation.

6. All households received the same questionnaire for the 2010 census (there was no short form and long form). The 2010 census recorded the name, gender, date of birth, ethnicity, race and relationship of everyone in the household. By comparison, the first census in 1790 asked for the name of the head of the household, number of people in the household and the gender and skin colors of everyone else (servants and slaves) who lived in the household.

A separate question asked for the number of free white males over the age of 16 living at the address. These numbers were collected separately to gauge the number of young men that could be drafted for war or who were available to work in industrial jobs. To ensure compliance, the first US census was conducted by Federal marshals. Slaves were only counted as 3/5 of a person and American Indians were deliberately not counted at all.

7. The census questions on race have always been the most contentious part of the census survey since the first census was conducted in 1790. In the 1900 census, the race options were White, Black, Chinese, Japanese and American Indian. By comparison, the race options one hundred years later for the 2000 census were White, Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, Some Other Race (respondents could write in an answer) and Two or More Races.

8. The sixth census in 1840 counted a population of some 17 million people. It took 28 clerks to tabulate the results by hand. The 1890 census was the first census to use a tabulating machine. It took just six weeks to process the results (the previous 1880 census had taken 2 ½ years to process by hand). Most of the 1890 census was lost in a fire in 1921. The root problem of the lost 1890 census records was that government record keeping was both decentralized and disorganized. The government had a poor track record of losing and/or accidentally destroying public records.

9. Although NARA's job is to safeguard records, they have not always been successful. In 1973, a fire at a NARA facility in Overland, Missouri resulted in the destruction of 17 million official military personnel records.

10. Census records are stored at the Census Bureau's processing center in Jeffersonville, Indiana. By law, US census records cannot be released to the public for a period of 72 years after the census has been completed. After 72 years, the records are transferred to NARA, which makes them available to the public. Thus, the 1940 US census will be released to the public on 2 April 2012



Article submitted by: Margaret Harris

CENSUS OF THE JESSE ROGERS CEMETERY IN MARY ESTER

Done by SABELLE RUCKEL ALGEE

Isabelle Rogers Algee is the agent genealogist who created a census of the Jesse Rogers Cemetery in Mary Esther, Florida for which she subsequently published a book on that cemetery census and also one for the Wright Cemetery. These books are available at the Fort Walton Beach Public Library and at some other area libraries.

Not long ago, the Northwest Florida Daily News wrote an article about a grave in the Jesse Rogers Cemetery marked "Miss Purty". There had been various speculations as to who was buried there and the purpose of the newspaper article was to establish the truth of the matter. Having an interest in the matter, I simultaneously contacted Mrs. Algee for her input. She related to me that there had been a car accident involving a child and that it was a young girl who was the one buried at that location, although she doesn't remember there being a stone at the time that she began surveying the cemetery. However, the girl's father came almost daily and "there were little toys scattered over her grave—almost every holiday was represented." Later, Mrs. Algee remarked that she seemed to remember that there was a small flat stone. She promised to check her original records and get back to me. The very next day, I received an e-mail from her. Mrs. Algee stated, "Well, my memory was correct—she [the little girl] is buried in Grave #99, page 14 in my book." Isabelle Rogers Algee's notes further contained this information: "HALE, 'Miss Purty'; ... at the base of a cypress tree is a flat marker. The area is outlined by sea shells, covered with small flower arrangements and small toys, [an] "Easter basket and eggs, Halloween bucket, etc. This is a young girl about eight years old who was run over by a car. Father is Tommy Hale. On 29 June 1992, was found a basket of fresh flowers; [the] card read, 'Lindsay Hale, Happy Birthday', Momma".

The mystery was solved and I could part the Spanish Moss in my mind's eye and "rest in peace" that with the publication of the article in the newspaper and my "conversation" with Mrs. Algee, the speculations and rumors would be laid to rest on this matter. However, there are other stories to be told, other mysteries to unveil about the residents of Jesse Rogers Cemetery, I'm sure. Those must wait for another day.

Isabelle Rogers Algee is a fifth generation Floridian. She states that her great-great-grandfather was Jesse Rogers, an individual that some have thought to be the pirate, Billy Bowlegs. In the 1950's and 1960's, Isabelle writes, "my father, John Vincent Rogers," fought (and won) the battle over Jesse's reputation. "Jesse was a strange person," she writes, "but we have proven that he was not a pirate. He was the first settler in this area and as such he should be recognized." Mrs. Algee has signed statements from witnesses, people who knew Jesse Rogers, that state that his occupation was cattleman. Jesse's grave was dug up so many times that Mrs. Algee's father got a court order and had his grave legally moved. She remembers, "They dug down 6 feet and got a box of dirt and moved it to the Jesse Rogers Cemetery".

Contrary to popular belief, the Jesse Rogers Memorial Cemetery is named for "Uncle Bogar" who donated the land, not for "old man Jesse". As you walk through it, you will see many Watson family members. They are tied to Isabelle's Rogers family (three Watson sisters married two Rogers brothers and a Rogers nephew). Mary Elizabeth Watson was the great grandmother of Isabelle Rogers Algee. She married John Louis Rogers. William Jesse "Bogar" Rogers married Martha "Matt" Ann Frances Watson and their nephew, Solomon Rogers, married Susan Isabel Watson. Mrs. Algee writes, "So you can see half of the old settlers of the Mary Esther area are kin to me." Jesse Rogers came to the Mary Esther area from Jackson County, Mississippi. The courthouse in Biloxi was burned three times and there are few records left. From scattered tax records in Jackson County, Mrs. Algee has located a

Joseph Rogers, Sr., who she believes to be the father of Jesse Rogers. Definite proof of that assumption has had yet to be found.

Isabelle had completed a book on the Rogers family in the 1980's, but with the expanded information on all the allied families, the manuscript was some eight hundred pages long! Since November of 2003, she has been laboring to rewrite the book or edit it to a manageable size. Her book will contain all the arguments and proof regarding the issue of Jesse Rogers, the pioneer, versus Jesse Rogers, the pirate.

The book will also refer to many other pioneers of Mary Esther, like the Pryors and the Roberts. Ms. Algee spends time on this project when she is not actively working on behalf of the Lake County, Tennessee Historical and Genealogical Society project of completing their annual yearbook.

Below is a brief outline on the John Louis Rogers', John Newton Rogers', and John Vincent Rogers' line.

Mrs. Algee would like for any and all members of these families to contact her in order to update the family's information. Her e-mail address is ialgee@bellsouth.net. Her mailing address is P.O. Box 8, Ridgely, TN 38080.

JOHN LOUIS ROGERS, son of Jesse Rogers and Margaret Aiken Rogers was born 4 May 1825 in Jackson Co., MS; died 13 Sep 1882 in Mary Esther, FL where he is buried in Jesse Rogers Memorial Cemetery. On 31 Aug 1858, in Escambia Co., FL, he married **MARY Elizabeth Watson**, daughter of George Washington Watson and Ruth Brooks. She was born 6 Feb 1841, in GA, died in Richmond, VA on 18 Mar 1934, shortly after her 93rd birthday. She is buried in the Jesse Rogers Memorial Cemetery, Mary Esther, Okaloosa Co., FL. John Louis Rogers was a brother of William Jesse "Bogar" Rogers who married Mary's sister, Martha "Matt" Ann Frances Watson, and an uncle of Solomon Rogers who married Mary's sister, Susan Isabel Watson.

Article submitted by: Margaret Harris

WRIGHT INCORPORATION NOTES

The Community of Wright

In 1961, there was a petition generated by the residents of the Wright Community for incorporation. Clarence R. Fetting served as President of this committee of citizens and M. H. Tennis was the Secretary.

Initially, the proposed incorporation included in its boundaries the area of Ocean City. There was also an amendment to the original bill that at no time would Wright combine or become a part of any other municipality, without a referendum in which 2/3 of the qualified freeholder electors of this

municipality shall vote affirmatively. This all culminated in House Bill No. 1990 and was signed June 28th, 1961 by Secretary of State, J. Adams. It stipulated that there would be a referendum in the general election where residents would specify their choice for or against incorporation.

A petition dated June 9th, 1961, to hold a referendum under House Bill 1990 was signed by a roll of citizens, several of whom would later become local developers. A sampling of the roster follows:

Mr. and Mrs. James G. Beason, Carles B. And Maxine E. Booker, Floy and Ivy Bullock, Donald L. And Audrey J. Campbell, Ray and Millie Commander, Mr. and Mrs. C.A. Cooley, Estelle Cook, Lester L. and Clarice L. Coon, Eleanor R. Dalton, Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Echols, Clarence R. and Lulu F. Fetting,

David A. and Virginia L. Greer, J.E. and Trilba T. Hendrix, Benj. W. and Opal M. Hill, Mr. and Mrs. A.W. Hollington, C.F. and Eula M. Hudson, R. Vernon and Madalyn R. Lindner, Yvonne S. Looney,

I.D. McCart Jr, Paul and Imogene Mathis, Henry F. and Margaret T. Muirhead, Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Murphy, Betty Myers, Charles L. and Lillian Neese, B. Parish, Dorothy Patrick, Claude C. and Vera B. Pierce, Donnie Pitts, Hardy and Evelyn M. Rhyne, Orian W. and Mildred C. Rockman, Mercer D. Rushing, Irene Saunders, Trammel and Irene Settles, H.L. and Lillian Showers, Harvey T. and Ella L. Sturup, Burris K. and Gladys Sundry, M. H. and Ann Hall Tennis, Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Thomasson, Mr. and Mrs. Joe T. Weaver, Octo and Lennie Wise.

An "Open Letter to the Residents of Wright, Florida" was posted on 22 July 1961, discussing the benefits of incorporation and a call to "Vote on August 8, 1961 for incorporation". Many humors and myths regarding incorporation were challenged in the letter. A brief biographical note was included for some of those citizens who had signed the petition and who had agreed to spearhead the project of incorporation:

Mr. C.F. Hudson, Mayor, age 68 (in 1961), native of Florida, retired from a successful business career in furniture and hardware. He has operated his own stores in Milton, Crestview and Val-P. He has lived in and maintained business activities in Wright for four years. Although he agreed to serve as temporary Mayor, he will not be a candidate to succeed himself.

Mr. C.R. Fetting, Councilman, age 60 (in 1961), moved into the Wright area just over eight years ago when he retired from 30 years railroad service in Ohio. As a booster and currently president of the Wright Community Center, he has worked hard to improve the area. He is very desirous that the Wright area will become a self-governing, self-supporting community of people who can live in peace and harmony, accomplishing those things which are needed and desired by the people. Both Mr. and Mrs. Fetting are active in the Trinity Methodist Church of Wright.

Joe T. Weaver, Councilman, age 46, lived in Mary Esther for three years before building a home in Wright just over a year ago. He is a veteran of World War II and seventeen years Civil Service [working with] the Army and Air Force. For the past two years he has been the Security Officer for the largest Air Force Contractor at Eglin. Mr. Weaver, as well as his wife and two children, is active in the First Baptist Church of Fort Walton Beach. He has an interest in people and a strong desire to help improve

the comfort and well-being of those around him. His moral convictions concerning conduct in public office will not permit him to offer or seek political patronage."

ODDS & ENDS

HUMOR ONLY UNDERSTOOD BY GENEALOGISTS

Top 10 Indicators that you've become a gene-aholic:

10. You introduce your daughter as your descendent.
9. You've never met any of the people you send e-mail to,
even though you're related.
8. You can recite your lineage back eight generations,
but can't remember your nephew's name.
7. You have more photographs of dead people than living ones.
6. You've taken a tape recorder and/or notebook
to a family reunion.
5. You've not only read the latest GEDCOM standard,
but you also understand it.
4. The local genealogy society borrows books from you.
3. The only film you've seen in the last year
was the 1880 census index.
2. More than 1/2 of your book collection is made up
of marriage records or pedigrees.
1. Your elusive ancestor has been spotted
in more different places than Elvis!

MINUTES OF THE JULY 22, 2017 GSOC MEETING

Jon Sheperd, President of the GSOC, welcomed members, guests and guest speaker, Mr. Jim Moore, who was accompanied by his wife, Margaret Moore. There were 23 members, 7 guests, 1 renewal member and 1 new member for a total of 32 persons present.

OLD BUSINESS:

Minutes: The GSOC meeting minutes from June were in the July Newsletter. There were no changes or deletions. The minutes were approved by acclamation.

Fieldtrips: Six people participated in the July 7th field trip to the UWF Archives and West Florida History Center. Dean DeBolt gave a great tour of the archives and showed the group how to access their many documents and books. Their holdings are primarily from the local area but also extend to other parts of the country. Some are very valuable in terms of rare collections. For those researching NW Florida ancestors, this is a resource definitely worth checking out. It's also a great place to leave family history information/documents/media which might be of historical value to NW Florida heritage.

Journal: Cindy Barber has most of the needed articles for the GSOC Journal, but if you want to submit an education related article please do so soon. If you can't think of some local education topic she can give you some suggestions and possibly even some resources. So please help out. Thanks.

Organization Expo: There will be an Organization Expo at the Crestview Public Library on August 7th from 5-8 pm. We are looking for 1 or 2 people who can attend and represent the GSOC. It would be a good way to reach the north part of our county. Please call Jon if you can do this.

NEW BUSINESS:

Door Prizes: Winners were Jim Young, who was the lucky recipient of Ed Crosby's home-produced honey, and Kathie Sheperd, who greatly appreciated receiving a jar of homemade jam from Val Moreland. *(Thank you, Val, for your generosity in donating many jars of delicious jam.)*

Lunch at local restaurant: The Dutch treat lunch was Mary's Kitchen, in the FWB Uptown Shopping Center. Fourteen people attended.

New Book for Sale: The GSOC received a free copy of Marsha Peterson Moss' book titled: "Fundamentals of Genealogy." The book price is normally \$24.95 but with 15 or more orders, we can purchase books for \$20.00 a copy. It is an excellent resource for all genealogists/family historians as it is full of hints and website information. If you are interested, please contact Phil Hoge. We will place an order soon. Fourteen members have signed up so far. Additionally, we plan to purchase copies for local libraries (that want a copy). P.S. Jon sent an email about ordering the book to all members.

Somerby Retirement Center: Jerry Rush and Margaret Harris will be doing a genealogy presentation at the Somerby Retirement Center in Santa Rosa Beach on Aug 9th at 10:30 am. The format will be similar to the presentation they gave at Bob Hope Village a couple months ago. If you would like to go and represent GSOC please let one of them know. Thanks to Jerry and Margaret for spreading the word on genealogy. This is a good reminder that if any of you know of an organization that might benefit from a genealogy presentation or workshop please let Jon know.

FWB Rotary Club Presentation: Jerry Rush will also give a “Capturing Your Family History” presentation to the FWB Rotary Club on Wednesday, August 23rd at the FW Yacht Club. If you are a Rotary member please attend. Thank you, Jerry, for doing this, and also for giving GSOC a plug at the meeting!

Save the Date - Family History Fair: This is an early notice! The local LDS Church is sponsoring a “Family History Fair” on March 3, 2018 at the FWB LDS church building. It will feature classes on many genealogy related subjects. John Ward, one of the organizers, explained that this first annual Family History Fair would be for anyone interested in family history. Registration would allow attendees to participate in three separate seminars, and a list of potential seminar topics was provided. Mr. Ward asked us to consider making some of the presentations, or of a topic not listed. Contact Bill Everett, 850-892-3335 if interested in helping out.

Newsletter: The July edition of the GSOC Newsletter was sent out this last Monday. Jon thanked Ed Crosby for publishing his first issue. Please contact Ed if you did not receive the newsletter.

REPORTS:

1st VP and Genealogist Margaret Harris: Margaret talked about Jerry Rush’s presentation next month which will include how he resolved several brick wall problems, and how we might get some solid take-away advice from his presentation.

2nd VP Jerry Rush: GSOC has 62 paid up members (one joined at this meeting).

Treasurer Phil Hoge: Phil just returned from a six-week long vacation to various parts of the US, including Alaska. He reports that there is roughly \$1800 in the treasury and he will have a more definitive report in August.

Recording Secretary Kathie Sheperd: Nothing sufficient to report.

Corresponding Secretary Val Moreland: Val put in an article in the Daily News newspaper about today’s program; several members saw the article.

Newsletter, Ed Crosby: Nothing sufficient to report

Webmaster, Jim Young: Nothing sufficient to report

GUEST SPEAKER:

Jon then turned over the meeting to 1st VP, Margaret Harris who introduced our guest speaker, Mr. Jim Moore. Margaret introduced Mr. Moore as a man who keeps southern history and southern humor alive through various character impersonations such as General Andrew Jackson, Governor Sidney Johnson Catts, and Lord Baden-Powell (founder of Boy Scouts). He has done this for over 20 years! In real life, Mr. Moore is an attorney, and the author of several books (Walton Wanderings, Walton Wickedness (a book about true cases and legal histories in Walton County), Hotel DeFuniak and Up, Down, In & Around Boggy Bayou – tales about present day Niceville, Florida. Mr. Moore also participates in the Chautauqua Assembly, the Florida League of Arts and many other places and events where he brings history alive for the 21st century citizen. Today, Mr. Moore will be assuming the first- person character of William “Bill” Maypoles, known as the “father of

Okaloosa County. Mr. Maypoles was one of the representatives to the state legislature from Walton County. He lived in Laurel Hill and recognized and articulated the problems that people living in eastern Santa Rosa County and western Walton County faced when they had to travel to their respective seats to conduct essential business.

(We open up and the setting for this presentation was in 1916. Mr. Maypoles is speaking at a rally held at a newspaper publisher in Laurel Hill.)

Mr. Mapoles (*in character*):

"I am glad some women are here! It's good for you to see this and to get to know your responsibilities. Someday women will get the right to vote, so it is good that you are informed early. I was elected in 1913 as a state representative to Walton County. We had some serious problems in those days, so I introduced a new bill to create a new county." He continued to explain:

"Back then, it was very difficult to travel to the courthouse in Defuniak Springs from various parts of the county. It was also difficult to get to Santa Rosa County. The banks were in Defuniak and Crestview but there were no banks in Camp Walton. Roads were fairly non-existent and owing to the extremely poor conditions (swamps, unpaved and of sand, stumps, creeks with no bridges), roads were few. There was a north-south road to Crestview. It was very poor and unpaved, but could be traveled by ox cart.

In order for a Camp Walton member to travel to the county seat in Defuniak, a person had to wait for the mail boat, which came from Pensacola. The mail boat made rounds once a week but wasn't always reliable because of weather and unforeseen circumstances. The mail boat carried mail, livestock, and passengers, and it was not an easy journey. In order to go to the county courthouse, which was a frequent event, (men went several times a year to the county courthouse to pay their property tax, to vote, to pay a poll tax in order to vote, to get married, etc.). It would take about a week every time a person had to travel to the courthouse. They would wait for the mail boat to take them to Freeport, Florida. At Freeport, they would then rent a horse or hitch a ride to continue the rest of the journey to Defuniak, which was another 16 miles over land. Sometimes the business in Defuniak took some time, so a person had to wait until the next week for the mail boat to take them back home.

Another tax which must be paid in person (at the courthouse) is the road tax. If you had hogs or chickens, you had to travel to the courthouse to register your brand, and if that brand is taken, you needed to come up with another brand (in order to de-conflict brands on the animals).

The circuit court meets three times a year and the court session may last two weeks. Court duty was another imposition on the folks from Camp Walton. This also

posed a burden on the traveler. Additionally, every man aged 18 to 45 was required to work 8 days on the roads per year (or you can hire someone to take your place). This required more travel to out of the way places.

With all these drawbacks to development and travel, I proposed new legislation to create a county to support Camp Walton and the eastern area of Santa Rosa and western area of Walton counties. We took a vote of the people who lived in the area proposed to be the new county. Residents in the Walton County area carried the vote 4 to 1 and folks in the Santa Rosa area carried the vote 3 to 1. The vote was only for people who lived in that area, not the entire counties. The population of the new Okaloosa County was about 7,000 people. There were not too many residents, but many folks hid out in the forests and were not counted (they didn't pay tax either).

What would the new county be named? One of the ideas was "Wilson" (after President Wilson), but we eventually decided on "Okaloosa," which was named after an old Paddlewheel Mrs. Maypoles and I once took. We voted on it and Okaloosa it was. Our next task was deciding a county seat for this new Okaloosa County. Well, we looked to Milligan and it would make a good temporary county seat. It had a Methodist church, a Baptist church and a sawmill. But it also had flooding problems, so it wasn't a good county seat location. Laurel Hill was too far away. We narrowed the decision down to Baker and Crestview. Crestview was selected because of the roads that led to it (and it is still known as Hub City to this day)."

Mr. Moore concluded his talk "One hundred years ago, Florida was a remote country and the US geological survey wasn't even completed with Northwest Florida. After 1917, Florida Governor, Sidney Catts, was elected and started a Florida roads department and roads began to be built in the 1920s. The tourists started to come and Eglin Field opened. As you can see, it is much different today."

CLOSING:

The group gave Jim Moore a heartfelt round of applause and expressed their appreciation for bringing Okaloosa county history to life.

Jon thanked everyone for coming and made a special thanks to Mr. Moore and our other visitors. The next meeting will be held at the Fort Walton Beach Library on August 26th at 10:30 am, when our own Jerry Rush will talk about some mysteries in his genealogy search and how he overcame many "brick walls."

The meeting adjourned.

Kathie Sheperd

Recording Secretary,

Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County

Events and Information of GSOC Interest

GSOC INFORMATION

Officers for 2017

President, Jon Sheperd
1st Vice President (Programs), Margaret Harris
2nd Vice President (Membership), Jerry Rush
Treasurer, Phil Hoge
Recording Secretary, Kathie Sheperd
Corresponding Secretary, Val Moreland

Immediate Past President, Sue Basch
Journal Editor, TBD
Genealogist, Margaret Harris
Publicity Chairperson, Val Moreland
Newsletter Editor, Edward Crosby
Webmaster, Jim Young

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Email: gsocokaloosa@yahoo.com
Newsletter Editor: edcrosby@valp.net

Membership

Annual membership dues are \$24 for an individual and \$35 for an individual and spouse at the same address.

You can obtain a revised membership form from our web site or use the copy that is included in this newsletter.

The Newsletter

The GSOC Newsletter is now published on or before the third Friday of each month.

Suggestions for articles are welcome. The editor, Edward Crosby, can be contacted by phone at (850) 678-5423 or by email at edcrosby@valp.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 2016 issue, was published and distributed in October 2016 and has been mailed to all GSOC members.** The theme of the 2016 issue is the Vietnam War. If you are a member and didn't receive your copy, please contact us.

The Web Site

<http://www.rootsweb.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.

GSOC on Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/okaloosagsoc>

The shortcut address to the official **page** of the Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County is shown above; or you can go to your Facebook account and search for **Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County**. This page will provide the latest information about our future meetings and other news that is important to members or prospective members.

There is also a Facebook **group**. It is useful for exchanging information about your research and getting help with questions you may have about the Society or resources available to you. You can find it by going to your Facebook account and searching for **Friends of the GSOC**.

The GSOC Books

The five GSOC cemetery, marriage, and funeral books are all out of print, but are now available on the GSOC web site for reading on line and for downloading as searchable PDF files at no charge.

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Our September 23rd, meeting
will begin at 10:30 am

Facts & Fancy in Oral Family History

Presented by: Thomas Sajwaj

A Psychological Perspective

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