



THE GSOC NEWSLETTER

THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

AUGUST 17, 2018

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August 25, 2018

Dr. Jamin Wells

Presents an

“Oral History Interview Workshop”



Dr Jamin Wells is an assistant professor and director of the Public History Master's Program at the University of West Florida. He teaches courses in local, environmental, digital, and public history. Dr. Wells has an undergraduate degree in history from the University of Rhode Island and master's

degrees from the University of Rhode Island and the University of Delaware. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Delaware where he was a fellow in the Hagley Program in Capitalism, Technology, and Culture.

Dr. Wells has special interests in Coastal history, history of capitalism, community history, history of violence, historical memory, and digital humanities. He has written several articles for publication and one book all dealing with shipwrecks. He is committed to researching, writing, and teaching a usable past.

This workshop introduces the basic tools and techniques for conducting an oral history interview. It will cover a range of topics, including: how to select interviewees, how to formulate questions, basic recording equipment, and how to present and preserve finished interviews. Dr. Wells will also discuss legal and ethical responsibilities and share a wide array of resources with participants.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

September 22, 2018

Virginia Selby Presents "NATIVE AMERICAN RESEARCH"



Virginia Selby was born and raised in Escambia County Florida and graduated from the University of West Florida. She then moved to Atlanta, GA where she resided for 20 years. While living in the Metro Atlanta area, Virginia attended Kennesaw State University where she received her qualifications to become a CPA. She has over 20 years' experience in tax return preparation. Virginia worked for a CPA in the metro Atlanta area, worked with a tax attorney in the North GA Mountains and became proficient in tax resolution.

In January 2013 she received the prestigious designation of Certified Tax Coach. Virginia is one of about 200 Certified Tax Coaches across the US and the only one in the Northwest Florida Panhandle and South Alabama. As a Certified Tax Coach Virginia works proactively to find all possible legal deductions to reduce client's tax burden. Virginia has owned her own CPA and tax planning firm, "Shelby's Tax Consultants," for the last nine years.

When not working on tax planning, Virginia loves genealogy and the study of American History. She has written several articles on family and American history that were published in the "History of Escambia County", Volumes 1 and 2 and she also wrote and published two books "Shelby's of Dixie" and "The History of Beulah Baptist Church and Community." She loves seeing history come alive through her long family history in America. She is a member of the West Florida Genealogical Society and the Mid-County Historical Society in Molino, FL, as well as, the Florida Genealogical Society and the South Carolina Genealogical Society. She is a member of the DAR and Daughter of War of 1812.

Publishing My Books Using CreateSpace and Kindle Direct Publishing by Jim Young

The July 2018 GSOC program was presented by Susan Lewis who provided information about publishing memoirs and other material in book form. She is the owner of Proper Publishing which offers services to assist people in writing and publishing their books. A summary of her presentation is included in the July meeting minutes found elsewhere in this issue of The Newsletter.

Mrs. Lewis provided useful information and helpful tips on how to write memoirs so that others might want to read and even buy a copy of them. I was more interested, though, in learning about publishing my own writing about family history and local history, and she provided details about how that could be done. I was amazed to hear how relatively inexpensive the copies of books produced as she described can be.

She recommended a service that her company has been using. It's called CreateSpace (wwwcreatespace.com) and it was founded about 20 years ago in South Carolina as a self-publishing service. It was bought by Amazon in 2005, and it publishes books on demand, meaning that each volume is produced in response to an actual purchase on Amazon.com. For years, CreateSpace offered two types of services to authors: self-

publishing service (cover design, layout, typesetting, editing, proofreading, etc.) and print-on-demand. However, in April 2018, CreateSpace stopped offering the self-publishing service but continued to provide the print-on-demand service and continued to be an easy gateway to publishing books on Amazon.

I did some research on CreateSpace and learned that Amazon has, bit-by-bit, been changing different parts of CreateSpace: shutting down the author services division in April and moving the DVD and CD production services in July 2018 to another part of Amazon. However, the print-on-demand service is still available on CreateSpace. The feeling is that Amazon will probably also move this service before long to a nearly identical print-on-demand service which is now already available in the Amazon Kindle Direct Publishing department (www.kdp.amazon.com.) I also found some unflattering reviews of CreateSpace on the Internet, but these reviews turned out to be critical of the author services department which Amazon has already closed and not the print-on-demand service.

With that background, let me tell you of my experience with CreateSpace.

My mother became a skilled amateur genealogical and family history researcher in her 50's and worked in conjunction with other older relatives, public libraries, census reports, family bibles, hundreds of letters to cousins near and far, and her own excellent memory to begin writing down what she had learned about our family and the area where she grew up. She put these in the form of long letters and other articles, mainly handwritten, which she sent to me --100 or more of them. Her handwriting was almost unreadable by everyone except me. She always wrote quickly and told me that her brain was just too fast for her hand to write stuff! However, she had a typewriter and had taught herself to type, and some of the material was in typed form. I realized that I could take this large amount of material, type it, rearrange it, edit and massage it a bit, add a few maps and other explanatory material, and make a nice little book. I did that. I gave her the original paper manuscript and over the next ten years, she had over 200 copies made for folks who wanted one. I had kept a good copy for myself. She found a few things in the book that were in error and a few little additions she wanted to make. She typed up a couple of pages of those herself and had added them to the back of the book.

Mother died in February 2000. A couple of months later, I decided to publish a second edition.

Not having a digital copy of the book, I scanned my copy and converted that to text using a character recognition program. I then corrected the text file, did a bit of reformatting, added and updated some of the information, and had 200 copies printed locally. Within a couple of years, all the copies of this new edition had been bought or distributed.

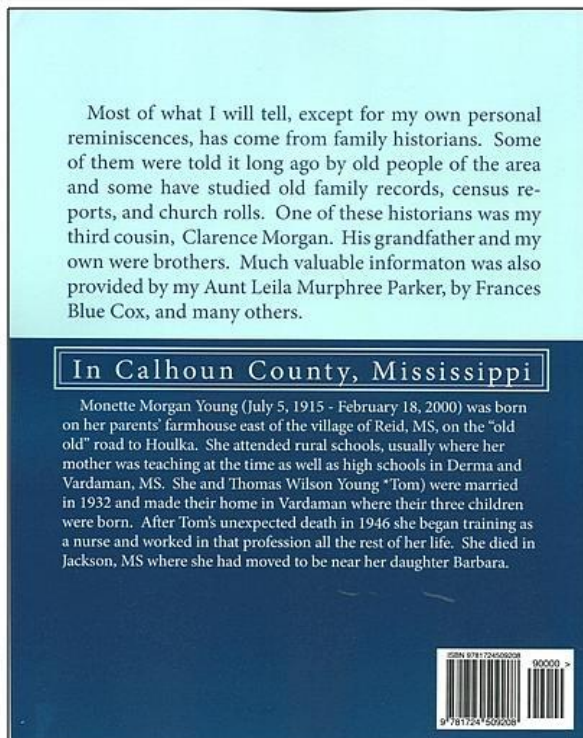
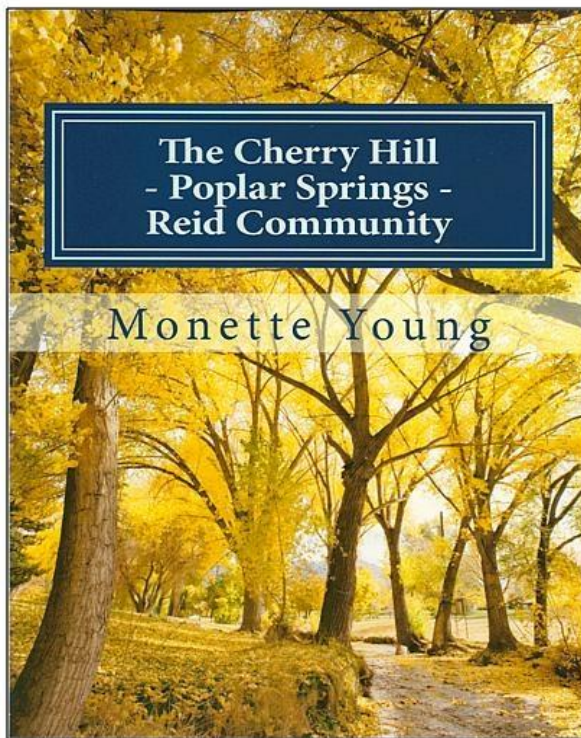
I still get occasional requests for copies. I placed a PDF version of it on the Internet for free downloading, but many people still prefer a book they can hold and read.

So, when I heard Mrs. Lewis' presentation, I thought it would be interesting to see what would be involved in publishing Mother's book through CreateSpace.

I went to the CreateSpace web site and began the process by creating an account as is required. Part of setting up an account requires providing the information needed for processing any royalties that might result from selling the book. Even though I wasn't doing this to try to actually sell it on Amazon, you have to go through all the steps, and completing an Internal Revenue Service form concerning royalty payments is mandatory, and I did that. That requires providing your social security number, but the site where you provide that information is secure.

Once my account was set up, I uploaded the PDF file of the book to CreateSpace. Since this material had already been fully edited and proofed, I didn't expect any significant problem with their review of it. It first underwent an automated computer review. This took several minutes, and I was told that no disqualifying problems were found although their computer fussed about the resolution of some of the line drawings being less than ideal and fussed about the margin on several of the pages. But it told me to go to the next step if I wanted to continue. That next step involved having me ask for a detailed review (presumably by a human) and I was told it would take 2-3 days and they would let me know when it was finished. That was Saturday evening, about eight hours after our meeting, and less than an hour after I had started the process.

When I checked my inbox on Monday morning, I found an email from CreateSpace saying that my file looked good and that I needed to create a cover and to proof the book. They suggested that I order a printed proof copy, although I could also proof it on line. To speed things, I used their cover creator tool and one of their cover templates to create a simple cover which I uploaded to them.



The front and back cover were designed using the CreateSpace Cover Tool

That completed the submission of all the elements needed to publish the book and I ordered a proof copy for \$4.17 plus shipping. The proof book got here a couple of days later. It looked good, and I authorized it to be published simply by clicking on the “Publish” block on my account page on their site.

Part of the process involves setting a price for the book. As the author, I can buy a copy for just the printing cost but CreateSpace sets a minimum price for selling on line. For this 8-1/2 by 11-inch, 278-page book, the minimum was \$10.77. This covered the printing cost of \$4.17 plus a fee for Amazon and a royalty for me. I rounded it off to \$11.00.

My only cost has been the \$4.17 plus postage that I paid for the proof book.

Within a few hours after I had “published” it, the book appeared for sale in the Amazon book section. The book is titled, “The Cherry Hill – Poplar Springs – Reid Community in Calhoun County, Mississippi” by Monette Morgan Young, edited by James Morgan Young. I mentioned its availability

on Amazon on my Facebook page and several copies have already been ordered.

About four years ago I had written a history of the small town and area where I grew up and had 200 copies printed by a Fort Walton Beach printer (the same printer that prints our GSOC Journals.) This book contains 178 pages and over 160 photographs. I decided to see what was involved in publishing it through Amazon’s Kindle Direct Publishing. I found the process to be almost identical to the CreateSpace process. For this book I uploaded a PDF of the cover that I wanted to use instead of creating one (KDP does not have a cover creation tool.) The printing cost for this book is \$3.11 and the minimum Amazon allows me to charge is \$5.18. I rounded this off to \$6.00.

The only difference I’ve found between the two processes is that the proof book from Kindle Direct Publishing has a half-inch banner across the middle of the cover that reads “Not for Resale” while there is no such marking on the CreateSpace proof copy. My experience with both CreateSpace and Kindle Direct Publishing has been positive.

*I thought this was a cute story.
You can't always believe what you
read.*

Submitted by: Jerry Rush

The story's told of a family that wanted to have its history chronicled, so they hired a professional biographer. There was just one problem. They were worried about Uncle George, the black sheep of the family who had been executed in the electric chair for committing several murders. "No problem," said the biographer. "I'll simply say Uncle George occupied a chair of applied electronics at an important government institution; that he was attached to his position by the strongest ties, and that his death came as a real shock."

Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County (GSOC) Meeting Minutes, 28 July 2018

GSOC President Jon Sheperd welcomed members and visitors, including Ms. Susan Lewis the guest speaker for the meeting. There were 22 people at the meeting including 2 visitors, Krysten Kanen and Anne Kief.

OLD BUSINESS:

Minutes: Minutes from June 2018 GSOC meeting were in the July GSOC Newsletter. Jon thanked Ed Crosby for the newsletter. There were no changes or additions to the June minutes. There is a correction needed to the newsletter (in the article by Cindy Barber) and the correction will be sent to all members.

Family History Fair: The LDS church in Panama City will have a Family History Fair at their church on State Avenue on Saturday, Aug 4th, from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm. A list of classes was in the newsletter and a copy along with the schedule was passed around.

2018 Journal: Jon reminded the group that the theme for the journal this year is "Why did you or your Ancestors come to NW Florida?" The June Newsletter reminded the GSOC to write an article. Jon asked the group: "who has written an article"? And he asked, "Who is planning to write one"? A few hands went up, but less than hoped for. Jon asked everyone to please consider doing even a one paragraph article. We all have our own story and it should not be something difficult or time consuming to write about.

NEW BUSINESS:

West Florida Genealogical Society 2018 Seminar: The West Florida Genealogical Society is holding an all-day seminar with guest speaker, Dr. John Colletta, author of the popular book, "They Came in Ships" on October 27th from 9am to 4pm with continental breakfast and lunch. The deadline for registering is Sept 30th and the cost is \$35 for members or \$40 for non-members. Go to their website to register/download a registration form.

<https://wfgsi.org/eventListings.php?nm=34>

Door Prizes: Door Prizes were won by Hilma Jenus (mouse pad) and Ed Crosby's home-produced honey, won by Chuck Licari.

Family History Club: At the request of the Crestview library, Cindy Barber has started up a Family History Club which meets monthly at the library. There was an article advertising the meeting in the Crestview Bulletin, and 8 people

attended the first meeting. The Club meets at 10:00 am on the third Thursday of each month. Topics vary and are picked out by the members. Jon thanked Cindy for starting this group.

Lunch at local restaurant: After the meeting, GSOC dined at Chapala Mexican Restaurant located at 67 Eglin Pkwy.

REPORTS:

1st VP: Upcoming presenters. Jamin Wells will do a workshop on conducting an oral history interview at the August meeting. Virginia Selby will give a presentation on Native American Research at the September meeting.

2nd VP Jerry Rush: No change in membership numbers.

Treasurer Phil Hoge: Expenses for June included travel expenses for June speaker Sharon Marsh (\$35) and the purchase of the book (\$30) by Sharon Marsh about the First Florida Union Cavalry (the book was donated to the Fort Walton Beach Library – genealogy section). The balance of the GSOC account is \$2175.71, including the balance of the Blue Box collection for library books of (\$213.27). Phil also found a record book of GSOC attendees from 3 Jan 1985 to 11 Feb 2006 and it will be maintained at the GSOC cabinet in the meeting room.

Recording Secretary Kathie Sheperd: Nothing sufficient to report.

Corresponding Secretary Val Moreland: Val was not present due to being needed at home. There was no significant correspondence for the past month.

Newsletter, Ed Crosby: Please be sure to read the latest newsletter on our GSOC website.

Webmaster, Jim Young: Just a reminder that our website is temporarily located at <http://www.youngj.us/GSOC> until RootsWeb is back up to fully operational status. Currently, the GSOC RootsWeb site is visible, but Jim is unable to make any updates to it. More work by the Ancestry.com team is required to make it fully functional.

Genealogist, Margaret Harris: Jon gave an update on Margaret's health. Margaret continues to be in the Westwood Nursing and Rehabilitation Center (1001 Mar Walt Drive, FWB). Visitors are welcome later in the day in groups of one or two due to little space for them. Jon requested the group continue to keep Margaret in their thoughts and prayers as she strives to improve.

PRESENTATION:

Jon introduced our guest speaker Susan Lewis.

Ms. Lewis served on the West Florida Literary Federation's Board of Director's as Director of Student Poetry for 8 years. She is the Vice President of the Gulf Coast Authors, was a finalist for Northwest Florida's Poet Laureate and has published seven books, one of which, "Goodbye, Mama" was a Best Seller, about the death of her Mother. She owns Proper Publishing which is a publishing business that specializes in legacy memoir publishing. *(Contact address is: theproperpublisher@yahoo.com. Her business card says she provides publishing and consulting services available by appointment.)*

Susan Lewis has also volunteered with Hospice for the last 22 years, hosts a monthly support luncheon for Military Loved ones, has mentored Marines and Marine spouses for over 10 years, and teaches poetry on a volunteer basis through the Escambia County School District to children of all grade levels. Married for 30 years to U.S. Marine GySgt Steve Lewis (retired); together, they have three children, Steve, Minnie and Ben.

The GSOC group welcomed Susan Lewis, who spoke about her experiences with legacy publishing.

Susan began by speaking about the death of her mother who asked: "Promise me you'll write my story. I don't want to die an unknown." For most people, we agree – we don't want to die an unknown. Yet, we do not write our own stories,

and we do not write the stories of our loved ones. Writing stories “gives permanence to an impermanent thing” she said. It took Susan 12 years, writing non-stop to publish her mother’s story. In publishing for legacy – or memoir, 100 percent of it is for your family. You are saying to your family: I am right here. This is your beginning, yours and mine. The amount of information is huge and overwhelming, so you must determine what to include and what things or events to write about. Memoir is like walking into a forest. You don’t see every tree, but instead you see the stumps, special trees, like memories that stand out. Those memories help determine life’s path.

When Susan started writing, she wanted to make something positive of her mother’s early death. She went in search of Hospice which provided her a healing as she was told stories by other patients and family members of her patients. Her patients talked about their best friends in school and significant events in their lives and Susan realized their stories aren’t being told. People leave their life and take their stories with them. Along with her Hospice work, Susan started a business in legacy publishing and she helps publish these family stories. Most of what she gets is notebooks. The unique thing to remember about Memoir is that there is no rule. The story does not have to be chronological and it can be a collection of stories.

Susan emphasized: Write your story now and do not put this off. Please put your story on a computer! (This saves much work later.)

Write about things that meant the most to you, both good and bad experiences. Readers can relate to struggles that impacted your life, so don’t be a hero and write only the best things. Pain or problems can draw the reader’s empathy and can provide an instant connection for the reader. Include how you overcame the situation to stand back up. Some people use what is called “the sandwich method:” writing about uplifting/bad/uplifting or hurtful/positive/hurtful things. Consider: how do I end the story? Think of a theme or a common thread that runs through the story.

Beware of vanity publishers who offer royalties over the year or thousands of dollars depending on sales. They may offer 8-12% royalties, but these often are a let-down. Most memoirs do not gather royalties.

Susan uses www.createpace.com to publish her books and she highly recommends it. Everything she needs is at this website. Susan uploads everything on this site: pages, pictures, diagrams, and the entire narrative. It’s her printer and self-publisher. There are many templates to use and from CreateSpace, you can upload your memoir to Amazon and Kindle free of charge (but you must create an account). CreateSpace gets a portion of the sales, but you get 70%. It is compatible with i-Publisher and e-Publisher. You can pay to have them help you, but marketing is all you. Be advised that if you find a publisher, most of them do not market. Susan promotes her own books through Google Search, business pages/Facebook. She advises for us to NOT talk about the book in advance or give hints/excerpts before the release of the book. She says: “You need to bombard/saturate the system at the last minute.” Don’t release the book in installments; release in its entirety, especially if you offer the book for sale.

Susan concluded by saying she has self-published seven books. For a 5 x 8-inch book, her (soft cover) cost is \$2.30. The minimum pages are 25 pages and the maximum is 400 pages. Books written between 200 to 250 pages is considered a decent size. She prefers to use Book Antiqua font for her books.

CLOSING:

Jon thanked Susan for her terrific presentation and thanked everyone for coming. The next meeting will be at the Fort Walton Beach Library on August 25th at 10:30 am when Jamin Wells will do a workshop on how to conduct an oral history interview.

Respectfully,

/S/

Kathie Sheperd

Recording Secretary

Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County

Events and Information of GSOC Interest

Officers for 2018

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

Appointees:

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

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 GENIE Section: EditorGSOCFLnews@gmail.com
 Genealogy Special interest Group: GSOCSGSIG@gmail.com

Membership

Annual membership dues are \$24 for individual and \$35 for individual and spouse at same address. You can obtain a membership form from our web site or use the copy included in this newsletter.

The Newsletter

The GSOC Newsletter is now published on or before the third weekend 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 2017 issue, was published and distributed in September 2017 and has been mailed to all GSOC members. The theme of the 2017 issue is the Education. If you are a member and didn't receive your copy, please contact us.

NOTICE: Temporary Web Site

WWW.youngj.us/GSOC

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 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 provides 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. **Please note that all these GSOC books are copyrighted by The Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County and may be only used for personal use. Reproduction is prohibited without the permission of the GSOC.** Go to the web site, scroll down and click on the **GSOC Books** link, click on the name of the book to access, and read it on line. Save it to your computer to download it. Because of the size of these books, it may take them a few minutes to display (depending on the speed of your internet connection.)

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF OKALOOSA COUNTY

Temporary Web Site: WWW.youngj.us/GSOC E-mail: gsocokaloosa@yahoo.com

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

ANNUAL DUES (Membership Year 1 Jan-31 Dec)

Individual \$24.00 Family \$35.00 (For Individual & spouse at the same address)

Please PRINT or TYPE all information:

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Preferred Telephone (Home/Cell): _____ E-Mail: _____ Date: _____

Can information be shared with other members? Name: Yes/No, Address: Yes/No, Phone: Yes/No, Email: Yes/No

Your level of experience: Beginner ___ Intermediate ___ Advanced ___ Family Genealogist ___ Professional ___

Please indicate areas of GSOC in which you would like to serve or contribute:

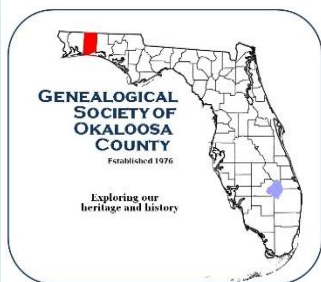
Newsletter Editor ___ Write Newsletter Articles ___ Webmaster ___ Journal Editor ___ Journal Staff Member ___ Write Articles for Journal ___ Serve on Short-term Committee ___ Nomination Committee ___ Organize Field Trips ___ Christmas Party Organizer ___ Give Genealogy Presentation ___ Workshop Leader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

Research: Name of families and states you are researching

Surname	State or Area

Surname	State or Area

PLEASE MAIL FORM (ALONG WITH CHECK) TO THE GSOC P.O. ADDRESS ABOVE (OR BRING FORM AND CHECK TO NEXT SOCIETY MEETING)



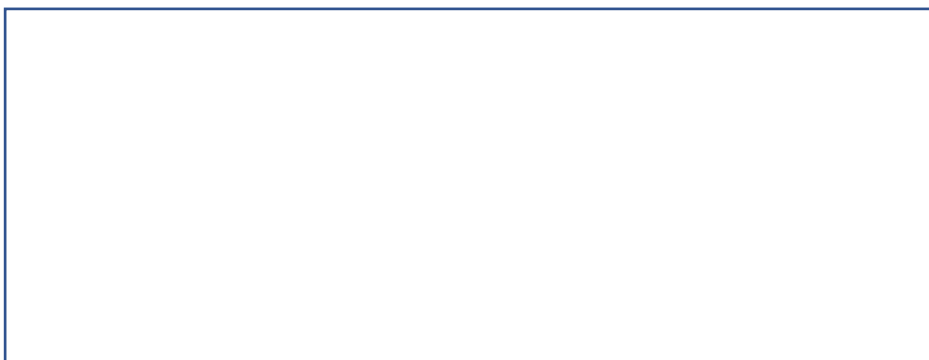
Our next meeting will on Saturday,
August 25th, at 10:30 am.

Featuring:

*“Oral History Interview Workshop”
Presented by: Dr. Jamin Wells*

Fort Walton Beach Library
185 Miracle Strip Parkway SE,
Fort Walton Beach, Florida 32548

“Whatever you know, whatever you learn – Pass it On!”



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