

THE GSOC NEWSLETTER

The Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County, Florida

December 3, 2010

GSOC Calendar

December 11, 2010

The December meeting will be held at the Coach-and-



Four Restaurant, located at 114 John King Road in Crestview. **It will begin at 10:30 AM** and will include a short program for the installation of the GSOC officers for 2011 followed by the traditional annual holiday party.

The entertainment will be provided by Phil and Martha Trau. Here's a map showing the location of the restaurant.



The cost will be \$16.95 per person which will include the food, tax, and gratuity. There will be 3 entrée choices plus a baked potato, salad, roll, and a drink.

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Entree choices are: 8 oz. rib eye, full order of shrimp, or two chicken breast portions.

Instead of exchanging gifts, please bring a non-perishable item or items for donation to a local food bank.

The Coach & Four has requested that we give them an estimate of the number who will be attending so that they can plan their staff for that day. Please call Donna Elliott at 678-5452 by Sunday, December 5th, and let her know if you will be attending and the total number in your group. Her phone is 678-5452 and her e-mail is delliott66@cox.net.

January 8, 2011

The January GSOC meeting will be at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 8, and will be a field trip to Bruce, Florida. Ann Denson Tucker, Chairwoman of the



Muscogee Nation of Florida, is going to speak about her tribe's experience with the federal recognition process, give us a tour of their tribal center, talk about their genealogy records, and give us

some tips about researching Native American ancestry. There is also a gift shop with hand-made items.

The January GSOC newsletter will include a map showing the location. For more information, including the address, the following is a link to their website:

<http://muscogeenationofflorida.com/about.html>.

It takes approximately 45 minutes to drive there from Niceville. We could carpool from the Food Depot parking lot on John Sims Parkway, leaving at 9:00 a.m.

Ken and Donna Elliott, along with a couple of others from the Heritage Museum, went over there the Saturday before Thanksgiving to deliver food, etc. for their Rural Relief project. This was a scheduled food distribution day and a very busy morning for them, but Ann made time for Carol Pate from their office to give a personalized tour. The GSOC members report that they really enjoyed it and look forward to going back to hear more.

Since GSOC representatives have seen firsthand the need of this community and the efforts that are being made to meet them, Donna Elliott recommends that the food donations at our December meeting be directed toward this very worthwhile project.

A Note from Our President

The December meeting will conclude one year for our club since our present officers were installed. This year we have developed guidelines and prepared some materials for scanning some files for electronic data storage. We now have an improved webpage and professional newsletter. I congratulate Beverly and Rita for their many hours they worked to produce an excellent journal.

I am pleased that we have had a number of new members this year and that our officers have served faithfully and efficiently. Knowing that all of our officers have done their work quickly and well attests to their skills. This group of officers has made being the president much easier. We will welcome two new officers to the board at our December meeting; this expansion of the board increases the number of individuals who lead us into the next decade. We need your input and I request that more of you offer your services to our club. We need both chairs of committees and committee members. Each of you can make a contribution. Please call any of our officers such as Malcolm at 850-217-9455, Donna at 850-678-5452, or Lorna and Mike at 850-682-2185. We really do want your suggestions.

I look forward to another wonderful December meeting conducted by two of our own members and working with all of you in 2011. Let us reach higher in 2011.

Thank you, *Malcolm*

Minutes of the November 13th Meeting

Donna Elliott, 1st Vice President Programs, opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. at the Northwest Florida Heritage Museum with 16 members and 2 guests in attendance. Attendees sat at tables placed in a circle to facilitate open communication.

Donna welcomed Mary Ellen Allstrom, and Helen Blair as visitors. Mary Ellen just moved to the area from northern Alabama and Helen is from Niceville. Mike Martell, Recording Secretary, reported the minutes were posted on the web site and reminded those who did not have an email to insure Jim Young had an address for a paper copy of the minutes to be sent. Sue Basch made a motion to accept the minutes as posted and Chuck Licari seconded. Minutes were approved as posted.

Bob Basch, Treasurer, was absent. Mike reported a bank balance of \$2,555.63 with no outstanding obligations. The blue box was passed around for donations to support Okaloosa County genealogy libraries. In January the GSOC officers will draft a new budget for 2011. This concluded the treasurers' report.

Lorna Sainz, 2nd Vice President, asked that all members update their membership. Update forms were provided on a table near the door.

Jim Young, Corresponding Secretary, stated that the minutes and newsletters are posted on the GSOC website. Twelve paper copies of the minutes are sent each month. The search engine, Google, has found the GSOC site so Google can be used for the search. Member Ken Elliott recognized Jim Young for his great website and contribution to GSOC.

Donna asked that members provide articles, announcements, tips, and suggestions for publication in the newsletter. Please send items to Jim for inclusion. Sue Basch, Historian, asked that members provide any announcements or articles relating to the GSOC inclusion in the GSOC history files.

Library report: Hilma Jenus said there were no issues with the Fort Walton Library. There was no report on the Valparaiso Library. Ken Elliott reported all materials from the Crestview library has been moved to Baker Block Museum. Baker now has all materials on file. Jeannette Henderson, Baker Block Museum, is retiring. It is best to call and arrange an appointment before conducting any research at the Baker Block museum.

The museum hours are posted in the October GSOC newsletter. The Crestview Library still maintains some materials and receives a copy of the GSOC newsletter.

Sue Basch reported that the materials from Dan Braxton were not accepted by the Mormon Family Center in Salt Lake City, Utah. The items they wanted had no signed release document and other items were not organized in a manner that they would accept. It was suggested that the Chipley library may want Dan Braxton's material.

Saturday December 11th will be the Christmas party at the Coach and Four in Crestview. Arrival time is 10:30 with drinks served followed by a meeting with installation of officers. At 11:30 we can place our orders. There are three entree choices: 8 oz rib eye, full order of shrimp or two chicken breasts. The cost of \$16.95 includes entree, roll, baked potato, salad, drink, tax, and gratuity. Attendees are asked to bring a non-perishable food item(s) in lieu of a gift exchange. A GSOC member will take the items and distribute to a local charity in the GSOC name. Jim Young will post directions to the restaurant on the web site.

Donna presented the slate of officers:

President: Malcolm Flanagan

1st Vice President Programs: Donna Elliott

2nd Vice President Membership: Lorna Sainz

2nd Vice President Membership assistant: Carol Lessard

Treasurer: Bob Basch

Recording Secretary: Mike Martell

Recording Secretary assistant: Frances Hoge

Corresponding Secretary, Webmaster: James Young

A motion was made to accept the slate as presented. The motion was seconded and membership approved the list of officers as presented.

Donna made the following announcements;

1. If any current member brings a new member in January you get \$5.00 off your membership.
2. From 3:00 to 5:00 today is a wine tasting at the Boathouse for \$25.00. All proceeds go to the Northwest Florida Heritage Museum.
3. Dale Cox will speak at 1200, Wednesday, 17 November, at the Northwest Florida Heritage Museum. Topic is the raid on Camp Walton during the Civil War.

Mike Martell announced that he will be purchasing a hard drive for the GSOC. All the GSOC records will be

scanned and put on the hard drive. Sue asked about preserving the scrapbooks. Donna said the preservation of the scrapbooks will be put on the officers' agenda.

General discussion topics for next year's programs:

1. Explain how data should be organized to send to Salt Lake. Sue Basch told about her trip to the Salt Lake Utah Family History Center.
2. Local depositories for genealogy information. The Baker Block Museum and Northwest Florida Heritage Museum accept family histories. The Eglin History Office accepts historical records.
3. Pat Pruett suggested contacting Clay McCutchen, Eglin Historian and Jay Campbell, a local archeologist for a talk on archeology work around Eglin AFB and Panama City
4. Native American history speakers were suggested to include Kirby Locklear, and Ann Tucker. Ann is from the Muscogee Creek Nation out of Bruce.
5. Donna suggested ideas from other parts of the country, not just the local area, for those doing research in areas other than the southeast.
6. Mike suggested having the meeting at the Destin Fishing Museum and have a Destin local provide a talk on Destin history.
7. Consider having an overnight in Alabama or at the Tallahassee archives. Del and Susan Lessard visited the Alabama archives in Montgomery and suggested that as a field trip. Also suggested was the Huntsville, Alabama, library.
8. Pat Pruett suggested asking some of the Continuous Life Long Learning speakers to see if they would be interested in presenting a program to GSOC. These classes include Civil War and American History.
9. Donna suggested we have a program on using technology for recording family history. She suggested a program combining voice and video to show how people can use a program and tips and tricks for using a digital camera.
10. Have Bill Zehner Panama City, come speak again about working with photographs.
11. Hilda Jenus suggested GSOC members brief GSOC on benefits they receive from membership in other societies or organizations that they find helpful with their genealogy research.

Margaret Harris announced the genealogy section in the Mormon Family History center in Fort Walton Beach is open on Thursdays.

There was a discussion on the Northwest Florida Heritage museum. Michelle, the Museum Director, left and will not be replaced. The County offered \$22,000.00 to the board but it will not be possible to hire a replacement for that amount. GSOC uses the museum provided room at no cost. Several GSOC members volunteer at the museum and Donna encouraged members to volunteer since the museum is and will continue to have funding issues.

Donna suggested GSOC may take on a project. In the past we surveyed cemeteries and compiled funeral home records. Ken Elliott said he often drives by small cemeteries that are not on the register.

The meeting adjourned at 11:25. Thirteen members went to the Sunset Cafe for lunch.

Respectfully Submitted, Mike Martell, Recording Secretary

National Register of Historical Places in Okaloosa County

The following eight places in Okaloosa County are currently on the National Register of Historical Places. Of these, only three are currently available for public visits. The rest are in controlled access areas under Eglin AFB jurisdiction.

1. Camp Pinchot Historic District is on the west side of Garnier's Bayou, approximately ½ mile north of Fort Walton Beach. This is on Eglin AFB property and access is restricted.
2. Crestview Commercial Historic District is roughly bounded by Industrial Drive, North Ferdon Boulevard, North Wilson Street, and James Lee Boulevard.
3. Eglin Field Historic District, the historic heart of Eglin AFB, is roughly bounded by Barranca, Choctawhatchee, Fourth, and "F" Avenues. Access is restricted.
4. Fort Walton Mound is located in downtown Fort Walton Beach on highway 98.
5. Gulfview Hotel Historic District 12 Miracle Strip Parkway, Southeast, downtown Fort Walton Beach.
6. McKinley Climatic Laboratory, Building 440 at Eglin Air Force Base
7. World War II JB-2 Launch Site Address Restricted
8. World War II JB-2 Mobile Launch Site Address Restricted

Please welcome our new member,
Billie A. Brown Burnette
from Niceville

Local Events of Genealogical Interest

YULE OF YESTERYEAR

A TRADITIONAL HOLIDAY CELEBRATION



Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida
Historic Valparaiso, FL
Saturday, December 11
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Sponsored in part by the City of Valparaiso

The City of Valparaiso invites you to visit the *Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida* for a free family fun holiday celebration, **Saturday, December 11, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** The Spirit of Christmas will fill the air with music from the Niceville Dulcimers and special musical performances by Pro Arte Chorale group and Niceville High School's Opus One. Enjoy story-telling from the Valparaiso Library, ornament making and a special visit from Santa Clause. Witness traditional craft demonstrations and shop for unique gifts and affordable stocking stuffers in the **Heritage Museum Gift Shop & Bookstore**. Yummy hot chocolate and Kettle Korn will be available outside and mulled cider and scrumptious sweets inside at the **Heritage Museum's Holiday Bake Sale**. Bring the family and enjoy Yule of Yesteryear at the Heritage Museum.



HOLIDAY VICTORIAN TEA

Saturday, December 11, 1:30 p.m.

Join us for a Traditional Holiday Victorian Tea with special 19th century visitors from the Walton Guard. Enjoy teatime and learn about Victorian costume, etiquette and holiday traditions.

SPACE IS LIMITED. Pre-registration is required. To register for this delightful history program, call: (850) 678-2615 Tickets: \$15, HMNF members \$10.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

11:00	Christmas Story-time
12:00	Santa Visits until 2pm
	Pro Arte Chorale Group
1:00	NHS Opus One
1:30	Holiday Victorian Tea (Must pre-register)

**"Steamboatin' on America's
Heartland Rivers"
Crestview Public Library
10:30 a.m., Tuesday, December 7th**

There was a time when America's western river system pulsated with thousands of grand paddlewheel steamboats. Their hubs were the river ports of New Orleans in the South, Cincinnati in the Midwest, Pittsburgh in the East, and St. Louis in the nation's heartland. They linked a great nation and aided its westward expansion.

New Orleans Riverlorian Paul Nelson will present "Steamboatin' on America's Heartland Rivers" at the Crestview Public Library for the December 7th First Tuesday Lecture. Nelson, a former crew member of the National Historic Landmark paddlewheeler "Delta Queen" and her sister the "Mississippi Queen", has worked as a porter, purser, shore tour manager, and Riverlorian, a combined historian and raconteur.

This colorful history of the all-American river adventure known as Steamboatin' will be at the Crestview Public Library at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, December 7th. The library is located at 1445 Commerce Drive behind the Post Office in north Crestview. Call 682-4432.

Book Review

***The Jesse Rogers Memorial Cemetery, Mary Esther,
Okaloosa County, Florida***
**Compiled by Isabelle Rogers Algee, Copyright 1992 by
Isabelle Algee, printed by Banner Printing Co.,
Tiptonville, TN**

Reviewed by Jim Young

This wonderful 68 page book is available in the Mary Esther Library, the Fort Walton Beach Library, and the Valparaiso Library (in the genealogy section). It is also available for free download in PDF format from <http://tiny.cc/kbcdg>.

At the beginning of the book, Mrs. Algee writes:

The complete history of this cemetery will never be known by present generations, but this has been learned. It was originally called the Mary Esther Cemetery, and was in use long, long before the turn of the century. There was a wide sand beach and a high bluff. There was even a road between the water and

the bluff, but the beach, road, bluff, and part of the cemetery was lost in a hurricane early in the century. ...The cemetery was originally a Rogers family cemetery, but many people were buried here that were not members of the Rogers family. The land was originally part of the property of Jesse and Margaret Rogers, who came to this area with their family from Jackson, County, MS, between 1838 and 1843. This land was left to their son William Jesse "Bogar" Rogers who willed it to an old oak tree so it could never be sold and would always remain intact. The oak finally died and had to be removed. ...

The book includes the history and a sketch of the cemetery and also a detailed listing, well indexed, of the



graves. Many of the grave listings include additional family information.

This book is a genuine local treasure and is an outstanding resource for those researching families in this area.

The cemetery is located on US 98 in Mary Esther, Florida, just across US 98 from the Target store entrance.

Museums of Okaloosa County

Air Force Armament Museum

The Air Force Armament Museum is the only museum in the world dedicated to the collection, preservation, and exhibition of artifacts and memorabilia associated with Air Force armament and its platforms of delivery.

100 Museum Drive, Eglin AFB, FL
850 651-1808

Baker Block Museum

The Baker Block Museum features exhibits on early pioneer settlement, farming and industry, mercantile, an authentic 1870's hewed log cabin, Native American and Civil War articles. The research library has genealogies and documents from local churches, communities, and schools.

1307 Georgia Avenue, Baker FL
850 537-5714

Carver-Hill Museum

The Carver-Hill Museum, site of the last segregated school in Okaloosa County, is the county's exclusive repository for black history artifacts, collections, and memorabilia.

895 McClelland Street, Crestview, FL
850 682-4003

Destin History and Fishing Museum

This museum contains exhibits detailing early Destin life and photos and artifacts showing the history and heritage of the world's luckiest fishing village. View over 60 mounts of fish caught by anglers in Destin waters and learn about local fish and fishing.

108 Stahlman Avenue, Destin, FL
850 837-6611

Heritage Park & Cultural Center (Indian Temple Mound Museum)

Explore the art and achievements of Florida's First People. Enjoy the past with a visit to the Camp Walton Schoolhouse Museum, the Garnier Post Office Museum, and the Fort Walton Temple Mound. Here you will find programs, outreach, research library, unique shopping, annual special events and exhibits.

139 Miracle Strip Parkway SE, Fort Walton Beach, FL
850 833-9595

Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida

The Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida contains exhibits showing northwest Florida history from Native American culture to 19th century settlements and more. These one-of-a-kind collections highlight early industries, tourism, and local military installations including trade and craft demonstrations.

115 Westview Avenue, Valparaiso, FL
850 678-2615

Robert L.F. Sikes Office & Collection

A memorial exhibit and collection housed in the retirement office of the late United States Congressman

from Crestview. Photographs, documents, and memorabilia are accessible for research and education.

Robert L.F. Sikes Education Center
NW Florida State College, Crestview
805 E. Highway 90, Crestview, FL
850 689-7911

GSOC Officers for 2011

President, Malcolm Flanagan
1st Vice President (Programs), Donna Elliott
2nd Vice President (Membership), Lorna Sainz
2nd Vice President (Membership) Asst, Carol Lessard
Treasurer, Bob Basch
Recording Secretary, Mike Martell
Recording Secretary Assistant, Frances Hoge
Corresponding Secretary, Jim Young
Immediate Past President, Beverly Gross
Historian, Sue Basch
Genealogist, Margaret Harris
Publicity Chairperson, Pat Pruett
Webmaster & Newsletter Editor, Jim Young
(Elected and Appointed positions)

GSOC Addresses

Web Site: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~flocgs>

Email: gsocokaloosa@yahoo.com

P.O. Box 1175, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-1175

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.

The Journal

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

The Newsletter

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

GSOC Books For Sale

Volume I (out of print but on disk), Cemeteries of Okaloosa County, Florida 24 cemeteries east of the Yellow River & north of the Shoal River	\$5.00 plus \$2.50 postage
Volume II Cemeteries of Okaloosa County, Florida 26 cemeteries north & west of the Yellow River	\$5.00 plus \$3.00 postage
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. Parent's 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 1885-1915 Over 10,000 names with an every-name index, 165 pages	\$5.00 plus \$3.00 postage

If ordering more than one book, the postage is \$3.00 for the first volume and \$1.00 for each additional volume.

Special Offer: Complete set of all published volumes for \$20.00 plus \$8.00 postage.

Mail your order with your payment to: GSOC, Attention: Book Sales, P.O. Box 1175, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-1175

2011 Membership Dues

Please remember to renew your GSOC membership for January 1 - December 31, 2011. Dues are \$24 for an individual and \$35 for an individual and spouse at the same address.

\$5 will be deducted from your dues if you bring in a new member in January!

Please go to the GSOC website and download a renewal form or a membership application (or pick one up at the December 11th meeting.) Checks should be made out to GSOC and mailed along with the application form to the GSOC post office address or brought to a meeting.

YESTERYEAR



Downtown Valparaiso in 1950



Destin (looking east) in 1959



**Post Office and Wharf to Indianola Inn
(Fort Walton, 1921)**



Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County
Next meeting: Saturday, December 11, 2010

**Location: Coach & Four Restaurant,
114 John King Road, Crestview, FL
Time: 10:30 AM**

**Agenda includes the installation of GSOC officers for 2011
and our annual holiday party.**

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

