

THE GSOC NEWSLETTER

THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF
OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

DECEMBER 1, 2012

Next GSOC Meeting

December 8, 2012



Our December meeting will begin at **10:30** at the **Coach & Four Steakhouse, 114 John King Road, Crestview, FL.** There will be a social time and the installation of GSOC officers for 2013 before the meal. Our own Phil and Martha Trau will provide the enter-

tainment. The red arrow on the map below shows where the restaurant is located.

We will again collect non-perishable food item(s) to be donated to a local charitable organization. If you would like to participate, please bring your canned or boxed donations.



In this issue:

Leonard Destin - Yankee in the Wrong Place	2
Louise K. (Kiisel) Fitzgarrauld (1926 - 2012)	6
Selected Civil War Events for December 1862	7
GSOC Meeting Minutes for November 2012	8
2012 Journal of Northwest Florida is Published	8
GSOC Information	9

Events, Groups, and Sites of GSOC Interest

Saturday, December 8, 10 am to 4 pm

Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso FL

Bring the family and enjoy **Yule of Yesteryear**, a family-fun holiday celebration. The Museum will have free

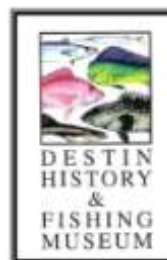
admission all day with traditional craft demonstrations, ornament making for children and pictures with Santa.

Enjoy shopping for unique gifts and affordable stocking stuffers in the Museum's Gift Shop and from local craft vendors while the Spirit of

Christmas fills the air with music from local choirs and musicians. Pre-register to participate in the Museum's **Holiday Victorian Tea** at 1:30 p.m. Enjoy teatime and refreshments during this delightful education program while learning about Victorian costume, etiquette, and holiday traditions. (Fee: \$12; Museum Members \$10)

www.heritage-museum.org/

Sunday, December 9, Afternoon & Evening
The Destin History and Fishing Museum, Destin FL



The Destin History and Fishing Museum will be hosting the **26th Holiday on the Harbor Destin Boat Parade Sunday, December 9, 2012.**

Festivities will be held that afternoon all along the Harbor and the Lighted Boat Parade and judging will start at 6 P.M. upstairs at Harry T's Restaurant. Boats will start lining up in the Harbor between 5 and 5:30 PM. Mark your calendar and plan to add this event to your holiday activities. The parade can be viewed from docks and restaurants west of Grand Harbor Condominiums on Destin Harbor. A fireworks show donated by HarborWalk Village will light up the sky at the end of the boat parade.

<http://www.destinhistoryandfishingmuseum.org/>

Leonard Destin - A Yankee in the Wrong Place During the Civil War

By H. C. "Hank" Klein © 2012 H.C. "Hank" Klein. Used by permission.

On March 1, 1861, just 50 days after the 62 to 7 vote in favor of the state of Florida seceding from the Union on January 10, 1861, the women of the county seat of Walton County, Florida organized and marched around the small town of Euchee-Anna chanting "Go boys, to your country's call! I'd rather be a brave man's widow than a coward's wife." That day 60 brave men from Euchee-Anna and the surrounding area, at their womenfolks' urging, joined what would be known as the Walton Guards.

In early April, 1861, about a month later, these men met again, organized, and elected their company officers who were:

- Billie McPherson, Captain
- Charles L. McKinnon, 1st Lieutenant
- Henry W. Reddick, 2nd Lieutenant
- A. B McLeod, 3rd Lieutenant

After electing their company officers they agreed to meet at Alaqua Creek, just below Berry's little mill in two days. They boarded the schooner *Lady of the Lake* for their voyage to Garnier's Bayou (at present day Fort Walton Beach) where they spent the night. The next day they sailed down to the "narrows" where they choose the site for their camp at the top of a tall earthen mound. From that point they could observe any vessel that might attempt to travel up the "narrows." The encampment was called "Camp Walton" – named for their county.¹

The narrows was the waterway between Santa Rosa Island and the mainland at what is today Fort Walton Beach, Florida. The tall earthen mound the Walton Guards chose because of its good vantage of the Santa Rosa Sound was what is known today as the Indian Temple Mound. This is a picture of the Historical Marker at the foot of the Indian Temple Mound in downtown Fort Walton Beach, Florida,



that describes the Walton Guard's camp and their responsibilities while stationed here.

One of President Lincoln's first acts following the secession of the southern states from the Union was to give orders to the

Union Navy to blockade all southern ports which would have included East Pass. The Union controlled Fort Pickens at the mouth of the Pensacola Harbor while the Confederates controlled Fort Barrancas in Pensacola with General Braxton Bragg as the Confederate general in charge.

This early map shows why the area of the Walton Guards' assignment was so important to the Confederacy. The Union stationed the USS *Water Witch* to blockade the mouth of the East Pass and the Confederates worried that the Union might decide to sail into East Pass and up Santa Rosa Sound (the narrows) and attack Fort Barrancas from the rear. Guarding the narrows and watching any Union activity that might occur at East Pass was an important assignment for the newly established Walton Guards.



A review of this map also shows that Okaloosa County has not been established yet – it was not formed until June 13, 1915. Fort Walton Beach did not exist at the time and East Pass was actually in Washington County, not Walton or Santa Rosa Counties.

There were no real battles at Camp Walton, just a few skirmishes with the Union firing on the camp from their ships while blockading the area. Camp Walton eventually received some cannon and would fire on the Union blockaders as they sailed by in the Gulf of Mexico. Union blockaders also came ashore at East Pass from time to time and were driven back by the Walton Guards.

The cannon shown here was buried by the Walton Guards



when they abandoned Camp Walton on April 16, 1862, and was found years later by citizens of Fort Walton Beach. It is on display in downtown Fort Walton Beach at the base of the Indian Temple Mound.

Leonard Destin Removal From East Pass

Watching the blockade at East Pass was also an important duty performed by the Walton Guards. On August 16, 1861, Lt. Henry T. Wright (a member of the Walton Guards) in a letter to his father, spoke of his trip to Pensacola on official business. He mentioned East Pass resident, Leonard Destin when he wrote the following:

*"Our Captain received orders from head quarters to move Capt. Len, alias Destin, who is supposed to have carried on a trade with the enemy from East Pass. Contrary to our expectation we saw no Yankees and consequent had no fight. Len started for the interior last week, he will land at the Four Mile Landing."*²

It is not known exactly what type of trade Leonard Destin was supposed to have carried out with the Union blockade ship guarding East Pass, but he was probably selling them fish he had caught and vegetables from his garden. According to the 1860 Federal Agricultural Census, Leonard Destin had 20 swine, grew 60 bushels of peas or beans, and grew 70 bushels of sweet potatoes. The 1880 Federal Agricultural Census shows that Leonard Destin had 50 swine, had 50 poultry, and grew 60 bushels of corn.³

On August 26, 1861 Walton Guards Commander, Captain William McPherson penned a letter to his commander in Pensacola, General Braxton Bragg, reporting on his progress on his most recent assignment.

**General Braxton Bragg,
(1817 – 1876)**



This letter contains a lot of very specific information about the Walton Guards at that moment in time as follows:

- Their observing the Union blockading East Pass.
- The Union blocking the entrance to the Pass with an abandoned schooner – the *General T. F. Chambers* of Galveston, Texas.
- A request for a long boat for his troops.
- A request to furlough some of his troops.
- A request for 20 – 25 additional recruits with rifles.
- A Report that they had moved Lenn (Leonard Destin), his family, and his smack from East Pass to Four Mile Landing in Walton County.
- The disappearance of Frederick Lawmaster (an employee of Leonard Destin) and a small boat belonging to Destin.

The information about moving Leonard Destin and his family and the disappearance of his employee reads as follows:

"Pursuant to instructions I have removed Lenn and family from East Pass, to the four mile landing in Walton County together with his smack. Frederick Lawmaster a man in the employ of Lenn, on the

*day I removed Lenn, so it has been reported to me, took a small boat belonging to Lenn, and went off, no one knew where. He was not seen to go into Choctawhatchee Bay nor did he pass down the narrows. He is suspensioned of having gone out to the ship, as nothing can be heard of him. He is reported as having family in Pensacola last Winter and Spring."*⁴

Not only do these two handwritten letters tell why Leonard Destin and his family were moved from East Pass they also tell us where they were moved – Four Mile Landing. Additionally, they reveal that even back then Leonard Destin had hired hands to help him in his fishing endeavors if only in the fishing season. Frederick Lawmaster from Pensacola was one of those hired hands who most probably worked for a share of the catch.

Four Mile Landing

So where was Four Mile Landing? Four Mile Landing was a popular docking place in Walton County for boats of that day. Landings were simply docks where boats usually paid a fee to tie up either for a few hours or overnight to unload or load their cargo or passengers. Four Mile Landing was on the Four Mile Creek where it intersected the LaFayette Creek before they entered LaGrange Bayou which emptied into the north side of Choctawhatchee Bay.

Pictured below is steamboat approaching Four Mile Landing (at the front of the picture) from Four Mile Creek.⁵



Four Mile Landing was very popular because it charged no fee. It was known as a "FREE PORT" and its name was officially changed after the Civil War to Freeport, Florida.⁶

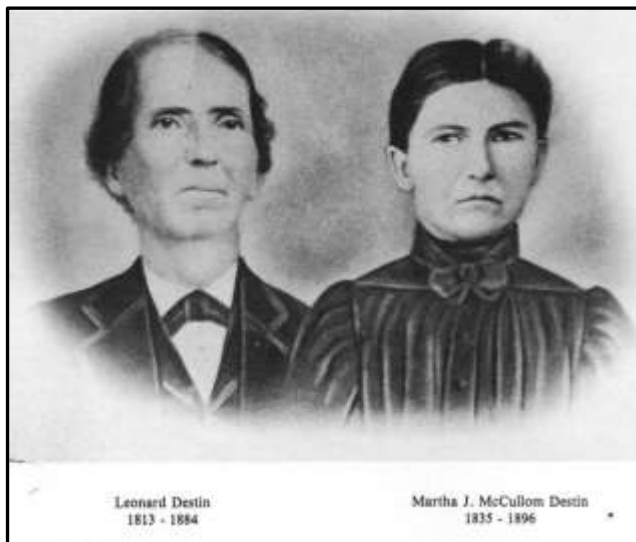
Four Mile Landing was familiar territory to Leonard Destin and his family. Leonard and his wife Martha (McCullom) Destin were married at Four Mile Landing on May 29, 1851, according to the Destin family Bible. Additionally, Destin probably sold his catch of fish at Four Mile Landing from time to time.⁷

Leonard Destin, a Threat to the Confederacy

But why was Lenn (Leonard Destin) such a threat to the Confederacy that he had to be moved from East Pass? Also, if he was actually a threat why was he simply moved, why not imprisoned or hanged or shot if he was truly *“supposed to have carried on a trade with the enemy from East Pass,”* as Lt. Wright stated in his letter?

First of all, Leonard Destin was born a Yankee, having been born in New London, Connecticut on August 31, 1813. His wife, Martha was born a southerner having been born in South Carolina. Each of their children was born in Florida. The Destin family could look out the front door of their home situated on the bay at East Pass and see the Union blockading vessel. They probably had interaction with the crew from time to time.

The Union blockader may have even allowed Leonard Destin and his fishing smack to leave Choctawhatchee Bay for the Gulf of Mexico from time to time if he shared his catch of fish with the men on the Union vessel conducting the blockade. No one knows for sure how or what he was trading with the enemy, but fishing was his business, so it may have been – “you let me fish and continue to carry out my livelihood and I’ll share some with you.”



There is an old tale that Leonard was a Mason and so was the local judge, and that is why he was not hanged. Of course, during war time local commanders on the ground make decisions between life and death, not civilian judges. We can see from the 1861 letters written about this issue the decision to move Leonard Destin and his family from East Pass was “pursuant to instructions” from General Braxton Bragg to Captain William McPherson, the local Walton Guards commander.

Neither General Bragg nor Captain McPherson were Masons, but Captain William McPherson’s father Neil McPherson was a Mason and belonged to the Masonic Lodge (#17) located in Euchee-Anna that met from 1849 to 1868. Below is a portion of a document from the

Eucheeanna Lodge Number 17, F. & A. M. listing Neil McPherson (Captain William McPherson’s father) as a member.⁸

The Annual Return for 1858 gives the following roster of officers for Eucheeanna Lodge No. 17. There were (57) other members and they are also listed below.

William McDonald, W.M.	A. C. Douglass, Treasurer
David Vaughan, S.W.	Enos Evans, S.D.
J. K. McDonald, J.W.	S. L. Perkins, J.D.
Neal S. Gillis, Secretary	J. D. McSween, Tyler

L. Campbell, Giles Bowers, D. P. McDonald, A. J. Howell, James Bowers, John McKenzie, Charles McKinnon, Isaac Welch, D. K. McDonald, W. S. C.onge, John Morrison, A. H. Brownell, Alex. McLeod, Neill McLeod, Neil McCranie, E. D. Hewett, Arcy Campbell, Wm. Williamson, J. L. McKinnon, J. C. Jemison, Jr., Wm. McLeod, D. L. Campbell, Jesse Evans, Thos. G. Coxson, Neill McPherson, Lauchlin McKinnon, Neill P. Campbell, R. R. Golden, G. Gunn, W. G. Gunn, John Barclay, L. D. McLean, J. W. Bowers, Isham Walker, A. D. McKinnon, Moses Hewett, M. H. Stanley, Wm. M. Sconiers, G. McLeod, Rev. Jas. Lassiter, A. G. McLeod, Henry Hewett, Neill L. McKinnon, Dempsey Fennell, James McLean, T. T. Parish, D. M. McLean, W. Barclay, R. W. McCullum, D. W. Cranie, James Evans, A. D. Gillis, Alcom Gillis, A. C. Monroe, Neill J. McKinnon, Chas. McKennon and P. McDonald.

So it was most probably the area commander, Captain William McPherson, who took pity on Leonard Destin and simply relocated him instead of taking more serious action. But there may have been a more practical reason that Leonard and Martha Destin were simply moved to Four Mile Landing instead of being subject to more drastic action after being accused of trading with the enemy.

The map below, which was drawn in February 1864 to guide Union troops as they patrolled the area from Pensacola to Vernon, Florida, clearly shows five families living at East Pass. They are Lennin, McCullom, Lewis, Sanders and Lewis families. The location of the Lennin family as shown on the map makes it clear the map maker means the Leonard Destin family.⁹



The McCullom family was John and Rebecca McCullom from Newbury District, South Carolina. They had one son and three daughters.

Their oldest daughter Martha McCullom was born in 1835 in South Carolina and married Leonard Destin in 1851. In 1852 Leonard and Martha Destin built their home right next door and to the south of the McCullom family at East Pass.

Their second daughter Harriett was born in 1839 in Florida and married Alfred Lewis in 1856. Alfred had been born in Georgia, and his parents were from South Carolina. They lived on the other side of the McCullom family directly to the north at East Pass.

Their third daughter Nancy was born in 1840 in Florida and married Calvin Lewis (who was Alfred's brother) in 1858. Calvin had been born in Alabama, and his parents were from South Carolina. Nancy and Calvin built their house two houses to the east of the McCullom family at East Pass.

Both Alfred Lewis and Calvin Lewis served with the Walton Guards during the Civil War. According to Civil War pension applications of Nancy and Harriett Lewis, both Alfred and Calvin Lewis enlisted at Camp Walton in 1861.¹⁰

Maybe Leonard Destin's life was spared NOT because his captors were Masons, but because he had relatives (and next-door neighbors) in the Walton Guards. Maybe, just maybe, his brothers-in-law and next-door neighbors Alfred Lewis and Calvin Lewis had a hand in deciding what to do with a family who had been accused of "trading with the enemy." This seems possible especially when you consider that not only was Leonard Destin their brother-in-law, but his wife Martha (McCullom) Destin was the older sister of both of their wives.

Captain William McPherson's Background

One might wonder who Captain William McPherson was and what qualified him to lead his county's troops as commander of the Walton Guards. The 1860 Federal Census for Walton County shows 27-year-old Billie McPherson was living with his parents.

His father Neil was a 51 year old lawyer and his son Billie was also a lawyer. Others living in the family home in the county seat of Euchee-Anna were his mother Eliza (age 49), his sisters Sarah (age 18) and Isabelle (age 16) and his brothers Malcolm (age 15) and John (age 13). Also living in their home were Eugene Ward who was the family's music teacher and two servants: Mary Jane Drummond (age 15) and Thomas J. Laird (age 17).¹¹

Not only were his parents well to do, but William McPherson, a 27 year old lawyer, was very well educated for the times. He had graduated in 1858 from Cumberland University Law School in Lebanon, Tennessee. Prior to that he had attended Oglethorpe College in Georgia and was in the first graduating class of Knox Hill Academy located in Walton County, Florida.

After the Civil War McPherson married Margaret LeBaltzell of Jackson County, Florida, on January 11, 1866. After the death of McPherson's young wife he moved to California where he was the City Attorney for Los Angeles from 1868 to 1870.¹²

But, a search of the 1860 Federal Census for neighboring Washington County, Florida, really tells an interesting

story. In addition to being an attorney in Walton County, William McPherson was also the Federal Census Taker for Washington County. Remember that East Pass was in Washington County, not Walton County, in 1860.

On page 1,000 of the Washington County census taken on June 11, 1860, it shows that census taker William McPherson visited the Leonard Destin home and asked a number of questions – including "Where were you born." He heard the answer, "CONNECTICUT." That answer would later affect Leonard Destin and his family the very next year.¹³

Now it becomes clear that when William McPherson became commander of the Walton Guards in the spring of 1861, he already knew Leonard Destin of East Pass, Florida, from his job the previous year as a Federal Census Taker in Washington County, Florida. McPherson already knew there was a Yankee living in the south and in a very vulnerable area – the East Pass where Union boats were conducting a blockade.

The Unanswered Question

The unanswered question is just how long did Leonard Destin and his family actually stay at Four Mile Landing. No one really knows for sure, but he probably left before the Civil War ended. Captain William McPherson and his Walton Guards abandoned Camp Walton on April 16, 1862, and went to Pensacola, Florida. From there they were reorganized into the First Florida Infantry Regiment and reassigned to more pressing hot spots further north in Tennessee.

That same year Pensacola was also abandoned by the Confederacy for the more pressing needs at the front further north and northwest Florida became a no-man's land with both the Union and Confederacy Army patrolling from time to time, but no one really controlling it.

Leonard and Martha's fifth child, their daughter Hattie Destin was born on November 18, 1862, at Four Mile Landing according to the Leonard and Martha Destin's family Bible, so we know the Destin family did not return to East Pass the day the Walton Guards left the area for Pensacola. But we also know that the Destin family was back at East Pass when the map was drawn in February, 1864 by the Union Army – a full year prior to the end of the Civil War.

Based on the birth of their daughter Hattie at Four Mile Landing in 1862 and this Union map drawn in February 1864 Leonard and Martha Destin probably moved back home to East Pass sometime after December 1862 (after their daughter Hattie was born) and before February 1864 (when the Union map was drawn).

Nonetheless, Captain Leonard Destin and his family did return to their home at East Pass where he continued to fish, raised a family, and established the basis of a wonderful fishing community. Leonard died in 1884, while Martha died in 1896. Leonard and Martha Destin are laid to rest in the Marler Memorial Cemetery in Destin, Florida, the city that rightfully bears their name.

References

¹ Seventy-seven years in DIXIE, by H.W. Reddick, published in 1910

² Copy of Lt. Henry T. Wright letter dated August 16, 1861 from the CSA files of Richard Ferry

³ 1860 and 1880 Federal Agricultural Schedules - Washington County, Florida

⁴ Copy of Captain William McPherson letter dated August 26, 1861, from the CSA files of Mark Curenton

⁵ Picture courtesy of Arturo Studios, Freeport, Florida

⁶ History of Freeport, Florida - <http://www.freeport/florida.gov>

⁷ Leonard and Martha (McCullom) Destin family Bible

⁸ Document from Eucheeanna Lodge Number 17, F.&A.M.

⁹ Map of Pensacola and Vicinity drawn by Major D.C. Houston, Chief Engineer -- February 1862

¹⁰ Widow's Application for Pension, dated September 12, 1899, for Nancy Lewis, and Widow's Application for Pension, dated July 16, 1906, for Harriett Lewis

¹¹ 1860 Federal Census for Walton County, Florida

¹² Historical Researcher Mark Curenton's research on William McPherson

¹³ 1860 Federal Census for Washington County, Florida

Hank Klein



The author of *Leonard Destin - A Yankee in the Wrong Place During the Civil War*, H. C. "Hank" Klein, has long been interested in the history of Destin, Florida and the genealogy of his father-in-law's and mother-in-law's families (Marler and Shirah) who both came from pioneer Destin Families. Klein has written books documenting that family research. He also contributed historical research for Tony Mennillo's recently published book *Salty*

Memories along the Coastal Highway - Historic Stories of Destin and the Emerald Coast which included this story and many others about Leonard Destin and the early settlers of Destin, Florida. Copies of this book containing 492 vintage photographs of Destin and the Emerald Coast can be obtained by contacting Arturo's Studio at

<http://www.arturosstudio.com>.

Klein lived for many years in both Okaloosa and Bay Counties. He is now retired from his Credit Union management career, and he and his wife (the former Muriel Marler of Destin, Florida) live in Arkansas. He can be contacted at klein@aristotle.net or at 501.256-7474.

Mr. Klein was the guest speaker at the February 2012 meeting of the GSOC where he discussed the "1st Settlers of Destin."

Louise K. (Kiisel) Fitzgarrald (1926 - 2012)



Louise K. Fitzgarrald, passed away Sunday, November 11, 2012. Her funeral was held on Friday, Nov. 16, 2012, at Heritage Gardens Funeral Home with interment in Heritage Gardens Cemetery.

She was born January 1, 1926, to Carl Vincent and Anna Mae Kiisel in Washington, D.C. She was raised in Chattanooga, Tenn., by her paternal grandmother, Louise Kiisel, great-aunt, Marianna Pike, and great-uncle, Frederick Pike.



Louise was educated in Washington, D.C., at Dunbarton College. She married Robert T. Park on June 15, 1949, in Chattanooga, and was the mother of five children, Vincent, Frederick, Anna, Xavier and Angela.

In 1973, she began and for 22 years served as librarian at the Valparaiso Community Library. Louise was an avid family historian and carried the love of genealogy with her to the library. She created the beginning of what has now become the "Louise Kiisel Fitzgarrald Genealogical Historical Collection" within the Valparaiso Community Library.

She will be warmly remembered by her children and their families, Vincent and Ilene Semiati Park, Frederick Park, Anna and Rickey Cotton, Xavier Park, and Angela Park and Annette Sherman; her grand-children, Julian and Ethan Park, Georgia Rose Park and Suzannah Park Morrison, Catherine, Caren, and Cristin Cotton.



Civil War Sesquicentennial

Selected Highlights of December 1862

<http://blueandgraytrail.com>

December 1 On the first day of the new Congress President Abraham Lincoln proposes 3 amendments to the U. S. Constitution. First, all slaves would be gradually emancipated until 1900. Second, slaves freed during the war would remain free. Third, the United States would pay for consensual colonization

December 7 John Hunt Morgan captures a federal garrison in Hartsville, killing and wounding 1000 before 1800 men surrendered

December 10 U. S. House passes a bill allowing the creation of the state of West Virginia

December 11 One of the most controversial orders of the Civil War is issued by Ulysses S. Grant -- Special Order 11, expelling Jews from his department.



On December 11, 1862, just weeks before Abraham Lincoln announced the Emancipation Proclamation, General Grant issued what remains the most notorious anti-Jewish order by a government official in American history - General Order No. 11, his attempt to stop racketeers by targeting for expulsion all Jews "as a class" unleashed a firestorm of controversy that made newspaper headlines and terrified and enraged the approximately

150,000 Jews then living in the United States, who feared the importation of European antisemitism onto American soil.

Although the order was quickly rescinded by a horrified Abraham Lincoln, the scandal came back to haunt Grant when he ran for president in 1868. Never before had Jews become an issue in a presidential contest, and never before had they been confronted so publicly with the question of how to balance their "American" and "Jewish" interests. The cartoon above from the magazine Puck contrasts a Grant speech in 1882 deporing the persecution of Jews in Russia with his own notorious Civil War edict.

December 13 Battle of Fredericksburg - General Ambrose Burnside and the Army of the Potomac is soundly beaten by Lee's Army of North Virginia.

December 17 Republicans vote to ask for a reconstruction of Lincoln's cabinet. During the meeting, Secretary of State William Seward and his son, the Assistant Secretary of State, resign.

December 18 In preparation for his assault on the Confederate fortress at Vicksburg, Ulysses S. Grant reorganizes his forces into 4 Corps (13th, 15th, 16th, 17th) under John A. McLernand, William T. Sherman, Stephen A. Hurlbut and James B. McPherson respectively

December 20 General Earl Van Dorn [CS] strikes a federal supply depot at Holly Springs, Mississippi, capturing 1500 prisoners and destroying 1.5 million dollars of military supplies



This small town is 40 miles southeast of Memphis. Its location on the Mississippi Central Railroad made it a good place for Grant to stage his initial "overland" campaign against Vicksburg and Grant made Holly Springs his headquarters and amassed a huge supply depot here. That also made the town a target. On Dec. 20, 1862, Confederate cavalry under Gen. Earl Van Dorn raided Holly Springs, destroying millions of dollars in Union supplies. This relatively small force of Southern cavalry troops irrevocably changed the course of the war. Their unexpected raid at Holly Springs caused General Grant to withdraw his entire army of 75,000 troops from Mississippi. At that time, in 1862, Holly Springs was one of the largest cities in Mississippi, a beautiful and prosperous center of commerce and trade. In large part Holly Springs was settled by Virginians who brought to the town a distinctive style of elegant architecture that even today expresses their world of civility and grace.

December 21 President Davis visits Vicksburg

December 21 Seward resumes his duties as Secretary of State

December 22 Salmon Chase resumes his duties as Secretary of the Treasury

December 31 Battle of Stone's River [US], Battle of Murfreesboro [CS] - Braxton Bragg forces William Rosecrans to retreat, but Rosecrans returns to defeat Bragg on January 2, 1863. Casualties: Union 13,249 Confederate 10,266

December 31 Lincoln signs the act approving admission to the United States for West Virginia

GSOC Meeting Minutes November 10, 2012

Mary Ellen Ahlstrom, Recording Secretary

The November 10th meeting of the Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County was called to order at 10:07 AM by President, Donna Elliott. A welcome was given to members and guests. Four guests told how they learned of the society and gave information on their genealogical research.

Mrs. Elliott called for any discussion and approval of the minutes of the previous meeting as published in the monthly newsletter. A motion to accept the minutes as printed was made by Tom Stiles and a second was made by Ken Elliott. Motion passed.

New member Nancy Welhart was welcomed. Since the previous meeting one other new member, Val Moreland, has been added to the roster but she was not present.

Ken Elliott, Vice President for Programs, reported that the December 8 meeting will be our annual Christmas luncheon to be held at Coach and Four Steakhouse, 114 John King Rd, Crestview, 10:30 - 12:00. Luncheon choices are: fried shrimp, baked chicken breast, or 8 oz rib-eye for \$17.00, which includes salad, bread, drink, and gratuity. It was suggested that members bring canned goods or boxed food items to be donated to Sharing & Caring in Niceville. Last year's food donations were valued at \$146.

Bob Basch, Treasurer, was absent but sent a report stating that the balance in the treasury is \$2,536.29. The printing and mailing cost of the Journal later this month will reduce this amount. The "Blue Box" was passed around for donations. These donations will assist the local libraries to purchase genealogical materials.

Jim Young, Corresponding Secretary and Newsletter Editor reported on the publications the society had received and reminded the membership that the monthly newsletter should arrive via e-mail to each member on or before the first Friday of each month preceding the regular meeting on the second Saturday. These newsletters can be read on line on the society web site as well.

Sue Basch, membership chairman was not in attendance but sent an update on the status of the membership.

Pat Pruett, publicity chairman reported she had placed notices of the society meeting in local newspapers.

Hilma Janus reported she would take the newsletters and Journals that had been received by the society to the Fort Walton Beach Library where they will be available for the general public.

Beverly Gross reported that the Journal had been sent to the printer and she expected that it would be in the mail the following week.

Mrs. Elliott announced there will be a "Lunch Sandwiched In" at the Heritage Museum on 16 November. Call for a reservation as seating is at a

minimum and then bring your brown bag lunch and enjoy a presentation about the historic *Governor Stone* Schooner. Also there will be a Victorian Tea at the Heritage Museum on 8 December from 10:00 to 4:00. Reservations are also requested for this activity.

Installation of GSOC Officers for 2013 will be on December 8, 2012: President, Donna Elliott; 1st Vice President, Kenneth Elliott; 2nd Vice President, Suzanne Basch; 2nd Vice President Assistant, Carol Lessard; Treasurer, Bob Basch; Corresponding Secretary, Jim Young; Recording Secretary, Pat Pruett; Assistant Recording Secretary, Frances Hoge.

Mrs. Elliott reported that the position of Publicity Chairman, currently filled by Pat Pruett will be open as of the first of January. This is a volunteer position and she asked anyone who might be interested in taking this position to give it some thought between now and the January meeting.

Mrs. Elliott told of the trip to Panama City in October to attend a genealogical seminar presented by the Bay County Genealogical Society. Ken & Donna Elliott, Tom & Robyn Stiles, Bob & Sue Basch, and Mary Ellen Ahlstrom all crowded into Ken's vehicle for an enjoyable trip and inform-ative seminar.

Donna presented a program to the Retired Educators of Okaloosa County on Monday, November 5, regarding GSOC: Who We Are and What We Do.

Hilma Jenus reported that there would be two genealogy classes held at the Center for Lifelong Learning in Ft Walton Beach in January: *Beginning Genealogy* and *Beyond the Basics*. Beverly Gross will be teaching two genealogy classes at the NWFSC campus in January. Additional information will be forthcoming.

The choice of the restaurant for the Dutch treat lunch was decided. The door prize of the day was won by Helen Blair.

The meeting was concluded with a program, "Comparing Vital Records" presented by Jan Taylor.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10.

GSOC Journal for 2012 Has Been Published

A Journal of Northwest Florida, Volume XXXIV, September 2012, Issue 101, has been published and was distributed recently. All GSOC members should have received a copy. If you did not get yours, please let us know.

Please note that the address for the GSOC web site as printed on page 2 of the 2012 *Journal* is incorrect. The correct address is: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flocgs/>

Also note that the GSOC Book Sale information on page 4 of the 2012 *Journal* is no longer correct. Please refer to page 9 of this newsletter for the latest GSOC book availability and pricing information.

GSOC INFORMATION

Officers for 2013

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, Pat Pruett
 Assistant Recording Secretary, Frances Hoge
 Corresponding Secretary, Jim Young
 Immediate Past President, Malcolm Flanagan
 Journal Editor, Beverly Gross
 Historian, TBD
 Genealogist, Margaret Harris
 Publicity Chairperson, TBD
 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.rootswest.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 2012 issue, Volume XXXIV, Issue 101, was published and distributed in November 2012.

The Web Site

The GSOC web site is hosted by Rootswest at:
<http://www.rootswest.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 and I-10	Out of print but available on CD, see below
Volume II (out of print), Cemeteries of Okaloosa County, Florida 26 cemeteries north and west 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 <u>searchable</u> 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 December GSOC meeting will be on Saturday, December 8, 2012, at the **Coach & Four Steakhouse, 114 John King Road, Crestview, FL.** at 10:30 A.M.

This will be our annual Holiday Party and the installation of GSOC officers for 2013.

"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

