

THE GSOC NEWSLETTER



THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF
OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

DECEMBER 6, 2013

Next GSOC Meeting

December 14, 2013



Our December meeting will begin at **10:30** at the **Coach & Four Steakhouse, 114 John King Road, Crestview, FL**. The red arrow on the map below shows where the restaurant is located.

There will be a social time and the installation of GSOC officers for 2014 before the meal. Our own Phil and Martha Trau will provide the entertainment.

Please feel free to bring a guest. The price for the Dutch Treat lunch is \$16.95 per person, sides, drink, and tip included. Entree choices are 8 oz Ribeye, 16 Fried Shrimp, or 2 boneless Chicken Breasts.

Your entree choice is not required now, but please RSVP Ken Elliott at 850-678-5452 or kenoh58@aol.com so that we'll know approximately how many are coming.

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.



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GSOC Notes

Jim Young, Corresponding Secretary,
Newsletter Editor, and Webmaster

November Field Trip to WFGS Seminar

Instead of the usual GSOC meeting in November, the Society voted to forgo a local meeting in order to allow members to attend the West Florida Genealogical Society (WFGS) 2013 Seminar which was scheduled for the same date. This seminar featured Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak, a nationally renowned genealogist, researcher, and speaker. The two 'Smolenyak's in her name is not a typo! She married an unrelated Smolenyak.

Eight GSOC members and one prospective member attended the seminar which was an excellent experience. Mrs. Smolenyak gave two talks in the morning session and two more in the afternoon session. Each lasted about an hour and was followed by a generous question and answer period and a short break. The continental breakfast was generous, varied, and delicious and snacks were provided through the day. Lunch was not provided, although a map was in the handout material which showed the names and location of over 50 eating places within a few minutes drive from the seminar site.

Her first talk, "Right Annie, Wrong Annie", described her research to determine what really happened to Annie Moore, the first immigrant to arrive at Ellis Island. For decades, the Annie that was thought to be her had been wrongly identified and Mrs. Smolenyak was able to find the truth about this famous immigrant and the description of the search for her provided useful information about how to solve complicated genealogical problems such as this.

Her second presentation, "Solving Historical and Family Mysteries with DNA", went a step above the usual introduction to the use of DNA in genealogy. She described the various forms of DNA testing now available and discussed which is the best tool in various different circumstances. Mrs. Smolenyak has worked for some years with the Army to provide genealogical research associated with the identification of the recovered remains of American soldiers from World War I & II, Korean War, and Vietnam War sites and she described how these various types of DNA tests were useful in

several different case studies to locate the surviving closest next-of-kin.

The third presentation, "Find That Obituary! Online Newspaper Research" was a detailed survey and analysis of the growth of and the information available in on-line newspapers, both free and paid, that have genealogical data not available elsewhere. Her handout for this presentation included web addresses and she provided her personal assessment of the strengths, weaknesses, and usefulness of these various sites.

Her final presentation of the day, "Honoring Our Ancestors", contained interesting stories from two of her books which illustrated the variety of interesting people which genealogical research can introduce us to.

The WFGS did an excellent job in organizing and managing this seminar. The location, which was the auditorium of the Booker T. Washington High School in Pensacola, was a great venue for this. It was easily accessible, with plenty of convenient parking, and was modern and comfortable.

Mrs. Smolenyak's presentations were outstandingly professional and more than fulfilled her national reputation as a leading genealogist and researcher.



GSOC Members Attending included (L-R):
Val Morland, Hilma Jenus, Margaret Harris, Sue Basch,
Jim Young, Sally Long, and Pat Walker.

Not pictured:
Robin Stiles (who made this photo)
Judy Jehn, and Ed Pfeifer.

Election of GSOC Officers for 2014

At the October GSOC meeting, Beverly Gross, chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the slate of proposed officers for 2014. This slate consisted of:

President - Jim Young;
1st Vice President (Programs) - Del Lessard;
2nd Vice President (Membership) - Sue Basch;
Recording Secretary - Pat Pruet;
Corresponding Secretary - Carl Laws;
Treasurer - Bob Basch

Bev asked if there were any additional nominations from the floor to be added to this slate. There were none, and she announced this as the official slate for the election to be held in November.

Paper ballots were distributed and those ballots that were completed at the meeting were collected to be securely held until the official counting. Other votes by computer ballot would be tabulated as they came in and all the ballots would be counted on the second weekend in November.

On November 10, 2013, Beverly reported the results of the tabulation to President Donna Elliott:

12 paper ballots and 8 e-mail ballots were received. All 20 of these ballots were marked "yes" for the proposed slate of officers. No write-in votes were received.

Based on this report, President Elliott announced that the results from the Election of GSOC Officers for 2014 had been received and offered her congratulations to the new officers.

Recently Received Publications from Other Societies

Available for review in the History Room
of the Fort Walton Beach Public Library.

Montgomery Genealogical Society Quarterly,
Montgomery, AL, Vol. 20, No. 1, January-June 2013,
[Received by GSOC on 22 October 2013] 62 pages

Suwannee Valley Genealogy, Suwannee Valley Genealogy
Society, Inc., Live Oak, FL, Fall, Vol. XV-2013, No. 3, 20
pages

The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort,
KY, Vol. 111, No. 3, Summer 2013, 208 pages

American Spirit, Daughters of the American Revolution,
Washington, D.C., Vol. 147, No. 6, Nov/Dec 2013, 50 pages

The Seeker, Crawford County Genealogical Society of
Southeast Kansas, Pittsburg, KS, Vol. 43, No. 2, Nov. 2013,
40 pages

**The Butler County Historical & Genealogical Society
Quarterly**, Greenville, AL, Vol. 49, No. 4 Oct. 2013, 24
pages

Kinfolks, Southwest Louisiana Genealogical Society, Inc.,
Lake Charles, LA, Vol. 37, No. 4, Nov 2013, 37 pages

Buried Treasures, Central Florida Genealogical Society,
Inc., Orlando, FL, Vol. 45, No. 3, Jul - Sept 2013 23 pages

The Coweta Courier, Coweta County Genealogical Society,
Inc., Grantville, GA, Vol. 33, No. 2, Winter 2013, 26 pages

SGS Bulletin, Seattle Genealogical Society Bulletin, Seattle,
WA, Vol. 63 No 1, Winter 2013-2014, 63 pages

The Upper Cumberland Researcher, Upper Cumberland
Genealogical Association, Inc., Cookeville, TN, Vol. XXXVIII,
No. 3, Fall 2013, 34 pages

Dear Uncle

Traveling and Job Hunting in Northwest Florida in 1853

By D.G. McLeod, Euchee Valley, Walton County, Florida

The following is a letter written in 1853 by D.G. McLeod to his uncle Daniel Gillis. McLeod had left his uncle in the Euchee Valley area of Walton County to travel to Apalachicola with his cousin John to seek work. This letter is found in the Gillis-McLean papers in the P. K. Yonge Library of Florida History, University of Florida in Gainesville, Florida. It was copied by Mark C. Curenton of Apalachicola, Florida while he was a student at the University and was printed in the Spring 1992 issue of the *GSOC Journal*.

Apalachicola, Fla. January 30th, 1853

Dear Daniel Gillis,
My Dear Uncle,

I now seat myself to redeem the promise I made to you, the day you so kindly accompanied us to the ferry. You said you wished me to give you a minute account of everything of importance which occurred to us while we were coming here, a description of the place, and our prospect for getting along while we remained here &c.

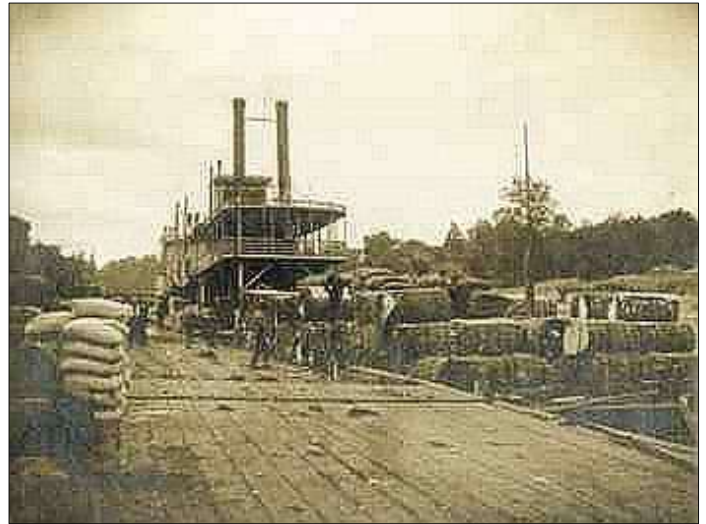
In the first place however, I will inform you that we have both enjoyed excellent health since our arrival. The first day we traveled as far as Norman Campbells, 18 miles from your place, thursday the next day we journeyed 25 miles and put up with a very fine and sociable person by the name of Underwood who resides two miles on this side of Hicory Hill and were charged 50 cts a next morning, the next day friday we traveled 25 miles and put up with a man by the name of Dykes who lives 6 miles on this side of Marianna, and were charged 25 cts apiece, Saturday we traveled 18 miles and arrived at Ochesees; where we expected to get on board the mail packet the next day, but she passed in the night and did not call for the mail, having cotton enough to enable her to pay the fine, which was 50 dollars, and have a handsome freight left besides &c.

Ochesees is situated on the river side and owned by a gentleman by the name of Gregory, it is a place of little importance, composed of a steamboat landing, a very fine hotel, saw and grist mill, ware house, cotton gin, large plantation &c. Well!. we arrived at Ochesees Saturday evening where to our great pleasure we met Mr. Edge, waiting to get to Apalachicola by the mail packet, but as I stated before it passed by without calling; an although we hailed several other steamboats, we did not succeed in getting on board of one until tuesday morning; so we were detained at Ochesees two days and three nights. We were accomodated as well as we could with and fared sumtuously while we remained and charged very reasonably (2 1/4 dollars apiece).

I had the pleasure of getting acquainted with two very kind and socia1e young scotsmen at Ochesees, whose names were Daniel & Alexr. Fergesson. Daniel appeared to be 30 some old years of age Alexr. 21 or 22 years of age. Daniel was well acquainted with Uncle John in Barbour City, Ala. he also saw him in Pensacola. They were

both employed at Gregory's saw mill. Daniel being a mill wright by profession.

Tuesday morning we got on board the steamer *J. Jenkins*, at 9 o'clock and arrived in Apalachicola in the evening of the same day at 6 o'clock, the 18th of Jan. traveling over 150 miles in 9 hours, so I assure you the way we glided along was near about a caution to those who are



accustomed to travel with mules and oxen.

We took cabin passage; the cabin of the steamer was truly superb and magnificent, - the floor was carpeted the walls were ornamented with paintings and large mirrors, the ceiling hung round with tapestry, and the numerous rooms had panel doors with glass knobs.

The fare on board was also the fattest and finest with coffee & tea. However we paid pretty dear for the whistle, being charged 4 dollars apiece for our ride.

Upon our arrival Mr. Edge invited us to make his house our home until we got employment, which we very readily and gladly accepted. Mr. Edge procured a situation immediately the next morning for Cousin John in a tailor shop, where he still continues to work, he is not pleased very well with his situation as the tailor only paid him 7 1/2 dollars for ten days work last night &c. Cousin John says he intends to look out for some other employment next week, but he will remain with the tailor until he does get in to some other business.

Mr. Edge also spoke to several of the leading merchants for a situation for me, but as David Barclay said about Tallahassee, "There is no chance for a person from the west here," as the merchants get their clerks as well as their goods from the north. Most of the merchants here that does much business reside at the North, and leave here in the fore part of the summer, and at the north they can procure poor boys who are educated in the free schools almost for their victuals and clothes.

The first day Mr. Edge tried there was one merchant who appears to be willing to employ a clerk, but the next day he said he had declined the notion. Mr. Edge then procured me a situation in the cotton press, at 20 dollars for the first month and after that my wages are to be increased, my occupation is sewing up the heads and



patching cotton bales, it is very light easy work but very confining; we work 10 hour per day. I was two days here without employment, and worked eight.

We are boarding with Mr. Edge at 8 dollars per month. Mr. Edge has rented a very comfort-able house, buys his own provisions and employs a cook. The cook he employs now is a very good one, Old Mary, formerly owned by Hugh McLean. She washes for us also, her price is ___ cts per dozen garments. We have very good fare fresh beef and pork, corn bread, sweet potatoes, ___ do, turnips occasionally, butter, flour doings and so on.

The society here is better than I anticipated, but lacks a great deal of coming up with the moral standard of Uchee Valley. I visited three churches last sabbath, the Methodist, Baptists, and Episcopalian, the Roman Catholics have a very fine church here also but I did not visit it, the Presbyterians had a very good church here, but it was blown down during the gale which prevailed last August, and has not been rebuilt yet.

Dray men get 40 dollars per month here it is very laborious labor. The hands at the cotton presses from 20 to 35 dollars per month, there are four presses in town, and I believe all fully supplied with hands; there are 48 hands at the press where I work. Mechanics get from 2 to 3 dollars per day but I understand there are a good many mechanics waiting for employment and can't obtain any.

I expect if we keep our health we will remain here until the latter part of April. Give my warmest love to Grand Mother, Aunt Nancy, and all my relations.

Your affectionate Nephew, D. G. McLeod



THE CHICKEN AND THE EGG by Charlene Grafton

The trip to the museum was my idea. Take the seniors from Crestview on a trip to the museum, jog their memory, in hopes they would bring back memories they would like to write about from the activity.

That is what seniors are supposed to do, use their brain, use their powers of recall, write and all the other things the medical community says we should do. Like, to help keep your brain young and prevent memory loss, stretch yourself mentally by avoiding life on autopilot, like doing the same thing every day that is so easy to do.

This day out at the senior activity did a lot for our entire group. Lots of laughing and conversations were heard about "the good old days" or "I remember that, do you?" were just starters. As we became more comfortable with our surroundings, my mind and my eyes became one as I

began to remember my young days visiting my grandparents in Texas.

For as long as I can remember, I always wanted to know the difference between brown eggs and white eggs. Today, while visiting the Baker Block Museum in Baker, Florida, I found the answer. Why was this important for me to know? Inquisitiveness, I guess, but an old memory, for sure. So, how did I find the answer? That is what this short story is about.

I did not go on line and search Yahoo for eggs, white or yellow or brown. As I was slowly pacing among the other people at the museum, looking at items from long ago, I spied a brown hen sitting on the floor under a table. That brought the memory of the chicken and the egg. No, not the story about what came first, the chicken or the egg; but what was the difference in a brown or a white egg?

I turned and faced our museum guide, asking the question "Does anyone know the difference between a brown and a white egg? I have always wanted to know." Next to me, one of the seniors answered "if you want a white egg, they are laid by the white leghorn chicken. If you want a brown egg, you get them laid by brown or red chickens". About that time, another of the seniors said "if you are making a yellow cake, be sure and use a brown egg because they are more yellow."

After I finished work for the day, I still had the chicken and the egg on my mind. To me, chickens are chickens. But if I need to find out more about white and brown and even red chickens, I should get online and see what Yahoo has to say.

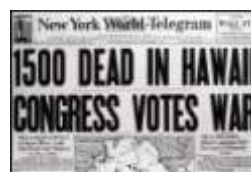
At **Thrive Online**, an Oxygen.com site devoted to women's health, this column addressed the health benefits of brown eggs versus white eggs and concluded that there is no nutritional difference. Contrary to popular belief, brown eggs aren't a healthier alternative to white eggs.

The site explains, "The color difference is due to the specific breed of hen, according to the Egg Nutrition Center. Hens with white feathers and white earlobes will lay white eggs, whereas hens with red feathers and matching-colored earlobes give us brown eggs." On another site I found information of how to request a blue or even a nice speckled finish of egg at the super market.

So, the next time you plan a visit to the museum, don't expect the guide to give you the information you want. Just turn around and ask the person next to you, as they just may have the answer for the chicken and the egg.



You will find both white and brown eggs in the super-market. What's the difference? White eggs are white, and brown eggs are brown, but that's it. One is no better for you than the other. They simply come from two different breeds of chickens. Brown eggs, however, are more expensive because the chickens that lay them eat more than those that lay white eggs.



December 7, 1941

A day that will live in infamy



Civil War Sesquicentennial

Selected Highlights of December 1863

<http://blueandgraytrail.com>

December 1 In a letter to Jefferson Davis, Bragg admits that he (and Davis) erred in leaving him in command after Chickamauga.

December 2 Meade withdraws to north of the Rapidan, ending the brief Mine Run Campaign

December 3 James Longstreet begins a two-day withdrawal from Knoxville to Greeneville following the Siege of Knoxville.

December 6 William Tecumseh Sherman enters Knoxville, formally ending the siege

December 8 Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction offers a full pardon to any Southerner who participated in the rebellion as long as they took a "prescribed oath"

December 9 December 14, Battle of Bean's Station Federal forces probe Longstreet's lines near his winter camp. After several days of heavy skirmishing, Longstreet struck the Union line on Dec. 14, driving Brigadier General James Shackleford back about 1.5 miles before he made a stand. Union forces withdrew that evening.

December 9 Ambrose Burnside is relieved of command (Department of the Ohio).

December 9 Unhappy with proposals from the mint director, Salmon Chase recommends the words "In God We Trust" be added to the design of the new one, two and three-penny coins.



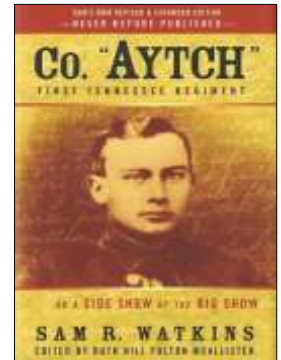
December 22 Leonidas Polk ordered to take command of the Army of Mississippi.

December 27 Joe Johnston takes command of the Army of Tennessee in Dalton Georgia

'Co Aytch', First Tennessee Regiment: Or, a Side Show of the Big Show by Sam R. Watkins

Samuel Rush Watkins (June 26, 1839 – July 20, 1901) was a Confederate soldier who is known today for his memoir *Company Aytch: Or, a Side Show of the Big Show*, often heralded as one of the best primary sources about the common soldier's Civil War experience.

Watkins faithfully served for the duration of the War, participating in over twenty battles including the major ones at Shiloh, Chattanooga, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, Atlanta, and Nashville. Of the 120 men who enlisted in Company H in 1861, Sam Watkins was one of only seven alive when the Army of Tennessee was surrendered in April, 1865.



Soon after the war ended, Wat-

kins began writing his memoir which was first published in 1882. It is today recognized around the world and is sometimes used for teaching purposes. Watkins is featured and quoted in Ken Burns' 1990 documentary, *The Civil War*.



A recent review on Amazon.com said: *"If you've ever wondered what it was like to be a soldier in the Civil War, get this book. I recommend it whether your sympathies are Union or Confederate, whether you are new to studying the War or a lifelong buff. Sam Watkins tells the reader of all the excitement, tedium, bravery, fear, humor, and horror of a soldier's life in wartime. He is an excellent storyteller, with a style on a par with Mark Twain. ... He was, of course, a staunch Confederate, but does not dwell much on politics. He judges senior officers on their individual merits as he saw them, and his opinions of them run the gamut from near worship of his regimental commander to contempt for Braxton Bragg. The book is a valuable soldier's-eye history of the Army of Tennessee, and portions of it are the only surviving first-hand accounts of the events recounted. The details of daily Army life will be of particular interest to re-enactors."*

Reprints of the book can be purchased from Amazon.com and several other places on the internet. However, it can also be downloaded at no charge in audiobook form from LibriVox.

LibriVox (<https://archive.org/details/librivoxaudio>) is an online digital library of free public domain audiobooks. The LibriVox objective is "to make all books in the public domain available, for free, in audio format on the internet".

The free audiobook of Sam Watkins' memoir is available for download (warning: large file) from LibriVox at:

https://archive.org/details/co_aytch_wt_librivox

This Old House

by Lillian Vivian Armstrong

This old house in its heyday was the most beautiful house in Niceville. Being the home of Warren and Louise Armstrong, it helped to raise four girls and three boys, seeing them all grown before the first tragedy struck. So it not only shared in the happy times but also the times of sorrow.

Somehow despite the noise and activity of children and pets and family affairs, it managed to cultivate a restful and quiet charm. Even to passing strangers the house extended its warmth and pleasantness along with warm hearts of all the family especially Warren and Lou.



L to R: Lena Armstrong Porter, J. B. Porter, Jr. Linnie "Lence" Armstrong, Bud Armstrong, J. B. Porter, Sr., and Warrene Porter

In the front yard two huge sycamore trees and many oaks kept the two story house well shaded and cool in the summer time, two fireplaces kept it warm in the winter.

Inside the house the rooms all seem to have a personality of their own. The living room with three big windows all draped in lace-covered curtains and two stained glass doors was one of the most used, no fine furniture but plenty of easy chairs, a piano and of course the old Victrola which was very often wound up; and all on hand, big, little, old and young would dance and have a wonderful time.

The highlight, though, was when everyone would gather around the piano and have a good old-fashioned singing.

Like everything else, the changes had to come, but to this day there still is the piano but a TV took the place of the Victrola. The kitchen was small but large enough to turn out plenty of food for the family and friends who were always plentiful.

Soon the grandchildren began to arrive one by one and the house seem to thrive on the patter of little feet. But the sounds of laughter, cooing and even crying could be heard at times.

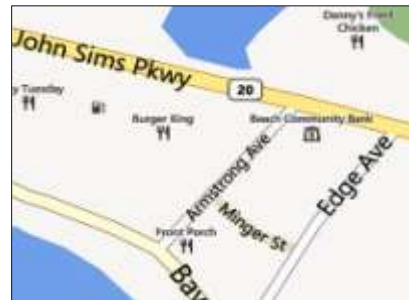
The upstairs rooms were nothing fancy but comfort seem to ooze from all the big four postal beds, bedecked with patch work quilts and crocheted or embroidered scarves on the tables and dressers.

Of course the best thing about the house was the front porch with its swing and benches, especially on hot summer nights. No matter how hot it was there was always a little cool breeze on that porch.

The house has been shared with grand children, great grand-children and is presently being shared with great-great grand children. Warren and Lou would be ever so proud to know that the old house still stands proud and is still extending hospitality to all who come by. At times it seems to be weeping for a few repairs and a new paint job but all it takes for it to perk up and shine again is for all the family to gather in at Thanksgiving and Christmas and it's as if time has stood still and this old house welcomes us all with open doors. May it stand forever.

Written by: Lillian Vivian Armstrong. Submitted by: Ann Porter, 409 Evans, Niceville, FL 32578. This originally appeared in *The Heritage of Okaloosa County, Florida*, written by the Okaloosa County Heritage Book Committee and Heritage Publishing Consultants, Inc., and published by Heritage Publishing Consultants, Inc., Clanton, AL, 2004.

The Armstrong family moved from Armstrong Point to this new house on Armstrong Avenue in Niceville in 1917.



This attractive house design was used in other southern areas and was called a 'Steamboat House'.

Sadly, this house no longer exists. It and the property it was on were sold to the City of Niceville and the house was torn down.

-Editor-

A PRAYER FOR GENEALOGISTS

Lord, help me dig into the past
And sift the sands of time
That I might find the roots that made
This family tree of mine.
Lord help me trace the ancient roads
On which my fathers trod
and led them through so many lands
To find our present sod.

Lord, help me find an ancient book
Or dusty manuscript
That's safely hidden far from harm
In some forgotten crypt;
Lord, let it bridge the gap that haunts
Me when I can not find
The missing link between some name
That ends the same as mine.

Curtis Woods in the GSOC *Journal*, Summer 2000

Events, Groups, and Sites of GSOC Interest



Baker Block Museum

Corner of Route 189 and State Route 4, Baker, Florida

Here is a snapshot of the progress being made on repainting the mural on the outside of the museum building. It is actually a whole new scene.

A great deal of time and talent was required in order to do this and the North Okaloosa Historical Association is very proud of it. Drive by; check it out.



West Florida Genealogical Society
Saturday, December 7, 2013, 10:00 AM
West Florida Genealogy Library
5740 N. 9th Ave, Pensacola, FL. 850-494-7373

John Appleyard will speak about Colonial Spain and the transfer of Florida to the U. S. from 1811-1821; the War of 1812; and Andrew Jackson's two invasions of Florida. Contact Cynthia Dean 850-432-7072 or cgdean@bellsouth.net

Advance Notice:
Spring Seminar with Dick Eastman
Saturday, March 22, 2014
Panama City, Florida
Presented by Bay Co. Genealogical Society



Richard "Dick" Eastman is an internationally known lecturer and author of Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter (EOGN). He is a pioneer of online genealogy forums launching his first email publication in 1996. Today his newsletter is read by more than 75,000 genealogists all over the world.

PreRegister Before March 15th: Members: \$40.00 and Non-members: \$45.00. After March 15th and at the door: \$50.00 (lunch not guaranteed unless pre-registered)

Make checks payable to: BCGS and mail to BCGS; P.O. Box 662; Panama City, FL 32402. For more information: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flbcgs/index.html>

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

Camp Walton Schoolhouse

139 Miracle Strip Parkway SE, Downtown FWB
Saturday, December 7th, Noon – 4 PM

Childrens' crafts and games, home-baked goodies, refreshments, local history, and the decorated schoolhouse which turned 100 years old last year. The Garnier Post Office Museum and Civil War Exhibit building will also be decorated for the old-fashioned celebration. Free admission to the four museums with the Temple Mound Museum open from 10 am to 4 pm.

Contact: Gail Meyer, 833-9595 or gmeyer@fwb.org

YULE OF YESTERYEAR

Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida
115 Westview Ave., Valparaiso
Saturday, December 14, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Yule of Yesteryear is a family-fun, free festival with something for everyone. Dress warmly and come for the day. There will be yummy foods from vendors, a variety of beverages, plenty of handicap parking, and entertainment tent seating provided. Explore historic exhibits in the Museum, browse Perrine Park, and enjoy the sights and sounds of a **VivaFL500** historic Christmas.

VivaFL500 is the a state-wide celebration of 500 years of Florida history when Ponce de Leon discovered LaFlorida in 1513. The highlight will be the sealing of the Okaloosa County Time Capsule, to be filled representing 2013, and re-opened in 100 years. This time capsule will remain on public display at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida.



Experience fun and entertaining musical and dramatic performances and much more including traditional craft

demonstrations. The Spirit of the season will fill the air with Christmas choirs, a bake sale, and holiday shopping in the Gift Shop and from Craft Vendors in Perrine Park. There will be children's ornament making, a special visit from Santa Clause with goodies for the kids and free picture taking for parents.

Sign up today to take part in the traditional **Holiday Victorian Tea**, a popular history education program at the Museum, which includes light refreshments, a variety of teas, and guest appearances and demonstrations. To make your reservations for the morning or afternoon tea, call the Museum at (850) 678-2615. Space is limited. \$15; (Museum Members \$12), reservations are required.

The program for the day includes Walton Guard Demonstrations, Pelican Pickers, Emerald Coast Chorus, Terri D Native American Flute Player, Sugar Beach A Cappella Chorus, Okaloosa Time Capsule Sealing Ceremony, BackInTyme Performers, Panhandle Poetry Project, Pyramid Players, Christmas Choir, FWB Community Chorus, and the Trinity Presbyterian Choir.

(850) 678-2615, info@heritage-museum.org

The Flashlight, Laurel Hill School, Laurel Hill, Florida

Extracts from March 1930

THE FLASHLIGHT STAFF

EDITOR: Lizzie V. Moore, SPORTS EDITOR: Chris Richbourg, ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Nancy Moore, BUSINESS MANAGER: Rhonalda Clary, SOCIAL EDITOR: McDonald Campbell, FEATURE EDITOR: Christine George, FACULTY EDITOR: Mrs. R. A. Rozier, ALUMNI EDITOR: Frank Pugh.

TEACHERS' RECORDS

The record of each teacher employed in the school system for Laurel Hill, FL this year, according to files on record in the office, are as follows:

F. A. STACK, Principal; Life Graduate State Certificate-Perpetual; 4 years experience; salary, \$200.00 per month.

GEO. W. PRYOR, Agriculture; Life Graduate State Certificate-perpetual; five years experience; salary, \$300.00 per month. (State pays \$100).

MRS. R. A. ROZIER, Latin and English; Professional Certificate expires September 30th 1932; twenty-seven years experience; salary, \$100 per month.

HELEN E. GEORGE, Home Economics, salary, \$100 per month.

RITA JANE BOYKIN, History and English; Graduate State Certificate, expires October 8th, 1934; no experience; salary, \$100 per month.

MRS. BRYAN SYKES, Eighth Grade; Life First Grade-perpetual; 7 years experience; salary, \$80 per month.

MISS LENORA SHEPARD, Seventh Grade; Second Grade Certificate, expires June 26, 1932; three years' experience; salary, \$80 per month.

MRS. DREW MOORE, Sixth Grade; Second Grade Certificate, expires June 26th, 1932; one year's experience; salary, \$80 per month.

ODESSA STANFORD, Fifth and Sixth Grades; Second Grade Certificate, expires February 15th 1932; one year's experience; salary, \$80 per month.

ROBERTA SHEPARD, Fifth Grade; Second Grade Certificate expires February 21st 1930; one year's experience; salary, \$80 per month.

EMILY STEELE, Fourth Grade; Second Grade Certificate, expires June 30th, 1930; four years experience; salary, \$80 per month.

MRS. T.J. MORRISON, Third and Fourth Grades; Second Grade Certificate, expires September 30th, 1931; twelve years experience; salary, \$80 per month.

MARY CARPENTER, Third Grade; Second Grade Certificate, expires September 30th, 1931; three years experience; salary \$80 per month.

BIRDIE MOORE, Second Grade; Second Grade Certificate, expires August 25th, 1931; two years experience, salary, \$85 per month.

ROSA LEE DILLY, First Grade; Life Primary Certificate-Perpetual; twenty years' experience; salary, \$90 per month.

MRS. F. A. STACK, Primer, Life Primary Certificate-Perpetual; three years' experience; salary, \$85 per month.

ROSA GOLPHIN, Primer, Life Graduate State-Perpetual; three years experience; salary, \$90 per month.

TEACHER CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Every teacher, whether new or old to a community, should realize the necessity of becoming a member of a church. If not a member, a regular attendant and active worker. Sometimes we neglect these duties which are so necessary in every teacher's life. Can we teachers look back over the year's work with a clean conscience and say that we have done our duty in this respect?

Baptist – 8	These are the church
Presbyterian – 6	preferences for the
Methodist – 2	seventeen teachers
No Preference – 1	at Laurel Hill School

Approximately 85 percent of the pupils enrolling in school this year were not members of any church, and stated that they did not attend church at all. This is a deplorable situation religiously and some effort should be put forth by the teachers in remedying it.

ENROLLMENT FOR LAUREL HILL SCHOOL, 1929-1930

The enrollment of the entire Laurel Hill School at the beginning of the regular term in September was 387 with 345 in the Grammar, and 42 in the High School. Since the beginning of school we have enrolled the following: Grammar School 218 and High School 3.

This makes a total enrollment for the year of 608 pupils, including both Grammar and High School.

The Grammar School had only a six-month term, while the High School's term was for eight months.

Between 72 and 74 percent of the pupils of the Laurel Hill School live in the country and are transported to school by school buses.

An average of 40 pupils was absent every day during the past year. This is a startling revelation and should be corrected by the parents. We try to curtail the absence list and with the proper co-operation from the parents, we can do it.

NOTE: *The Flashlight*, written by newspaper staff of the Laurel Hill School, was part of the Okaloosa News Journal, Crestview, FL for the weeks of March 7 and 21, 1930 The copies were found in the Special Collections in the Pace Library at the University of West Florida, Pensacola, FL.

Copied by Martha Rogers and originally included in the GSOC Journal, Volume XXII Number 74 Summer 1998

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 searchable PDF files containing the books listed above: <i>Cemeteries of Okaloosa County, Volumes I, II, and III; Funeral Records of Okaloosa County; Santa Rosa County Marriages 1869-1906; and Walton County Marriages 1885-1915</i>	\$15.00 plus \$2.00 postage

Please send your order information with your check to
GSOC, P.O. Box 1175, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-1175
 and mark your envelope "Book Sales"



The December GSOC meeting will be on Saturday, December 14, 2013, 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 2014. See page 1 for more information.

"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

