

THE GSOC NEWSLETTER

The Genealogical Society of
Okaloosa County, Florida

December 5, 2014

GSOC Christmas Party

December 13, 2014
Boathouse Landing, Valparaiso, FL
11:00 am

The December 13th meeting of the GSOC will be our traditional Christmas party and will include the installation of officers for 2015. This meeting will begin at 11:00 am at the Boathouse Landing, 124 John Sims Parkway, Valparaiso, FL 32580

Three menu choices will be available, and each GSOC member has been asked to tell us their preference so that the restaurant can have adequate quantities of each. Although we have given the restaurant an approximate number of attendees and their menu choices, there is still time for a few last-minute additions.



We will also bring back the "What's that Name?" surname list tradition. **Please wear a list of the surnames you are searching. This used to be a tradition practiced at every GSOC Christmas Party. Back then, we used adding machine tape, but you can do it any way you want. We pinned the list to our lapel, collar, or in plain view somewhere near the shoulder.**

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GSOC Meeting Minutes for November

November 8, 2014

Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida
Val Moreland, Acting Recording Secretary

The November meeting of the GSOC was called to order by President Jim Young at 11:03 am at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida. He welcomed the members, the three guests, and Mrs. Nicole Grinnan, the speaker.

A motion to accept the October meeting minutes as published in the November Newsletter and posted on the GSOC website was made by Val Moreland and seconded by Bob Sutherland. There was no discussion and the motion carried.

President Young reminded the members that the November Newsletter had been distributed on October 29th.

He told the members that the Niceville-Valparaiso Kiwanis Club has invited the GSOC to provide a speaker for one of their upcoming meetings. These meetings are held at 7 am each Thursday at the NWFL State College. He asked the members to think about this and to get with him if any one is interested in speaking at the Kiwanis Club meeting.

He reminded members that the GSOC meeting for December will be our annual Christmas party and that it will be held this year at the Boathouse Landing in Valparaiso. He said that the menu choices and prices are included in the November Newsletter and that each member will be contacted by email to see if they plan to attend and, if so, what menu choice they prefer.

President Young then called on Beverly Gross, a member of the nominating committee, to conduct the election for GSOC officers for 2015.

The slate of nominees which had been approved by GSOC members at the October meeting were: President – James Young; 1st Vice President (Programs) – Del Lessard; 2nd Vice President (Membership) – Charlene Grafton; Treasurer- Bob Basch; Recording Secretary – Pat Pruett; and Corresponding Secretary – Carl Laws.

Beverly read Article IV, Section 3, of the GSOC Bylaws which applies to elections:

A quorum at any meeting of the Society shall consist of (10) members, including two elected officers. Motions shall be carried by a simple majority vote, except where Bylaws provide otherwise.

She announced that there were 24 members, including 5 officers, present and that the requirement of the Bylaws for a valid election meeting was met.

She then read the slate of nominees and asked for a motion that the slate be elected. Sue Basch made that motion and Val Moreland seconded it. No discussion was requested. All 24 members voted in favor of the motion and the slate was approved.

President Young asked for the reports, if any, from the officers present. Del Lessard, 1st VP (Programs) presented the door prize and then discussed the December party and the menu choices. He said that each of the three menu choices includes an entrée, a house salad, soda or tea, and hush puppies. The price includes the food and drink, tax, and a gratuity:

**8 oz. NY Strip Steak \$18.50
Grouper Parmesan \$18.50, or
Chicken Picatta \$14.50.**

Members will be contacted by email to see if they plan to attend and what their menu choice is.

Del also asked for suggestions for the location for the Dutch treat lunch today and counted the number who wanted to participate.

Sue Basch, 2nd VP (Membership) had no report.

Bob Basch, Treasurer, announced that the GSOC treasury had \$1543.44. He then passed the "Blue Box" for donations to buy books for local libraries and to assist with Journal costs, if needed.

Pat Pruett, Recording Secretary, was absent. Carl Laws, Corresponding Secretary, said that he had placed the most recent publications received from other societies on the back table for members to review before they were taken to the Fort Walton Beach Library.

Val Moreland, Publicity Chairman, said that she continued to send photos from GSOC meetings as well as meeting announcements to the local newspapers.

Charlene Grafton, Valparaiso Library liaison, said that most of the libraries in the county that had previously offered free Ancestry.com access were no longer able to do that because of funding restraints and that she had written letters to them concerning this. There was a short discussion of this and the large cost for providing this access was mentioned. However, it was noted, the LDS Family History Center does continue to provide this access.

The meeting was then turned over to Del Lessard, Program Chairman, who introduced Mrs. Nicole Grinnan from the Florida Public Archeology Network. He noted her advanced degrees in Archaeology, Anthropology, and History and welcomed her to the meeting. Her program was entitled, "Tombstone Tales, Cemeteries & Stories", and provided interesting and useful information about grave markers through time and how they can be dated by the style of the inscriptions and the images on them.

Mrs. Grinnan has provided digital copies of her presentation, "Tombstone Tales", as well as material showing the meaning of tombstone imagery and advice on how to clean grave markers without damaging them. This information is available on the GSOC website by clicking on the members-only button on the home page and supplying the member password.

After her presentation, President Young adjourned the meeting at 11:30.

GSOC Officers for 2015

The following GSOC officers were elected at the November 8, 2014, meeting.

**President, James Young
1st Vice President (Programs), Del Lessard
2nd Vice President (Membership), Charlene Grafton
Treasurer, Bob Basch,
Recording Secretary, Pat Pruett
Corresponding Secretary, Carl Laws**

The installation of these GSOC officers for 2015 will take place at the GSOC Christmas Party on December 13, 2014, at the Boathouse Landing restaurant

The Amish in Florida

Based on *Wikipedia*, *The History of Pinecraft 1925-1960*, and
"Amish go to Vacation in Florida", *The Cleveland Plain Dealer Sunday Magazine*

The Amish are a group of traditionalist Christian church fellowships, closely related to but distinct from Mennonite churches, with whom they share Swiss Anabaptist origins. The Amish are known for simple living, plain dress, and reluctance to adopt many conveniences of modern technology. In the early 18th century, many Amish and Mennonites immigrated to Pennsylvania for a variety of reasons. Today, the most traditional descendants of the Amish continue to speak Pennsylvania German, also known as "Pennsylvania Dutch". In 2010 a study suggested their population in North America had grown to 249,000, with increasing movement to the West.

The rules of the church cover most aspects of day-to-day living, including prohibitions or limitations on the use of power-line electricity, telephones, and automobiles, as well as regulations on clothing. Most Amish do not buy commercial insurance or participate in Social Security. Most practice nonresistance and will not perform any type of military service. Amish church groups seek to maintain a degree of separation from the non-Amish (English) world. There is generally a heavy emphasis on church and family relationships. They value rural life, manual labor and humility and typically operate their own one-room schools and discontinue formal education at grade eight (age 13/14). The Amish are often referred to as the Plain people.



Florida Amish. Citrus and Amish may seem an odd mix. But Plain people have had a continuous presence on Florida's Gulf Coast since the 1920s. Sarasota is a city of over 50,000 people lying on the Gulf of Mexico and the Pinecraft neighborhood of Sarasota is home to an unusual Amish and Mennonite community. The Pinecraft village is just a small segment of the city, comprised of a couple dozen roads lying on a parcel of land about a half-square mile in area. Pinecraft was originally laid out as a tourist

camp, and gradually developed into a full-fledged residential neighborhood along with an adjacent camp known as Homecroft (*The History of Pinecraft 1925-1960*, Noah Gingerich, p. 1).

The community itself sits on the edge of city limits, but is



essentially a part of Sarasota, making Pinecraft residents America's only truly "city" Amish. In a sense, they're also "beachy" Amish as well, with a number of shores lying a short bus ride or longer bike ride from the community.

Amish who live and visit Pinecraft hail from a wide variety of places, and make up one of the most atypical Amish communities in the country.

Florida Amish origins. How did the Amish find themselves in Florida? Pinecraft was founded as a camping area and originally bore the name Sarasota National Tourist Camp. The area was first settled by Amishman Daniel Kurtz in the mid-to-late 1920s. Kurtz purchased land and ended up farming celery, which was a well-suited crop for the area's drained muck land. Other Plain people followed, and also became involved in produce growing.

Pinecraft gradually became popular for sun-seeking northern Plain people. Church records for the 1939-40 Winter season list Amish visitors from Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Maryland, Oklahoma, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Virginia, along with members of Mennonite and other faiths. As time passed homes began to be built, with campsites becoming permanent freestanding residences and the area developing into a full-fledged suburban neighborhood.

The Pinecraft neighborhood. The main thoroughfare of the Pinecraft neighborhood is known as Bahia Vista St., a four-lane road bisecting the community and serving as one of Sarasota's main east-west arteries. Amish at Pinecraft live in bungalows and trailers packed into the gridlike streets bearing traditional Amish and Mennonite names such as Yoder, Graber and Schrock. The residences are typically rented by the night, for short-term visitors, or for longer spells.

Unlike in the vast majority of other communities, Amish here hold church in a freestanding building—the Pinecraft Amish Church. The Mennonite Tourist Church is a long-established place of worship occupying a former bakery

building. The Palm Grove Mennonite Church can be found on Beneva Road, a main avenue intersecting Bahia Vista.

The Pinecraft Amish community is unique in a number of ways. One reason is the mix of people in this community. Pinecraft is made up of a wide variety of Amish with roots in different settlements. This fact becomes obvious in the different styles of clothing worn by Pinecraft Amish.

Older Amish flock to Florida. The settlement is popular with a wide variety of Amish with roots in different settlements as becomes obvious in the different styles of clothing worn in Pinecraft. It is popular with a range of Amish demographic groups as well. Amish retirees and older folks appreciate the sunny climate. Vacationers from the Midwest make regular visits. Some Amish newlyweds on honeymoon consider Pinecraft the ideal destination. Amish youth come here for seasonal work. There is also a significant Beachy Amish and Mennonite presence.

However, Pinecraft visits are not accepted by all Old Order Amish. Some Amish see the Florida community as worldly. "This is not the norm," explained Ohio Amish businessman Atlee Raber for a 2004 news piece on the community. "Not everybody goes to Florida. You are in contact with more of the entrepreneurial part of the Amish community by being down here." True to Raber's comment, Amish from the larger and more business-oriented communities in Ohio, Indiana, and Pennsylvania make up a large proportion of Pinecraft's plain population.

Electricity and no buggies. Part of the problem some Amish have with Florida is the lifestyle led by Amish residents and visitors to Pinecraft. Homes here come equipped with electricity. Amish generally permit electricity usage in such cases when living quarters are meant to be temporary. For instance, when staying in a hotel, Amish have no qualms about using the available facilities, though the TV might stay off.

Of course, not all Amish approve of the wired-up side of Pinecraft life. As one New Order Amish bishop admits, "It's a unique situation", while at the same time noting that—at least in his church—"it's nothing that's forbidden. People don't have to come and ask, May I go to Florida? We expect them to be loyal to their faith".



Another interesting aspect of the Pinecraft community is the type of transportation used. Amish at Pinecraft do not use horses and carriages. In fact, as one Pinecraft native notes, "The only buggy in town sits in the courtyard at Yoder's Restaurant, mostly for photo opportunities".

In lieu of horse-drawn travel the Amish at Pinecraft mainly use large adult tricycles as well as bicycles, with some golf carts included in the mix. No other Amish community makes use of such a creative assortment of transportation, as the horse-and-buggy is generally considered an inseparable aspect of Amish life. However, given the urban setting of the Pinecraft community—and the transient nature of the community—bikes, carts and trikes make a certain sense.

Arriving in Pinecraft. Amish, of course, do not drive. Due to the popularity of the destination, a number of coach companies have started up business serving the Pinecraft community. The first such line was created by entrepreneur David Swartzentruber, of Pioneer Trails. This coach leaves from the Geauga County, Ohio, Amish settlement, with stops in Holmes County and other Ohio locations. Due to the popularity of Florida among Amish, other lines have been started, with regular coaches ferrying Plain passengers from Indiana and Pennsylvania back-and-forth over the Pinecraft circuit.



Today, at least three lines make regular trips from traditional Amish destinations to Florida. "I would say we haul between 4,000 and 4,500 people in the wintertime," noted Swartzentruber, adding that "It'd be about 75 percent Amish and the rest Mennonite, or English" ("Amish go to Vacation in Florida"). Passengers pay in the range of \$250 for a round-trip ticket, with discount rates for children and seniors.

Depending on where you get on, the Florida-bound passenger travels in the range of 15-18 hours to make the trip, returning—in most cases tanned and well-rested—on buses operated by the same companies. Bus lines run primarily in the Pinecraft tourist season, from about November to April.

Vacation and relaxation. The name of the game for most Amish visitors to Florida is relaxation. The Pinecraft community features many attractions to help Amish and others pass the time. Shuffleboard is a popular game in the Pinecraft Amish community. Hearty meals can be had

at a range of restaurants. Concerts are performed by musical acts such as Gospel groups or Ohio native John Schmid. The annual Florida Haiti Auction, held in January, is one of a number of such events taking place in Amish communities around the country.

A discussion of Pinecraft activities would be incomplete without mentioning the area's beautiful beaches, which attract many Amish and Plain visitors. The shores of Siesta Key and Lido Key, two small islands lying just off Sarasota, are highly popular among Amish sun-seekers.

Plain beachcombers scour these shores for sand dollars and shells. Making sand castles with children or just sitting and relaxing in the ocean breeze are popular, as is fishing. And what about sunbathing? Do Amish go swimming? While you probably won't see many Amish women in bikinis, some men are known to wear swimming trunks. For those that can't get past the breach of modesty, they may take to the seas in full plain attire.

For the more adventurous, other activities may tempt. One Amish couple took to the skies—literally—on a parasailing trip. Ohio natives Gerold and Becky Miller signed up for the excursion seeking a spot of adventure. It was an experience described by Becky as “awesome”. Gerold apparently enjoyed the trip as well. “Know what I did up there?” asked the Amishman. “I kissed her”.

For those more inclined to keep their feet on the ground, a local publication catering to the Amish and Plain contingent provides much enjoyment. The [*Pinecraft Pauper*](#) is a newspaper produced twice a month during the tourist season. The *Pauper* features local interest stories, resident profiles, recreational tips for visitors, photos, cartoons, and a heavy dose of humor.

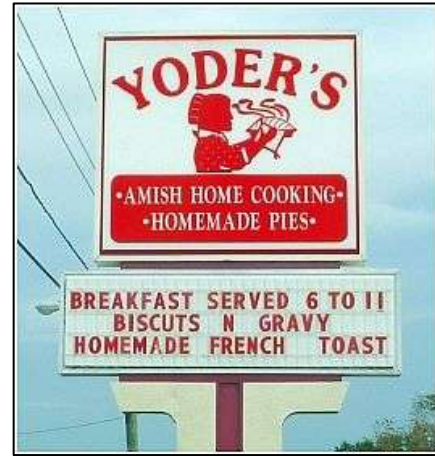
Amish restaurants in Sarasota, FL



In the immediate vicinity of Pinecraft, there are at least four Amish/PA Dutch-style restaurants, meaning that per capita, Pennsylvania Dutch and Amish-style cooking is well-represented in Sarasota.

The PA Dutch style restaurants are popular among English—both natives of Sarasota and tourists—as well as Pinecraft's Plain population.

Eateries such as Troyer's Dutch Heritage and Yoder's Amish Village serve as a meeting point for Amish from different communities. Troyer's, for example, has been described as “a popular early morning hangout for Amish men with nothing but time on their hands.” Describing the dynamic, one observer wrote: “The suspended and sunburned snowbirds arrange themselves in casual geographic groupings. Holmes County, Ohio, over here.



Elkhart County, Indiana, over there. Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, in the booths along the far wall”. Local restaurants are a place for Amish and Mennonites to kill time and chew the fat while sipping a cup of coffee or filling up on stick-to-your-ribs PA Dutch dishes. Dutch favorites such as fried mush, butter noodles, meatloaf, fried okra, and shoofly pie populate the menus of these cheery locales. Diners are certain not to leave hungry.

For the Amish, Pinecraft is more a vacation destination than anything else. However, the settlement does have a number of year-round residents, particularly older retirees. Their presence through the hot summer months—while their northern brethren are busy farming, running businesses, and enjoying warm weather in their home communities—means Florida maintains a permanent year-round Amish population, though one that shrinks and grows with the coming and going of the tourist season.

For further information, see:

The History of Pinecraft 1925-1960: A Historical Album of the Amish and Mennonites in Pinecraft, Florida; Noah Gingerich.

“Amish go to Vacation in Florida”, *The Cleveland Plain Dealer Sunday Magazine*, Christopher Evans, March 14, 2004.

The Pinecraft Pauper, local plain newspaper published bi-weekly in-season.

Amish America: An interview with Sherry Gore, editor of *The Pinecraft Pauper*.

Florida Amish Furniture business directory.

The Undertaker

by Wayne "Buddy" Russell

At first pioneer people did their own burying. They'd test the prospect by holding a mirror to his face to see if he was qualified. If it didn't fog up and he didn't jump up when they called "Supper's ready!" they knew he was ready. It was a simple and inexpensive process: dig a hole in the ground, wrap the deceased in a blanket, say appropriate words, lower away, then cover with dirt and put rocks at the head and foot to mark the resting place and that was it. Buried just as good and last just as long as a \$7,000 funeral today.

The old "do it yourself" type burying was gradually phased out as the country became more civilized. Thus began the era of the undertaker. At first they built a wooden box, plain and simple, but through the years it has evolved into a fancy contraption, sleek, shiny, chrome-plated. I mean everything except hub caps. I don't know if anyone rests better in one like that or not but it makes the undertaker sleep better.



Being an undertaker is stressful, kinda like a possum in a hen house full of chickens. He knows he's gonna get them but he has to wait 'til they fall off the roost and he never knows

when they gonna fall and he's hungry right now. Example: The undertaker has had his eye on ole John for years now but John keeps on shuffling around like the Energizer Bunny. What makes it so nerve wracking is there's usually another possum somewhere around and there's only one ole John for them to get.

An undertaker must be an astute businessman. First and foremost he must see to it he's the one selected by the family to handle the funeral. He does this by keeping his name before the public, advertising, obituaries, selling insurance, etc. Once he gets the original order he can add on and add on like the man selling a wagon, sell them the wheels and if they still don't blink, sell them the tongue. In fact, I think the expression, "You want fries with that?" originated with undertakers.

He also must be versed in psychology and self-control, understand the customer so he can sell them as much as they can stand. He knows at this stage he has the sale made but he doesn't know what he can milk it for. Even tho the bereaved can't go shopping around like they were buying a used car saying "We've got ole John here, what kind of deal you got on today?" they do have some discretion in how much they will spend so he has to be able to negotiate and horse trade, make a study of how people think and act, and figure what price range they fall into.

Not always is he right. Example: Ole Mother Hubbard comes waddling in with her two grown sons. She's been married to Henry (the deceased) for 57 years and he knows they own 1,000 acres of prime land. So when she says, "We want Henry to go nice, what price range you got?" he says "For Henry, a nice package of everything

would be \$7,000." She collapse into a chair and fans herself a while and finally says, "That's a little nicer than we counted on," The boys wanted to know what he had in the \$500 range. After a good bit of haggling and threatening to use the box in the corn crib, they settled for a scratch and dent model for \$450.00. They agreed to dig the grave and fill it in and haul Henry in the pickup.

Most undertakers have trained themselves not to smile or laugh out loud in public. He may grin in private when he hears ole Amos has kicked the bucket, anticipating a lavish funeral since he knows the estate of Amos can really afford one. But when Amos's bachelor son, George, comes in to make the arrangements, he has a platinum blond on his arm to help and comfort him. The undertaker quickly has George up to a \$6,000 wagon and is about to sell him the wheels and tongue when Ms. Blondie squeezes George's arm and says, "Dumpling, you don't want to spend that much on a gloomy ole funeral when we can do so many fun things with it." "But Maple Sugar, what will people say?" "Everybody knows Amos loved to save money so why don't you honor his memory and just take the wooden box?" The undertaker couldn't grin for 6 months.

We want to stay as far away from the undertaker as we can, as long as we can; but they do provide a needed service. Dealing with all kinds of people under difficult circumstances in a professional manner requires tact, patience and understanding and we appreciate that; but the trouble is, it just costs so much to ride in that long Cadillac and not even know it.

Originally published in the *Oxford SO & SO*, Oxford, MS.

PONTOTOC, MS. James Wayne "Buddy" Russell, 87, passed away Saturday, April 12, 2014. He died the way he wanted – at home and beside his beloved wife of 66 years, Georgia. He was born Sept. 12, 1926, to the late Loyce and Beatrice (Hadaway) Russell. He graduated from Algoma High School and served in WW II. Upon returning home he married his childhood sweetheart, Georgia Anna Owen. He loved farming and owned Russell's Appliances for more than 40 years. He was a gifted writer of short stories with three books to his credit. He was a member of Algoma Baptist Church.

Services were on Tuesday, April 15, 2014, Bro. Don Smith officiating. Burial followed in the Pontotoc Memorial Gardens. Baldwin Nowell Funeral Home was his undertaker

He is survived by his wife, Georgia Anna Owen Russell; four daughters, Gina Bridgman (Freddy), Dr. Lynn Langley (David), Cynthia Jane Wallace (Jim) and Jennifer Beckett (Dave); one son, Jay Russell (Mitzi); and nine grandchildren, Dr. Karen Bridgman Gant (Ron), Josh Bramlett, Jake Bramlett (Stephanie), Brooke, Anna and Molly Russell, Davey, Ethan and Stuart Beckett. He also leaves four great-grandchildren, Ryan and Nate Gant and Emma and Meredith Grace Bramlett

Editor's Note: I got to know Buddy through his many wonderful stories in the *Oxford SO & SO* and through our correspondence. I am including his story above as a token of my fond memory of him and his unfailing sense of humor JY.



Civil War Sesquicentennial

Selected Highlights of December 1864

<http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/december-1864-civil-war.htm>

In December 1864, Sherman continued with his desired plan - an advance on Savannah. He reached the city before Christmas and offered the city to Lincoln as a Christmas gift. Sherman planned to use the rest of December to allow his troops to rest before marching north to link up with Grant in preparation for an all-out attack on Richmond.

December 1st: The Union army commanded by Schofield, entrenched itself in Nashville and dominated the Cumberland River.

December 2nd: Sherman was halfway to Savannah. His subordinates in Nashville were ordered by Washington to confront and defeat Hood's Army of the Tennessee. However, very poor weather hindered both armies.

December 9th: Appalling weather in Nashville made all forms of fighting near impossible. Roads had been reduced to quagmires.

December 10th: Sherman's army arrived in Savannah.

December 12th: Thomas telegraphed Grant with the information that he would attack Hood as soon as the weather improved.

December 13th: In a further blow to the defenders of Savannah, Sherman's men established a route to the sea that would allow the Union Navy to supply his army. Grant appointed Major-General John Logan to replace General Thomas in Nashville.

December 15th: Once the weather had cleared Thomas ordered an attack on Hood's army at Nashville. The only thing that saved Hood was the shortened day. Other than failing to finish off Hood's army, the attack was an overwhelming success with 1,000 men taken prisoner.

December 16th: Thomas conveys the news to Grant. He followed up the attack with a further massive attack using all the men at his command - 50,000. Hood could only muster 30,000 men. The Army of the Tennessee put up a good defence but defeat was almost inevitable. 4,500 Confederate troops surrendered, 1,500 men were either

killed or wounded. 59 out of 156 artillery guns were captured. Hood could only order a retreat for those who survived - a retreat that had to be executed in the dead of winter with minimal supplies.

December 18th: Savannah refused to surrender to Sherman.

December 19th: Such was the confidence of Sherman - and his numerical advantage - that he could afford to send troops to Grant to assist in the attack on Richmond.

December 20th: The Confederate force in Savannah left the city. 10,000 men managed to withdraw from the city but they were still facing in the field an army six times larger than them. Savannah fell to Sherman. The Confederates left behind in the city 250 heavy artillery guns and 25,000 bales of cotton.

December 21st: Sherman entered Savannah.

December 22nd: Sherman telegraphed Lincoln the following: "I beg to present you, as a Christmas gift, the city of Savannah."

December 24th: Union forces started an attack on Fort Fisher in North Carolina. This fort defended the only remaining port open to the Confederacy - Wilmington. The largest Union naval force of 60 warships gathered before the fort to blast it into submission. However, their task was not easy. The design of the fort and

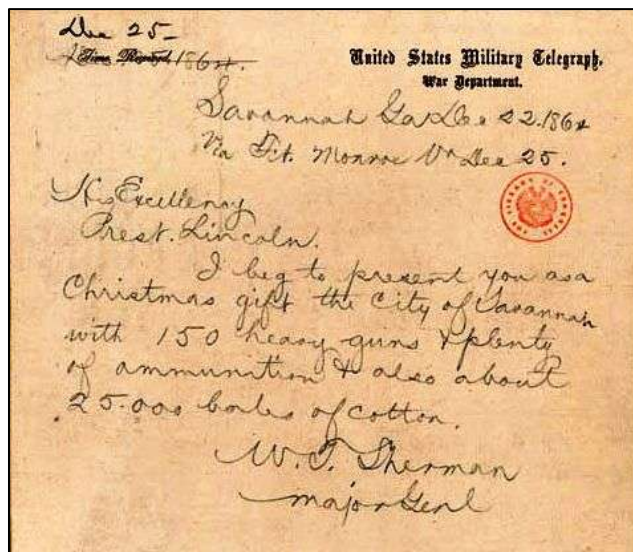
the inaccuracy of those bombarding the fort meant that many Union shells fired from the ships simply flew over the fort.

December 25th: 6,000 Union troops landed to take Fort Fisher but the fort's guns were still intact and kept them pinned down. A rumour that Confederate reinforcements were on their way, convinced the commanders on the ground that they should withdraw.

December 26th: The Union troops at Fort Fisher were evacuated. Lincoln ordered an investigation as to what went wrong and why what should have been a relatively easy victory turned into a full-scale withdrawal.

December 30th: Lincoln proposed to remove General Ben Butler from the command of the Army of the James. It was Butler who commanded the abortive landing at Fort Fisher. Grant also had a very low opinion of Butler's ability.

December 31st: Sherman's army rested in Savannah in preparation for its advance north to support Grant.



United States Military Telegraph,
War Department.

Savannah Ga Dec 22. 1864
Via Det. Monroe W. Dec 25.

Mr. Excellency
Pres. Lincoln.

I beg to present you as a
Christmas gift the city of Savannah
with 150 heavy guns & plenty
of ammunition & also about
25,000 bales of cotton.

W. T. Sherman
Major General

Events, Groups, and Sites of GSOC Interest

Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida Saturday, December 13, 10 am - 4 pm

Yule of Yesteryear – A Traditional Christmas Festival



Bring your family and friends to **Yule of Yesteryear**, a traditional community holiday event at the *Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida*. The Museum will be open with free admission all day, traditional craft demonstrations, ornament making for children, and free picture taking with Santa Claus. Enjoy a bake sale, shopping for unique gifts and affordable stocking stuffers in the Museum's Gift Shop and from local art & craft vendors. The Walton Guard will be keeping our local heritage alive with a re-enactment of a Civil War Christmas of 1861. Experience the Spirit of Christmas with music from local choirs and musicians, and a Christmas tree lighting and caroling in Perrine Park beginning at 4 p.m.

Holiday Victorian Tea - Men, women and children will experience a delightful history program about Victorian tea etiquette, costume, and holiday traditions while enjoying a variety of teas and light refreshments. Ladies from the Walton Guard Civil War re-enacting group will visit and give a special history presentation. (*Space is limited. Name reservations required.*) \$15 (\$12 Museum Members). Teatimes: Morning 9:30 a.m. or Afternoon 2:00 p.m. Reservations: 850-678-2615 or on-line at www.heritage-museum.org. (The **Holiday Victorian Tea** takes place during the Museum's annual **Yule of Yesteryear**.)

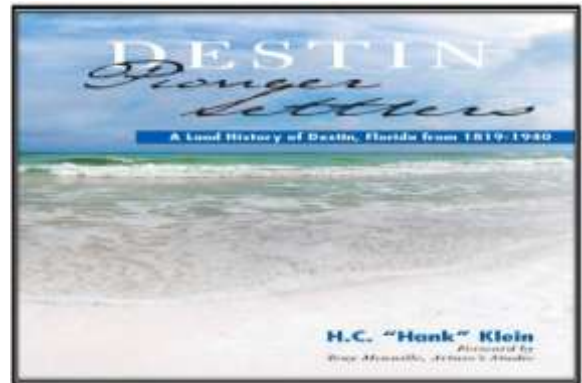
The 2015 Florida Chautauqua Assembly Thursday, January 23 through Sunday, January 25, 2014 DeFuniak Springs, Florida



A Journey Into the World of Transportation: From the River to the Rocket. This year's historic event begins with a keynote presentation by Apollo 13 Astronaut Fred Haise and includes educational breakout sessions, performance teas, evening dinner performances and exhibits. All sessions and events will relate to the history of transportation. For information: <http://www.florida-chautauqua-center.org/>

Saturday, January 10, 2015 at 10:00 am Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County

Heritage Museum, 115 Westview Ave., Valparaiso, Florida



Destin Pioneer Settlers...A Land History of Destin, Florida from 1819-1940

In his recently-published book, Destin historian Hank Klein tells the land history of early Destin, Florida from 1819 when Spain turned over the land we know today as Florida to the United States to the early years of the fishing Village of Destin in 1940.

Unlike neighboring areas in Okaloosa, Walton, and Santa Rosa counties the land at Destin was unavailable for homesteading because it had been a Military Reservation since 1842.

Learn how the pioneer settlers bought their land for a mere \$50.00 an acre, and it was all waterfront land.

Okaloosa County Centennial 2015



Okaloosa County was organized in 1915. 2015 is the county's centennial year and we solicit inputs from GSOC members about how we can best celebrate and observe this 100th anniversary. Please send your ideas to the GSOC c/o youngjmy@cox.net

6 Year Old Docent gives "Tours for Tots" to benefit Sharing & Caring

**The *Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida*,
Saturday, December 20, 2014
10 a.m. and hourly through 3 p.m.**

"Tours for Tots" to benefit Sharing & Caring will be presented by **Selah Moore, a 6 year old Docent** at the *Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida*, Saturday, December 20. Each guest who brings either a new toy or non-perishable food item will receive \$2 reduced admission, and a VIP guided tour with Selah. Tour times begin at 10 a.m. and run each hour through 3 p.m.



Miss Selah Moore

Selah Moore is a kindergarten student at Edge Elementary School and spends much of her free time at the Museum helping her mother Crystal Moore, Education Coordinator. The Museum has become an extended home for Selah since her mother works for the Museum and her grandparents volunteer. Selah has performed 'My Little Tea Pot' during Museum Victorian Tea programs, danced at *Saturday in the Park*, and has been a part of the Museum's Christmas parade float for 3 years.

During the summer, when Selah was still 5 years old, she greeted guests and offered to show them around. Visitors from all over the world enjoyed

Selah's detailed information about artifacts, exhibits, and the early settlers of Northwest Florida.

The entire family will feel good about donating to Sharing & Caring and will enjoy "Tours for Tots" with Selah as she showcases Museum exhibits including Native American, Pioneer, and Military. Come stroll in Paradise Gardens, peruse the Gift Shop and play in the hands-on children's Discovery Room, Saturday, December 20 at the *Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida*. 115 Westview Avenue, Valparaiso

News Release from the Heritage Museum

A Personal GSOC Note:

As we were setting up the room at the Heritage Museum for our July meeting on Saturday morning, July 12, 2014, a little girl came into the room from the door that leads into the museum proper. She was lively and was very interested in what we were doing.

She disappeared for a few minutes and then came back to show us some nice drawings that she had made. I lost track of her as GSOC members began arriving and we bustled around to finish getting the room and TV monitor set up for the program that day.

As we began the meeting, I welcomed our guests and asked each to tell a little about themselves and how they came to be at our meeting. I almost didn't notice the little girl who had taken a seat on the second row on the left side. I welcomed her and asked her to also introduce herself.

She stood up, told us that she was Selah, and then proceeded to give an outstanding description of the museum and the various displays and artifacts it maintains.

She was careful to point out the new (at that time) garden out back but cautioned us to put something to keep the door leading out there from closing fully or "you will be locked out."

If you want an entertaining VIP guided tour of the museum and would like to help Sharing and Caring at the same time, come out on the 20th. If you have Christmas guests, bring them along. They will have a great experience.

Jim Young, GSOC President

GSOC INFORMATION

Officers for 2014

President, James Young
1st Vice President (Programs), Del Lessard
2nd Vice President (Membership), Sue Basch
Treasurer, Bob Basch,
Recording Secretary, Pat Pruett
Corresponding Secretary, Carl Laws
Immediate Past President, Donna Elliott

Journal Editor, Jim Young; Historian, TBD
Genealogist, Margaret Harris
Publicity Chairperson, Val Moreland
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.rootsweb.com/~flogcs>
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 2014 issue, Volume XXXVIII, was published and distributed in September 2014.

The Web Site

The GSOC web site is hosted by Rootsweb at:
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~flogcs>



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.

The GSOC Publications Disk

This compact disk (CD) contains all of the books listed below in searchable PDF files. To get a copy, please send your check for \$17.00 (shipping is included) with your order information to GSOC, P.O. Box 1175, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-1175.

Volume I, Cemeteries of Okaloosa County, Florida; 24 cemeteries east of the Yellow River & north of the Shoal River and I-10

Volume II, Cemeteries of Okaloosa County, Florida; 26 cemeteries north and west of the Yellow River

Volume III, Cemeteries of Okaloosa County, Florida; 11 cemeteries south of the Shoal River

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.

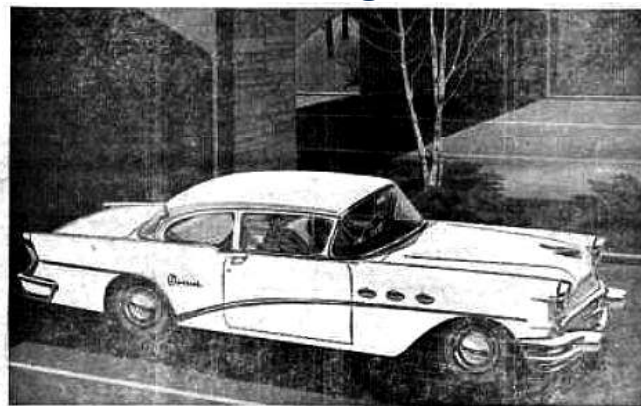
Santa Rosa County Marriages, 1869-1906

Over 7,000 names with every-name index, 123 pages.

Walton County Marriages, 1895-1915

Over 10,000 names with every-name index, 165 pages.

Nostalgia



That's right -
you can buy a '56 Buick

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This car has moved a lot of folks to change their buying habits.

For this strapping sweep of car is a Buick Striptail - solid Buick through and through, just waiting for its wheels.

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But the difference in power and handle and fun and thrill - that's the clincher for the move to Buick...

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It comes from new, record-high power - from a big new 32-cubic inch V8 engine, the same basic engine that powers the greater Buicks.

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*2 door, 4-door Buick Special Sedan, Wildcat 41, Wildcat 42, Wildcat 43 and hard top, 4-door Wildcat. Prices may vary slightly in other communities. A wide variety of optional equipment and accessories available at your option.

It comes from a new and advanced Variable Fifth Drive (V5) that brings you brilliant new steering response and bigger gas mileage in your normal driving range - plus, steering new full-power safety-surge when you floor the pedal and switch the pedal.

And it comes, of course, from Buick size and solidity and steadiness - and all dressed up in Buick's new sweep-ahead style.

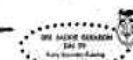
So why not come in and try one on for size?

Drop in this week and borrow a key. What happens from that point on is pure thrill - solid and abetted by low prices that make this the best buy yet.

†New Advanced Variable Fifth Drive (V5) is the only Buick Buick built today. It is standard on Roadmaster, Super and Wildcat - optional at modest extra cost on the Special.

Best Buick yet

WHEN BETTER AUTOMOBILES ARE BUILT BUICK WILL BUILD THEM



Okaloosa News-Journal, December 22, 1955

<http://flhiddentreasures.com/okaloosa/>



The December GSOC meeting will be held on Saturday, December 13th at the Boathouse Landing restaurant, Valparaiso, FL, at 11 AM.

This will be our annual Christmas party.

*"Whatever you know, whatever you learn,
Pass it On!"*

HONOR THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE

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

You