

THE GSOC NEWSLETTER

The Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County, Florida

February 4, 2011

GSOC Calendar

February 12, 2011

Since February is our "birthday" month, we will be celebrating GSOC's 35th birthday (1976 - 2011) with a birthday cake. We extend a special invitation to our long-time and life members to join us for this meeting. As usual, we will meet at 10:00 AM at the Heritage Museum in Valparaiso.



For something fun, members will be asked to share interesting bits of information about what was going on at the time they were born. For suggestions, you can check out this website: <http://dmarie.com/timecap/>

In keeping with our birthday theme, Donna Elliott will talk briefly about places to search for birth records.

After the meeting we will have an optional Dutch treat lunch at a local restaurant.

March 12, 2011

The March 12th meeting will be held at our usual meeting place, the Heritage Museum, at 10:00 A.M. The program will be by Beverly Gross, "Catching Up on Some Genealogy Data". After the meeting, there will be an optional Dutch treat lunch at a local restaurant.

	Page
History of Bruce UMC, Bruce, FL	2
Upcoming Events of Genealogical Interest	3
WWII Honors List for Okaloosa County	3
What (or Where) is Svea?	3
Letter to the Editor	4
Family Health History	4
Featured Website: Early History of Niceville	6
Center for Lifelong Learning	7
GSOC Addresses, Meetings, Membership	7

Minutes of the January 8th Meeting

Malcolm Flanagan, President, opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. in the Muscogee Nation of Florida hall in Bruce, Florida. There were 32 members and three guests present. The guests were Jesse T Braxton, Duskey Mallory, and Louise Kimbrell. Malcolm said that the current GSOC balance was \$2770.00.

Malcolm announced that Beverly Gross would be teaching four classes. The classes included "Migration" and "Inside the Vault" a behind the scenes look at the Northwest Florida Heritage Museum in Valparaiso Florida. Margaret Harris will be teaching her class "It's all relative". Look for details in the newsletter.

Donna Elliott, 1st Vice President, said that on 12 February 2011 the GSOC will host its 35th anniversary celebration in the Northwest Florida Heritage Museum. There will be cake, coffee and punch served. Since it is the GSOC birthday month Donna asked everyone to bring some information about their birthday (news from that date, special events and/or interesting stories). She suggested that members go to a web search engine and enter "dMarie time capsule". When the page comes up enter the birth date to get historical information.

Lorna Sainz, 2nd Vice President, Membership, asked that all members complete a membership renewal form and sign the member or visitor meeting attendance form.

Jim Young, Corresponding Secretary and Webmaster, said the bulk mailing permit was due and asked if the membership wanted to renew the \$185.00 permit. After a brief discussion it was decided to have Jim renew the permit.

Beverly Gross said the Northwest Florida Heritage Museum was collecting family histories for anyone living in the area. If you lived in the area for 5 minutes or all your life the Heritage Museum would like to collect your family history. You can provide your family history in a binder format.

Malcolm Flanagan was looking for the GSOC publication "Okaloosa Cemetery Records Volume II". Chuck Licari has copies of CDs with all GSOC published records. Jim suggested that Chuck provide CD copies to Malcolm and digital copies to Mike Martell, GSOC Recording Secretary, for inclusion on the GSOC hard

drive. Phil Trau said he would provide CD labels for GSOC copies.



**Ann Denson Tucker, Chairwoman
Muscogee Nation of Florida**

Ann Denson Tucker, Chairwoman, Muscogee Nation, provided a program on the Muscogee Nation history and their struggle to be recognized. If anyone would like to assist the Muscogee Nation you can provide donations of food for their community assistance program and/or write to your local, state and federal representatives supporting their cause. The Web site is <http://muscogeenationofflorida.com/about.html> and their email address is MuscogeeFlorida@aol.com. After the program 18 attendees met at the Bruce Café for lunch.

Respectfully Submitted, Mike Martell, Recording Secretary

History of Bruce United Methodist Church (Bruce, Walton County, Florida)

The Bruce United Methodist Church was founded in 1913, with a membership of 83 people. The charter members of the church were Creek Indians, spouses, and friends. The congregation was led by an elder, 83-year-old William Josiah "Diamond Joe" Ward, the youngest son

of James B. and Elizabeth English Ward. The Wards were Creek Indians. (James B. Ward was half Creek and his wife, Elizabeth was full-blooded.) Diamond Joe is remembered for his gift of sharing the Bible by "inspiration"; he could quote Scripture from memory. He tirelessly worked to preserve our Native American heritage but he believed in the strength of the family through the Church. Bruce Methodist was built following a revival led by J.W. Matheson that was held in the old Bruce School House. The school is still located across the road from the church. Today it is the Council House for the Muscogee Nation of Florida. It also contains a gift shop and a Creek Indian Museum.

Diamond Joe's son, J.J. Ward, donated much of the



Bruce United Methodist Church, Bruce, Florida

materials needed to build the original Bruce Methodist Church. The first church building was blown off its foundation by a tornado in the 1930's. It was repaired and used until 1966 when the current block structure was built by church members and volunteers.

In 1991, Bruce United Methodist was officially recognized by the Alabama-West Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church as a Native American Church. It is one of the two recognized Native American churches within the Alabama-West Florida Conference. The tribe and the church act in unison to meet the needs of this community. The fellowship hall was added in 1993 by church members and volunteers, facilitated by a Native American grant from the Alabama-West Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church.

The church steeple was donated by the Muscogee Nation of Florida in 2006. Approximately 60% of the congregation is Native American (Muscogee) including almost all of the governing tribal council of the Muscogee Nation of Florida who continue to claim their Creek Indian heritage.

The original church history was recorded by a charter member, Mazie Ward Rossell (1903-2001), aunt of Ann Tucker. This history is used here by permission of the Pastor of Bruce UMC, Elaine Barrow.

Events of Historical & Genealogical Interest

Civil War Sesquicentennial Speaker Series

Indian Temple Mound Museum
Lazarus Education Center

139 Miracle Strip Parkway SE, Fort Walton Beach

This free public speaker series is hosted by the Fort Walton Beach Heritage Park & Cultural Center at the Lazarus Education Center. It consists of local historians and archaeologists who will give talks on different Civil War topics.

The February 16th talk will be at 1PM. The speaker will be Dr. Derek Zumbro who will speak on "Civil War Battlefield Photography"

For more information, contact Museum Program Coordinator Mike Thomlin at 850 833-9595

Advance Notice: 35th Annual Saturday in the Park

On **Saturday, April 30, 2011**, the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida will host its 35th Annual Saturday in the Park Festival and Heritage 5K and Kid's Fun Run.

Attracting nearly 4,000 visitors, this popular springtime community festival serves to showcase the Heritage Museum and its efforts to preserve and promote Northwest Florida history.

This year the event will boast more than 100 artisans, craftspeople, antique dealers and food vendors. There



will be historical re-enactments from the Walton Guard and the Shire of Phoenix Glade (Medieval re-enactors).

The Heritage Museum will host exhibits and historical tours, storytelling, old-fashioned games, toys and contests including, bubble gum blowing and watermelon eating.

World War II Honor List Army and Army Air Forces Personnel Listed as Dead or Missing

OKALOOSA COUNTY				
ADAMS FLOYD	34792898	PFC	KIA	
AMIS WILLIAM N JR	0-767062	2 LT	DNB	
APLIN WINTFORD E	34794709	PFC	KIA	
ATWELL WILLIE D	34973006	PVT	KIA	
BAGGETT JAMES E	34795575	PFC	KIA	
BAKER JAMES W	34795258	PVT	KIA	
BREHSTER JOE H	0-558697	1 LT	KIA	
BRUNSON QUINCY A JR	34548215	PVT	KIA	
BRYAN WILLIE D	0-536157	2 LT	KIA	
COTTON JAMES A	34208553	PVT	DNB	
DAVIS ELBORN M	6389040	S SG	KIA	
DIXON FRANK	7006719	S SG	KIA	
GAINEY BRITT	44006205	PVT	KIA	
GARDNER HENRY L	3830344	S SG	DNB	
HELMS JAMES H	34205862	T SG	FOD	
HENDERSON WILLIAM S	34799579	SGT	FOD	
HICKS ROY J	6971540	S SG	KIA	
HINSON AVERETTE A	0-790559	2 LT	DOW	
LAWSON JUSTICE L	34409655	TEC5	KIA	
LUNDY ALLEN	14016109	S SG	KIA	
MELVIN PASCO	34530888	PVT	KIA	
PAULK HOODROW	34200112	PFC	KIA	
PEACOCK FRANK E	34200149	PVT	DNB	
PETERS UPTON S	34583235	PVT	DOW	
PITTS LOUIS H	34796603	PVT	KIA	
REDDICK ALCUS G	34910473	PVT	KIA	
ROBERTS HAROLD D	34407714	SGT	KIA	
ROBERTS HERMAN	34788365	PVT	KIA	
ROBERTSON DAVID L	14005302	S SG	DNB	
STEELE QUINTON O	34971332	PVT	KIA	
THOMPSON JAMES A	14057062	S SG	DNB	
WATKINS WILLIAM A	7-190475	FL O	KIA	
WATKINS WOODRUFF W	14108607	AV C	DNB	
WRIGHT KENNETH K	34537470	PFC	KIA	

KIA (Killed in Action), DOW (Died of Wounds),
DNB (Died, Non-Battle), FOD (Finding of Death of a
Missing Person per PL 490)

<http://arcweb.archives.gov>

What (or Where) is Svea?

Svea is a community in extreme northeast Okaloosa County. It is between Laurel Hill and the Harrison Curve Community. Most of the community straddles state highway 85 and the name is pronounced "Sweer" by locals.



Svea was a very active logging area in the early 1900s. This photo of a derailed logging engine was taken in the

Svea area about 1915 and is in the Florida Historic Photographic Collection.

Letter to the Editor: Early Years of Crestview

Regarding the **Early Years of Crestview** [The January 2011 GSOC Newsletter, page 6], in the first paragraph, actually the Pensacola and Atlantic Railroad existed independent of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad and it was only sometime after 1881 that the L&N bought it, renaming it the P. and A. Division of the L & N Railroad. The railroad, upon completion of the line, received the lands pursuant to the 1850 Railroad Act of the Florida Legislature.

Down in the 3rd paragraph "**Pacific** and Atlantic rail lines" should be "**Pensacola** and Atlantic" as correct in the first paragraph.

In the second column, it was the **Okaloosa News** which began publishing in 1915 and didn't change its name to **Okaloosa News-Journal** until after March 15, 1918. Interestingly, in 1952, it was absorbed by the **West Florida Daily Globe**; changed its name again, on March 12, 1954 to **Crestview Globe**, and back to **Okaloosa News-Journal** on March 19, 1954. I don't know when they dropped the hyphen!

-- Dean

Dean DeBolt, University Librarian
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YOUR FAMILY HEALTH HISTORY MAY SAVE THE LIFE OF YOUR CHILD OR GRANDCHILD

**Your family health history is your gift to
the future.**

Many health problems tend to run in families. Knowing your family's health history can be life-saving and fun too. Living relatives are not only the best source of family health history, they are also the ones who will benefit the most from it. We're already looking at various records for family history. Why not collect our family health history as well? It may save the life of a child or grandchild or great grandchild.

Some folks may be reluctant to talk about this topic. A good way to ease into it would be to start with this first question.

1. What are things that tend to run in our family? This could include physical characteristics such as eye color, hair color, baldness, height, weight, or complexion. It could also include personality traits such as cheerfulness (or lack of), love of reading, love of poetry. What were/are our favorite family foods and who was/is the best cook of those foods and who was/is the most eager eater of those foods?

Then we might move on to more specific health issues.

2. Did any of our family members have allergies? Many people used to have "hay fever". Some were allergic to various foods or medications.

2. Did any of our family members have chronic health problems? This could include conditions such as cancer, heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, etc. If any had cancer, it would be helpful to know what type of cancer they had.

3. At what age did our family members health problems begin? It would be helpful, for example, to learn if a relative's diabetes was from childhood or developed later in their adult life. Did a cancer develop as a young adult or later in life as a senior adult?

4. How old were our family members when they died? This information is probably already known as a result of your family research. However, when combined with any chronic health problems or known reason for their death, this can be a useful indicator.

5. What was the reason for their death? Note if the cause of death was unknown.

6. Were there any pregnancy issues or babies born with birth defects?

7. Were any of our family members smokers or users of chewing tobacco or snuff? Use of tobacco was very common until not too long ago. Women sometimes used snuff. If any were smokers or were using other tobacco products, can we find out how much they used and for how long? Maybe someone remembers that Papaw used to chew tobacco almost constantly or that Grandma dipped snuff since she was a young woman.

8. Did any of our family members have addictive lifestyles? This is a sensitive area but it could be important to know. Were any of them alcoholics or users of drugs? When did this begin and how severe was it?

9. What other lifestyle habits did our family members have? For many of our ancestors, regular hard work was the normal thing. There was no need for "exercise" since their daily life and struggle to put food on the table and to keep a roof over their heads took care of that. Still, some were overweight or excessively thin and these should be noted.

(Family Health History, continued)
Other Sources of Information

Death Records

Death records usually mention the cause and date of death, making them second only to living family members for family health information. These records were originally kept for public health purposes—to alert officials of diseases or trends of concern, especially in cities and populated areas.

City or county officials typically record the death information and forward copies to the state. As a result, there are often both a county and a state copy. There may be differences in the two sets, where photocopies and computers were not used.

The cause of death listed on old death certificates may often contain terms that aren't familiar to us now. A good source for helping us understand them can be found in *Rudy's List of Archaic Medical Terms* at <http://www.antiquismorbus.com/English/EnglishW.htm>

Pott's Disease	Patent Foramen Ovale
Shaking Paralysis	Decubitus Gangrenous
Placenta Previa	Sugar Diabetes
Adiposis	Asthma Thymicum
Carcinoma Ventriculi	Winter Cholera
Quick Consumption	Fatty Degeneration
Irreducible Hernia	Icterus Gravis
Malacia	Rhachitis
Turn of Life	Typhlitis
Worm Fits	Gelseminia
Creeping Paralysis	Black Leg
Dry Gangrene	Blue Baby

Examples of Archaic Medical Terms

Funeral Home Records

Funeral homes are a good source of family health history. Their records often go back to around 1900, even when ownership has changed. In many states, new owners were required by law to keep the old records.

Funeral homes often assisted in recording the death certificate and obituary. Therefore, these records may have even more detail about the cause of death. Funeral programs may name relatives who participated and whose health information may also be important to your family.

Obituaries

In the late 1800s, newspapers began to publish obituaries on a regular basis. Even today, it is one of the most popular sections. The cause of death was often included in earlier years, but may be masked or omitted altogether now.

Censuses

Health clues can be found in the U.S. censuses. Beginning in 1850, censuses started giving information

about every person in each household. Each census has health clues to notice, such as the age of the mother (children born to older women may have health issues), a parent or child may have died (death was more common than divorce until recently. Young deaths were often due to accidents, health issues, or genetics.)

The occupation of an ancestor could affect health. For example, a hatter worked with chemicals that affected the brain, thus the term "mad hatter."

Health clues from specific censuses include:

1850-1880 Mortality Schedules give the date and cause of death.

1850-1880, and 1910 indicate if a person was blind, deaf, or mute.

1900-1930 censuses included relationships such as "patient" and "inmate" to find residents of hospitals, orphanages, and other institutions.

Other Resources

Family items such as journals, religious records—even old prescription bottles—have clues to your family health history. Other records include hospitals, medical professionals, pensions, schools, passports, insurance forms, immigration, old newspaper articles (accidents or local health concerns), military, and occupational records.

FAMILY HEALTH HISTORY WORKSHEET

Name: SARAH FRANCES RICHARDS YOUNG Date Born: 12 Feb 1883

Relationship to Me: PATERNAL GRANDMOTHER

Place Born: ELREY, MS (CALHOUN) Adult Height: Abt 65 inches

Adult Weight: Slim/Thin Medium/Average Heavy Very Heavy

Hair Color: Brown Eye Color: Brown

Personality Traits: Calm, quiet, shy

Main Occupation: housewife

Allergies: unknown

Were there any pregnancy issues or babies born with birth defects? 3 stillborn (Jun 1905, Feb 1907, Oct 1910) followed by living sons in Sept 1914 and Oct 1918)

Chronic Health Issue(s) and Age They/It Began: Cancer diagnosed at age 58

Used Tobacco? What kind? How Much? used snuff frequently

Other Major Illnesses: unknown

Date Died: 18 April 1943 Age at Death: 60

Cause of Death: Cancer in the right maxillary sinus

Worksheet Completed by: Jim Young August 2005

Sample of a Family Health History Worksheet

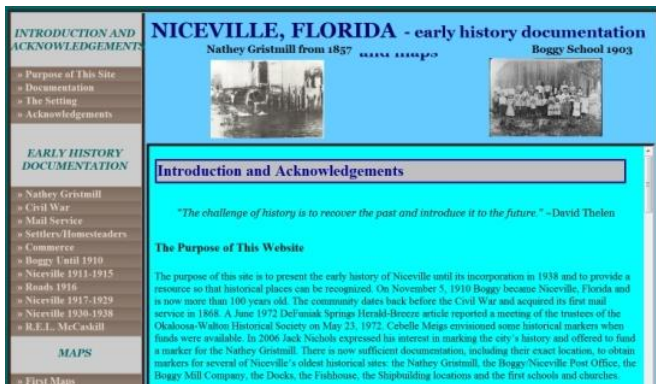
FEATURED WEBSITE

EARLY HISTORY OF NICEVILLE

<http://boggyflorida.com/Niceville/>

Reviewed by Jim Young

This outstanding web site was researched and compiled by Elisa Mitchiner (rbst2u@yahoo.com) for Niceville's 100th anniversary and was placed online in November 2010 for use in documenting local history through 1938.



This is a screen capture of part of the main page of the site (<http://boggyflorida.com/Niceville/>).

The contents of the site, as listed on the left side of the main page, include:

Introduction and Acknowledgments

- Purpose of This Site
- Documentation
- The Setting
- Acknowledgments

Early History Documentation

- Nathey Gristmill
- Civil War
- Mail Service
- Settlers/Homesteaders
- Commerce
- Boggy Until 1910
- Niceville 1911-1915
- Roads 1916
- Niceville 1917-1929
- Niceville 1930-1938
- R.E.L. McCaskill

Maps

- First Maps
- Walton County Maps
- Okaloosa County Maps

Ms. Mitchiner has done a superb job in researching and creating this web site. She has gleaned this information from a wide variety of sources which she references throughout the site.

She traces Niceville's roots in the various counties which have contained it. Boggy Bayou was originally in Escambia County when the Florida Territory had only two counties; it became part of Walton County when that county was established in 1824. Boggy became Niceville, and Niceville was part of Walton County for five years until Okaloosa County was formed in 1915.

Choctawhatchee Bay had originally been called Santa Rosa Bay and was sometimes called by both names. The name of the creek at the head of Boggy Bayou was known as Boggy Creek then Juniper Creek and is now known as Turkey Creek.

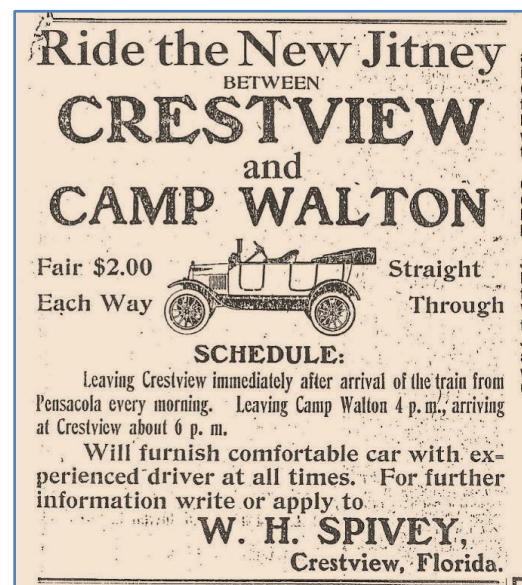
This website is well illustrated with photographs and contains links to historic maps of the area.

Although the main thrust of the site is Niceville,

Gulf View Hotel
Camp Walton, Florida
Electric Lights and Steam
Heated – Hot and Cold Baths
\$2.00 Per Day -- \$10.00 Per Week
Theo Staff, Manager

there is a very significant amount of material that is of use and interest to those

researching the history of other parts this area and the families who lived here. She includes, for example, these and other advertisements relating to Camp Walton.



I highly recommend this website and congratulate the author/webmaster for her fine work.

CENTER FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

The Center for Lifelong Learning (CLL)(website is at <http://cll-fwf.org/>) provides interesting educational activities for persons who believe that learning never ends. The two annual semesters begin mid-month in January and September. The CLL courses include a wide spectrum of topics; and during the January semester, when many visiting Snowbirds enroll, the number of courses offered may reach 75 or higher.

All courses are taught by volunteers who have expertise in certain areas as a result of career experience or a lifelong hobby. For a fee of \$40, students may take up to four classes; each additional class beyond four costs \$10 each.

Registration for the current semester has now closed. However, the GSOC would like to acknowledge the contributions of two GSOC members to the excellent CLL teaching staff.

Beverly Gross has been doing family research for over 42 years, taking courses and researching in many states as well as in France. She is the Previous Past President of the GSOC. Beverly is teaching "Beginning Genealogy". The course includes tips on how to get started; research forms; name knowledge; the importance of time lines and history; census study; utilizing available resources; and preserving your genealogical materials.

Margaret M. Harris shares her love for Family History by relating this subject to technology, sound research strategies, and bridging the gap between generations. She is a former two-time president of the GSOC and is the GSOC Genealogist.

For the current session, Margaret will be teaching "Genealogy - It's All Relative", which includes tips on finding your family on the Internet, and much more.

2011 Membership Dues

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

Checks should be made out to GSOC and mailed along with the application form (available on the GSOC web site) to the GSOC post office address or brought to a meeting.

GSOC INFORMATION

Officers

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

Addresses

Web Site: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~flocgs>
Email: gsocokaloosa@yahoo.com
Newsletter Editor: youngjmy@cox.net
P.O. Box 1175, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-1175

Meetings and Membership

Regular meetings of the GSOC are held at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, 115 Westview Avenue, Valparaiso, FL, at 10 AM on the second Saturday of each month. There is no admission charge and all are welcome. The meetings are usually followed by an optional Dutch treat lunch at a nearby restaurant.

The Journal

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

The Newsletter

The GSOC Newsletter is published on 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 printed.

The Web Site

The GSOC web site is hosted by Rootswab at <http://www.rootswab.com/~flocgs>. It is updated frequently and provides information about future programs as well as information about Okaloosa County and the GSOC itself.



Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County
Next meeting: Saturday, February 12, 2011

Location: Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida
115 Westview Avenue, Valparaiso, FL
Time: 10:00 AM

**Genealogical Society of
Okaloosa County (GSOC)**
P.O. Box 1175
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