

THE GSOC NEWSLETTER

The Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County, Florida

February 3, 2012

GSOC Calendar Happy Birthday to Us!

February is our birthday month!
The GSOC was organized in February 1976 and we are having our 36th birthday this month. Be sure to come to our February 11th meeting and help us celebrate with cake and coffee. All Life members are especially invited to be with us.



February 11, 2012

Our February meeting will be held on February 11th at the Heritage Museum with an officers' meeting at 9 AM and the general meeting at 10 AM. In addition to the GSOC birthday celebration described above, there will be an interesting program about the history of Destin which will be presented by H. C. "Hank" Klein, genealogical researcher and author. Mr. Klein has been working on several books to record and preserve the history of his and his wife's families.



According to a recent review, his attention to detail is incredible! An optional Dutch treat lunch at a nearby restaurant will follow the meeting.

March 10, 2012

On March 10th, we will meet at the **Valparaiso Community Library**, 459 Valparaiso Parkway. Mr. David Weatherford, the Library Director, will provide a tour of the library's genealogy materials and provide the program. The gathering will begin at 10 AM.



Please remember to renew your GSOC membership for 2012!

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General Meeting Minutes January 14, 2012

The president, Donna Elliott, opened the meeting at 10:00 AM in the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida. There were 19 members and two guests in attendance. Donna thanked Phil and Martha Trau for arranging the GSOC Christmas party and providing the music. Donna also thanked all the members who contributed food to Sharing and Caring at the December meeting. GSOC members donated \$146.00 worth of food. Martha suggested that a "thank you" letter be sent to the Coach and Four in Crestview since they are not open for lunch and are available for our Christmas Party only as a special favor to us. Jim Young, corresponding secretary, said that he would send the letter on behalf of the society.

Margaret Harris announced she would be teaching her class on Family History through the lifelong learning program. Beverly Gross also announced she would be teaching two classes 1. Beginning Genealogy and 2. Identifying family pictures through Prime Time.

Information was provided regarding genealogy conferences and seminars coming up in the next couple of months. Donna asked members to check the back table for genealogy events in the area. Several brochures were placed there for members to consider.

The blue box was passed around for library donations. These donations help buy genealogy books for three libraries of Okaloosa County – Crestview, Valparaiso, and Ft. Walton Beach.

Ken Elliott announced the following program schedule for 2012. January was Margaret Harris providing a presentation on using the various internet sites to assist in collect your family history. February is GSOC birthday month and members should bring items that have family or personal history (Please contact Ken Elliott if you plan to bring an

item). March will be a visit to the Valparaiso Library Genealogy section and a presentation by the Librarian David Weatherford. Future programs are still in planning but will include a visit to the Baker Block Museum and their genealogy section. Ken asked if anyone had a suggestion for programs to please let him know.

Bob Basch, Treasurer was not present; however, Donna Elliott reported a balance of \$1,831.88. A question was asked about how GSOC uses their funds. Donna said a complete report can be given by Bob Basch but most of the funds were used for publishing and mailing the yearly journal. Some money is used for guest speakers. If the speakers do not request any money GSOC usually pays for their lunch and any mileage.

Donna Elliott said that the previous minutes are no longer read at the meeting but posted on line. Since the minutes are posted it is assumed all members will have read the previous minutes (Please note a few minutes are sent by mail for those who do not have access to a computer). The prior month's minutes are approved at the next meeting by a motion from the floor. Since there were no previous minutes last month there was no approval.

Jim Young, GSOC web master asked for any information or family stories for the GSOC web site. Please email all articles/pictures/comments to Jim.

Beverly Gross stated that the next edition of the Journal would focus on World War II and requested articles or stories from Okaloosa County in the World War II timeframe.

Donna Elliott asked for volunteers to setup and assist with serving cake and coffee at the February GSOC 36th (1976-2012) Birthday celebration. Tom & Robin Stiles said that they would help with this.

Phil Trau said that he was available to help anyone needing computer support for their genealogy research and provided his phone number for contact.

The general meeting closed and Ken Elliott introduced the guest speaker Margret Harris. Following the presentation 14 members went to lunch at the La Rumbas restaurant in Niceville, Florida.

Respectfully submitted by Acting Recording Secretary Mike Martell

[Editor's note: Since the January meeting occurred, the program for the February meeting has changed. See page 1.]

GSOC Theme for 2012
Pass It On!



Civil War Sesquicentennial

Selected Highlights of February 1862

<http://blueandgraytrail.com>

February 10 Navy Secretary Gideon Welles forms an organization to review inventions and technical developments. The group eventually became today's National Academy of Science

February 16 Battle of Ft. Donelson. General Ulysses S. Grant demands the unconditional surrender of the garrison from an old friend, Simon Bolivar Buckner

February 18 The first Confederate Congress meets in Richmond, Virginia. Prior to this time, legislative duties had been carried out by secessionist convention

February 18 West Virginia Constitutional Convention adopts the first constitution of the state of West Virginia

February 20 William Wallace "Willie" Lincoln dies. The 11-year-old son of U. S. President Abraham Lincoln probably had typhoid fever. (See below)

February 22 Jefferson Davis is inaugurated as the first (and only) President of the Confederate States of America. Alexander Stephens is inaugurated Vice President.

February 25 "Bull" Nelson enters Nashville, Tennessee, first Confederate state capital to fall into Union hands.

William Wallace "Willie" Lincoln (December 21, 1850 – February 20, 1862) was the third son of Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln. Willie became ill in early 1862, and his condition fluctuated from day to day. The most likely cause of the illness was typhoid fever, contracted from drinking contaminated water. Gradually Willie weakened,



and both parents spent much time at his bedside. Finally, on Thursday, February 20, 1862, at 5:00 p.m., Willie died. Both parents were deeply affected. Willie's younger brother, Tad, cried for nearly a month because he and Willie were very close brothers. Lincoln generated no official correspondence for four days.

Mary was so distraught that Lincoln feared for her sanity. Tad was sick with the same illness at the same time, though he survived. Willie was buried in Oak Hill Cemetery in Georgetown. After his father's assassination in 1865, Willie's casket was exhumed and he was moved to a temporary tomb. He was reinterred at Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, Illinois, in 1871 alongside the remains of his father, mother and his brothers, Tad and Eddie.

Wikipedia

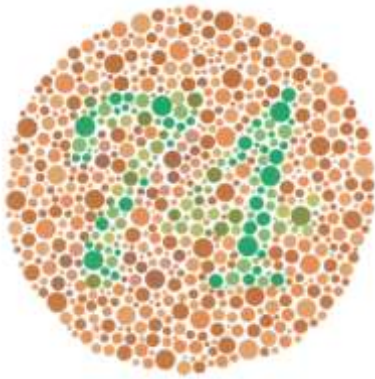
Color Blindness and Genealogy

One of the causes of color blindness is genetics. Color blindness can be inherited and inherited color blindness can be congenital (from birth), or it can begin in childhood or adulthood. Depending on the mutation, it can remain the same throughout a person's lifetime or it can be progressive.

Red-green deficiency is the most common type of color blindness, followed by blue-yellow.

Approximately one in 12 males of Northern European descent is born with some degree of red-green color deficiency. Most females possess genes that counteract the deficiency, so less than one percent of females of Northern European descent have this type of color deficiency. In other populations, the prevalence of red-green color deficiency is lower. Blue-yellow color deficiency is inherited by fewer than one in 10,000 people worldwide.

Color blindness occurs when there is a problem with the color-sensing pigments in certain nerve cells (cones), within the eye. The cones are found in the light-sensitive layer of tissue that lines the back of the eye. Even if just one pigment is missing, you may have trouble telling the difference between certain colors or shades. Symptoms



include not only an inability to identify colors, but also trouble seeing the difference between shades and brightness.

Example of an Ishihara color test plate. The numeral "74" should be clearly visible to viewers with normal color vision.

Color blindness affects a significant number of people, although exact proportions vary among groups. In Australia, for example, it occurs in about 8 percent of males and only about 0.4 percent of females. Isolated communities with a restricted gene pool sometimes produce high proportions of color blindness, including the less usual types. Examples include rural Finland, Hungary, and some of the Scottish islands. In the United States, about 7 percent of the male population – or about 10.5 million men – and 0.4 percent of the female population either cannot distinguish red from green, or see red and green differently from how others do. It has been found that more than 95 percent of all variations in human color vision involve the red and green receptors in male eyes. It is very rare for males or females to be "blind" to the blue end of the spectrum.

Other causes of color blindness include disease, medications, chemicals, and aging.

Although there is no direct treatment for color blindness, specially designed glasses and contact lenses can often help. Many people, especially those with mild color blindness, are able to adjust without much difficulty.

Sources: NIH, Mayo Clinic, and Wikipedia

What is a Leapling?

February 29, is known as a **leap day** in our calendar. Years, such as 2012, containing a leap day are called leap years. A person who is born on February 29 may be called a "**leapling**" or a "leap year baby". In non-leap years, they typically celebrate their birthday on either February 28 or March 1.

For legal purposes, their legal birthdays depend on how different laws count time intervals. In England and Wales, the legal birthday of a leapling is February 28 in common years. In this case, a person born on February 29, 1996 will have legally reached 18 years old on February 28, 2014.

Wikipedia

Looking Back @ Niceville's History

Join the Friends of the Niceville Library as they host "Looking Back @ Niceville's History." Guest speaker will be Elisa Mitchiner who researched and compiled information for the Niceville, Florida Online History Center at <http://boggyflorida.com/Niceville>

This FREE program will be held at the Niceville Community Center, 204 Partin Drive N., adjacent to the Library on **Tuesday, February 21, 2012 at 6:30 pm**. For more information or to reserve your spot call the library at 279-4863 ext 1504.

Destin History and Fishing Museum Annual General Membership Meeting

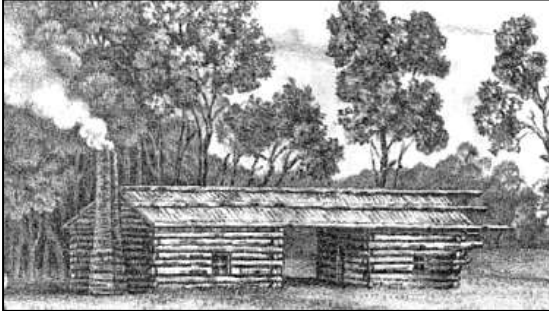
All museum members are invited to the Annual General Membership Meeting on **Wednesday, February 8th at 6:00 P.M. at the Museum, 108 Stahlman Ave., Destin**, for an evening of information. The Museum's Director, Jean Melvin, will present a brief history of Destin, and Museum President Mike Long will announce projected developments in the Museum's future. This is Membership renewal time so this is a great opportunity to renew and also see the new exhibits including the "Footprints in the Sand" paver garden.

If you are interested in becoming a member come by the Museum any time Tuesday to Saturday from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., call 850-837-6611 or email Kathy Blue at kathydestinhistory@gmail.com for a membership application. Memberships Available: \$20 Individual, \$50 Family, \$100 Club or Charter Boat. Other Membership & Donor Levels are available. Pledge your support today.

The Dogtrot House

The **dogtrot**, also known as a **breezeway house**, **dog-run**, or **possum-trot**, is a style of house that became common throughout the Southeastern United States during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Most theories place its origins in the southern Appalachian Mountains. Some scholars believe the style developed in the post-Revolution frontiers of Kentucky and Tennessee. Others note its presence as far east as the Piedmont of the Carolinas from an early period.

In rural early America, especially in the southeastern states and territories, a common early domestic building



style was a single room log house, or "pen" as it is called by most modern architects. Usually, the attic of this single room house served as a sleeping loft while the downstairs floor formed a living room. However, as the family grew, a second house usually became necessary. This second house was built next to the first home and this created a double-pen style house. The two buildings were usually then joined together by a common roof and a connecting wooden floor between the facing houses. The space created between the two buildings became known as a "dogtrot." Typically one cabin was used for cooking and dining while the other was used as a private living space, such as a bedroom. The drawing above is from the Owens thesis discussed on the next page.

The advantage of the dogtrot and the two-pen configuration eventually made the dogtrot house the preferred basic building style. The primary characteristics of a dogtrot house is that it is typically one or one and a half stories and has at least two rooms that each flank an open-ended central hall. Additional rooms usually take the form of a semidetached ell or shed rooms, flanking the hall to the front or rear. The breezeway through the center of the house is a unique feature, with rooms of the house opening into the breezeway. The breezeway provided a cooler covered area for sitting. The combination of the breezeway and open windows in the rooms of the house created air currents which pulled cooler outside air into the living quarters efficiently in the pre-air conditioning era. Chimneys were almost always located at each gable end of the house, with each serving one of the two main rooms.

An example of the dogtrot house is located on the grounds of the Baker Block Museum. This century-old "dogtrot" style log cabin has been moved to the museum's park. It was donated by Mrs. Lillian Van Houten, a Niceville resident. "I'm so happy that it's not going to be torn

down," explained Vivian Van Houten. "My mother was born in the cabin in 1912, and when I found out about the museum, I thought, 'that's where mama's cabin need to go.' " While the exact date of construction is unknown, land records indicate the property where the cabin stood



Dogtrot log cabin at the Baker Block Museum Heritage Park
(Photo by Jim Young)

was awarded to James W. Kennedy who sold the cabin and surrounding property in 1906 to James A Elliott, an ancestor of Van Houten's. The land was at that time located in Santa Rosa County. Today the original site is in the northern edge of Okaloosa County on Charles Booker Road. [Quoted from article by Ann Spann in the Crestview News Bulletin.] The house was constructed of hand-hewn pine logs joined with dove-tail notches. The house has covered porches on both the front and back.

Dogtrot houses continued to be built well into the 20th century. Most of the surviving ones have been modified by having the dogtrot screened in; and, in most cases, by having the dogtrot totally enclosed leaving a central hallway in the house or creating more interior rooms.

The Louisiana Studies in Historic Preservation include a concise definition and description of a dogtrot cabin:

Definition: Cabin consisting of two single pens flanking a central passageway open at both ends, all beneath a common roof. A full length front porch is typical, and rear shed roof rooms may be present.

Distribution: Widely built throughout the southeastern states. Today few survive because many were changed into more modern floor plans

Importance: The dogtrot house dominated upland south domestic architecture well into the twentieth century.

Theories of Origin: Way to deal with hot, humid summers of the middle and lower South: accelerated air flowing through passage served as primitive form of air conditioning; frontiersman's attempt to build a formal, symmetrical, Georgian, central hall house; once a single pen had been constructed, additional log rooms could not be attached; hence they were separated by a passageway

Characteristics: One story in height; two story examples extremely unusual, outside chimneys placed at one or both gable ends, size ranges from 16 by 40 feet to 16 by 45 feet; dogtrot (the open passageway) is usually half the width of a single pen, or approximately eight feet wide; one door in each room opened onto the dogtrot; a second door in each room, if present, opened onto the front gallery; could be built of cut lumber as well as logs,

especially during later part of historic period; floor laid anywhere from one to three feet above the ground; ceilings more likely to be present in these houses; windows often lacked glass, instead, shutters closed over the window openings; interior very dark because windows were small and wooden walls absorbed light. Furnishings generally crude homemade beds, tables, benches, and perhaps a chair or two. Pegs for hanging things usually abounded. Usually crowded; several people living in the two rooms. However, crowding was the norm for the era and people apparently did not feel greatly inconvenienced by it

Sources: Owens Thesis, Wikipedia, Baker Block Museum website, and <http://www.crt.state.la.us/hp/LAHERITAGE>

Recommended Reading

THE DOGTROT HOUSE TYPE IN GEORGIA: A HISTORY AND EVOLUTION **BY SHELDON BEN OWENS**

A Thesis Submitted to the Graduate Faculty of The University of Georgia in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree, Master of Historic Preservation, Athens, Georgia, 2009.

Abstract: *The dogtrot house type is one of the more romanticized vernacular house types in Georgia, yet at the same time one of the least represented in recognized material form. Once one of the most important house types in Georgia, the dogtrot's reputation for adaptability earned it high status among the pioneer cultures that populated the inland forests of Georgia, as well as the rest of the eastern United States. This thesis analyzes the dogtrot's history from its first diffusion into early Georgia up to its nostalgic picturesque reputation of the present. Finally, this thesis attempts to call attention to the dogtrot as one of Georgia's most elusive and endangered vernacular forms.*

Mr. Owens' excellent thesis concentrates on the history of the dogtrot house and how it was used in Georgia; however it is also a detailed and interesting story of this type of building which helps explain the widespread popularity of this house type in the entire southeastern United States.

According to Mr. Owens, "The dogtrot house type is one of the most romanticized American vernacular house types of popular early twentieth century literature within southern rural settings. Writers, painters, and photographers conjured the images of a hound dog padding through an open breezeway in what was the 'good ole' country life. William Faulkner used the image of a dogtrot house as a symbol of the south's poor social stratum in several of his works: *Absalom! Absalom!*, *Go Down Moses*, *Spotted Horses*, *The Mansion*, *The Reivers*, and *As I Lay Dying*. A contemporary of Faulkner, Eudora Welty, often captured the dogtrot house when working as a photographer with

the Farm Security Administration in the 1930's, as did others such as Dorothea Lange, Arthur Rothstein, and Russell Lee. Later, in *Losing Battles*, Welty tied the dogtrot home of character Granny Renfro to days long past. The dogtrot has also been the subject for many southern folk artists for decades now. Theora Hamblett was inspired to paint the dogtrot that had been her childhood home, "and focuses our eye through its central hall with two rooms on either side to the seed house beyond." The fact of the matter is that the passage or breezeway, now popularly referred to as the dogtrot in the particular house type, was strictly utilitarian in design. Furthermore, the people who constructed and lived in what is now known as the dogtrot cabin or house would not have recognized that name, because that was not the common nomenclature for the house type in its early years."

Mr. Owens notes that "It was very common for a dogtrot's owner to make additions to the house by way of constructing a room to the rear of one, creating an L shaped floor plan, or both of the original pens. There are also instances of a dogtrot's owner inclosing the two portions of the front porch in order to extend the two pens outward while leaving the passage open. In some cases, a dogtrot's owner would create more living space by way of a vertical addition: converting what was a one or one and a half story building into a full two story dogtrot. Another common practice to vernacular house types of the humid southeast was to build a separate kitchen to the back of the dogtrot sometimes connecting the two structures with a covered walkway. Eventually, builders of the dogtrot house erected the building two pens deep, creating a four room plan. There is some contention about whether the four room plan still constitutes the 'true' dogtrot house type, but as long as the plan is symmetrical and does not deviate in too many other ways, I am prone to still label such houses as dogtrots."

Reviewed by Jim Young



Frame-built dogtrot house with enclosed dogtrot, TV, and satellite dish (Photo from Owens Thesis)

Mr. Owens' thesis can be read on line or down-loaded to your computer at the following web site:

http://athenaeum.libs.uga.edu/bitstream/handle/10724/11519/owens_sheldon_b_200908_mhp.pdf?sequence=1

Winter Evening

by Monette Morgan Young
1915 - 2000

Sometimes a mental fragment of my old community, or the memory of an interior part of some old home, intrudes upon my memory creating an image as plain as that on my TV screen. Perhaps the favorite image, and the one often flashing upon my memory screen, is that of our bed-sitting room in the winter time.

Our house was the usual rectangular shape. It had a dogtrot, but our dogtrot was screened in. There was a little space that Daddy did not screen at the back which made a small, open back porch. We latched those doors tightly at night. I would have been so uncomfortable in a house with that open dogtrot. Anything!!! could have trotted through, any kind of animal. (No one had to be concerned about people breaking in. No bodily harm would come to anyone from his neighbor far or near, or rarely, and only then in a forward development.)

The drawing in the next column represents our house as I remember it. I made several sketches from memory and provided those and as much description as I could think of to my son who made the drawing. I haven't been able to find any photographs of it anywhere, so this is about the best I can do. The nearest chimney and the windows on either side of it are the bed-sitting room where my parents slept and where we stayed most of the time. The two small windows further back are for the dining area and kitchen. The door in the center of the porch is the screen door to the hall and the window to its right is to the front room on the other side. That room was used for company. I slept in the hall during the summer and in my parent's room during the winter.

Our house was of lumber which had not been planed. The wood had weathered brown. Its siding was of vertical planks about two feet wide and where they joined together a narrower strip had been nailed over the seam. But it was a neater looking house than most around. We had a wire fence around the front yard and Mother kept a yard full of flowers. They could be seen even from the road in blooming season.

All the houses were set up on big wooden blocks, made as level as possible but occasionally there were slanted and tilting floors. Ours were very level. If there was a front yard



fence to keep out livestock, which often got out or were turned out to forage, the chickens would still come under the houses and decimate the flowers. Daddy had gotten back under our house where the porch joined and had made a wooden wall to keep our chickens from coming under the house into the front yard. The chickens could still get under the back part of the house, though, and they stayed under there a lot to get out of the heat or the rain. Mother and I may have sewed or pieced quilts or I may have made doll clothes all afternoon. Around 4:00 p.m. all that we were working on was put away and preparations were made for the night. Of course if it was a week day I would have only just come in from school, for we had morning and afternoon recess and didn't get out as early as schools do now.

But, anyway, the day's activities ceased at 4:00 p.m. Daddy would be bringing in the wood needed for the night and early morning wood to our small back porch. As I grew older, I did that job after I was strong enough to lift the large, heavy sticks. And we would hear him begin to chop the 'kindling' which were the pieces of very rich pine he would have found in an old pine stump, and they would be heavy with flammable resin. Pine kindling would get a fire going in the stove or in the fireplace very quickly. He always had a large pile of kindling wood near the fire wood stack. But he chopped some into small pieces each afternoon. The stove wood box in the kitchen was a wooden box which was the length of a stick of stove wood and was not wide or deep. Daddy had nailed strong upright strips in front so the box could be filled to a depth of about two feet without any spilling out on the floor. I was the stove wood bringer-inner.

When that was done and usually before Mother went to the cow barn for the evening milking, she started a

fire in the small wood stove, to warm up the supper vegetables. Or she may have put the big Dutch oven on the hearth coals.

I picked up carefully and cleaned and swept the bed-sitting room and then I fixed our beds for the night. Mother was a fanatic against smells. She did not pull the covers back up on the beds in the daytime and put a bed spread over that. Our bedding had to be folded during the day. On cold sunny days, preferably windy, about every two weeks, our covers, quilts, blankets, etc. were hung out to air well. To wash a quilt by hand in those days was a terrible ordeal. So Mother made long "blankets" of outing flannel and they would come out much longer than the quilts at the head of the bed and these blankets would be what our faces would touch and not the quilts which were so hard to wash and handle when they were wet. Some people with several grown daughters to help handle them could wash them without too much trouble.

I would get the beds fixed and then I would build up the fire which we would have let get low as the winter sun had warmed the room beaming in from the west. The stove heat and the increased fireplace heat would make those three rooms a cozy haven. I would pull up Mother's chair, a straight cane-bottomed one, a ladder back. I wondered how she managed to sit in that for hours at a time. I would get my little rocker positioned and Daddy's chair, the one in my living room now [Editor's note: It is in my living room now, about 130 years old.] and often some mail, a magazine or a paper might have come that Daddy would enjoy reading after supper.

Those almost bone-white floors, oak, narrow planking, would catch the glow of that great warm fire. I would have swept the hearth with the straw broom. Our pleasant evening was about to begin. Mother would come in with the milk and strain it and put it in its place and get busy with the supper preparation and have it all on the table as Daddy came in from feeding the hogs and horses. The kerosene lamp would have been lit and set at the back of the table. But while I had been clearing the room for our pleasant winter evening the winter sunset would have been spectacular from the small windows.

Extracted from *The Cherry Hill - Poplar Springs - Reid Community in Calhoun County, Mississippi* and used with permission.

Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County Charter Members

Florence Eulalia Weston Adams

Geraldine Black

Hughlene August Cole

Stella Fisher

Wiley Benjamin Hill, Jr.

Sharon Jasper

Eileen O. McCall

Ruth Usrey

Arthur Wagner



**L-R: Wiley Benjamin Hill, Jr., Florence Eulalia Adams,
Geraldine Black, unidentified, Ruth Usrey,
Arthur Wagoner, and Hughlene Cole**
(Photo courtesy of Margaret Harris)



GSOC Officers in 1993
**L-R: Fran Roberts, Carolyn Walters, Bernice Twitty, and
Florence Lembeck (President)**
Not pictured: Mary Jane Howard
(Photo courtesy of Margaret Harris)

Message from our president

Welcome to another year with the Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County!

After serving as your Vice President for Programs for the past two years, I am excited to be able to continue the friendships made and take on whatever challenges that might be in our future.

In keeping with the by-laws established 36 years ago, I will work diligently to fulfill the purpose for our being:

- 1. To bring together those people interested in genealogy and family history.*
- 2. To provide an educational interchange of information and ideas relative to genealogy and family history.*
- 3. To establish a library of information, journals, handbooks and other publications relative to genealogy, family history, genealogical research techniques, organization of data, and other pertinent information.*
- 4. To provide instruction in the various phases of genealogical research and compilation of data and histories.*
- 5. To gather genealogical information from area courthouses, cemeteries, churches, etc.*
- 6. To disseminate information through meetings, a newsletter and a journal both to be published on a regular basis as determined by the editor and the Board of Directors.*
- 7. The Society will cooperate with other Genealogical Societies.*

This is your genealogical society. I welcome any and all suggestions as to how we can continue the legacy with which we have been entrusted. And, I sincerely appreciate the efforts of all the current and past officers and members who continually step forward to keep it going.

In 2012, I would like for us to work together to increase our membership and share our genealogy skills and resources. To accomplish this – (1) Be a Friend, Bring a Friend and (2) Whatever you know, whatever you learn – Pass it On!

Warmest Regards,
Donna Elliott, President

Beverly Gross, Editor ***A Journal of Northwest Florida***

The GSOC Journal, published annually, provides a means to help the Society accomplish its purpose. Volunteers conduct research in northwest Florida and



south Alabama for information to be published in the Journal with emphasis on material of limited availability. The Journal is edited by Beverly Gross.

Beverly Vee Phillips Gross was born during World War II in Ancon, Panama Canal Zone. Her father, James Lewis Phillips (1915-1990) worked for the Fire Department and her mother, Vera Elma Calhoun Phillips (1918-1992) was a substitute teacher. James Phillips had moved to the Canal Zone in 1939 because his maternal uncle Zed McCartney had found a job for him there. Zed had first come to the Canal Zone when the Panama Canal was being constructed.

Vera and James had known each other in school in Ohatchee, AL. They became engaged during a courtship by letter and were married when James was on leave in Alabama in 1941. Vera and James returned to the Canal Zone and Beverly and her brother George were born there and enjoyed growing up in the warm tropics.

Beverly met Henry Bernard Gross, Jr., when they were attending the University of Montevallo in Alabama. They spent part of their honeymoon in Destin, FL, and enjoyed vacationing there in later years. Henry, a CPA, joined the Air Force Audit Agency and he and Beverly moved around as his promotions and new assignments occurred. During these, Beverly taught school and was active in church activities.

Henry's last assignment before his retirement was at Eglin AFB, and he and Beverly decided to stay in this area. She no longer worked "for money" but became active in church and community activities.

Among her many activities have been her active participation in church projects and genealogical pursuits. She was the Co-Chair of the Okaloosa County Heritage Book, Volume I, committee; she's a past president of the GSOC; and is currently teaching genealogy classes at Northwest Florida State College.

*Some information extracted from
The Heritage of Okaloosa County, Florida, Volume I*

The Journal

The GSOC Journal, ***A Journal of Northwest Florida***, is published once each year. The 2011 issue, Volume XXXII, Issue 100, was published and distributed in November 2011.

If you are a member and did not receive your copy, please let us know.

Meet Margaret Harris **our GSOC Genealogist**

If you have a query concerning an Okaloosa County ancestor or would like tips on tracing your lineage or need some new techniques to use in your genealogical research, give Margaret Harris a call. Margaret is the GSOC Genealogist; she can be reached on 850 243-4589.



Margaret is an experienced and highly capable genealogist and is currently teaching the class "ABCs of Family History" at the Center for Lifelong Learning in Fort Walton Beach.

Margaret Marie Hill Harris is a descendent of Samuel William Settles who was a resident of the Shoal River Community in the 1870s. Margaret is the daughter of Dewey Winters and Opal (Givens) Winters. Her stepfather, Wiley Benjamin Hill, Jr., adopted her as his own daughter.

She was born in Valparaiso, FL, near the East Gate of Eglin Field shortly after the end of World War II. The family moved to Fort Walton where they lived in several locations before moving to the old Gibson farm in the Wright area. Margaret attended Fort Walton Elementary, Oakland Heights, Westwood Elementary, Pryor Jr. High School, and the "old" Choctawhatchee High School in Shalimar.

She is married to Ed Harris, a retired military man and a native of Indiana. Between them, they have nine children and more than double that number of grandchildren. She enjoys big family gatherings, her activities in the Fort Walton First Ward of the local LDS congregation, participating in the GSOC, and taking trips with her girlfriends. She is a past president of the GSOC.

*Some Information Extracted from
The Heritage of Okaloosa County, Florida, Vol. I*

Need Help With Electronics?

GSOC member Phil Trau has many years of experience in working with electronics of all kinds and he's willing to be of assistance at no charge.

If you need help with something electronic, Phil offers to see if he can be of help. Just call him at 850 259-4351

If you haven't been attending our monthly meetings, we miss you!

GSOC INFORMATION

Officers for 2012

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, Mary Walther
Corresponding Secretary, Jim Young
Immediate Past President, Malcolm Flanagan
Journal Editor, Beverly Gross
Historian, Sue Basch
Genealogist, Margaret Harris
Publicity Chairperson, Pat Pruett
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/~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 2011 issue, Volume XXXII, Issue 100, was published and distributed in November 2011.

The Web Site

The GSOC web site is hosted by Rootsweb at:

<http://www.rootsweb.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.

Usual Meeting Location



Arrow indicates the door to the room used for GSOC meetings at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida

GSOC Membership Renewals

Please remember that your GSOC membership for 2011 expired on December 31, 2011 (unless you are a Life Member)

For those of you who receive your Newsletter electronically, there is a membership renewal form in this issue for your convenience. Please complete it and bring it and your membership dues to our next meeting or mail it with your check to the GSOC post office address.

GSOC Publications Update

The book, *Walton County Marriages 1885-1915*, is now out of print. However, it is included on the GSOC Publications CD which is available. For more information on GSOC publications, please go to:

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flocgs/GSOC-BookSale.html>

Please remember to renew your GSOC membership for 2012

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County Florida
P. O. Box 1175,, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-1175

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

email: gsocokaloosa@yahoo.com

Please help us update our files. Bring this form to the next Society meeting
or mail it with your dues to the post office address shown above.

DUES (Membership Year 1 Jan-31 Dec)

☐ Individual \$24.00 ☐ Family \$35.00 (Individual & spouse @ same address)

Please PRINT or TYPE all information:

Today's Date: _____

Name (Surname, given name): _____

Address: _____

Telephone (Home): _____

Telephone (Cell): _____

E-Mail: _____

Can name and phone number be shared with other members: Yes_____ No_____

Please put an "X" next to all areas of GSOC in which you are interested

Newsletter____ Chair a committee____ Member of a Committee____ Nomination Committee____ Christmas
Party____ Library____ Short term Committee____ Web Site____ Field trips (ones who wish to take)____ or (ones
you are willing to arrange)____ Historian____ Suggesting Guest Speakers____ Journal Editor____ Journal
Member____ Writing: Other____ Recording Secretary____ Corresponding Secretary____ Treasurer____
Publicity____ Museum Volunteer____ Give a Genealogy Presentation____ Nomination Committee/
Chairperson____ President____ Vice President____

Research: Name of families and states you are researching _____



The next GSOC meeting will be on February 11th, 2012,
at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida.
Officers' meeting at 9 AM, General Meeting at 10 AM.

The program will include a celebration of the GSOC's 36th
birthday and a presentation on the history of Destin by
Mr. H.C. "Hank" Klein, genealogical researcher and author.

"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

