

THE GSOC NEWSLETTER



THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF
OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

FEBRUARY 6, 2015

Next GSOC Meeting

*Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida
February 14, 2015, 10:00 AM*

Elizabeth Powell Crowe (Libbi) has been pursuing genealogy for more than 20 years. Her previous editions



of **Genealogy Online** have sold a combined total of nearly 200,000 copies. In the past she has worked as an editor for numerous genealogy- or technology-related publications including Computer Currents magazine, Valley Leaves, LeDespencer magazine, and the Computers in Genealogy newsletter, and she contributed articles to Digital Genealogist magazine. Crowe conducts

genealogy workshops throughout the South, and has been a regular guest on the Dear MYRTLE Family History Internet Radio Show and other genealogy-related programs. Ms. Crowe lives and works in Navarre, Florida.

Crowe will share some of her "success stories", as highlighted in the 10th edition of her book, *Genealogy Online*.

She was one of our favorite speakers last year when she talked about Colonel Wyman, the founder of Navarre, in a program she called, "Murder, Mayhem and Many Mrs'es."

We will also have birthday cake and coffee to help celebrate the 39th birthday of the GSOC

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IT'S TIME TO RENEW GSOC DUES

January GSOC Meeting Minutes

Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida

January 10, 2015

Pat Pruett, Recording Secretary

Pres. Jim Young called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM and welcomed members and guests, including our guest speaker for today.

He asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the December meeting as published in the January Newsletter on our Website. Robin Stiles made the motion and it was seconded by Bob Basch and approved.

Jim expressed thanks to Del Lessard for arranging our Christmas luncheon and meeting and to Margaret Harris for her family surname idea, and Donna Elliott for her installation ceremony.

Jim said the Newsletter was sent out on the last day of December and requested that anyone not receiving it to notify him

1st VP for Programs, Del Lessard was not present and Jim informed every one of the upcoming programs. In Feb., Mrs. Elizabeth Crowe will speak about genealogy online. She spoke to us last year about the founder of Navarre, Colonel Wyman. Jim mentioned that several family members of Col. Wyman attended that meeting and it made for a lively exchange. Our March speaker will be Elisa Mitchiner, local historian and an expert on the Boggy Bayou area. She will talk about the CCC camp which was located at Niceville. Our June meeting will be a field trip to the Milton public Library where history professor, Dr. Brian Rucker, a 7th generation Santa Rosan, will discuss the history of Santa Rosa County. This library has an excellent genealogical section for local research.

2nd VP for Membership, Charlene Grafton, sent around the roster to have each person check to see if their information is correct. She is also collecting the yearly dues today. Attendance today consisted of twenty four members and six guests.

Treasurer Bob Basch said that we presently have a bank balance of \$1536.44. He then explained to our visitors the reason for our circulating "Blue Box". This money is used to purchase genealogy books for the local libraries as well as to help defray the expenses of publishing our yearly Journal. Bob then took a show of hands of those who wish to attend an optional "Dutch Treat" lunch at Ruby Tuesdays following today's meeting. Fourteen will attend.

Recording Secretary Pat Pruett – No report.

Corresponding Secretary Carl Laws said that he has placed four recently-received exchange publications on the table

for perusal. These will be taken to the FWB library and filed in the History and Genealogy Room there.

Publicity Chairman Val Moreland is working on getting quotes for logo t-shirts at a print shop in Pensacola.

Bev Gross announced that the Center for Lifelong Learning at UWF/FWB campus is now registering people for classes. Bev will be teaching a class at WFSC in the Prime Time program. Margaret Harris said there will be two classes at the CLL. She will teach one and Hilma Jenus and another person will be teaching one. Students from each class may join with the others for any interested sessions. Jim announced that word has been received that the family history workshop series by Marc Strickland has been cancelled.

With all business completed, Jim introduced Tony Mennillo, a research writer-photographer who gave a prologue leading up to introducing our speaker Hank Klein. Mr. Mennillo and Mr. Klein have collaborated on information and pictures in several publications. Presentations".

Mr. Klein gave a very interesting timeline history presentation on the settlement of Florida from 1513 when Ponce de Leon first set foot on land in what was to become Florida, up until the 1930s when the military lands were sold off by the Federal Government to the early Destin settlers. His newest book contains all of the information presented today.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:35.

**GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
OF OKALOOSA COUNTY
ESTABLISHED 1976
CHARTER MEMBERS**

**Florence Eulalia Weston Adams
Geraldine Black
Huglene 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 Huglene Cole**
(Photo courtesy of Margaret Harris)

Message from our president

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

I am honored to be able to continue as your president for a second year. I treasure the friendships I've made and look forward to taking on the challenges that may be in our future.

In keeping with the by-laws established 39 years ago, I will work hard 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. To cooperate with other Genealogical Societies.*

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

In 2015, I would like for us to work together to increase our membership and share our genealogy skills and resources. To accomplish this, as Donna Elliott said, ***be a friend, bring a friend and whatever you know, whatever you learn – pass it on!***

Warm Regards,
Jim Young, President

Margaret Harris 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 850 226-9829, or at margmarieh@cox.net.

Margaret is an experienced and highly capable genealogist and is currently teaching classes in genealogy 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 was married to the late 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 of this information was extracted from
The Heritage of Okaloosa County, Florida, Vol. I

What (or Where) is Svea?

Svea is a community in extreme northeast Okaloosa County 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.

Jim Young GSOC President

Jim Young is a native of rural Calhoun County in north central Mississippi. He grew up in the very small town of Vardaman and graduated from high school in the neighboring slightly larger town of Calhoun City. After graduating from Mississippi State University with a degree in Electrical Engineering, he immediately went on active duty in the U.S. Air Force.

Although not intending to have a military career, it turned out that he did. Along the way in that career, he obtained a master's degree in electrical engineering, served as a Senior Lecturer in Radar and Telecommunications at the Royal Air Force College in Lincolnshire, England, and managed the scientific computer complex at the Air Force Flight Test Center. He ended up serving with the Test Wing at Eglin AFB where he retired from active duty and began working as a technical support contractor. He is now retired from that second job and spends his time on historical research, church activities, the GSOC, and his family.



He edited and published his mother's book, *The Cherry Hill – Poplar Springs – Reid Community in Calhoun County, Mississippi*, a historical and genealogical account of that area. In 2012 he organized the Vardaman History Project to capture and document the history of the area where he grew up, and he has recently written and published, *Vardaman, Mississippi – History and Memories*, an account of the history and people of his hometown.

He and his former wife have two daughters and four grandchildren and enjoy visiting back and forth with all of them.

He is a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, is his church's historian, is a member of the Alabama/West Florida Conference Historical Society of the United Methodist Church, the Florida Genealogical Society, the Calhoun County Historical and Genealogical Society, is a Director of the national Murphree Genealogical Association, and a member of the National Blue Family Association.

He is also the GSOC Newsletter editor (having brazenly written and included this article!). He is also the webmaster for the GSOC, the Murphree Genealogical Association, the Vardaman History Project, as well as his personal website.

Jim can be reached at 850 862-8642
or at youngjmy@cox.net

What to tell someone who asks "Why Should I Join the GSOC?"

by Jim Young

*"My ancestors are not from this area,
so why should I join the local genealogical society?"*

Many people share this "why should I join" attitude? I know that I did for many years after the Air Force assigned me to Eglin Air Force Base and I moved from California to Fort Walton Beach. My ancestors were from Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, North Carolina, Virginia, Ireland, and Wales. None of them, so far as I know, had settled in Florida. So I wondered why I should join the Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County.

Eventually, someone I had worked with at Eglin and who was a member of the GSOC invited me to attend a meeting. Little did I know how this would influence my life as a genealogist. I found a group of passionate family historians who were eager to share their experiences and knowledge. It did not matter that our ancestors were from different parts of the world. In fact, most of the members did not have northwest Florida roots.

So how, you may ask, can a GSOC (or other local society) membership help us as genealogists? Here are some reasons:

You can learn from other members. Our society encourages members to share their latest breakthrough or discovery at our local meetings. This sharing is not only fun, but gave me ideas on how to solve my own brick wall research problems.

You can gain an appreciation of other local societies. The exchange program for periodicals that the GSOC participates in, for example, allows you to review the publications and activities of other societies around the country.

You can develop leadership skills. As an active and involved member, you will be given opportunities to participate in the leadership of the organization. While serving on committees and board member positions, you can develop skills that are valuable in future roles.

You may not find a cousin, but someone else might. I'm always amazed at the odd connections that are made at meetings. For example, someone will casually mention they are researching the Phillips family in Alabama. Another member will answer that they are too. After comparing notes, they discover they are related six generations back into time. It happens more often than you may think! Members will also find others researching the same geographical areas and can help each other with resources, etc.

You can develop lifelong friendships. Common interests create friendships, and I have gathered many through genealogical connections. Can you imagine what it might be like if you didn't have an understanding genealogical

friend to call when you make a major discovery or solve the problem you've been working on for several years?

It's useful to belong to more than one society! While you may not be able to attend meetings, the obvious benefit of joining any local society is that of receiving the society's publications. One of the primary goals of local societies is to index, abstract, or transcribe local records and publish the results in their journals and/or online. If you have roots in Butler County, AL, for example, you may want to join the Butler County Historical & Genealogical Society in order to receive notice of their publications and projects.

Originally published in the April 2012 issue of the GSOC Newsletter and was suggested by an article by [Kathleen W. Hinckley, CGRS](#) in www.genealogy.com

Fort Walton Beach Library History & Genealogy Collection Includes Journals and Newsletters Donated by the GSOC

Our Society exchanges journals and newsletters with other historical and genealogical societies around the nation. The ones we receive from these societies are normally displayed at our monthly meetings so that GSOC members can see them. After the meeting, Hilma Jenus takes them to the Fort Walton Beach Library.

This photo shows part of the room in the library which is dedicated to history and genealogy. The GSOC-provided journals and newsletters are neatly filed in holders on the far wall, as seen here.

Other documents kept in the room and photographs on display there contain information about the history of the Fort Walton Beach area, Okaloosa County, and Eglin Air Force Base.



The room is usually outfitted with several tables to make it easy to work with the material there. However, the configuration is temporarily changed during tax season to accommodate people who may be waiting to see a tax advisor.

Okaloosa Centennial: **THE EARLY YEARS OF CRESTVIEW**

The State of Florida donated land to the Pensacola and Atlantic Railroad, a land grant railroad owned by the Louisville & Nashville (L&N) Railroad, in order to allow the linking of West Florida to the Atlantic Ocean. In 1881 track laying began between Pensacola and the Apalachicola River.

Crestview originally existed only as a boxcar set off beside the track to act as a station at the highest point on the Old Spanish Trail between the Mississippi River and the Atlantic Ocean. In the late 1880s the Yellow River Railroad began building a 26 mile spur line from Crestview Station to Floral, Alabama, to support local timber operations. It was completed and opened in May of 1894 to passenger and freight traffic.

Prior to the railroad coming, the few settlers in the area sent word to relatives and friends of the expansive forests and good climate of the area, but until the coming of the railroad many "would-be-settlers" were afraid of the Indians. The coming of the railroad seemed to calm their fears and the first big boom came to northwest Florida. Various types of settlers came. There were timber and naval store operations, cattlemen, herders, farmers, merchants, laborers and land companies. Many came on ox-drawn wagons from Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina. Others came by train in response to advertisements placed by the L&N Railroad in northern publications. They elaborated on the pleasurable climate and warm winters. The large timber companies became interested in the area. Therefore, most of the males in the settlement worked either for the timber companies who stripped the land of its vast timbers or for the railroad.

Homes began to spring up around the station. In 1883 the Wardville Post Office north of Crestview Station was moved to the Station and the name changed to the Crestview Post Office. In 1883 when the Pacific and Atlantic rail lines were completed, the post office served a population of 300 with 50 being residents of Crestview Station.

Hammer F. (Doc) Powell, the first resident of Crestview Station, was the postmaster and the stationmaster. He constructed the stationmaster's house and later built the first hotel/boarding house named the Powell Hotel on the southeast corner of Woodruff Avenue and Main Street. (The hotel, located at 189 - 197 N. Main, was replaced with the Lamar Hotel in 1926 and later became the site of Desi's Restaurant). The hotel was the stopping place of many railroad travelers. Mr. Powell also owned a livery stable, at what is now 198 N. Main Street (which became the location of the first City Pharmacy in 1928.) With the additional freight and passenger traffic from the railroad, Crestview continued to grow, and by 1889 the census population of the Crestview Station was 165.

In 1890 the P&A railroad constructed a depot in Crestview and removed the boxcar that had been set off and used as a station. In response to the increasing need

for lodging and food for travelers the Woodruff Café and Okaloosa Hotel were constructed on the northwest corner of the intersection of the railroad tracks and Pearl Street (now Ferdon Blvd./S.R. 85). These buildings were wood and brick construction and no longer stand.

A bridge was constructed over the Shoal River three miles south of town that enabled train travelers to travel by horse and ox wagon to Camp Walton (later named Fort Walton Beach) to the beaches and summer places in that area.

In addition to the timber companies and the sawmills, around 1900 the turpentine stills were prevalent and remained a vital part of the area industry until about 1940. Housing communities built around the sawmills and residents shopped in the Crestview Station business district. Roads were being constructed in the State and the Florida Midwest Highway traveled through Crestview Station on what is now Main Street. By 1912 the Crestview population had grown to 200.

Okaloosa County was created in 1915 and Milligan was designated as the temporary county seat pending a referendum. Crestview was incorporated in 1916. The *Okaloosa News Journal* established its office in Crestview and began to campaign for Crestview to become the county seat. In the referendum of 1917, Crestview



succeeded in winning the vote against Baker and Milligan and became the county seat. The courthouse was built in 1920 on a 14-acre site which had been reserved by Crestview for Civic property.

Land companies promoted Crestview by distributing pamphlets to entice settlers to move there. They touted the "pleasant climate, the right lands for cultivation, and the great source of lumber, fish, and game throughout the area." They pointed out that the city is the geographical center of the County with a railroad and highway center. They also noted the availability of a paved hard road to DeFuniak Springs and a north-south highway to Camp Walton and Laurel Hill.

By 1918 the first Bank of Crestview was located on Main Street (the building is gone but the steel vault remains in an attorney's office at 115 Courthouse Terrace, on the corner of Main and Courthouse Terrace). The first automobile dealership, a Ford dealership, was located on

the corner of Main Street and Oakdale Avenue. (This wooden structure no longer exists.) In 1920 the American Legion Post was founded and the first county jail constructed on the land designated as civic land. (This structure no longer exists.) The first movie house was constructed at Main Street and Oakdale Avenue (297 N. Main Street, later Crestview Plumbing and Hardware). Movies were shown using a Delco Light System and the theater drew movie patrons from several miles to see the "new marvel of the age".

A number of commercial buildings had been constructed along Main Street by the mid-1920's. Of the early structures, several remain substantially as they were in the 1920's. The Pecan Packing Company was located at 192-194 N. Main Street. It was a one-story brick structure with stucco completed in 1918. Bower's Ladies Wear and Dry Goods Store was located at 209 N. Main Street. It was a one-story structure completed in 1920. Vaughn's Grocery was located at 211-215 N. Main Street and was completed in 1920. The Farmer's Exchange was located at 301 N. Main Street, a brick structure completed in 1920. Vaughn's Dry Goods Store was located at 307 N. Main Street and that structure was completed in 1920. Berman's Dry Goods was located at 321-335 N. Main Street and that structure was completed in 1920. Livewire Grocery Store was located at 337 N. Main Street and that structure was completed in 1924.

McLaughlin Mortuary was located at 432-440 N. Main Street and that structure was completed in 1925. Garrett's Grocery was located at 450-452 N. Main Street and that structure was completed in 1926. Okaloosa News Journal Publishing Office was located at 468-470 and that structure was completed in 1926. Cox Grocery and Wallace Confectionery was located at 102-104 N. Main Street. It was a two-story brick structure that had a dentist office and rental rooms located upstairs. It was

completed in 1925. Hutto Barber Shop and Adams Drug Store were located at 106-110 N. Main Street in a one-story brick structure completed in 1925. An auto repair shop was located at 172 E. Woodruff Avenue and that structure was completed in 1929.

The buildings still intact are a good representation of the community services Crestview had available during the 1920's and into the 1930's.



North Main Street - Circa 1940's



Reese's Greyhound Bus Station - Circa 1950's



Railroad Depot - Circa 1960's



The Crestview Theatre - Circa 1940's

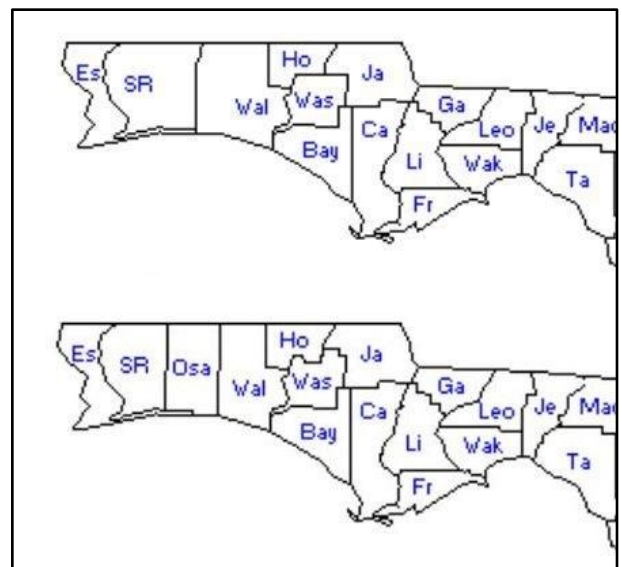
Crestview Historical Photographs From the City of Crestview Web Site

**Adapted from the Submission for Naming the Old
Downtown Section of Crestview, Florida,
as a National Historic District**
GSOCNL01-11

Formation of Okaloosa County

As these two county maps of northwest Florida show, Okaloosa was carved from 12 miles of the eastern section of Santa Rosa (SR) county and 12 miles of western Walton (Wal) county. The top map shows the counties in 1914 and the bottom map shows the counties after the formation of Okaloosa (Osa) in 1915.

The formation of Okaloosa County can be closely tied to Laurel Hill resident and State Representative, William Mapoles. In 1915 it was Mapoles who introduced a bill to the Florida House of Representatives that called for the creation of a new county from the existing counties of Santa Rosa and Walton. Mr. Mapoles named the county after a steamboat called "The Okaloosa" named after a Choctaw word meaning black water. This Okaloosa steamboat brought passengers up and down the Blackwater River from Milton to Pensacola. A temporary county seat was established in Milligan until a special election was held in 1917 and Crestview was chosen as the new permanent seat.



http://www.co.okaloosa.fl.us/about_history.html



Civil War Sesquicentennial

Selected Highlights of February 1865

<http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk>

February 1865 saw the first official political meeting between the North and the South when Lincoln met members of the Confederacy to discuss peace. Lincoln rejected what they offered. Throughout the whole American Civil War, Lincoln had held the simple belief that America was one nation and that it would remain so.

February 1st: Illinois became the first state to ratify the 13th Amendment.

Sherman continued his advance through South Carolina.

February 3rd: Lincoln met the three Confederate representatives (Stephens, Turner and Campbell) on the 'River Queen' in Hampton Roads. Lincoln rejected their peace plan based on an independent south. He told them bluntly that America was one nation and one nation only. Lincoln insisted that the Union had to be restored before anything else was discussed.

February 5th: Union troops made further inroads into Confederate defences around Petersburg. If Petersburg fell, Richmond would be the next target. Therefore Petersburg had major significance for both sides in the war. Desertion was a major issue in the Confederate Army and the main cause of desertion was lack of food. Lee's request for more food for the Army of Northern Virginia was met with silence in Richmond. This was more because they had no way of addressing Lee's request more than indifference to the suffering of the soldiers.

February 7th: Lee's men drove back Union troops at Boydton Plank Road but by now he only had 46,000 men to defend 37 miles of trenches – about 1200 men per mile.

February 8th: Sherman's men continued their policy of destroying empty buildings as they advanced through South Carolina. This resulted in the Confederate general, Wheeler, complaining to Sherman that accommodation was being destroyed. However, Sherman had given orders that no building that was occupied should be destroyed but unoccupied ones should be.

February 9th: Jefferson Davis offered an amnesty to anyone who deserted the Confederate Army as long as they returned to their regiment within 30 days.

February 11th: Sherman cut off Augusta from Charleston by cutting the Augusta-Georgia railway. One of the

Confederates few remaining armies was based in Charleston and it was in danger of being surrounded.

February 14th: Jefferson Davis urged the defenders of Charleston to hold until the last possible moment.

February 15th: Sherman's army approached Columbia.

February 16th: Sherman's troops arrived on the south bank of Columbia and the city was evacuated. Charleston prepared to evacuate.

February 17th: Columbia was occupied by Sherman's troops. Most of the city was burned to the ground. Some said the fires were started by retreating Confederate cavalry units but most accept it was men from Sherman's army. Men from Sherman's army were actively pursued by Sherman's provost guard, which would seem to indicate their guilt. Sherman later refused to express his sorrow for the destruction of Columbia. Charleston was also evacuated.

February 18th: Charleston surrendered.

February 20th: The Confederate House of Representatives passed a bill authorizing the use of slaves as soldiers.

Wilmington, the last port that the Confederates possessed, was bombarded by Union forces.

February 21st: A sign of the divided opinion within the Confederacy: the Confederate Senate postponed a debate on whether the Confederacy should use slaves as soldiers.

February 22nd: Union troops entered Wilmington.

Lee began to plan his last campaign.

February 27th: Union troops started a major move up the Shenandoah Valley. 10,000 Union cavalry advanced against severely depleted Confederate units.

February 28th: One of the Union cavalry divisions in the Shenandoah Valley was commanded by George Armstrong Custer.



Born on December 5, 1839, in New Rumley, Ohio, George Armstrong Custer first achieved renown as a young Civil War hero before gaining everlasting fame a decade later from his spectacular defeat at the Battle of Little Bighorn.

Events, Groups, and Sites of GSOC Interest

It's time to renew GSOC Annual Dues for 2015. Dues are \$24 for an individual and \$35 for an individual and spouse at the same address.

Please complete a renewal form when you come to the February meeting or mail your check and any changes in your address, phone, or surnames being researched to GSOC, P.O. Box 1175, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-1175.

Plans for Some Future GSOC Meetings

March: Mrs. Elisa Mitchiner will talk to us about the CCC Camp that was located in Niceville.

June: We're planning a field trip to the Milton public library. The trip will accomplish two goals: first, history professor Dr. Brian Rucker, a 7th-generation Santa Rosan, will give us a presentation on the history of Santa Rosa County leading up to the birthing of Okaloosa County 100 years ago; second, the Milton library has a really good genealogy section that GSOC members should know about.

Valentine's Victorian Tea February 14, 2014



This Valentine's Day create memories with the ones you love at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida during the Valentines' Victorian Tea.

Men, women and children will enjoy homemade refreshments and a variety of teas while experiencing traditions of the past as you're guided

through etiquette and customs of taking tea in Victorian England.

Guests will see unique Victorian artifacts, learn about the history of Valentine's Day and create their own Victorian note cards.

The Valentine's Victorian Tea, for ages 6 and up, is a distinctive and festive program chock full of charm and culture.

\$15 or \$12 for Museum Members

Space is limited! Name Reservations Required.

Call: (850) 678-2615

115 Westview Ave., Valparaiso, FL 32580

Destin History & Fishing Museum

108 Stahlman Avenue

adjacent to the Destin Community Center

Experience the feeling of swimming in the Gulf of Mexico with award winning examples of fish caught in Destin. This exhibit is displayed on a 100 feet of wall space depicting the Gulf floor.

View a large collection of antique fishing rods and reels, the most unique is constructed of split bamboo with an original Penn Reel, that belonged to Ernest Hemingway.

Get an idea of life in Destin before the arrival of electricity in the 1930s.

Visit the original Destin Post Office building located adjacent to the property.



See the oldest seine fishing boat still in existence, The Primrose, built in 1925.

Enjoy vintage photographs of early Destin settlers, boat captains and their boats, beach scenes, businesses, and much more.

The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Admission Costs: Adult \$5; Seniors & Military \$4; Children/Students (Age 7 Through College) \$3; Children under 6 & Members are Free

Baker Block Museum

Corner of Hwy 189 & State Rd. 4.
Baker, FL. 32526

Phone: 850-537-5714

Genealogy Services

Help by Appointment

[Local Surnames](#)

Microfilm with reader/printers

Newspapers, maps

Online databases

[Genealogy Overview & Tips](#)

GSOC INFORMATION

Officers for 2015

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
Immediate Past President, Donna Elliott

Journal Editor, TBD; 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/~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 2014 issue, was published and distributed in September 2014.

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 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, and mark your envelope "Book Sales"

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, parents 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

Western Auto Associate Store

EARLY BIRD SALE

Starts Friday, Feb. 18, Thru Feb. 26

LOTS OF VALUE SAVING ITEMS

stores over 1/2 ton!
"Master Deluxe 15"
Wizard food freezer \$299.95
Savings and service! 15 cu. ft. of safe new storage right in your own home. 92 lb. fast-freeze area. Handy storage baskets and drawers. Includes "Safe film" (outlet) warns you of power failure or rising temperature.
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Wizard "Deluxe"
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Over 8 cubic feet of storage space, really family size. Full width, 65 lb. freezer locker. Three handy draw racks, better keeping, 10 lb. meat tray, 20 qt. crisper and chrome-plated shelving. Plus automatic defrosting!

high value—low cost
big, new Wizard
"Compact 8" only... \$179.95
Full 8.8 cu. ft. of storage space—yet fits the smallest kitchen! Full-width freezer locker. Handy door shelves. Interior tube is cheerful sunlight yellow. Release of locked-on control for lifetime beauty.

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Features usually found only in much high-priced models. Double coated porcelain tub, modern full-shirt styling. Pressure-cleaning Level wringer gets clothes cleaner and drier. Powerful, long-life Westinghouse motor.
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17" Truetone TV! \$199.95
Truetone's top performing table model "Super Power" chassis assures a sharp, clear picture even in remote fringe areas. One-knob tuning locks best sound and picture together.
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Movie clear picture courtesy in a modern color-etched cabinet. Convenient top tuning and all-new cabinet front. One knob tuning locks best sound and picture together.
17" Truetone table model only \$139.94.

Okaloosa News-Journal, February 17, 1955



The February GSOC meeting will be on Saturday, February 14, 2015, at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida at 10 AM.

The speaker will be genealogist and writer Libby Crowe and birthday cake and coffee will be served to observe the 39th birthday of the GSOC.

GSOC membership dues for 2015 are now due.

"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



