



Next GSOC Meeting

February 13, 2016 10:00 a.m.

**Valparaiso Senior Center
268 Glenview Avenue
Valparaiso, FL. 32580**

Proving Our Pedigree to Join Lineage Societies

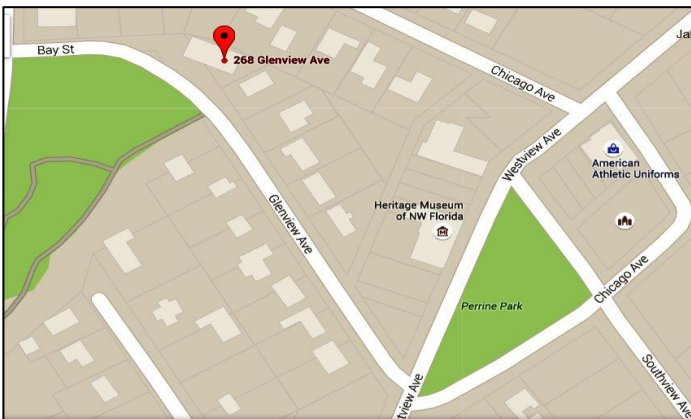
By Janice M. Cronan

Janice Cronan, our February speaker says that membership in lineage societies has enabled her to honor and preserve the legacy of her ancestors, but it was not her original goal to join a heritage society when she first began looking into her genealogy. She also says that other reasons for joining a lineage society might include socializing with others who have similar interests, participating in the society's charitable endeavors, or supporting the society's libraries and museums.



She notes that we have several local chapters

in the Panhandle area of Florida that are extensions of



State and National organizations. Her presentation will show what types of records are needed to submit for membership.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US!
At this meeting we will also celebrate our 40th birthday with cake and other goodies!

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GSOC Meeting Minutes January 9th, 2016

Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida
by Kathleen Sheperd, Recording Secretary

1. The meeting was called to order by President Sue Basch, who welcomed members, guests, and former members. She also welcomed our guest speaker and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Hank Klein.

2. There was no door prize for this month.

3. Old Business: The minutes from the December meeting were reviewed. Donna Elliott made the motion to accept and Ken Elliott seconded the motion. All those in attendance were in favor of approval as written. President Basch recognized past president Jim Young for his positive leadership of the Genealogical Society and stated further appreciation for the past boards of Donna Elliot, Beverly Gross, Malcom Flanagan, Chuck Licari and Margaret Harris. Jim Young was presented a certificate of appreciation signed by Sue Basch and the active past presidents.

4. New Business: The group voted on meeting at the Niceville *Ruby Tuesdays* for lunch following the meeting. A clip board containing information of a newsletter from the Allen County Public Library, *Genealogy Gems*, was passed around. This information was sent to Del Lessard by Mary Ellen Wexler. The clipboard also contained information about the Southern California Genealogical Society's Jamboree in June 2016, titled "Giving to the Future by Preserving the Past."

5. Report by the Board Officers:

a. 1st Vice President of Programs, Charlene Grafton. She will introduce today's speaker.

b. 2nd VP of Membership, Jon Sheperd requested members renew their membership for 2016 by March. Dues are \$24/individual or \$35/family. Membership renewal forms are available on line at the Society website

and checks can be mailed with form to the address on the form or brought to the next meeting. If you filled out the form at the December meeting, it is sufficient for 2016. He reminded attendees to sign in their attendance for the meeting (note: a list of signees will be found at Attachment 1).

c. Treasurer, Phil Hoge reported that there was \$1332.43 in the treasury. The "blue box" collection supports donations to the local libraries. President Bash mentioned that she had met a lady who had visited the Fort Walton Beach library and found useful genealogical information and a helpful library staff (good feedback).

d. Recording Secretary, Kathie Sheperd, asked Pat Pruett if she would take minutes in February as Kathie had to be away on a trip. (Subsequent to that request, Kathie will be back in town and this is no longer necessary. Much thanks to Pat who had agreed to help.)

e. Publicity, Val Moreland said that the Genealogy Society's new 2016 officers were published in the Northwest Florida Daily News newspaper.

6. Other Comments:

a. Margaret Harris mentioned a Genealogy Computer Tech (COMTEC) Seminar will be held January 30th at the Northwest Florida State Campus. She also reminded the group that the local Family History Center in Fort Walton Beach is again open on Thursdays and Saturdays for those who wish to do genealogy research there.

b. Charlene Grafton mentioned there is a "Speak to Me" column in the Northwest Daily News.

c. Margaret Harris also mentioned that the Center for Lifelong Learning will be providing 2 genealogy classes; one for beginners and one for beyond basic genealogy. The CLL website has more information about these classes. Primetime, at NWFS College, has both beginning and advanced genealogy classes.

7. Next Month's Meeting: For the February meeting, we will be meeting at the Valparaiso Senior Center at 268 Glenview Ave, Val-P. It is located close to the normal meeting location. We will be enjoying refreshments including a cake. A sign up list was passed around for members to bring items to support the refreshments.

8. Guest Speaker: Mr. Hank Klein was introduced by Charlene Grafton. Mr. Klein (who may be contacted at klein@aristotle.net) gave a fascinating and informative talk about the history of Miramar Beach formerly called Shoals (Shoals, Florida). The history of Shoals has been largely lost over time, but Mr. Klein spent many, many hours researching and talking to local and state officials about it in order to come up with a history.

Shoals was the area along the water as you enter current Walton County and the first homesteaders settled there in 1904. Most came from NC and SC, some from GA. The land in Destin was not part of the Homestead Act because it was a military reservation site so Destin and Santa Rosa Island was owned by the War Dept. However, the primary way to reach Shoals was through Destin.

Shoals had a post office established in 1915 and it was located 150 feet from the bay. It was discontinued in 1919 and merged into the Santa Rosa Post Office. The Shoals area became a farming community of citrus groves but in 1924 the canker blight hit these groves and decimated them. Many of the citrus farmers sold their land and moved away.

The early families were the Mahlers, Rubash, Grimaldi, Destin, Anderson, Haugen and Knapp. But in the early days, most people had no use for water front property and all the sand. Colonel Michael Grimaldi saw potential; his homestead was on the Gulf of Mexico and in 1936 the federal government built US Highway 98 through his land (this would have been the original highway which hugged the coastline).

Grimaldi had a vision for the land and he and his wife called it Miramar Beach. It was platted as a subdivision in April 1937. Grimaldi developed the land and his daughter, Barbara Grimaldi, carried on his vision to provide property for citizens of the northern part of the USA to come here and retire on the Gulf of Mexico. Sadly, the land sold for very little and through the 1960s, people did not share in the same vision for this land. If you look at Miramar Beach and Walton County today, the property values are sky high and people pay millions of dollars to live there.

Mr. Klein introduced a sister topic about the Shoals area and it concerned Christopher Larsen Haugen of Norway who applied for the first homestead in 1904. The Haugen family buried at least 4 people on their land and the land has been now swallowed up by multi-million dollar homes in the Bayshore Gardens subdivision of Miramar Beach. Klein showed the group an old picture of the land where the graves were and compared it to what it looks like today. He felt there was a strong possibility a swimming pool was constructed over the family cemetery. Although loopholes in Florida statutes failed to protect the small cemetery, Klein managed to register the Haugen Cemetery on FindAGrave (FindAGrave.com) and have it recorded as a historical cemetery.

9. Closing: At the conclusion of Mr. Klein's talk, President Basch thanked him for his very interesting talk and reminded the group to read next month's newsletter about the changes in location for our February meeting. For visitors interested in becoming members, please see Jon Sheperd.

Attendee names:

Chuck Licari	Lynn Fabian
Frances Hoge	Robin Stiles
Phil Hoge	Mary Blomquist
Don Hicks	Bob Richburg
Sue Hicks	Donna Elliott
Hank Klein (Speaker)	Ken Elliott
Muriel Klein (Mrs. Klein)	Pat Pruett
Margaret Harris	Jim Young
Val Moreland	Sue Basch
Keith Latimer	Bob Basch
Mike Kleypas	Kathie Sheperd
Malcom Flanagan	Jon Sheperd
Carol Lessard	Beverly Gross
Del Lessard	Charlene Grafton

Why Can't I Find My Great Grandpa in the Census?

Have you ever wondered why you can't find your relative in the Federal census? You believe you know where they should be, but they are not there. In fact they are not anywhere in the US Federal Census.

The article below helps to explain early computerization by the Census Bureau and why you may not be able to find your relatives.

This appeared in the Forward to the 1850 US Federal Census Index for the state of Georgia. This index was published in book form by Accelerated Indexing Systems, Inc., prior to modern day personal computer indexing and services like Ancestry.com, HeritageQuest and Family Search. I think you will find it of interest.

H. C. "Hank" Klein

The Forward to The Accelerated Indexing Systems, Inc.'s Index to the United States Federal Census for Georgia 1850

The United States Federal Census is considered one of the main stimulants in the development of the computer. Punched cards were first considered as a means of processing large amounts of data when slow manual methods led to great delays in the tabulation of the 1880 census enumeration.

The inventor of the modern-day punched card was a statistician by the name of Dr. Herman Hollerith. He was hired by the Census Bureau to assist in finding a solution to the census problem. In 1887, Hollerith developed the concept of a card, readable by machine, and subsequently designed a card sorter known as the "census machine".

Tabulating time with Hollerith's machine was greatly



reduced, and his methods were quickly adopted by the Census Bureau for use in the 1890 census enumeration. His machine was capable of processing up to 80 cards per minute, which meant that the 1890 enumeration could be

completed in less than three years. Without Hollerith's techniques the completion of the 1890 census would most likely have continued beyond 1900, violating the Constitutional provision that Congressional seats be reapportioned every ten years on the basis of population returns.

After completing the 1890 census, Hollerith began converting his machine to commercial use. In 1896, he formed the Tabulation Machine Company, which later merged into what became the International Business Machines Corporation (IBM). Later, in 1944, Harvard professor Howard Aiken, working in connection with IBM engineers and James Powers produced the first large electromechanical computer.

James Powers was a man who had formerly been employed by the Census Bureau. He was hired by the Bureau for the purpose of developing additional machinery for use in the 1910 census enumeration. His machines were used so successfully for the 1910 enumeration that in 1911 he formed the Powers Accounting Machine Company. After a later merger this became the Remington Rand Corporation. In 1951, after much progress, Remington Rand placed the first commercially produced computer (Universal Automatic Computer, UNIVAC) in the Census Bureau. The UNIVAC I was a totally electronic computer and was used by the Census Bureau with great success until it was transferred to the Smithsonian in 1963.

There were many major problems which confronted early tabulation efforts; tabulation of data, its presentation in graphical or pictorial form, the calculation of descriptive measures, and its statistical analysis were only a few of the problems. It was discovered that computers are by far the quickest, most accurate and economical way of accomplishing these tasks.

For the genealogist, this means that Census Indexes can now be produced in relatively short periods of time, whereas before it took many years of hard, laborious work. Accelerated Indexing Systems, Inc., the leader in computerized genealogy, has realized the great importance that the Federal Census plays in genealogical research, and is now actively engaged in indexing, by modern methods, the census records of the 18th and 19th centuries.

The advantages of using the computerized census indexes are many. First, the original records are read by professional people who are trained in paleography, the chances for error in reading the old writing are greatly reduced. Second, research is made easier and more accurate because the computer index puts family names in one place, in a more readable form, with the result that a person can know in a matter seconds whether or not a name is listed in the original text.

Genealogical research can now be done in less time, with greater rewards, with more enjoyment, and by anyone

who can pick up a book and read the typewritten pages. Both professional and lay researchers will find the indexes invaluable tools in their research.

Unfortunately, census records are not perfect; to our knowledge, there does not exist today any census record that can be considered complete. Occasionally, people know of an ancestor who lived in a particular place, but they cannot find their name in the census records.

To help understand why a name may not be found, consider the following facts:

1. All of the original census manuscript of a particular state may be missing. Examples: Delaware. 1790, Washington D.C. 1810, Georgia, 1790.

2. Parts of a census record may be missing for a particular state or county. For Example: Tennessee 1810, 1820; North Carolina 1790; Ohio 1800, 1810; and Georgia 1800.

3. Sometimes the census taker missed names through neglect, laziness, or drunkenness. Example: Baltimore Co., Maryland, 1800.

4. Names were omitted if people were not home at the time the census taker came. This is particularly true in the larger cities.

5. People who lived in remote rural areas were occasionally not reached and recorded.

6. Many census takers spelled names phonetically and not as they were spelled by the family. For example: Fisher instead of Phisher or Pfisher.

7. The census taker may not have known how to spell the name at all, and may have guessed.

8. People searching for a name are sometimes not aware of all the spelling variations that a name may have. For example: Wyatt, Wiatt, Viatt, Wyett, etc.

9. Many enumerators wrote poorly or used their own style of writing which may be impossible to read.

10. Names may be blocked out or lost from the original record by ink smears, damaged pages, tape repairs, improper cutting, faulty bindery work, faded ink, or low quality photography.

11. Names may have been omitted when the census workers made copies for the state and county governments.

12. In the case of the census index, the indexer may not have been able to read or perhaps misread the name due to some of the above reasons. When an error is found of this type the publishers take the necessary steps to correct it.

Despite imperfections, censuses remain an important and valuable genealogical tool and the advent of the computer has greatly enhanced their usefulness.

This volume is an index to the 1850 census of Georgia. It is an index to the head of each household and indexes any individual within the household with a differing surname. Details of how to use the index are explained in a section entitled "How to Use the Index". Other helpful research aids are included to facilitate research.

We trust that this volume will greatly assist the researcher in conducting genealogical research in this state."

Crestview Public Library

Genealogy Basics

Monday, February 8th, 6 PM

Would you like to learn more about how to find your ancestors and research your family tree? If so, please join us for a special class at the Crestview Public Library at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, February 8th. The Class is called: "Genealogy Basics – Researching Your Family Tree."

On this night we will show you how to use the Internet to search available public records from all around the world for free. We'll also tell you about genealogical libraries in our area that are open for public use.

So please join us on Monday, February 8th, at 6:00 p.m., and start growing your own Family Tree! The library is located at 1445 Commerce Drive behind the Post office in north Crestview. Call 682-4432 for more information.

A Note From Jim Young

Thank you for your outstanding support during my term as GSOC President. Thanks to the officers I worked with, the fine speakers that we had, and the faithful members who supported our Society and attended our meetings. Thanks, also, for the gracious words from Sue and others and the great gifts! 2016 looks to be another excellent year for our Society!

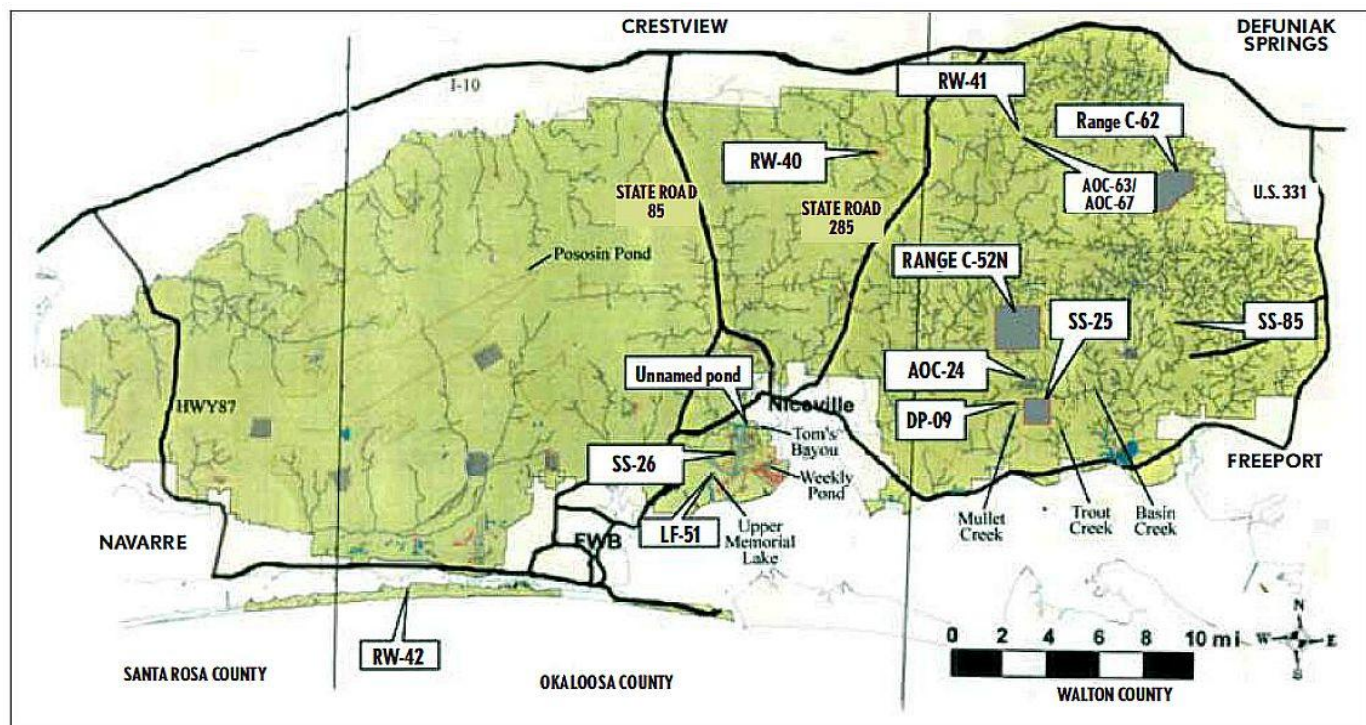


I'll be continuing to edit the GSOC Newsletter. As I think I've mentioned to some of you, I've been doing this sort of thing for a good while. My first editor "job" was for my high school newspaper, *The Loudspeaker*. In the photo above, the staff and I (typing, next to the cute blonde) pose for a publicity shot for the school annual. That was 60 years ago, and I still enjoy it!

Warm Regards, Jim

Agent Orange Was Tested at Eglin Air Force Base

This article is based on internet sources including the ATSDR report of 2003



Test areas for Agent Orange at Eglin AFB

Agent Orange was a powerful mixture of chemical defoliants used by U.S. military forces during the Vietnam War to eliminate forest cover for North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops, as well as crops that might be used to feed them.

The U.S. program of defoliation, codenamed Operation Ranch Hand, sprayed more than 19 million gallons of herbicides over 4.5 million acres of land in Vietnam from 1961 to 1972.

Agent Orange, which contained the potent toxic chemical dioxin, was the most commonly used of the herbicide mixtures, and the most effective. It was later revealed to cause serious health issues—including tumors, birth defects, rashes, psychological symptoms and cancer—among returning U.S. servicemen and their families as well as among the Vietnamese population.

(Dioxin is the common name for the chemical 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin, or TCDD)

In the 1960s, a Navy survival training unit taught more than 100 men a week how to survive with only a compass, map, and a hunting knife. Every week groups of students would camp for three days, using different sites on the Eglin Air Force Base reservation. When the winds and clouds were right, the men would watch planes pass overhead, clouds of spray coming from them. Several times after the men were sprayed, they would say, "At least we don't have to use bug repellent." That was a big

plus, they thought, for them as well as the Army Rangers who were also training out on the reservation where mosquitoes and other bugs could make life miserable.

The students thought they were watching the Air Force spray DDT to kill mosquitoes. What was actually being sprayed was Agent Orange. Devices and techniques for spraying Agent Orange from aircraft were being tested at Eglin.

In Vietnam during the war, a typical mission disseminated 14.8 kg of Agent Orange per hectare. Most of the Agent Orange in Vietnam was intercepted by forest canopy, and some of it was destroyed by the sunlight. But at Eglin, where the spray rate was 876 kg per hectare, the trees and bushes already had been removed from the spray area so that the spray patterns could be accurately measured. It was later reported that each hectare at Eglin received at least 1,300 times more dioxin than a hectare sprayed in Vietnam.

The spraying went on from 1962 to 1970. The primary test area, **Range C-52N**, was three kilometers square. Spray systems were tested in an area divided into four grids. From June 1962 through June 1970 fixed-wing airplanes, helicopters or jet aircraft sprayed massive amounts of defoliants on the area. During that time 75,000 liters of Agent Orange, 61,200 liters of Agent Purple, 15,800 liters of Agent White, and 16,600 liters of Agent Blue rained onto the base.

To study the ramifications of the spraying, the Air Force in 1968 created a research unit at Eglin of more than a dozen Air University graduates with doctorates in such areas as

chemistry, microbiology, plant science, and zoology. They worked for at least four years, and six of the scientists, including Alvin Young who became lead investigator, stayed at Eglin for the entire 15 years of the study.

In 1984, fourteen years after Agent Orange was last sprayed at Eglin, an investigative team concluded that about one percent of the dioxin remained on the test area. While some of it was destroyed by sunlight, Young acknowledged that “wind and water erosion” also led to its disappearance from the site, but he did not study where it might have traveled to in the surrounding area.

The spray area was not the only place at Eglin affected by the herbicides. There were storage, disposal, and loading sites as well, and the Air Force concluded in 1992 there were nine locations associated with Agent Orange at the base, in addition to the spray areas. These included the Mullet Creek Drum Disposal Site, the Hardstand 7 disposal area, Receiver Landfill, Upper Memorial Lake, three sites at Lower Memorial Lake and Field No. 2 Drum Disposal, and Field No. 2 Helicopter Loading Area.

But in fact, dioxin traveled into ponds and streams, was carried by the wind, was absorbed by fish, and found its way into areas used for recreational fishing and swimming.

In 1978, Young’s group studied dioxin levels at Hardstand 7 and found concentrations as high as 275 parts per billion and contamination up to a third of that down into the dirt one meter deep. They found it had migrated as far downstream as Tom’s Pond, concluding that much of the contamination occurred before a dike was built. Still, it took until 1985 for the site to be closed off with a chain-link fence and locked gates, and signs posted to prevent trespassing and fishing.

By 1998 enough concern had been raised about the health impact of the Agent Orange spraying and disposal sites that the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry agreed to do a public-health assessment of Eglin Air Force Base. They concluded, in a report released in 2003, that although there were contaminated land and water areas in the Eglin spray areas, the amount of contamination was very low and the use of the areas by the public was so low, there was little danger posed to the public.

But, what the study didn’t assess was the health risk to the Air Force military and contractor personnel who flew the planes or loaded the drums onto them, or stored them at the disposal site, or later removed them. And it didn’t look at whether any of the survival training students or the Army Rangers, who were living off the land, drinking its rivers, and sleeping on earth dampened by Agent Orange were put at risk.



Typical area in Vietnam being defoliated

The “Rainbow” of Defoliants

[Agent Green](#): 100% *n*-butyl ester 2,4,5-T, used prior to 1963

[Agent Pink](#): 100% 2,4,5-T (60% *n*-butyl ester 2,4,5-T, and 40% iso-butyl ester of 2,4,5-T) used prior to 1964

[Agent Purple](#): 50% 2,4,5-T (30% *n*-butyl ester of 2,4,5-T, and 20% iso-butyl ester of 2,4,5-T) and 50% *n*-butyl ester of [2,4-D](#) used 1961–65

[Agent Blue](#) (Phytar 560G): 65.6% organic [Arsenicical](#) ([cacodylic acid](#) (Ansar 138) and its sodium salt [sodium cacodylate](#)) used from 1962–71 in powder and water solution

[Agent White](#) (Tordon 101): 21.2% (acid weight basis) [triisopropanolamine salts](#) of 2,4-D and 5.7% [picloram](#) used 1966–71

[Agent Orange](#) or Herbicide Orange, (HO): 50% *n*-butyl ester 2,4-D and 50% *n*-butyl ester 2,4,5-T used 1965–70

Agent Orange II: 50% *n*-butyl ester 2,4-D and 50% [isooctyl](#) ester 2,4,5-T used after 1968.

Agent Orange III: 66.6% *n*-butyl 2,4-D and 33.3% *n*-butyl ester 2,4,5-T.

Enhanced Agent Orange, Orange Plus, or [Super Orange](#) (SO), or DOW Herbicide M-3393: standardized Agent Orange mixture of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T combined with an oil-based mixture of [picloram](#), a proprietary DOW Chemical product called [Tordon 101](#), an ingredient of Agent White.

The Great Obituary Hunt: A Genealogy Research Guide

by Carmen Nigro
New York Public Library

Like all good detective work, genealogy research benefits from organization, patience, and procedure. One of the many tools in the researchers toolbox is the obituary. Obituaries are small articles in a newspaper that offer a posthumous piece of the story of a person's life. They can also be very useful to those who are researching genealogy, adding details that would otherwise be unknown. The names of relatives, location of birth, final resting place, occupation, religious affiliation, volunteer work, and other details of how someone spent their life are but a few examples of the wealth of information that can help a researcher or genealogy hobbyist flesh out the details of the life of someone from the past.

A great place to start finding obituaries is in digitized newspapers by searching the names of the deceased. One helpful database is ProQuest Historical, which contains newspapers for many major American cities, often the full run of the newspaper. Major newspapers in this database include the *New York Times*, *Boston Globe*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Los Angeles Times*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, and *Washington Post*. But even with all this access, the problem that often occurs with big city papers is a lack of obituaries. Papers such as the *New York Times* and *Los Angeles Times* often only run obituaries for prominent people.

Smaller newspapers, such as town, neighborhood, and religious affiliation newspapers, do a much better job at chronicling the deaths of the citizens of their communities. The [Chronicling America](#) website, sponsored jointly by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress, features thousands of digitized local newspapers that you can search for free. The site also includes the extremely useful [U.S. Newspaper Directory](#), where you can determine exactly what newspapers were being published in an area during a specific time period, and the newspaper's location if it is not digitized. Chronicling America is an expanding project, so you can expect to see it grow with more digitized newspapers as time passes. There are also several papers covering New York towns throughout New York state digitized in the free website [Old Fulton Postcards](#). For help locating these types of newspapers at NYPL, please see [this blog post for researching historical newspapers](#).

It is also possible to search for obituaries in newspapers that are now defunct. NYPL has several [historical newspaper](#) databases featuring older publications, including many from the colonial era. Many people start this type of search with [America's Historical Newspapers](#). Another interesting approach is to search for obituaries in trade journals — for example, *Library Journal* publishes obituaries for librarians who have passed away. You can find trade journals for many types of professions, from farmers to pharmacists. Many of these are searchable in

databases, such as [JSTOR](#), [Academic Search Premier](#), and [American Periodical Series](#).

Another tactic for locating an obituary is to find an index for the obituaries that appeared in a certain area. Obituaries are usually published in the week following a person's death, but they can sometimes be published weeks or months afterward. An index can help you locate an obituary that was not published immediately after a person's passing. Sometimes these lists are compiled into books that you can locate in the Library's Catalog, such as [this index of Dutchess County obituaries](#). You can also check for birth and marriage announcements as you search for obituaries. For example, [this index to the Queens County Sentinel](#) includes birth, marriage, and death announcements. Sometimes genealogical and historical societies will compile these lists and publish them in their periodicals. You can find those by searching [JSTOR](#) or [PERSI](#), which is accessible through the [HeritageQuest](#) database.

Humorous Obituaries

Where obituaries used to be formulaic and abidingly respectful, the tone has changed as people become more open, said Halley Burns, managing editor for Legacy.com, a site dedicated to obituaries and memorials. "Social media drives a lot of it. People feel more comfortable these days sharing more of their private lives, even the parts that aren't happy or glamorous, and that's influencing how they share the news when loved ones die; it's changing the ways they reach out for support," she said. "And, as more of these very unique obituaries get publicity, it makes people realize, 'Hey, an obituary can be whatever I want it to be.'"

An obituary that attracted notice a few years ago was published on Mississippi's Gulf Coast. The family of Harry Stamps published the following:

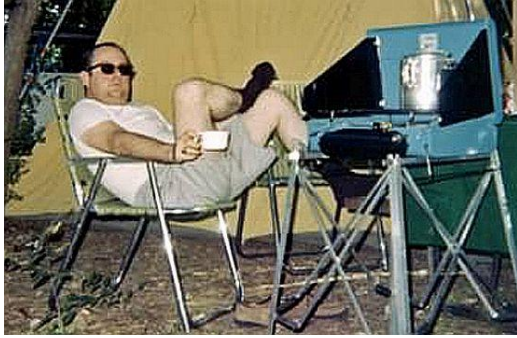
**Harry Weathersby Stamps
(December 19, 1932 -- March 9, 2013)**

Harry Weathersby Stamps, ladies' man, foodie, natty dresser, and accomplished traveler, died on Saturday, March 9, 2013, in Long Beach, MS.

Harry was locally sourcing his food years before chefs in California starting using cilantro and arugula (both of which he hated). For his signature bacon and tomato sandwich, he procured 100% all white Bunny Bread from Georgia, Blue Plate mayonnaise from New Orleans, Sauer's black pepper from Virginia, home grown tomatoes from outside Oxford, and Tennessee's Benton bacon from his bacon-of-the-month subscription. As a point of pride, he purported to remember every meal he had eaten in his 80 years of life.

The women in his life were numerous. He particularly fancied smart women. He loved his mom Wilma Hartzog (deceased), who with the help of her sisters and cousins in New Hebron reared Harry after his father Walter's death when Harry was 12. He worshipped his older sister Lynn Stamps Garner (deceased), a character in her own

right, and her daughter Lynda Lightsey of Hattiesburg. He married his main squeeze Ann Moore, a home



economics teacher, almost 50 years ago, with whom they had two girls Amanda Lewis of Dallas, and Alison of Starkville. He taught them to fish, to select a quality hammer, to love nature, and to just be thankful. He took great pride in stocking their tool boxes. One of his regrets was not seeing his girl, Hillary Clinton, elected President.

He had a life-long love affair with deviled eggs, Lane cakes, boiled peanuts, Vienna [Vi-e-na] sausages on saltines, his homemade canned fig preserves, pork chops, turnip greens, and buttermilk served in martini glasses garnished with cornbread.

He excelled at growing camellias, rebuilding houses after hurricanes, rocking, eradicating mole crickets from his front yard, composting pine needles, living within his means, outsmarting squirrels, never losing a game of competitive sickness, and reading any history book he could get his hands on. He loved to use his oversized "old man" remote control, which thankfully survived Hurricane Katrina, to flip between watching *The Barefoot Contessa* and anything on The History Channel. He took extreme pride in his two grandchildren Harper Lewis (8) and William Stamps Lewis (6) of Dallas for whom he would crow like a rooster on their phone calls. As a former government and sociology professor for Gulf Coast Community College, Harry was thoroughly interested in politics and religion and enjoyed watching politicians act like preachers and preachers act like politicians. He was fond of saying a phrase he coined "I am not running for political office or trying to get married" when he was "speaking the truth." He also took pride in his service during the [Korean conflict](#), serving the rank of corporal--just like Napoleon, as he would say.

Harry took fashion cues from no one. His signature every day look was all his: a plain pocketed T-shirt designed by the fashion house Fruit of the Loom, his black-label elastic waist shorts worn above the navel and sold exclusively at the Sam's on Highway 49, and a pair of old school Wallabees (who can even remember where he got those?) that were always paired with a grass-stained MSU baseball cap.

He despised phonies, his 1969 Volvo (which he also loved), know-it-all Yankees, Southerners who used the words "veranda" and "porte cochere" to put on airs, eating grape leaves, Law and Order (all franchises), cats, and Martha Stewart. In reverse order. He particularly hated Day Light Saving Time, which he referred to as The

Devil's Time. It is not lost on his family that he died the very day that he would have had to spring his clock forward. This can only be viewed as his final protest.

Because of his irrational fear that his family would throw him a golf-themed funeral despite his hatred for the sport, his family will hold a private, family only service free of any type of "theme."

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you make a donation to Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College (Jeff Davis Campus) for their library.

Finally, the family asks that in honor of Harry that you write your Congressman and ask for the repeal of Day Light Saving Time. Harry wanted everyone to get back on the Lord's Time.

Johanna Scarpitti
(1944-2014)

A great obituary tells readers more about you than just what you did with your life. The great ones give readers a better sense of how you lived your life and what kind of a person you were.

Johanna Scarpitti's obituary, written by one of her daughters, does just that with the inclusion of one seemingly vindictive line in the first paragraph.

However, it is not a condemnation of Scarpitti's life, but rather an inside joke between the mother and her daughter Assunta Lucy. The pair shared an abiding love for watching *The Wizard of Oz*, and Scarpitti made her daughter promise to add a reference to the film in her obituary, Lucy said. As an additional nod to the film, Scarpitti was buried wearing black-and-white striped stockings and ruby slippers.

Ding dong the witch is dead, but the memory of our mother lives on. Johanna Scarpitti, age 70, of New Castle, DE, passed away unexpectedly August 1, 2014 at her summer home.



Johanna was a kind-hearted woman; a loving mother and wife who spoiled her grandchildren without complaint. She was sweet with a side of zest. Johanna loved the beach, boating, kayaking and that incredible drink from The Lazy Lizard.

She will be incredibly missed by all who knew her, the whole bunch.

She is survived by her husband of 46 years, Joseph; her children: William Scarpitti, Nicole (Vaughn) LeSage, and Assunta (Mark) Lucy; and grandchildren: Jacquelyn (Sean) Rash, Nathan, Dylan, Cathryn, Anna, Gillian, Joseph, Bryan and Courtney.

Events, Groups, and Sites of GSOC Interest

It's That Time Again... to renew your GSOC membership

This year we are asking everyone to complete a membership form again so that we can make sure all our contact information is correct and to also give you a chance to list the surnames you are researching, and, importantly, where those surnames were living. The form can be downloaded from:

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flocgs/Membership Form.pdf>

Please either mail the completed form along with your check to the GSOC post office box address given at the right or bring them to the next GSOC meeting with you.

Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida
115 Westview Ave., Valparaiso, FL 32580

"Valentine's Victorian Tea" **Saturday, February 13, 2 PM**

Men, women, and children are invited to experience Valentine traditions of the past and create future memories with the ones you love, at the **Valentine's Victorian Tea**, Saturday, February 14 at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. Enjoy light refreshments as you are guided through etiquette and customs of taking tea in Victorian England. Enhancing the holiday sentiment, guests will learn facts about the historic evolution of Valentine's Day, and see an exhibit of unique Victorian artifacts. The Valentine's Victorian Tea, for ages 6 years and up, is a distinctive and festive program chockfull of charm and culture. Cost: \$16 per person; \$13 for Museum Members. Reservations required. Call 850-678-2615

West Florida Genealogical Society
Meeting at West Florida Genealogy Library
5740 N. 9th Ave, Pensacola, FL

Saturday, February 6, 2016; 10 AM

***Genetic Genealogy: Using DNA Testing for Family Research* by Mary Eberle**

Mary Eberle will present information about how to use DNA testing for your family research, covering DNA basics, available tests, and how to develop your DNA testing plan. She owns DNA Hunters, LLC and is a former DNA scientist and patent lawyer. She now specializes in using DNA for family research. She also helps adoptees and others with unknown parents use DNA to find their birth families.

Members and guests are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be available at 9:45. Meeting begins at 10:00. Contact: Charlotte Schipman, 850-477-7166, cschipman@mac.com

GSOC INFORMATION

Officers for 2016

President, Sue Basch
1st Vice President (Programs), Charlene Grafton
2nd Vice President (Membership), Jon Sheperd
Treasurer, Phil Hoge
Recording Secretary, Kathie Sheperd
Corresponding Secretary, Val Moreland
Immediate Past President, James Young
Journal Editor, TBD; Historian, TBD
Genealogist, Margaret Harris
Publicity Chairperson, Val Moreland
Webmaster & Newsletter Editor, Jim Young

Addresses

P.O. Box 1175, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-1175
Email: gsocokaloosa@yahoo.com
Newsletter Editor: youngjmy@cox.net

Meetings and Membership

Regular meetings of the GSOC are usually 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 download the membership form.

The Newsletter

The GSOC Newsletter is usually 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 2015 issue, was published and distributed in October 2015.

The Web Site

<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 February GSOC meeting will include a presentation by Janice Cronan, a member of the Bay County Genealogical Society. Her topic is: *Proving our Pedigree to Join Heritage Societies*.

Please note that this meeting will be held at the Valparaiso Senior Center, 268 Glenview Avenue, Valparaiso, FL. A map showing the location of the Senior Center is on page 1.

"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**