



THE GSOC NEWSLETTER

THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

FEBRUARY 18, 2019

IN THIS ISSUE

- Page 1 THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM, Minutes, and UPCOMING EVENTS
- Page 2 Why Should I Join the GSOC by Jim Young
- Page 3 Articles of interest
- Page 4 EVENTS AND INFORMATION

February 23, 2019, 10:30 AM

THE STATE OF THE GSOC: A Birthday Celebration and Reflection Presented by Our Officers and Members

*From our President, **Cindy Barber:***

Happy Birthday to US! This month we will be partying with refreshments, scrapbooks, and Journals to browse after our 'State of the Society' meeting! Don't miss the party!

Mike and I made a short-notice trip to the Valparaiso Library and moved 3 bins of books to the FWB library. Lauren and the staff at FWB are working to process the books into FWB and move them into the Genealogy section. David at the Valparaiso Library is keeping books related to Florida and the south, so make sure you check Valparaiso for your research, too. A check of WorldCat will let you see what is available. *Happy Birthday, GSOC!*



NOTICE

The Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County (GSOC) Meeting Minutes are located on our web site. Use the following link:

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

Also review the minutes of the December 2018 minutes for corrections and/or deletions so both minutes can be approved at the February meeting.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

March 23, 2019, 10:30 AM

Fort Walton Beach Library

185 Miracle Strip Parkway SE, Fort Walton Beach, FL

The March program will be presented by Dr. Tom Sajwaj. Details of the program will be provided here later.

April 27, 2019, 10:30 AM

Robert L. F. Sikes Public Library

1445 Commerce Drive, Crestview, FL

Our April 2019 meeting will be held at the Robert L.F. Sikes Public Library in Crestview in conjunction with a special all-day genealogy event we will be hosting there, "A Day of DNA". Tickets will be sold, and details will be provided as they are finalized.

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 your 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.

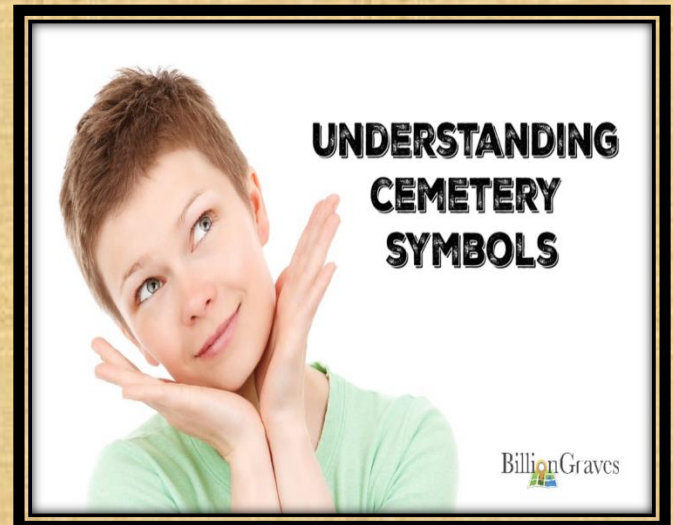
(This was originally published in the April 2012 issue of the GSOC Newsletter and was suggested by an article by Kathleen W. Hinckley, CGRS.)

BOOK DONATION

The GSOC donated several new books to the Fort Walton Beach Library on 24 Jan 2019.



Pictured are (L-R): Jon Sheperd, GSOC 2018 President; Tricia Gould, Library Manager; Kathie Sheperd, GSOC Library Committee; Cindy Barber, GSOC 2019 President.



Checkout this web site for a two-part article about symbols used in cemeteries:

<https://blog.billiongraves.com/2019/01/29/understanding-the-cemetery-symbols-on-your-ancestors-gravestones/>

2019 Northwest Florida Family History Fair

March 9, 2019
9AM to 4PM (Four 60 minute sessions)
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints:
339 Lake Drive NW
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548

• FREE, Everyone Welcome
• Gain New Skills and Helpful Information
• Knowledgeable and Experienced Instructors

Enrich Your Learning in the Following Areas:

- Best Internet sites
- Land, Probate, & Census Research
- Finding Your European Ancestors
- Writing Your Family History
- Family Search Indexing
- Online Genealogy and Technology
- Basic & Advanced Use of FamilySearch
- DNA Research
- Research Tips and Tools for Success

For detailed information on classes and instructors please visit the Northwest Florida Family History Fair- 2019 Facebook Page.

Two Ways to Register:
1. Send registration request to: familyhistoryfair1@gmail.com
2. Google doc: Visit <https://bit.ly/2A5Da2T> to complete registration form

This event is sponsored by the Fort Walton Beach Florida Stake of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

The GSOC will have a table at this fair. Volunteers will be needed to staff the table on a shift basis.



For those who can use it here is the QR code for the GSOC website's URL.

Fundamentals of Genealogy:
Basics for Everyone

GSOC only has two of these books left!

\$25 each

Pick yours up at the February meeting

A quick reference guide to accredited methods, research strategies, U.S. record groups and more!

Marsha Peterson-Maass

Events and Information of GSOC Interest

Officers for 2019

President, Cindy Barber
 1st Vice President (Programs), Mike Kleypas
 2nd Vice President (Membership), Jerry Rush
 Treasurer, Phil Hoge
 Recording Secretary, Barbara Bethea
 Corresponding Secretary, Val Moreland

Appointees:

Immediate Past President, Jon Sheperd
 Journal Editor, Cindy Barber
 Genealogist, Margaret Harris
 Publicity Chairperson, Val Moreland
 Newsletter Editor, Edward Crosby
 Webmaster, Jim Young

Addresses

P.O. Box 1175, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-1175

Email: gsocokaloosa@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor: edcrosby@valp.net

GENIE Section: EditorGSOCFLnews@gmail.com

Genealogy Special interest Group: GSOCSGSIG@gmail.com

Membership

Annual membership dues are \$24 for individual and \$35 for individual and spouse at same address. You can obtain a membership form from our web site or use the copy included in this newsletter.

The Newsletter

The GSOC Newsletter is now published on or before the third weekend of each month. Suggestions for articles are welcome. The editor, Edward Crosby, can be contacted by phone at (850) 678-5423 or by email at edcrosby@valp.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 2018 issue was published and distributed in September 2018 and has been mailed to all GSOC members. The theme of the 2018 issue is the "Why did I come here". If you are a member and didn't receive your copy, please contact us.

NOTICE: Web Site has been restored:
<http://www.rootweb.ancestry.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.

GSOC on Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/okaloosagsoc>

The address to the official page of the Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County is shown above; or you can go to your Facebook account and search for **Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County**. This page provides the latest information about our future meetings and other news that is important to members or prospective members. There is also a Facebook group. It is useful for exchanging information about your research and getting help with questions you may have about the Society or resources available to you. You can find it by going to your Facebook account and searching for **Friends of the GSOC**

The GSOC Books

The five GSOC cemetery, marriage, and funeral books are all out of print, but are now available on the GSOC web site for reading on line and for downloading as searchable PDF files, at no charge. **Please note that all these GSOC books are copyrighted by The Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County and may be only used for personal use. Reproduction is prohibited without the permission of the GSOC.** Go to the web site, scroll down and click on the **GSOC Books** link, click on the name of the book to access, and read it on line. Save it to your computer to download it. Because of the size of these books, it may take them a few minutes to display (depending on the speed of your internet connection.)

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF OKALOOSA COUNTY

Web Site has been restored: www.rootweb.com/~flocgs E-mail: gsocokaloosa@yahoo.com

I hereby apply for membership or the renewal of my membership in the Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County

ANNUAL DUES (Membership Year 1 Jan-31 Dec)

Individual \$24.00 Family \$35.00 (For Individual & spouse at the same address)

Please PRINT or TYPE all information:

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Preferred Telephone (Home/Cell): _____ E-Mail: _____ Date: _____

Can information be shared with other members? Name: Yes/No, Address: Yes/No, Phone: Yes/No, Email: Yes/No

Your level of experience: Beginner ___ Intermediate ___ Advanced ___ Family Genealogist ___ Professional ___

Please indicate areas of GSOC in which you would like to serve or contribute:

Newsletter Editor ___ Write Newsletter Articles ___ Webmaster ___ Journal Editor ___ Journal Staff Member ___ Write Articles for Journal ___ Serve on Short-term Committee ___ Nomination Committee ___ Organize Field Trips ___ Christmas Party Organizer ___ Give Genealogy Presentation ___ Workshop Leader ___ Workshop Volunteer ___ Special Event Organizer ___ Special Event Volunteer ___ Librarian ___ Publicity ___ CD Sales ___

Research: Name of families and states you are researching

Surname	State or Area

Surname	State or Area

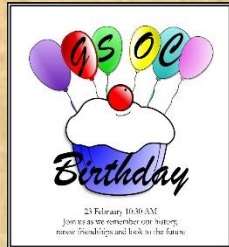
PLEASE MAIL FORM (ALONG WITH CHECK) TO THE GSOC P.O. ADDRESS ABOVE (OR BRING FORM AND CHECK TO NEXT SOCIETY MEETING)



Our next meeting will on Saturday,
February 23th, at 10:30 am.

Featuring:

“THE STATE OF THE GSOC” A Birthday Celebration and Reflection



Fort Walton Beach Library
185 Miracle Strip Parkway SE,
Fort Walton Beach, Florida 32548

“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