

The GSOC Newsletter

The Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County, Florida
February 15, 2020



GSOC President's Corner

Happy Birthday GSOC! Look at what we did in 2019!

Each year I look back and reflect on where I have been. The GSOC deserves that same reflection. I started by looking at the January 2019 newsletter. You might want to check out the message I wrote:

<https://sites.rootsweb.com/~flocgs/NewsLJan19.pdf>

I am proud to report that we fulfilled EVERY purpose except publishing a Journal. Not publishing a journal was a well thought out decision by the board.

Just look at all we did in 2019:

On February 14th, Mike and I met with the Okaloosa County Public Library Cooperative. This introduced our society to the Library Directors and opened the doors of communication. This meeting brought us more opportunities county wide.

In March we were well represented at the Family History Fair. GSOC members gave presentations and manned our table. Betsy Plantholt won the GSOC membership.

In April, we held our first ever Day of DNA in Crestview. Not only did we learn a lot from Kristina Clever and John Marshall, we gained four new members.

The GSOC volunteer program in the Fort Walton Library started in April. Volunteers gave their Wednesday afternoons to our area of the FWB Library. They worked in the stacks culling and arranging books and helping visitors with genealogy questions. The volunteers included Val

Moreland, Margaret Harris, Joyce Stimak, Jon and Kathie Sheperd, Mike Kleypas, Elizabeth Mangum, Beverly Gross, me, and Jody Biles. If I missed anyone, I apologize.

In June we held a two session Beginner DNA Workshop in Niceville. It spawned our DNA Interest Group.

It is extremely difficult to find new and interesting presenters each month. During a Federation of Genealogical Societies meeting, a member from Massachusetts told us how he brings in webinars during the winter when his members may not be able to travel to meetings. This seemed like a great way to bring in some new speakers. Over the following months Mike and I found that many societies are supplementing their meetings with webinars. In July, I returned from IGHR and proposed to the board that we try a remote presentation with Michael Strauss. They agreed. Our January 2020 presentation proved that we CAN bring in a remote speaker.

The Fort Walton Beach Library started working to become a Family Search Affiliate Library in July. The city approved the contract in January 2020. We should be able to access Family Search locked records soon.

In September, we held a DNA Painter Workshop in Niceville and Family Tree Maker came to the Island Hotel. Sherry O'Neill, who had not even joined GSOC at the time, helped search for venues here and in Pensacola.

We were involved with the Fort Walton Beach, Crestview and Niceville Libraries when Destin called. My first attempt to present "An Introduction to Working with your

DNA Matches" was on a dark and stormy night. It seemed fitting, since it was just two days before Halloween. Only one person braved the weather to attend, but it was a 'win'. Tom Routledge, who is from Scotland attended. We will be hearing more from Tom in 2020.

Jon Sheperd delivered on our promise to Crestview Library to hold a fall program. Jon's Beginning Genealogy program in November was well attended and helped keep the GSOC visible in 'North County'. Donna Elliott, Hilma Jenus, Jon Sheperd and Kathie Sheperd, manned a table during Maker's Day at FWB Library.

When we realized there was a need for an Okaloosa County Research Guide, Donna Elliott took the lead and along with Beverly Gross, Kathy Sheperd and others created a professional Research Guide any organization would be proud of.

Our book collection grew with three big acquisitions. When the Valparaiso Library decided to reduce their Genealogy collection, Mike and I sprang into action and got first pick of the unwanted collection and moved them to the Fort Walton Beach Library. I did not count the books, but there were a lot! We were also able to save several years of Journals. Ed Crosby and Mike Kleypas' work helped GSOC get the Valparaiso books. We bought 10 books from the Pensacola Genealogy Library and added 76 more in October for free! When a library decides to divest itself of books, we must get there fast! We also had several books donated by members and the public. I picked up two boxes of books from an estate. The family used the GSOC email from the website to contact us.

The library volunteers worked tirelessly to arrange all the new books in the stacks. We grew so much the library gave us more shelf space. GSOC and the library bought 60 new burgundy boxes for the journals and smaller books. Val Moreland, Mike Kleypas and Cindy switched the boxes out when they came in.

But that is not all the library work. Lauren, the librarian, cataloged 364 books in the Genealogy section! That included the new books and the books that were on the shelves and not cataloged or that were changed in the catalog.

We closed the year with a fantastic Christmas Luncheon at Tradewinds. Kathie Sheperd made sure the event ran smoothly. It was nice to have the restaurant all to ourselves. Jim Young ran the installation of officers and we all had a great time.

We must not forget the volunteers whose constant work keeps the society humming along. Jim Young maintains our website and Facebook presence. He is so responsive - he often posts items within minutes. Phil Hoge keeps the books and keeps our 401(c)3 active. Ed Crosby edited the Newsletter for most of the year and then passed it to Nicki Chamberlain, a new member, who has taken it to heart. Barb Bethea has continued to keep the minutes, even when she was not able to attend some meetings. Val Moreland keeps us in the public eye with media releases and collects the mail. Margaret Harris answers any genealogy inquiries. Jerry Rush had to give up taking care of membership, but he did a great job until he passed it to Jon for the rest of 2019. Jodie Biles, another new member, volunteered to take over membership in 2020.

Mike Kleypas, GSOC's First Vice President, is more than a 'program guy'. Not only does Mike work hard to find new and different programs, he is also my 'other half'. Mike was there when I had very little notice to get books, and he also supports all our GSOC activities. Mike is that calm voice that reminds me I cannot do it all and that encouraging voice that says, "go for it". He has helped find opportunities to make GSOC better and helped execute them.

The entire board and volunteers have offered ideas and encouragement. They helped select books, gave the thumbs up to projects and community outreach. They agreed to try bringing in a remote speaker. They spoke up with advice and historical knowledge of GSOC.

Our leadership reflects our membership - we have a fantastic mixture of new and old members. All bring valued experience and energy to the organization. I am looking forward to working with more of you in 2020.

**Reflection over - Look forward!
Stay tuned for GSOC 2020!**



Cindy Barber
Cindybarber2@gmail.com



The Family Tree Maker Users Group Meeting will be held **immediately** after the GSOC Meeting on February 22nd.

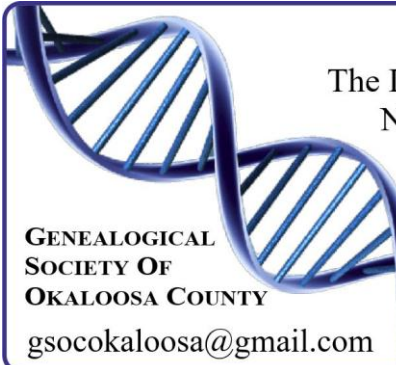


*Please go to the website
Listed below to download the
FTM Companion Guide (V.2017)
before our next Users Group
Meeting on February 22nd!!!*



<https://fatherlyadviceandrants.files.wordpress.com/2018/04/family-tree-maker-companion-guide.pdf>

The above **free** download is the Family Tree Maker Companion Guide for FTM 2017. MacKiev's new Companion Guide for FTM 2019 is selling right now for \$24.00 (pre-sale price). They are still working on this version.



DIG

The DNA Interest Group
Niceville Library

2nd Tuesday
6-7:30 PM

GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY OF
OKALOOSA COUNTY

gsocokaloosa@gmail.com



**Leap Into The
Unindexed Records
On Family Search**

Learn how to look for **GOLD**
in thousands of other records!

29 February 9:00 and 10:30
Destin Library Computer Lab

Hands-on workshop
Bring your Family Search login
credentials and a thumb drive

Contact Cindy for more information: cindybarber2@gmail.com

UPCOMING SCHEDULE OF PROGRAMS/ACTIVITIES

- Feb 22nd - GSOC Birthday Celebration
- Feb 22nd - African American Research by Jodie Biles
- Feb 22nd - Family Tree Maker Users Group-FWB
- Feb 29th - Destin Library Computer Lab
- March - TBD
- Apr 25th - DNA Program by John Marshall

VIDEOS AND WEBSITES ONLINE

Very Interesting webinars! These are the free ones – you have to join to see the rest.

https://familytreewebinars.com/archived_webinars_free.php

<https://www.cyndislist.com/african-american/>

<https://www.familytreemagazine.com/heritage/african-american/slave-record-projects-juneteenth/>

<https://www.familytreemagazine.com/freebie/25-genealogy-search-strategies-to-trace-your-african-american-ancestry/>

Katherine R. Willson of Ann Arbor, Michigan -
<https://socialmediagenealogy.com/>

<https://moonswings.files.wordpress.com/2019/05/genealogy-on-facebook-may-2019.pdf>

<https://moonswings.files.wordpress.com/2019/01/genealogy-on-youtube-jan-2019.pdf>

https://texashistory.unt.edu/explore/collections/TDNP/?fbclid=IwAR15ZR1q0XCFPlj33m1YRlxOc_8fFgdR-Ds0HluOTQFd9cpvrNNdXnzx4NI

https://elephind.com/?fbclid=IwAR2Cfz32j9J9LyTID82vwCaPyFC_IShvtTaRJFWsQg0Eal-duZfBLI4Fo

<https://www.familytreemagazine.com/websites/familysearch-compare-a-face/>

<https://www.familytreemagazine.com/libraries-archives/roundup-digital-history-collections/>

MEET THE MEMBER
& PRESIDENT:
CINDY BARBER



Where were you born? Franklin, Indiana

Have you lived in other places? Yes - Many

Where? Kentucky: Monticello; Indiana: Franklin, Greenwood, Speedway, Peru, Kokomo; Texas: Port Isabel, Mission, Weslaco; New Mexico: Anthony, San Antonio; California: Coronado; Hawaii: Kaneohe, Kapolei; Florida: Sebring, Shalimar. We traveled in our RV for 6 years, usually staying three weeks or less in one place. We did winter in Yuma when my husband had his hip replaced. I have been to 49 states. I will get to Alaska in 2021 on a Genealogy Cruise. I moved 10 times in my 14 years with EDS, never living in one place longer than 18 months.

What is your background (Where did you work, what did you do, etc?) My first job was in a gas station. I worked retail and managed a Petland for a few years, then got hired by EDS. I was a self-taught computer programmer and ran a Computer Users Group. At EDS, I started in Field Service but quickly advanced to support the desktop platform for an advanced engineering group, moved to Novell Lan Administrator, then to UNIX. I was one of the only women allowed to wear slacks. I always supported advanced engineering, both mechanical and electrical. I supported the Engineering platform in 28 GM plants in Mexico, was on the corporate standards committees to set Windows, security, networking and other IT standards. I stayed technical for most of my career and was trained on many programs and platforms. I was the first Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer in my area. I was part of the teams that built two Network Operations Centers for the Navy. I was eventually forced into management. I was a Technical Delivery Team Manager. On the Navy Projects and then after I left EDS I was also a Facility Security Officer (FSO) because I was often first on site and had to implement security and hire.

When we retired, we bought 160 acres in New Mexico and raised racing quarter horses. I got to check off my 'be a cowboy' box by doing round ups and riding over the 58,000 acres that surrounded our ranch. I also worked on White Sands Missile Range. I love the high desert. Since then, I have held various 'fun' positions. One of the best things about being retired is job hopping!

When did you start doing genealogy? 1980

What geographic areas have you researched? Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Missouri, Ohio, Illinois, some Louisiana. I am just starting UK.

Have you attended any conferences? Indiana State Conferences when I lived there. Last year I went to IGHR (won a scholarship). I am going to IGHR this July. I am taking the Legal Records and Law Libraries course.

Do you belong to any other genealogy related societies? West Florida and the Association of Professional Genealogists. I am not a joiner. I do donate to a society or library if they help me in my research.

Tell us about one of your brick walls. The Atlantic Ocean is my biggest brick wall! I have 'jumped the pond' with some of my lines, but many others are in the US in the early 1800s or as early as 1640 and I cannot get them placed into the UK. I have one family from Holland I would love to get solved.

Have you DNA tested? Of course.

What have you learned from DNA testing? I have matches that corroborate my paper research, but the real value has been the relationships I now have with others who are also researching my lines.

Were there any surprise results? Not in my direct line, but I did gain a second cousin who was adopted and now have other 'surprise' cousins. I do have a match to an African American family from Georgia we are trying to tie in. I have no family in Georgia, but have located some other lines and may be narrowing in.

Does one of your ancestors have an unusual name? Arilda Matilda Earl is my favorite name.

Do you have an ancestor you would consider famous? A couple who founded towns, but none really famous.

If you could ask one ancestor a question, who would you ask and what would the question be? William Rutledge b. 1769 - "Who was your family and where did you come from?"

February 22nd Program



African American History: The Challenges and Rewards

by
Jodie Biles

Jodie** will discuss the challenges African Americans face researching their family history, how to reconnect with their past, where to look and who to talk to. Especially important are the connections that they make while doing the research. In order to reconcile the past and learn from it we have to confront it. She will share several websites and Facebook groups where African Americans and White Americans work together to reconstruct family trees. She wants to share her enthusiasm for the subject and hopes to inspire you to do research of your own or assist your DNA connections.

**Jodie, veteran, spouse, mother and avid family historian was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio. She has been actively researching her family, the places and historical times in which they lived for the past 3 ½ years. Jodie has a certificate in Genealogy Studies and is currently taking a course in African American Genealogy through the National Genealogical Society. She graduated from Ball State University with a Bachelor of General Studies degree with concentrations in Psychology of Human Development and Sociology.



Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County

Minutes of the January 25, 2020 Meeting



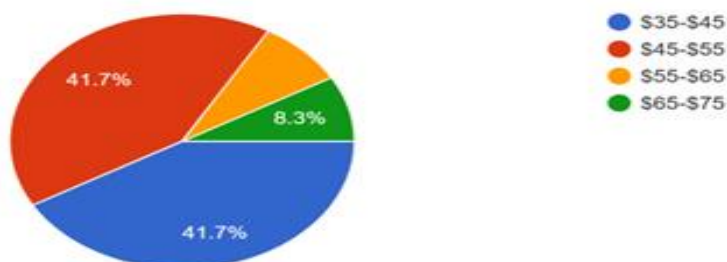
GSOC Meeting:	2020_01_25
Call to Order:	10:38 am
Approval of November & December Minutes:	Minutes approved as printed in newsletter.
Finance Report:	Phil reported through Cindy: \$1808.45 in account, Blue Box \$799.33.
Membership Report:	Jodie – 7 membership renewals.
Correspondence:	Val – nothing to report.
Website Report:	Jim – Handout with info available on the website was passed out to members.
Newsletter Report:	Give Nicki any items in the area for the newsletter. Interviews with members will continue to be in there also.
Genealogist Report:	Margaret – she has been helping someone find a grave.
Okaloosa County Research Guide:	Cindy – Research guides are printed and were passed around. Members get one free. After that they are \$3. Non-members \$5.
President Report:	<p>Cindy passed around the sign up calendar for library volunteers</p> <p>The city signed the Family Search Affiliate Contract! The library will be getting the IT department to set their computer up.</p> <p>Destin library is the next group to ask the city to offer the Family Search Affiliate computer.</p> <p>Destin Digitization Day - Monday. Jodie & Cindy are doing presentations on Preservation and Beginning Genealogy. Cindy passed around information.</p> <p>Family Tree Maker organization meeting is directly after this. The meetings are starting in January and will follow the monthly GSOC meeting.</p> <p>Family History Day is Mar 7, 2020 from 9am-Noon.</p>
Volunteers for library:	1-4 on Wednesdays. Passed sign-up sheet around.
DNA Interest Group:	Meets in Niceville on 2 nd Tuesday of each month from 18:00-19:30.

Programs Report:	Nothing.
Presentation:	Webinar: Descendancy Research another Pathway to Genealogy by Michael L. Strauss.
Door Prize Winners:	The door prizes were won by 2 visitors.
Meeting Adjourned:	12:45 pm.

GSOC 2019 Treasurer Report – Summary			
General Account			
Beginning Balance:		\$	281.36
Income:			
	Membership Dues	\$	1,303.00
	Day of DNA	\$	725.00
	Other	\$	317.19
	Total Income:	\$	2,345.19
Expense:			
	Day of DNA	\$ (561.68)
	Other	\$ (768.97)
	Total Expense:	\$ (1,330.65)
Ending Balance – General Account		\$	1,295.90
Blue Box Account			
Beginning Balance:		\$	1,020.08
Income:			
	Member Donations	\$	455.25
Expense:			
	Library Books	\$ (647.43)
		\$	(647.43)
Ending Balance - Blue Box:		\$	827.90
Total Funds:			\$ 2,123.80
Philip R. Hoge GSOC Treasurer			

NATIONAL KNOWN SPEAKER SURVEY RESULTS

How much would you pay to attend a Seminar featuring a nationally known speaker in Pensacola?
12 responses



GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF OKALOOSA COUNTY
P.O. Box 1175, Fort Walton Beach, Florida 32549-1175

Please check: ☐ New ☐ Renewal

<http://www.rootsweb.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: January 31st - December 31st)
Individual \$24.00 or 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: _____

Can your information be shared with other members?

Name: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Address: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Phone: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Email: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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Please circle your level of experience: Beginner / Intermediate / Advanced / Family Genealogist / Professional

Please check the areas of GSOC in which you can 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; Other _____

Research:

Surnames of families and states you are researching. If no change, so indicate.
If family membership - use left column for husband's family and right column for wife's.

Surname	State or Area

Surname	State or Area

PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM ALONG WITH YOUR CHECK TO THE GSOC POST OFFICE ADDRESS ABOVE
(OR BRING THE FORM AND YOUR CHECK TO THE NEXT MEETING OF THE SOCIETY).



Our next meeting is Saturday,
February 22nd, at 10:30 am



******Attention******

Due\$ Are Due!
Bring your check and
Membership form
to the meeting
or mail it in!
The membership form
is in this newsletter



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

"Whatever you know, whatever you learn – Pass it On!"