



The GSOC Newsletter

The Genealogical Society of
Okaloosa County, Florida

February 14, 2021

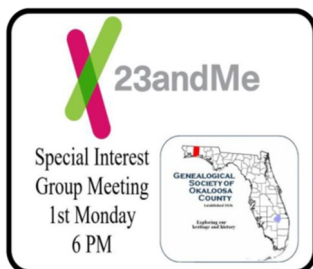


In January, we had a spectacular presentation from Auriette Lindsey, who shared with us the finer points of scanning and saving family photos and documents. If you'd like to see her handout, you can download it from the GSOC website at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~flocgs>

Don't miss our upcoming meetings—more great information for genealogists of every skill level!

Saturday, February 27— “African-American Genealogy: The Challenges and Rewards” . (More info on Page 2)

Saturday, March 27— “Create a Book—Honor Your Ancestors for Posterity!” (More Info on Page 3)



The Monthly DNA Special Interest Group meetings have been discontinued. If you have a specific question or concern, Immediate Past President Cindy Barber has graciously offered to assist.

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF OKALOOSA COUNTY

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

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

gsocokaloosa@gmail.com

February GSOC Meeting

Saturday, February 27, 10:30 am

By Zoom

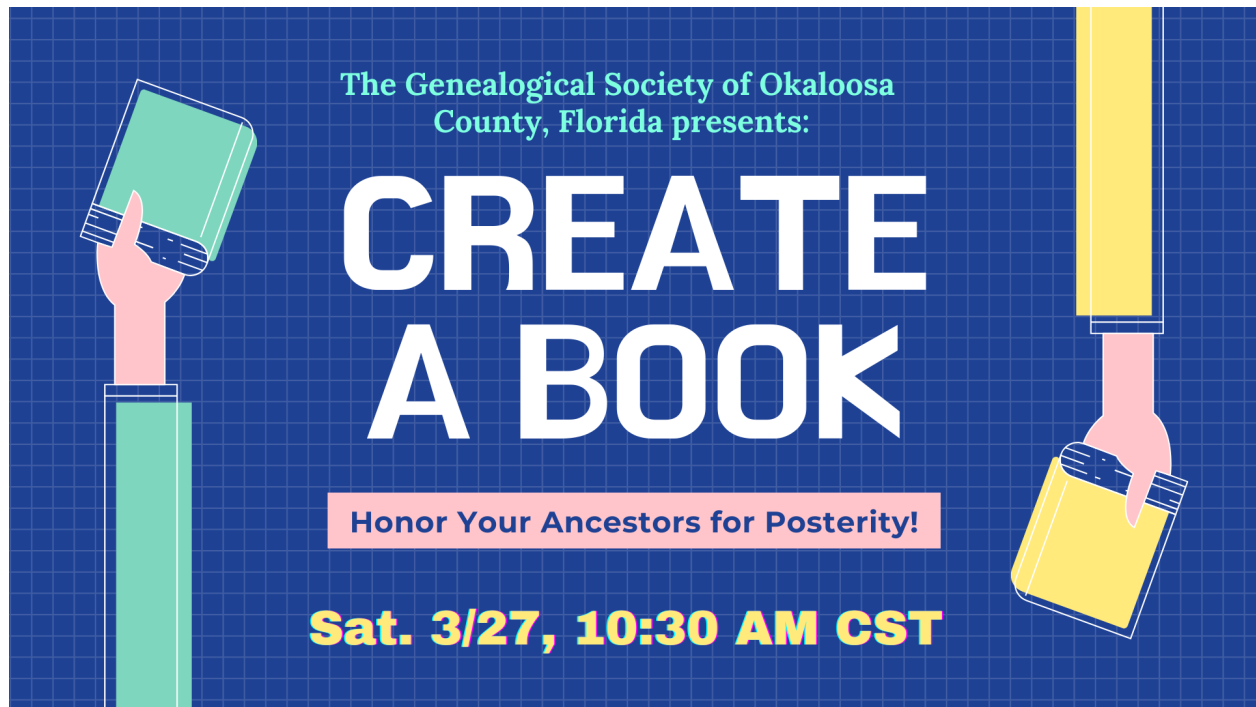


Program Details: Jodie will discuss the challenges African Americans face researching their family history, how to reconnect with their past, where to look and who to talk to. Especially important are the connections they make while doing the research. In order to reconcile the past and learn from it, 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.

Speaker Bio: 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 certificates in Genealogical Studies and 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.

March GSOC Meeting



Program Details: The program will discuss the options wannabe book writers have, from DIY (scrapbooking, murals (a book on a wall) or self-publishing with a print template), to hiring photo and design help, to commissioning a company that specializes in producing heirloom-quality family books. She will share what she learned as she worked with the client's family, and with a book designer to preserve the family's letters, diaries, documents, and scrapbook entries for posterity. The program is aimed at Genealogists of all levels, who are looking for best practices for writing and sharing one's family story.

Speaker Bio: Since 2011, Janeen Bjork has combined 30 years of experience as a television researcher and presenter, editor and educator, with her love of family history, teaching Genealogy, Newspaper and DNA classes, mostly in New England and New York. When a nonagenarian Genealogy student asked in 2018, "Do you have any ideas for Christmas presents?" she began an unexpected, challenging, and heartfelt, year-long adventure. The result was a 182-page family history book that memorialized the lives and legacies of 11 family members who lived together in a house in a small town in Nebraska, in the first half of the 20th century. Her second book project [which was given to the client's family for Christmas 2020] is a book of family travel photos, album entries and newspaper clippings from 1912-1913. Her third book, a book of the client's family lines and photos, has begun with the scanning and organization of almost 300 family photos.



LOOKING BACK at 44 YEARS of GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF OKALOOSA COUNTY, 1976—2020

By Marsha Cox

The organizational meeting of GSOC was held 17 Feb 1976 in the Multi-Purpose Room of Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Fort Walton Beach. Founding members who attended that meeting were Anne Bettis, Faylene Bryant, Stella Fisher, Diane Healy, Wiley Benjamin Hill, Jr, Sharon Jasper, Eileen O. McCall, M. Garson Michel, Charles Million, Ruth Usrey, and Florence Adams. Eileen McCall became the first president. Other charter officers were Charles R. Million, V.P.; Faylene Bryant, Rec. Sec.; Brenda Lewis, Cor. Sec.; and Ruth Usrey, Treas.

The first issue of the Journal was published in the spring of 1977. It contained vital records, etc., of Okaloosa County and its parent counties of Santa Rosa and Walton counties. The Editor was Sharon Jasper. This was her first and last issue as she immediately moved to another state. This was also the only issue published in ditto. It was produced by FBLA at Fort Walton Beach High School Bus. Ed. Dept. The journals that followed for several years were done in mimeograph. The journal was published four times a year. It was an ambitious project for a young organization. In the Editor's Corner of that first issue, Sharon Jasper commented that it was published with pride and took many hours of research, typing and proofreading by members: Dianna Healy, Faylene Bryant, Brenda Lewis, Charles R. Million, Arthur Wagner, Betty Hill, Florence Adams and Dorothy Wilson. For the next several years a journal committee was responsible for the journal.

Publishing the journal has always been a challenge. The number of issues was reduced to three times a year and in 2010 reduced to once a year. A monthly newsletter was added to help keep members informed.

During those early years, the society rotated between three locations in the county: the school board office on Thursday night; Crestview, Bob Sikes Library on Saturday morning; and Valparaiso Library on Saturday morning. Many of the pioneer families attended in Crestview and Valparaiso.

One of the first projects of the society was to survey all of the cemeteries in Okaloosa County. The cemetery committee of Florence Lembeck, Martha Rogers, and George Green were tireless workers who headed up this project. Our cemetery books were dedicated to George Green who passed away before the project was completed. Many others from the society and community helped with surveys and listings. In the front of each book are listings of some who helped. The project was begun in 1981 and surveying completed in 1985. Vol. 1 was published in 1993. Vol. 2 and 3 were published in 1996. Marsha Cox was the Editor of these books.

Other books published by the society were: ***Marriage Records of Santa Rosa County*** in 1995, Editor, Florence A. Lembeck; ***Marriage Records of Walton County*** in 1996, Editor Florence A. Lembeck; ***Funeral Records of McLaughlin Funeral Home*** in 1999, Editors Frances Law Roberts and Jean Clark Graves.

As GSOC celebrates its 44th anniversary, its members have much to be proud of. They have copied many historical records of Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, and Walton Counties; established genealogy collections at libraries; helped countless people with their research; and provided outstanding programs. GSOC continues to grow as we learn to use new technology, organize new learning groups over zoom, and become knowledgeable about DNA. Let's make 2021 our best year yet! Together we will continue to make a difference.

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

<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 1 Jan-31 Dec)

Dues have been suspended for 2021 because of the pandemic.

Please PRINT or TYPE all information:

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Preferred Telephone (Home/Cell): _____

E-Mail: _____ Date: _____

Can your information be shared with other members?

Name: Yes ___ No ___ Address: Yes ___ No ___ Phone: Yes ___ No ___ Email: Yes ___ No ___

Please circle your level of experience: Beginner Intermediate Advanced Family Genealogist Professional

Please indicate 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: Names 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.

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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)

Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County

Zoom Meeting Minutes

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|---------------------------------|--|
| GSOC Meeting: | 2021_01_23 |
| Call to Order: | 10:35 am |
| Attendees: | 16 Barbara Bethea, Jodie Biles, Eppi Azzaretto, Bob Bryan, Marsha Cox, Auriette Lindsey, Sue Basch, Jim Young, Mike Kleypas, Liz Mangum, Donna Elliot, Pat Walker, Janeen Bjork, Sandy Ryland, Margaret Harris, and Betsy Christianson. |
| Membership Report: | Jodie – 60 members We will not be charging for membership in 2021 but donations are appreciated. If your information has changed please send that information to Jodie. |
| Programs Report: | Jodie: Meetings are the 4 th Saturday at 10:30 am <ul style="list-style-type: none"> February – “African American Genealogy the challenges and rewards” by Jodie Biles March – “You Should Write a Book: Writing your Family Story” April – TBD <p>Margaret is looking for a technical advisor to run the Zoom meetings.</p> |
| Recording Secretary: | Barb - Approval of November 2020 Minutes - Donna moved we approve the minutes as written in the newsletter and Mike seconded. All approved. |
| Corresponding Secretary: | Donna – Sent the notice of the meeting to all and is continuing to add advertising methods. |
| Treasurer: | Phil: Treasury \$1355.32 Blue Box \$ 884.83 Total \$2240.15 |
| Newsletter: | Eppi – January newsletter was sent out a week ago. She will take any suggestions. |
| Website: | Jim – Is trying to keep the website up to date. The website is essentially an archive. If you see anything that needs changing then let him know. |
| Sig Reports: | Jodie - 23&Me - 1st Monday 6pm Cindy - Family Tree Maker - 1st Wednesday 6pm Cindy - DNA - 2 nd Tuesday 6pm Margaret - Family Search - 3 rd Wednesday 6:30pm |
| Presenter: | Auriette Lindsay – Preserving Your Family History Scan, Save, Share. |

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| Questions Asked: | Many questions for Auriette Lindsay. |
| Meeting Adjourned: | 11:46 am |
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