

# **GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF OKALOOSA COUNTY**

January 8, 2009

## **HAPPY NEW YEAR 2009 GSOC**

Dear GSOC Members:

This past year has been busy learning more about Genealogy locally (three field trips to local libraries) and how to further our own Personal Heritage Tree with guest speakers furnished by Ken Elliott. We appreciate Ken's hard work. We have also been graciously given permission to have our meeting at the Northwest Florida Heritage Museum.

Year 2008 officers, Ken, Rita, Donna, Dan, and Chuck, were busy with the business end of the society, dealing with all the items that keep the society going. I especially want to "thank" all of them for a job well done. Every officer doing his or her job makes being the president easier. To you the GSOC members I appreciate your attendance last year, your willingness to serve, to work, and to socialize together.

This year's officers are: Beverly Gross, President; Ken Elliott, First VP in charge of Programs; Bob Sutherland, Second VP in charge of membership; Donna Elliott, Recording Secretary; Anne Sutherland, Corresponding Secretary; and Dan Braxton, Treasurer. In 2009 we want to continue as a warm welcoming group. If you know of persons interested in joining, please invite them. It is through personal invitations that people are more apt to join and attend our meetings. If you can think of other and better ways to include more members or have any suggestions for GSOC, please feel free to contact me at 729-2185 or at [bevgosc2005@cox.net](mailto:bevgosc2005@cox.net).

Since personnel at Northwest Florida Museum help us with our meeting place, I request that our GSOC members help them get ready for their move to the college. Moving will be in the future but many things need to be done to accomplish the move. Many families in NW Florida have a folder that need to be put in sheet protectors and then into three-ring binders. I have been doing this for almost a year and find it interesting, but extremely slow. If any of you are willing to help, even on just one Wednesday, I will greatly appreciate your help. You will learn about your own genealogy by reading others.

May all of you have a Blessed and Genealogical 2009.

Beverly

### **THE IMMIGRANTS' PRAYER**

God, bring me back to my homeland or bring the rest of my family here, even for a visit.



## **GLEANINGS FROM RESPONDERS ON USE OF A DIGITAL CAMERA FOR GENEALOGY**

(Ideas from Eastman's Online Newsletter comments 5 January, 2009)

Using moderately price digital cameras is usually satisfactory and provides much better copies than photocopying, especially under difficult conditions.

Set your camera on "highest quality" or "macro" for best results.

If your camera has an adjustable speed, use a higher IOS number when shooting in dim light.

Use a tripod in order to hold the camera in place. It works much better than the shoulders of your spouse! The tripod is especially helpful when photocopying in bad light if you do not have a flash.

Pocket-sized tripods are available.

Some tripods come in forms that bend and others that clamp on to things.

Use of a digital camera makes the copying of entire books cost effective.

Remember that you can always rotate the camera to get a better picture, i.e., it will fill the image more efficiently.

Move in and focus on the information on the page.

Lay the material that you want to copy on a table or desk, hold the book open in place as flat as possible, stand above it, and shoot as perpendicular to the book as possible.

Always copy the title page and the publication information first. This way you don't forget to do it! Writing this information down is also helpful, especially at times when pages may get put out of order.

Make sure that the page number can be read, even if it means taking a separate shot of the page number.

When recording larger books, you may want to shoot a copy in sections, such as a third of a page at a time, but make sure that there is some overlap of the pages.

Remember that you may want to photocopy microfilm as well as books and gravestones.

As well as the camera, you will need editing software.

The digital camera is also great for copying county deed and court records.

Some people use software to convert images of texts to a word processing document. You may want to check on Freeware and other open sources for software.

Consider photocopying old albums with your digital camera.

Make sure that you exhale as you press the shutter as exhaling gives a relaxed state, reduces camera shake, and absorbs minor body tremors. Tuck your elbows to your side and rest the camera against your head to make for a more stable position for getting sharp images.

**GIFT IDEAS:** Dick Eastman, editor of Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, on December 7, 2008, suggested that creative genealogically oriented persons could be creative in telling their family stories with gifts that they make. Perhaps you have completed a few projects that you will be willing to share with your fellow club members. If so, please let me know if you we can share them in the newsletter or let Margaret Marie Harris know if you are willing for her to place your ideas on our website at:

<http://www.floridagenealogyproject.com/gsoc/main.html>. Placing your ideas within the next few months will give members time to plan gift ideas for next Christmas and perhaps for some birthdays that will occur this year. One idea that I have heard about used by my distant relatives is a quilt. Beverly Gross suggested a white tablecloth used at family gatherings



where all in attendance trace their hands and sign with a permanent ink marker. The tablecloth can be used multiple times and young children have the opportunity to see how they have grown over the years.

## **RESOURCES**

For persons with Irish Roots: Eastman in his e-mail of December 22, 2008, reported that the Library and Archives Canada had announced that its partner, the National Archives of Ireland, had launched the next important phase of an online census research tool for the counties of Antrim, Kerry, and Down for 1911. The remaining counties' 1911 census records will come on line during 2009. To visit this resource, go to: [www.census.nationalarchives.ie](http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie) (in English only). This resource should allow searchers to search by name at no cost. For additional information, please visit The Shamrock and the Maple Leaf at: [www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/ireland/](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/ireland/).

For person with Pennsylvania German heritage: According to Eastman on December 26, 2008, the seventh volume of court records of Pennsylvania and Delaware has been released, a volume that completes the Colonial Society of Pennsylvania's goal to collect, preserve, and publish records and documents relating to the early history of Pennsylvania. To obtain further information from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, readers need to subscribe to the "Plus Edition" at <http://plus.eogn.com>, a fee-based membership.

Rare Texts: According to Angela Maples Turner of The Journal Gazette, the Allen County, Pennsylvania Library staff and Microsoft have authorized and provided 10 state-of-the-art scanning machines to scan rare texts that will become available at [www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org). Microsoft funded the machines. For more information, contact: [www.journalgazette.net/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=20081226/Local/812260323](http://www.journalgazette.net/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=20081226/Local/812260323). No timetable has been set for the completion of this project. Dick Eastman also posted information about this project on his Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter on December 27, 2008.

On January 1, 2009, Dick Eastman reported that a Grand Haven, Michigan, resident had donated letters written by Henry McKendree and Nancy Ewing of Hillsdale between 1856 and 1865 to the Michigan state archives. Each of these two ancestors had written 291 letters. Many were written during the time that McKendree was fighting in the Civil War.

Dan Braxton recently submitted to all members with e-mail addresses the following website: <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~dutilleul/OtherPapers/Index/Dates.html>, an English Website for 1700/1800 Newspapers.

Resources at Madison, FL: Dan Braxton e-mailed the membership that Elmer's Library at Madison, Florida, located about 50 miles east of Tallahassee, has over 25,000 books covering every state, including 2664 books on Florida, 1598 on Georgia, and 8114 books on Ohio. The address is S. W. Range Avenue, Madison, FL 32350-1500, its phone number is 850-973-3282, and its website is <http://www.elmerslibrary.com> email: [research@elmerslibrary.com](mailto:research@elmerslibrary.com). It is open Monday through Thursdays from 10am-4pm.



Dan Lynch recently published his latest book, Google Your Family Tree, and Dick Eastman gave a positive review on December 8, 2008, in his Eastman Online Genealogy Newsletter (EOGN). Comments from EOGN subscribers were positive. Eastman states that the book is equally useful for Windows, Macintosh, and Linux users. Also, researchers may search Google in languages other than English. The books may be purchased from FamilyLink.com for \$34.95 or from many local bookstores.

### **2009 GSOC OFFICERS**

Once the GSOC amended its bylaws to allow officers to hold the same office for three consecutive years, the Association elected the following people to the stated offices.

President: Beverly Gross  
VP for Programs: Ken Elliott  
VP for Membership: Bob Sutherland  
Recording Secretary: Donna Elliott  
Corresponding Secretary: Anne Sutherland  
Treasurer: Dan Braxton

Congratulations to all of you and a special thanks to the nominating committee headed by Hilma Jenus.

### **REPORT FROM FIRST VICE PRESIDENT, KENNETH ELLIOTT**

January	Beverly Gross, FGSOC, Paleography, and Researching your "Black Sheep" Ancestors
February	Northwest Florida University Library
March	Touring the Baker Museum
April	Dan Braxton, Facilities in our Area (tentative)
May	Valparaiso Library
June	Ann Robbins, Confederate Saltworks

### **GENEALOGY CLASSES**

Prime Time: Registration begins January 14, 2009, and will occur for one week. Phone numbers for registration are: 850-729-6084 or 729-6085. Beverly Gross will be teaching Beginning Genealogy and Emigration, Immigration and Migration. Beginning Genealogy will be taught on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:30 to 12:20 a.m. starting February 2, 2009. Emigration, Immigration and Migration will be taught on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 to 10:20 a.m. A minimum of 7 students is required in order for the class to be taught. Students must have completed Beginning Genealogy or must obtain teacher permission to take the class.

Center for Life-long Education: Registrations begin Friday, January 9, 2009 a.m. for current students and from 1:00 to 2:00 p. m. for new students. The last registration is Monday-Wednesday, January 12-14, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. The office is open from 9:00 to noon and the phone number is 850-863-6548. Beginning Genealogy will be taught by Beverly Gross on Fridays, 8:30 to 11:45 a.m. beginning January 16, 2009 through February 6. At least 7 students must register in order for each class to be held.

Margaret Harris will teach this CLL class: Genealogy: It's all Relative on Fridays at 1:00 p.m. beginning January 16, 2009. Students will benefit from having completed Beginning Genealogy prior to taking this class.

#### **REMINDER:**

David Weatherford at the Valparaiso Library and staff at the Fort Walton Beach Library will help people use the wealth of information that these two libraries contain. Readers may find the books and different state Journals helpful. The Crestview Library also has some genealogy materials.

#### **WELCOME**

To those of you who have been in your other homes, welcome back. We are happy to have you "home" again.

#### **HEALTH WISHES**

We extend good health wishes to the husbands of Margaret Harris and Rita Bartmess; these men are recovering from serious illnesses.

**MEMBERSHIP NOTICE FOR 2009**

Here is my check payable to the Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County (GSOC) for my 2009 dues:

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual \$24.00      \_\_\_\_\_ Family \$35.00 (Individual & Spouse @ same address)

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town, State, and 5 + 4 zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (include area code) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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