

THE GSOC NEWSLETTER

THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF
OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

JANUARY 4, 2014

Next GSOC Meeting

January 11, 2014



The first GSOC meeting of 2014 will be held at 10:00 A.M. at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso, FL. Our speaker, H. C. "Hank" Klein, has done extensive research into the settlers and early residents of Destin, FL, and into his and his wife's ancestors.

His presentation is entitled *Publishing and Enjoying Your Genealogy Work*. Mr. Klein has completed three books on his and his wife's ancestors, and is working on the fourth. Several of his articles have been published in the GSOC Newsletter and previous presentations to the Society have been highly regarded.

Mr Klein has long been interested in the history of Destin, Florida and the genealogy of his father-in-law's and mother-in-law's families (Marler and Shirah) who both came from pioneer Destin Families. Klein's books document that family research. He also contributed historical research for Tony Mennillo's book *Salty Memories along the Coastal Highway – Historic Stories of Destin and the Emerald Coast* which included many stories about Leonard Destin and the early settlers of Destin, Florida.

Klein lived for many years in both Okaloosa and Bay Counties. He is now retired from his Credit Union management career, and he and his wife (the former Muriel Marler of Destin, Florida) live in Arkansas. He can be contacted at klein@aristotle.net or at 501 256-7474.

There will be a GSOC Officers meeting at 9 AM at the Heritage Museum preceeding the January 11th General Meeting. All officers and chairpersons are requested to attend.

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GSOC December Meeting

December 14, 2013

Pat Pruett, Recording Secretary

President Donna Elliott called the meeting to order at 10:50 am at the Coach and Four Restaurant, Crestview, FL. She thanked Martha and Phil Trau for arranging for our meeting place and Christmas luncheon and for providing entertainment again this year.

Donna expressed her thanks to all of the outgoing officers and special assistants Carol Lessard and Frances Hoge. She, also, thanked Pat Pruett for being Publicity Chairman for the past three years and Jim Young for his outstanding work as Webmaster and Newsletter Editor.

Donna extended special thanks to Malcolm Flanagan and Marc Strickland for heading up the committee to produce our 2013 GSOC Journal. She thanked Bev Gross, Hilma Jenus and Margaret Harris for contributing articles and everyone who was involved with providing proofing assistance for the Journal. The Journal was mailed out early this month.

President Donna called all outgoing officers forward to thank them for their service this past year, then called forward the newly elected officers for 2014, to be installed. Donna read to each new officer his or her duties and asked for their dedication to their responsibilities as officers of the GSOC. 2014 Officers installed were President Jim Young, 1st Vice President, Programs, Del Lessard, 2nd Vice President, Membership, Sue Basch, Treasurer, Bob Basch, Recording Secretary Pat Pruett and Corresponding Secretary Carl Laws.

She also thanked those who will be assuming other major responsibilities, Margaret Harris, GSOC Genealogist and Val Moreland, Publicity Chairman.

Donna then turned the meeting over to President Jim Young who thanked everyone for attending the installation meeting /Christmas luncheon. Our canned goods donations will be taken to the Niceville Caring and Sharing.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 and everyone enjoyed the lunch and fellowship.

Donna and Ken Elliott reported that we donated approximately \$137 worth of non-perishable items to Sharing & Caring in Niceville. These donations were very much appreciated and enabled S&C to provide Christmas meals to several additional families.

The Unknown Confederate Soldier of Gray, Maine

Based on articles by Elizabeth H. Holland, and articles in *Yankee Magazine* and the *Grit Newspaper*

In the little town of Gray, Maine, 16 miles north of Portland, as in thousands of similar places all across our land, the graves in the cemetery in the center of the town are bedecked and decorated with flowers on Memorial Day. Sprinkled among these flowers, as in many cemeteries on this day, are American flags marking the final resting places of those who gave their lives in defense of their country — but in the Gray cemetery on a windswept hill ringed by rolling countryside there is a difference.

This is the final resting place of 178 Union soldiers and one lonely Confederate, mistakenly shipped north from Virginia in a pine box 119 years ago. The white marble headstone, reflagged each Memorial Day by an American flag and the Confederacy's Stars and Bars, only tells part of the legend. The large letters at the top of the tombstone spell out, "Stranger." Beneath is a smaller inscription, "A Soldier of the Late War. Died in 1862. Erected by the Ladies of Gray." It is a paean to the people of Gray who gave the unknown soldier an honorable burial, hoping that their sons -fighting on blood-soaked battlefields- would be treated in kind if found dead on enemy soil.

Lt. Charles H. Colley was the 29 year old son of Amos and Sarah Colley of Gray. Colley dashed to join Federal forces when the war began, and was placed in Company B of the 10th Maine Volunteers. He was one of about 200 other soldiers from Gray, a tiny town of 1,500 people that sent proportionately more of its native sons to battle than any other Maine community.

Charley Colley saw the tides of war rise and ebb and on August 9th, 1862 he found himself with the 10th Maine Volunteers at Cedar Mountain in Virginia. In about 10 minutes one day, August 9th in the late afternoon, the 10th Maine surged forward and lost half its men in killed, wounded and missing.

Charley's father and mother did not hear of this. They could only wonder why their son's letters stopped coming. Then, like so many others in all the wars, they received the message of crushing finality. Lt. Charles H. Colley, seriously wounded August 9, 1862, at Cedar Mountain, had succumbed to his wounds September 20 at Alexandria, Virginia. "Do you want him brought back home Mama?" Amos Colley asked his wife and she nodded. He wanted the boy back, too, and they made the usual arrangements.

It was late in the fall when the plain pine coffin, sent up from Virginia, arrived in Gray. Amos Colley had it brought to the farm. Relatives and neighbors came in. The top of the coffin was pried open. Sarah Colley walked over to it. She had said earlier that she didn't think she could. But she did, and she must have known that this was the overwhelming moment, the final realization of her loss. Bending forward she looked down into the coffin. For an instant she was rigid, breathless, and then she cried out, "Why, that's not Charles. It's-it's a Confederate boy. Look at his uniform!" She was right. The boy in the coffin was

clothed in Confederate gray but there was nothing on him to identify him.

He may have fallen beside Colley in the battle, may have a similar name, may have died near the Gray native in that Alexandria hospital. But he was here, hundreds of miles from Southern soil, a stranger accustomed to semi-tropical climate, rather than the severe cold of Maine.

They could have returned him to the South. They could have rejected the notion of burying him alongside their own for after all, he and his fellows would be the enemy for three more years. But these grief-stricken Mainers who would send more than one third of the town's men



18 year old and up to war, instead donated land in the cemetery for the Confederate, chipped in for a headstone and gave the Rebel a proper burial.

War Department authorities were notified of the mistake. Colley's body was located and returned, buried a stone's throw from his Southern counterpart on the same breezy knoll. The identity of the stranger, a mystery to the townspeople then, as he is unknown today. The two flags, taut and stiff in the spring wind, reappear each year. The Daughters of the Confederacy sent the Stars and Bars for several years, as did other people who had heard and were moved by the Stranger's story.



Civil War Sesquicentennial

Selected Highlights of January 1864

<http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk>

The relationship between Lincoln and his military commanders was tested again in January 1864 when the president commuted a death sentence passed on a Union deserter. Unionist generals believed that such a move would undermine discipline in the Union armies. Later in the same month Lincoln did the same thing.

Construction of the infamous Confederate Prison at Andersonville, or Camp Sumter as it was officially known, began in January 1864. This was the largest of several military prisons established during the Civil War. It was built after Confederate leaders decided to move the many Union prisoners in Richmond, Virginia, to a location away from the war. A site was needed where the prisoners could be guarded by fewer men, there would be less chance of military raids to free them, and food would be more abundant. The town of Andersonville was located on a railroad line approximately 65 miles southwest of Macon, Georgia. The village, near a small stream and in a remote agricultural area, seemed ideal.

The design of the 16 1/2 acre prison camp involved 20-foot pine logs placed five feet deep in the ground to create a wooden stockade. In June 1864, the prison was enlarged to 26 1/2 acres. The prison proper was in the shape of a rectangle 1,620 feet long and 779 feet wide. Sentry boxes were placed at 30 yard intervals along the top of the stockade. Along the interior of the stockade, 19 feet from the stockade wall, was a line of small wooden posts with a wood rail on top. This was the "deadline." Any prisoner who crossed the deadline could be shot by guards stationed in the sentry boxes.

January 1: The weather greatly hindered nearly all forms of military activity. Sub-zero temperatures occurred as far south as Memphis, Tennessee.

January 2: General Banks led his campaign against Galveston by moving along the Texan coast.

January 2: Confederate General Patrick R. Cleburne – "Stonewall of the West" – proposes freeing slaves and arming them to fight for the South. This sets off a firestorm among some southern military leaders and arguably costs Cleburne future promotions. (The Confederate Congress will eventually approve using blacks to fight for Confederacy in March 1865.)

January 3: Chronic inflation hit the South especially hard. Basic foodstuff was 28 times more expensive in the South than in 1861. During the same time, wages only went up by 3 to 4 times.

January 4: Lee was given permission by Jefferson Davis to commandeer food in Virginia. Such a measure may have helped his troops but not the people of the state.

January 5: General Banks was encouraged by General Halleck to be more aggressive during his offensive. Halleck envisaged Union troops in Galveston by the spring.

January 7: Lincoln commuted the death sentence imposed on a Union deserter. His move, as commander-in-chief, was not well received by the Union's military hierarchy who felt that it would undermine discipline even more. Union desertion was at an all-time high, especially in the Army of the Potomac. The problems were many but one of them was that men were paid a bounty to enlist. Many enlisted and then deserted only to enlist again to collect another bounty. Also if your name came up in a draft for your town/city you could exempt yourself by paying \$300. Or you could get a substitute to do your draft for you. Big cities saw a major growth area in "substitute brokers" who, for a fee, would find a substitute for someone. The whole system was open to abuse and when 57 men were recruited to the 6th New York Heavy Artillery, 17 were physically disabled.

January 8: David O Dodd, convicted of being a Confederate spy, was hanged in Little Rock, Arkansas.

January 10: The Confederacy responded to its economic plight by printing more money. Foreign governments were unwilling to lend money to it and only accepted gold for the payment of weapons. The North made matters worse for the South by printing counterfeit Confederate notes, which made confusion endemic.

January 11: Senator John Henderson (Missouri) proposed within the Senate that slavery should be abolished throughout the USA.

January 18: Protest meetings were held in North Carolina regarding the conscription policy of the Confederacy. All white males between 18 and 45 were required to enlist – shortly to increase to all males between 17 and 60.

January 19: Pro-Union supporters met at Little Rock, Arkansas.

January 21: Pro-Union supporters met in Nashville, Tennessee.

January 23: Lincoln approved a plan that allowed plantation owners to hire those who had previously worked as slaves on their plantations.

January 26: Lincoln commuted another 9 planned executions, as he did not want to "add to the butchering business". On the same day he approved a plan to improve trade between the Union and those parts of the Confederacy now under Union control. Lincoln was already thinking beyond the end of the war and wanted to 'normalise' internal trade as much as possible.

January 31: Lincoln stated that he hoped all former slaves who wanted to fight for the Union would swear the oath but that it was not an absolute requirement. The same was true for those men who had been in Confederate ranks – swearing loyalty to the Union was preferred but was not absolute.

In Memoriam

St. John Greek Orthodox Church, Destin, FL

Sources: Articles by Pam Griffin and Matt Algarin in *The Destin Log*, March and November 2013, and entries in the FaceBook Site for St. John Greek Orthodox Church

Destin pioneer John George Maltezo, was born in 1865 on the island of Aegina in Greece. He joined the crew of a sailing ship near the turn of the century, came to America, settled in Milton, and then moved to Destin in 1922. His grandson, Capt. Ben Marler, said "He was a craftsman and could do most anything he set his mind to." His shipbuilding efforts included the Primrose, the last seine boat built in Destin. Maltezo donated the land where St. Andrew's By-the-Sea Episcopal Church is located, and helped carry lumber from the shore to the church site when it arrived by boat from Pensacola. He did not convert from his Greek Orthodox faith but called St. Andrew's his church home. He died in 1932 at the age of 67, decades before St. John's was built next door.

Maltezo's daughter, Cleo Maltezo Marler, and her husband Ben traveled to Greece many times and saw little chapels around the countryside. After their first trip, Cleo wanted to build such a chapel in Destin to honor her father.

The land for the church was purchased by Ben Marler Sr., and Cleo commissioned an architect she met in Greece to draw up the plans. She also involved her family in the planning, including her sisters Stella and Vera, her daughter Joy, and Jimmy and Doris Maltezo Trammell.

Cleo and Stella took their plans for the chapel to builder L. J. Henderson. Henderson recalled. "The sisters provided the land, all the materials, and we built



the beautiful building."

The church was dedicated to the memory of John George Maltezo in 1984 and turned over to the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese in Atlanta.

The archdiocese eventually put it up for sale and focused its resources on Saints Markella and Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Mary Esther. St. John Greek Orthodox Church in Destin was purchased by Destin businessman Mike Buckingham.

"St. John's was built as a family prayer chapel," Dale Maltezos Allen said. "It was never meant to be a church. I'm surprised they're selling it."

The Maltezo family and other Destin residents have vivid memories of the times they spent at St. John's for baptisms, weddings, funerals, cross dives and other services. The structure and décor were beautiful, with a high ceiling, paintings and icons that adorned the walls. Tona Newland, daughter of Doris Trammell, remembered attending Epiphany services and St. John's Patron Saint services at the church.

A cross dive to mark the Epiphany was held annually at the church. The crowd would cross U.S. 98 to watch teenagers dive for the cross in Destin Harbor. The last cross dive was in 2006 before it [the dive] was moved to Saints Markella and Demetrios.

I really do not want to see it knocked down," Newland said of the chapel. "I want it to be a church just as my grandmother wanted it to be. I guess you could call this the family funeral church. My grandmother, Stella Maltezos Marler, was the first. "Cleo, my mother, Doris Isabelle Trammell, Cleo's daughter, Joy Hanshaw and my father Jimmy Trammell's funerals were in that church," she added. "Strong family ties, and the pews have the names of the Maltezo family. Grandma loved that little church."

While the decision wasn't easy, Mike Buckingham confirmed in November 2013 that he would indeed raze the little church.

Epiphany or Theophany which traditionally falls on January 6, is a Christian feast day. The Orthodox Churches perform the Great Blessing of Waters on Theophany. The blessing is normally done twice: once on the Eve of the Feast—usually at a Baptismal font inside the church—and then again on the day of the feast, outdoors at a body of water. Following the Divine Liturgy, the clergy and people go in a procession to the nearest body of water, ideally a body of "living water". At the end of the ceremony the priest will bless the waters. In the Greek practice, he does this by casting a cross into the water. If swimming is feasible on the spot, any number of volunteers may try to recover the cross. The person who gets the cross first swims back and returns it to the priest, who then delivers a special blessing to the swimmer and their household.

The FaceBook site of St. John's Greek Orthodox Church, Destin, Florida, contains an article (name of author not stated) which includes a description of this dive ceremony and of St. John's:

"... 25 years later, I stood in St. John's, inhaling gardenia laden smoke until cantors stopped to follow the dazzling golden cross across the highway. We sought a warm place at the base of the hill shivering in the wind while swimmers plunge into icy water for a cross.

Greek women and men alike dressed in black leather and dark glasses. Women of every age tottered in sky high heels, trying to keep their balance in the sandy parking lot. It looks like a funeral at the dock. And then, doves fly, and the cross is retrieved by a sputtering diver who drips frigid seawater on the concrete dock as he takes a knee for his blessing by the Bishop.

The first time I entered St. John's, I whispered, "sanctuary," for there was no other word for it. Ceilings soared to the floors of heaven. Blue and red stained glass windows glowed, a dozen golden chandeliers dripped clear crystal overhead. Plush water blue carpeting lay underfoot, so thick you had to train your ankles not to wobble.

Startled, I saw the Virgin Mary and baby Jesus in gold leaf with arms outstretched in the rafters.

It was like a homecoming I wasn't supposed to know about yet.

The last time I saw St. John's was to say goodbye to my grandmother, Cleo Marler, in 1995. She laid in a white open casket prepared for Greek burial, with English and Greek prayers, drenched in incense and ceremony. Her brothers had lain there and her sister, Vera was the last. Even the pews had been permanently rearranged to allow a corridor for the pall bearers who were to come.

About 95 years ago, their father planted the seeds for their devotion.

John Maltezos was the fifth man to come to Destin, being born in Perdika, on Aegina, Greece. He brought his nine children and boat building skills to Destin, crafting boats for its people. In Aegina are 365 churches... cathedrals but some just chinks in a wall, sand and candles, a venerated icon.

John was a man of faith, building his life and establishing a house of worship at St. Andrews By-the-Sea Episcopal Church, using hand tools and lumber he brought in by sail and artifacts from the original Greek church of Pensacola in the 1920s. Imagine deep ruts made in the white sand as he dragged each board uphill and then across the road, and the sound of his hammer's bang, bang, bang ringing out over the trees. Sawing and drilling would have of course been silent with hand tools. How he must have meditated on the Lord.

He could have built a Greek Church, but chose to build an Episcopal one, because that way, they could get a priest.

John Maltezos' descendants brought the Greek custom Blessing of the Fleet from Tarpon Springs in 1950 and hosted the 64-year-old annual event on family docks until 1999. The Blessing of the Fleet is now a cherished tradition and rich ritual of great importance to the hard working captains, crews and families of Destin.

The descendants together with the congregation of

Demitrius and Markellas Greek Orthodox Church of Fort Walton Beach, moved the annual Epiphany Day January 6th Dive for the Cross to Destin, an event that is meaningful to Greeks and non-Greeks who came from miles to witness the spectacle each Epiphany Sunday in January from 1986 to 1996.

This church was given by sisters Cleopatra Marler, Stella Marler and Vera Walters, in loving memory of their father, John, to the Archdiocese of the Greek Orthodox Church, and from 1986-1996 was utilized for worship, weddings, sacraments, blessings, and funerals. It was always open to persons of all denominations for worship and fellowship, even though they never had a priest, and that's something John Maltezos seemed to know.

I would like for it to be remembered as a place of beauty and solace, and God's house, and John George Maltezos for loving God most of all."



'Postscript'

Mike Buckingham said that he has donated a lot of the items that were left inside the church to either family members, the Greek Orthodox Church in Fort Walton Beach or to the Becnel family at Sandestin, which plans to build a church in the resort using the old pews.

"I even found the groundbreaking shovel that was used and donated it," he said. "We gave away a lot of the murals and the pictures."

Kathy Marler Blue, from the Destin History and Fishing Museum, told The Destin Log that the museum was able to secure the church's dedication plaque and a "pretty blue" stained glass window.

While she was sad to see the church razed, Ms. Blue said it was one of those things that was bound to happen at some point, especially once the church was sold.

The Florida Chautauqua

The first Chautauqua, the New York Chautauqua Assembly, was organized in 1874 by Methodist minister John Heyl Vincent and businessman Lewis Miller at a campsite on the shores of Chautauqua Lake in New York State. Two years earlier, Vincent, editor of the ***Sunday School Journal***, had begun to train Sunday school teachers in an outdoor summer school format. The



gatherings grew in popularity. The organization founded by Vincent and Miller later became known as the Chautauqua Institution. It was called the Mother Chautauqua, because

many independent, or "daughter" Chautauquas were developed under the same fashion.

During the early years the wish for a winter location was born. A committee was formed and locations were scouted. Lake De Funiak, as it was known then, was scouted through the urging of a few locals to Chautauqua representatives. Once the scouts arrived via train, they saw the beautiful lake and surrounding area, felt the climate was favorable and that the location had adequate access. They set about with a few locals planning for the first Florida Chautauqua.

In August 1884, the Florida Chautauqua Association was formed with a mix of leaders and prominent workers of the Chautauqua Institute, and some local workers. With that work of preparing for the first Assembly in 1885 began. The Association would organize the Florida Chautauqua Winter Assembly for 41 seasons. The beginning of many years of what would be called the "Great Southern Chautauqua" was launched.

The first Florida Chautauqua Assembly session went from Feb. 10th, to March 9th, 1885, a season pass cost \$3. Several buildings, an auditorium, classrooms, and tents were erected for use as classrooms. Visitors could stay at the Chautauqua Hotel, or other small boarding house, which were few the first year. They could even purchase wood for building of "temporary cottages" or for building a floor for a tent to stay in while here. Patrons were encouraged to bring camping gear or they could rent or purchase it while here. One of the early results of the Florida Chautauqua, was due to the gathering of scientist, and professors who decided that Lake De Funiak was actually a spring. Therefore, today the town is known as DeFuniak Springs.



"History of the Florida Chautauqua"

10:30 a.m., Tuesday, January 7th
Crestview Public Library

University of West Florida Archivist Dean Debolt will present "History of the Florida Chautauqua" for the January 7th First Tuesday Series program at the Crestview Public Library.

The Florida Chautauqua, held in DeFuniak Springs from 1885 to 1920, was the largest Southern Chautauqua in America and brought thousands of visitors to hear speakers and orators of the day and classes in the Chautauqua tradition. It was founded as "The Winter Assembly in the Land of Summer" following the success of the New York Chautauqua which began in 1874. Many of the homes built by Chautauqua visitors including the Hall of Brotherhood (1909) are still standing in DeFuniak Springs.

Debolt has published and spoken widely on the history of the Florida Chautauqua, as well as the American Chautauqua movement, and how DeFuniak Springs became the cultural center of Florida, propelling the state from the 19th Century into the 20th Century. He is a frequent speaker on topics of West Florida history and genealogical research.

The program begins at 10:30 a.m. with coffee and cookies served starting at 10 a.m. The library is located at 1445 Commerce Drive behind the Post Office in north Crestview. Call 682-4432.

The 2014 Florida Chautauqua Assembly will be held January 24-26 in DeFuniak Springs, Florida. For a complete schedule of speakers, go to www.florida-chautauqua-center.org.

Contact: Sandra Dreaden, Reference Librarian
Crestview Public Library, 850.682.4432
sdreaden@okaloosa.lib.fl.us
www.cityofcrestview.org/library.php



Events, Groups, and Sites of GSOC Interest

Advance Notice:

Spring Seminar with Dick Eastman
Sat., March 22, 2014, Panama City, Florida
Presented by Bay Co. Genealogical Society

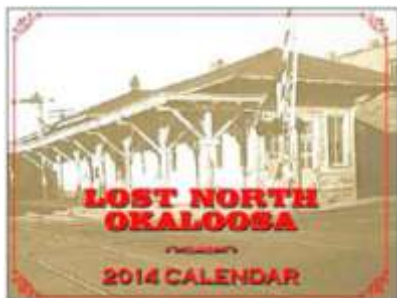


Richard "Dick" Eastman is an internationally known lecturer and author of Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter (EOGN) which is read by more than 75,000 genealogists all over the world. PreRegister Before March 15th:

Members: \$40.00 and Non-members: \$45.00. After March 15th and at the door: \$50.00 (lunch not guaranteed unless pre-registered). For more information:
<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flbcgs/index.html>

North Okaloosa Heritage Society **Glimpses of the Past**

According to an article in the December 22, 2013 issue of the Northwest Florida Daily News, the second Lost North Okaloosa calendar offers a collection of



memories for longtime residents, a local history primer for newcomers, and needed revenue for the Baker Block Museum. The calendar features historic photos from Crestview, Laurel Hill, Baker, Dorcas, Milton, Escambia

Farms, and Holt. Examples include the first military funeral in the county, voters choosing Crestview as the county seat, and the Crestview town council establishing a 10 mph speed limit.

The calendar is available for \$10 at the Baker Block Museum and at Coney Island Hotdogs at 107 N. Main Street in Crestview. Sales benefit the Baker Block Museum and the North Okaloosa Heritage Society.

West Florida Genealogical Society

10:00 AM, Saturday, January 4, 2014

West Florida Genealogy Library

5740 N. 9th Ave, Pensacola, FL 850-494-7373

Speaker: Charlene Grafton

Topic: What's In Your Genes? Human Disease Traits

Charlene Grafton, local medical writer and retired Nurse Case Manager, is the author of *What's In Your Genes: Human Threads Linking Genetics and Genealogy*, based on her own experience with reaction to a prescribed drug. Her talk is presented in response to the increasing interest of the public in DNA and genealogy. Members and guests are welcome. Refreshments will be available beginning at 9:30 AM. Contact Charlotte Schipman 850-477-7166 cschipman@mac.com

2014 HISTORICAL PRESENTATIONS **BY H.C. "HANK" KLEIN & TONY MENNILLO**

Date: Friday, January 10, 2014 at 12 noon

Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida (History Sandwiched-In)

115 Westview Avenue, Valparaiso, Florida

Title: The History of East Pass – Destin, Florida

Call for Reservations – 678-2615

Date: Saturday, January 11, 2014 at 10:00 am

Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County (Monthly Meeting)

115 Westview Avenue, Valparaiso, Florida

Title: Publishing and Enjoying Your Genealogy Work

Date: Saturday, January 11, 2014 at 5:00 pm

Heritage Park and Cultural Center of Fort Walton Beach

139 Miracle Strip Parkway, Ft. Walton Beach, Florida

Title: The Walton Guards and Captain William McPherson

Call for Reservations – 833-9595

Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2013 at 6:00 pm

Destin Library

150 Siebert Avenue, Destin, Florida

Title: Destin Pioneer Settlers – Homesteaders or Squatters?

Call for Reservations – 837-5248

Date: Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Coastal Library of Walton County

437 Greenway Trail, Santa Rosa Beach, Florida

Title: The Walton Guards and Captain William McPherson

Call for Reservations – 850/267-2809

Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter

This excellent daily online newsletter is available at http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/ or by using the link above. You can subscribe to the free version which will then be sent to your inbox daily as an email. An optional enhanced version of the daily newsletter is available for a subscription fee.

It is now time for the renewal of your GSOC Annual Dues for 2014. Dues are \$24 for an individual and \$35 for an individual and spouse at the same address. Please complete a renewal form when you come to the January meeting or obtain one from the GSOC web site and mail it to the GSOC address.

Events, Groups, and Sites of GSOC Interest (Continued)

Registration for Lifelong Learning Classes Begins on January 10th



Registration for upcoming courses offered by the Center for Lifelong Learning begins on January 10th at the University of West Florida – Northwest Florida State College joint campus at the corner of Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. and Greenacres Road in Fort Walton Beach. Registration will be in the auditorium.

Returning members (those who attended at least one of the previous two sessions) register between 9 and 11 a.m. and new students register from 1 to 2 p.m.

Late registration will be from 9 a.m. to noon on January 13, 14, and 15 in the lobby of Building 1.

The \$50 registration fee allows students to take as many as four courses.

Classes will begin January 20-24. Friday classes meet at the joint campus.

Generally, classes meet for eight weeks, although some double-session classes meet for four weeks.

The following are classes in genealogy that are being offered. (Hilma Jenus, Margaret M. Harris, Marc Strickland, and Linda Strickland are members of the Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County.)

ABCs of Beginning Genealogy - Friday (Period 2); (Dr. Thomas Sajwaj and Hilma Jenus)

This class is an overview of many aspects of genealogy to help you know how, where, and even why to begin compiling your family history. Use of a home computer is desirable but certainly not required. Both instructors enjoy class participation, so sharing your questions, ideas and products is encouraged.

Dr. Thomas Sajwaj and Hilma Jenus, amateur genealogists, have 32 years of experience in such pursuits between them. They will share the podium as team-teachers.

Beyond Basic Genealogy — Friday (Period 2); (Margaret M. Harris)

Students are recommended to have basic computer literacy skills and access to the Internet because this class involves pursuing family research in the 21st Century. A basic understanding of genealogy is helpful but not required. Useful technology tools for building a family tree, as well as helpful web sites, will be discussed. In addition, we will discuss non-traditional ways to share the family tree and thereby involve your family in the process.

Margaret M. Harris is a long-time genealogist who uses technology along with sound research strategies while seeking to establish connections between generations.

FamilySearch and Family Tree Genealogy — Friday (Period 1); (Marc and Linda Strickland)

This course provides an introduction to the FamilySearch and Family Tree on-line genealogy programs. FamilySearch is the largest genealogical database in the world...and growing every day. Learn how to use the two programs to do your own genealogical research and documentation. Some students should not be surprised if they discover their family names are already in the database. The class will participate in at least one field trip to the LDS Family History Center in Fort Walton Beach.

Marc Strickland has been doing genealogy since he was 12 years old. **Linda Strickland** is a Family History Consultant for the Niceville Ward and a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Both are members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County.

See the catalog of classes, the schedule of special events, and other information about the CLL at: <http://www.cll-fwb.org>. For more information, call 863-6548 or email cll@uwf.edu



GSOC INFORMATION

Officers for 2014

President, James Young
1st Vice President (Programs), Del Lessard
2nd Vice President (Membership), Sue Basch
Treasurer, Bob Basch,
Recording Secretary, Pat Pruett
Corresponding Secretary, Carl Laws
Immediate Past President, Donna Elliott

Journal Editor, TBD; Historian, TBD
Genealogist, Margaret Harris
Publicity Chairperson, Val Moreland
Webmaster & Newsletter Editor, Jim Young

(Elected, Appointed, and Ex Officio positions)

Addresses

P.O. Box 1175, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-1175
Web Site: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~flocgs>
Email: gsocokaloosa@yahoo.com
Newsletter Editor: youngjmy@cox.net

Meetings and Membership

Regular meetings of the GSOC are 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 get one of the appropriate forms.

The Newsletter

The GSOC Newsletter is 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 2013 issue, Volume XXXII, Issue 102, was published and distributed in December 2013.

The Web Site

The GSOC web site is hosted by Rootsweb at:
<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 symbol on the left is the QR code for the address of the GSOC web site. Scanning this symbol with properly equipped mobile devices will connect that device to the GSOC website.

January Book Review

The Family Tree: Three Journeys into the Heart of the Twentieth Century

by David Laskin

From Publishers Weekly

Research for this book took Laskin through the modern tools now available to genealogists and that makes an interesting story in itself. However, Laskin's relatives also provide ample material for a gripping epic narrative, beginning in 1875 and spanning over a century. This readable and absorbing book looks at the experiences of Jews—in this case all members of Laskin's family—finding a fresh start in the United States, of those working to form a new country in Palestine, and of those trapped in Nazi-controlled Europe. His American ancestors' experiences were highlighted by his great-aunt, Itel, who founded the Maidenform Bra Company in 1922. That quintessential American success story of a hard-working immigrant who makes good contrasts well with the account of her cousin Chaim's life in Palestine around the same time—he found disillusionment there, rather than a land of milk and honey. The sections dealing with the grim toll that the Holocaust took on the family don't provide new insights into the Nazis' inhumanity; the horrors of the time gain more impact when conveyed through the stories of individual lives.

David Laskin was born in New York in 1953 and educated at Harvard College and New College, Oxford. For the past twenty-five years, Laskin has written books and articles on a wide range of subjects including history, weather, travel, gardens and the natural world. His most recent book, *The Children's Blizzard*, won the Washington State Book Award and the Midwest Booksellers' Choice Award for Nonfiction. He and his wife Kate O'Neill, the parents of three grown daughters, live in Seattle with their two sweet old dogs.

The GSOC Publications Disk

This compact disk (CD) contains all of the books listed below in searchable PDF files. To get a copy, please send your check for \$17.00 (shipping is included) with your order information to **GSOC, P.O. Box 1175, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-1175**, and mark your envelope "Book Sales"

Volume I, Cemeteries of Okaloosa County, Florida; 24 cemeteries east of the Yellow River & north of the Shoal River and I-10

Volume II, Cemeteries of Okaloosa County, Florida; 26 cemeteries north and west of the Yellow River

Volume III, Cemeteries of Okaloosa County, Florida; 11 cemeteries south of the Shoal River

Funeral Records of Okaloosa County; Records from McLaughlin Funeral Home, Crestview, FL, from 1927 - 1984. Over 11,000 entries. Includes the names of the deceased and, when given, the names of parents. Deceased are listed alphabetically, parents names are indexed.

Santa Rosa County Marriages, 1869-1906

Over 7,000 names with every-name index, 123 pages.

Walton County Marriages, 1895-1915

Over 10,000 names with every-name index, 165 pages.



The January GSOC meeting will be on Saturday, January 11, 2014, at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida at 10 AM.

The speaker will be Mr. Hank Klein. See page 1 for more information about the program.

"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

