

THE GSOC NEWSLETTER

THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF
OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

JANUARY 3, 2014

Next GSOC Meeting

Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida
January 10, 2015, 10:00 AM



The first GSOC meeting of 2015 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.

Mr. Klein will discuss the results of his research which is documented in his recently-published book about the land history of early Destin from when Spain turned over to the United States the land we know today as Florida to the early years of the fishing Village of Destin, *Destin Pioneer Settlers...A Land History of Destin, Florida from 1819-1940*.

Unlike neighboring areas in Okaloosa, Walton, and Santa Rosa counties the land at Destin was unavailable for homesteading because it had been a Military Reservation since 1842. Learn how the pioneer settlers bought their land for a mere \$50.00 an acre, and it was all waterfront land.

Mr Klein has long been interested in the history of Destin, 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.

Mr. 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 9:15 AM at the Heritage Museum preceeding the January 10th General Meeting. All officers and chairpersons are requested to attend.

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GSOC December Meeting

Boathouse Landing Restaurant

December 13, 2014

Pat Pruett, Recording Secretary

After a period of socializing, President Jim Young called the meeting to order at 11:25 AM. He welcomed everyone and announced that Hank Klein will be our speaker at our January 2015 meeting. Jim then turned the meeting over to Past President Donna Elliott to have her install the new officers for 2015.

Donna called the 2014 officers forward to be recognized and thanked. She also thanked Frances Hoge for being backup to our recording secretary, Val Moreland for handling the publicity and 2nd Vice Pres. Sue Basch who will not be returning to the board this year. She then called the 2015 candidates forward for installation.

Officers for the year 2015 are:

President Jim Young
1st Vice President - Del Lessard
2nd Vice President -Charlene Grafton
Treasurer - Bob Basch
Recording Secretary - Pat Pruett
Corresponding Secretary - Carl Laws

Val Moreland will return as Publicity again this coming year; and Frances Hoge will continue in 2015 as backup for the Recording Secretary and Carol Lessard for serving as backup to Sue Basch, 2nd VP/Memberships.

Donna then congratulated those installed and thanked them for returning for another year. She also welcomed Charleen Grafton to the board. After the installation, the officers posed for their pictures to be taken. Donna then turned the meeting back to Pres. Jim Young.

Jim conducted a contest to see who had the best name tags with the names of ancestors that they are researching. Del and Carole Lessard won hands down. Margaret Harris supplied the prize.

Jim thanked Del for arranging our Christmas lunch and meeting this year, and the past and present officers for serving our organization. A round of applause was offered to Jim in appreciation for his terrific work this year. Meeting was adjourned and lunch was served.

**IT'S NOW TIME TO RENEW YOUR
GSOC DUES FOR 2015**

United States of America
MAJOR PUBLIC LAND LAWS
Compiled by: H. C. "Hank" Klein, klein@aristotle.net

U.S. WAR BOUNTY LAND LAWS – It was the practice of the federal government to reward those who had served in the nation's armed forces by providing veterans with warrants to purchase public lands as a reward for their service. The amount of land provided and how it could be taken differed under the numerous Military Land Bounty Acts of 1847, 1850, 1852, and 1855. The practice was discontinued with the Civil War; however Civil War veterans were given concessions under the 1862 Homestead Act.

1785: LAND ORDINANCES – The sale of public lands at auction was the first general means of disposing of the public lands. Congress, under the Articles of Confederation, first provided for sale of land in the Land Disposal Ordinance of May 20, 1785. Under the Constitution the first land sales act came in 1796, with changes enacted in 1800, 1803, and 1804. There was no limitation on the acreage that could be purchased by an individual. None of these laws had residence or cultivation requirements.

1820: THE CASH SALES ACT – This Act did away with buying land on credit. The Cash Sales Act of April 24, 1820 required government land be purchased with cash up front. Lands were offered at public sale to the highest bidder at a minimum price of \$1.25 an acre. Repealed in 1891.

1841: THE PREEMPTION ACT – This act helped to establish the doctrine of Manifest Destiny in North America. The Act allowed for individuals living on Federal lands the first right to buy the land when it was surveyed. Many people were living on federally owned public lands and were better known as squatters. This legislation provided "squatters rights" to the land after it was available for sale. The first preemption law was enacted in 1799, after which, Congress continued to enact preemption laws of temporary nature from time to time. A permanent preemption law came with the passage of the Act of September 4, 1841. A good example of this is when they opened the Nebraska/Kansas Territory in 1854, many people were living on the land already. They had squatters rights and could file for a preemption claim. They had 12-18 months to buy the land for no less than \$1.25 an acre. They also had to make minimal improvements to the land, i.e. build a home, plow some ground, etc. Repealed in 1891.

1842: DONATION LAWS – There were a series of Acts that encouraged Anglo-American settlement of certain territorial acquisitions. Congress offered grants of lands to individuals who were already in possession of lands or were willing to immigrate to the areas of concern. Donation acts were passed for Florida in 1842 and 1844, Oregon in 1850, Washington in 1853, and New Mexico in 1854. Most of these laws required residence and cultivation.

1862: THE HOMESTEAD ACT – A victory for 19th century land reformers, the Act of May 20, 1862, gave 160 acres of

'free' land to settlers. The law required the homesteader to be a citizen (or have declared intent to become one), be a head of a family, over 21 years of age, build a residence, and farm the land for a period of five years. After six months, a settler could change their homestead to a cash or preemption purchase. In 1891 this time was extended to fourteen months. Repealed in 1976 (except Alaska 1986).

1866: SOUTHERN HOMESTEAD ACT - Was a United States federal law enacted on June 21, 1866 to break a cycle of debt during the Reconstruction following the American Civil War. Prior to this act, blacks and whites alike were having trouble buying land. Sharecropping and tenant farming had become ways of life. This act attempted to solve this by selling land at low prices so that southerners could buy it. Many people, however, could still not participate because the low prices were still too high. Ultimately, before too much land was distributed, the law was repealed in June 1876. Nevertheless, free Blacks entered about 6,500 claims to homesteads, and about 1,000 of these eventually resulted in property certificates

1887: GENERAL SEVERALTY LAW – The primary purpose of the Act of February 8, 1887, also known as the Dawes Severalty Act or the General Allotment Act, was to provide Indians living on reservations with individual freeholds, or allotments. A little-known provision of the law, Section 4, however, provides allotments to Indians who occupied public lands. These public domain allotments were administered in a manner similar to the other public land settlement laws.

1891: LAND REVISION ACT - The primary purpose of the Act of March 3, 1891 was to give the president the authority to "set aside and reserve any part of the public lands wholly or partly covered with timber or undergrowth, whether of commercial value or not." However, it did not explicitly authorize the use or development of resources on the reserved lands. Future legislation was passed for the development and maintenance of the reserved land. It repealed the old Preemption and Timber Culture laws, reduced Desert Land entries to 320 acres, while lightening irrigation requirements, and extending from 6 to 14 months the time needed to commute a homestead claim into a preemption right under which title could be bought for \$1.25 an acre.

1894: CAREY LAND LAW – This law was enacted on August 18, 1894, and provided for grants of public land to western states willing to construct large-scale irrigation projects. Lands granted to states had to be sold to actual settlers in 160 acre tracts. The act had limited success.

1902: RECLAMATION ACT LAW – The Newlands Act of June 17, 1902 provided for federally funded irrigation projects. Lands within the projects were subject to the basic provisions of the Homestead Law. Individuals limited to overall ownership of up to 160 acres. In effect,

the homestead provisions of this act were repealed in 1976 (except Alaska 1986).

1904: THE KINKAID ACT - This U.S. statute amended the 1862 Homestead Act so that one section (640 acres) of public domain land could be acquired free of charge, apart from a modest filing fee. It applied specifically to 37 counties in northwest Nebraska, in the general area of the Nebraska Sandhills. The act was introduced by Moses Kinkaid, Nebraska's 6th congressional district representative, and was signed into law by President Theodore Roosevelt on April 28, 1904 and went into effect on June 28 of that year.

1909: ENLARGED HOMESTEAD LAW – This legislation provided for 320 acre homesteads on semi-arid public lands designated as not susceptible to irrigation. Residence and cultivation were required. Enacted on February 19, 1909, the law was an act first extended to Arizona, California, Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. In 1910 the law was amended to include Idaho and in 1915 South Dakota was brought under its provisions. Repealed in 1976 (except Alaska 1986).

1912: THREE-YEAR HOMESTEAD LAW – The Act of June 6, 1912 reduced time needed to perfect a homestead entry from 5 to 3 years. Residence and cultivation requirements also modified. Repealed in 1976 (except Alaska 1986).

1916: STOCK-RAISING HOMESTEAD LAW – This law was enacted on December 29, 1916 and provided for 640 acres on public domain land classified as chiefly valuable for grazing and forage crops. Residence and certain improvements were required. Passage of the Taylor Grazing Act in 1934 made this ineffectual. Repealed in 1976 (except Alaska 1986).

1938: PURCHASE OF PUBLIC LANDS FOR HOMES AND OTHER SITES - This law was enacted as the Small Tract Act on June 1, 1938 and amended on June 8, 1954. Each lot was 5 acres or less and could be used for residential, recreation, business or community purposes. These land had previously been withheld from disposal by either Executive or Secretarial Order. Repealed in 1976 (except Alaska 1986).

SCRIP – By definition, scrip is a certificate which allowed the recipient to select a specified number of acres from the public domain. There were numerous types of script, among them being Agricultural College Scrip, Supreme Court Scrip, and Sioux Half-Breed Scrip. Conditions for each type of scrip varied, as did the acreage given.

MAJOR MINERAL and TIMBER LAND LAWS

1866: LODGE MINING ACT – The first general mining act passed after the discovery of gold in California in 1849. It provided for the exploration and occupation of the public mineral lands and recognized the local mining camp laws that had arisen in the west. Provisions of the law which was passed on July 26, 1866 dealt with the location, survey, and patenting of lode, vein, and quartz claims.

1870: PLACER MINING ACT – Enacted on July 9, 1870 this law provided for the patenting of placer mining claims. An

individual or association could make claims of up to 160 acres. Lands were patented at \$2.50 per acre.

1872: GENERAL MINING ACT – Enacted on May 10, 1872, this law amended the Lode Mining Act of 1866 and Placer Act of 1870. The law limited lode claims to 1,500 feet in length and 600 feet in width. Placer claims were restricted to 20 acres for individuals or 160 acres for an association. To hold a claim, \$100 of work was required each year, and improvements of a certain value had to be made before patent could issue. This act is still the basis of mining activity on non-public lands today.

1873: COAL LAND ACT – Enacted on March 3, 1873, this law while not the first coal lands law, was, until the passage of the General Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, the means of disposing of public lands chiefly valuable for coal. The act provided for the sale of lands within 15 miles of a railroad for a minimum \$20 an acre or \$10 an acre if further out. Up to 640 acres could be purchased. Some provisions of the law required the making of improvements.

1873: TIMBER CULTURE ACT – Enacted on March 3, 1873 this legislation offered 160 acres of public land to an individual willing to plant 40 acres of trees for ten years. Later amendments changed planting and time requirements. Residence on the claim was not a requirement. The act was of little success. Repealed in 1891.

1877: DESERT LAND ACT – This Act of March 3, 1877 provided for the entry of 640 acres of irrigable public land. Claimant had to construct an irrigation system but no residence was required. At the end of three years, land could be patented after payment of \$1.25 per acre. In 1890 acreage for entries was reduced to 320 acres. Provisions of the act were at first extended to only the states of California, Nevada, and Oregon, as well as the territories of Arizona, Dakota, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. The law was extended to Colorado in 1891. This settlement law is still "on the books."

1878: TIMBER AND STONE ACT – As initially enacted into law on June 3, 1878, this act only affected the areas of California, Oregon, Nevada, and Washington. By the Act of August 4, 1892, Congress extended law to the remainder of the public domain. The law provided for the sale of lands chiefly valuable for timber or stone at a minimum price of \$2.50 an acre. No residence was required. Repealed 1955.

1906: FOREST HOMESTEAD ACT – This Act of June 11, 1906 opened entry lands chiefly valuable for agricultural purposes within national forests to entry under the Homestead Law. Entries limited to 160 acres. Repealed 1962.

1920: GENERAL MINERAL LEASING ACT – This Act of February 25, 1920, provided for the lease of coal, petroleum, oil shale, and other specific minerals. These minerals had all previously been subject to sale or location under other mineral laws. As originally enacted, the law provided for the protecting and development of minerals named, with royalties to be paid to the United States on the minerals extracted.

1934: TAYLOR GRAZING ACT - This Act of June 28, 1934 provides for the regulation of grazing on the public lands (excluding Alaska) to improve rangeland conditions and regulate their use. The law initially permitted 80,000,000 acres of previously unreserved public lands to be placed into grazing districts to be administered by the Department of the Interior. As amended, the law now sets no limit on the amount of lands in grazing districts. Currently, there are approximately 162,000,000 acres inside grazing allotments.

1976: FEDERAL LAND POLICY AND MANAGEMENT ACT - This Act governs the current way in which the public lands

administered by the Bureau of Land Management are managed. The Federal Land Policy and Management Act phased out homesteading in the United States by repealing all of the pre-existing Homestead Acts (except for Alaska which remained for an 10 additional years).

Reference - Portions of this list of Land, Mineral and Timber Laws was initially provided by Blake Bell, Historian, Homestead National Monument, Beatrice, Nebraska. This list is not definitive. See *Public Land Law Development* written by Paul Gates for more information about each law and for other minor land laws.

Notes from the Yancey Family Surname Resource Center by Dennis J Yancey

Back in the 1990's after I had spent years collecting Yancey family records – and creating files of genealogical correspondence (in the days before email – imagine that!) – I submitted many of my records to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City – for MICROFILMING (probably about 20,000 pages of paper).

In the days before the Internet became so popular – this was a way of getting my material out to others who had access to an LDS Family History Center in their local area – as well as was a way of “preserving a copy” of my material.

As I have pointed out in various past emails, I have focused on DIGITIZING most of my collection – a project that for the most part has now been completed – with an unknown page count – but way higher than the 20,000 original pages of the 1990's.

Files and records are now so much easier to share, organize, backup, distribute, make public etc. – now that they are in digital format. And with digital media so cheap and with such high capacity – its really amazing. I just bought a 2 TB Portable Hard drive for \$80 which is capable of storing literally millions of documents and photos.

Also – now with sites like FamilySearch allowing document uploads - I can place copies of research files on line for everyone to be able to access. This includes all types of media: photos, audio, pdf copies of correspondence, research notes, life stories, obituaries, newspaper articles etc. This is the type of material that is often stripped away and lost when you enter your data into a program like PAF and you just end up with names, dates and some few notes.

Also, this type of material is the type of material that all so often gets thrown out – when someone who has been collecting it for years passes on and years of research go out the window as no one knows quite what to do with it.

Sites like Family Search are providing means whereby this type of material can be uploaded and preserved.

I recently uploaded copies of research files of a great aunt, ALICE YANCEY, to FamilySearch memories. See this site: <https://familysearch.org/tree/#view=ancestor&person=KWZN-BDZ§ion=memories>. This link may force you to create a Family Search account if you don't already have one – I'm not sure. If that is the case – and you are not interested in creating an account – you may be able to see some of the same info by clicking here: <https://familysearch.org/photos/people/3399733>.

I highly encourage you all to create FamilySearch accounts – totally free - and get to know the many possibilities out there. Go to <https://familysearch.org/register/>

NOW – how many of you know someone with a large paper collections of family research that is in danger of being lost or destroyed or decay with time?? Even if you think its not at risk, things like FIRE, STORM, FLOOD, or even a pipe breaking can destroy such records.

Please let me know of any collections/compilations of YANCEY/YANCY material you think are candidates for digitizing and preservation. How many of you have a grandparent, uncle, aunt or other person – who has boxes of old photos or old papers – that no one quite knows what to do with and some are so willing to junk - - and such files the most part useless (“as is”) to most of us – since they are not digital and not available via the Internet?

Dennis J Yancey, dyancey@miami.edu
The Yancey Family Surname Resource Center, <http://yanceyfamilygenealogy.org/>





Civil War Sesquicentennial

Selected Highlights of January 1865

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

By January 1865 many in the South knew that the American Civil War was lost, despite the upbeat stance of Jefferson Davis. The only thing in the South's favour in January was the weather that continued to hinder the North.

January 3rd: Sherman readied his men to continue their advance north to challenge Lee.

January 5th: Both General Lee and Jefferson Davis continued to be upbeat about the South's military situation. Many others in the Confederacy were a lot more pessimistic about the South's chances. Lincoln gave James W Singleton a Presidential pass to get through Union lines to help facilitate a surrender.

January 6th: Davis sent a letter to the Confederacy's Vice-President, Alexander H Stephens, asking for an explanation regarding Stephens alleged association with Georgia's peace movement.

January 9th: The Constitutional Convention of Tennessee voted to abolish slavery in the state.

January 11th: The Constitutional Convention of Missouri voted to abolish slavery in the state.

A party of 300 Confederate cavalry riding in very poor weather launched a surprise attack on Union positions in Beverly, West Virginia, and captured 600 Union troops.

January 12th: Jefferson Davis wrote in a letter to Lincoln that he willing to discuss an end to hostilities but only on the proviso that the South remained independent.

January 13th: The North started a major attack on Fort Fisher. The fort was all that protected the port of Wilmington – the only port that the South still had open that could trade with Europe. Troops were landed by the fort and the Union's navy bombarded it from the sea.

January 14th: Union ships continued a non-stop bombardment of the fort, which received heavy damage. Guns in the fort had to be trained on both the approaching infantry on land and the ships out at sea. But all of the guns could not concentrated on one target alone.

January 15th: Fort Fisher fell to Union forces. The North lost a total of 1,341 men in the attack (226 killed, 1018 wounded and 57 missing). The South lost 500 men killed and wounded with over 2,000 taken prisoner. Wilmington was no longer able to operate as an overseas port and the South was effectively cut off with regards to external trade.

January 16th: Lincoln was made aware that Davis was willing to discuss peace based around the South's independence. He immediately dismissed the idea.

The Confederate Senate appointed General Lee as commander of all the armies of the Confederacy.

January 17th: While in Savannah Sherman issued Field Order Number 15. As his successful army advanced in the South, it attracted many former slaves who followed it in the vanguard. Sherman's order handed to them confiscated or abandoned land along the Georgia coast – a maximum of 40 acres per person. This move ensured that those former slaves who were near Sherman's army were more than willing to help and support it. As the news of what Sherman had done spread, so did the hopes of former slaves still in the South.

January 19th: General Lee reluctantly accepted the title of commander-in-chief of the South's Armies. Lee was undoubtedly a highly skilled general but he would have been aware that even a man of his abilities would not have the skill to stop the inevitable – a victory for the North. However a sense of duty compelled him to accept the promotion even if it was a poisoned chalice.

January 20th: Sherman's army headed towards South Carolina. However, its advance was severely hampered by heavy rain that made roads all but unusable.

January 21st: Sherman's army marched into South Carolina but faced no opposition from Confederate forces.

January 23rd: The South lost its ironclads 'Virginia' and 'Richmond'. 'Richmond' ran aground on the James River while 'Virginia' was badly damaged by Union artillery in Fort Parsons.

January 24th: Grant agreed to an exchange of prisoners. He did not believe that it would make any difference to the campaign as he felt that the exchanged Southern prisoners would be less than keen to fight and the South was still experiencing major problems with desertion.

January 25th: Sherman continued his advance through South Carolina. All his men faced were skirmishes with Confederate troops. There appeared to be no sustained military attempt to stop his advance – or there was a realisation that any attempt was doomed to failure.

January 27th: Lee complained to the Confederate government in Richmond that his men were surviving on pitiable rations and that the major cause of desertion was the poor rations. On the same day he sent a letter to the Governor of South Carolina that "the Confederacy was safe" as long as the civilian population continued to give its support to the troops.

January 28th: Davis appointed senior Confederate politicians to hold informal talks with the North – Vice-President Stephens, President of the Senate, R Turner and former US Supreme Court judge John Campbell.

Eating at Woolworth's in the 1950s

Email from Del Lessard

Maybe you can use this menu in one of your newsletters. I'm guessing many of our members would remember the experience of eating in a Woolworths in the 50's. I did as a kid, rarely, when my family would take the bus to "downtown" (Hartford, CT) to do Christmas shopping in the big department stores.



As I came of age, McDonalds replaced Woolworths for my generation. As a high schooler I began working for McDonalds in 1962 (their sign then boasted so many MILLIONS of hamburgers sold.)

Just before I began working, McDonalds had raised the price of its main products—the cost of a hamburger (\$.15), fries (\$.12) and a milkshake (\$.20, plus a penny state sales tax) totaled \$0.48!

All customer orders were taken on a paper pad and then the prices totaled up by hand—and change made without the help of calculator/cash registers! The Idaho potatoes used for fries were peeled on-site (by a machine.) No playground then, nor any indoor seating area in 1962—and drive-thru wasn't a service, but rather something cars full of teenagers did on weekend nights.

In October of my first year, the Cuban missile crisis occurred. With all sorts of doomsday predictions swirling in the newspapers and on TV, one of our 30-ish store managers stole \$1,000 from the safe, left his wife and took his girlfriend to Las Vegas to enjoy what he must have believed were his last days on earth.

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 and the organization founded by Vincent and Miller later became known as the Chautauqua Institution.

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, a 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.

DRONE AIRCRAFT KILLS TWO MEN ON EGLIN PARKWAY AT EGLIN AFB

Drone aircraft are in the news today because of their increasing use in the war against terrorism and for many other military and civilian applications. Most of these drones are relatively small, ranging from model airplane size up to the size of small piloted aircraft (for the heavy-duty military versions.)

The first pilotless aircraft were built during and shortly after World War I. Leading the way was the Ruston Proctor Aerial Target of 1916. Soon after, the Hewitt-Sperry Automatic Airplane otherwise known as the "flying bomb" made its first flight, demonstrating the concept of an unmanned aircraft.



One of the largest drones used so far was the QB-47E, a B-47 jet bomber converted into a radio-controlled unmanned aircraft. In the early 1960s the 3205th Drone Director Group based at Duke Field operated some of these in support of various Eglin AFB missions. These drones were normally flown from Duke Field and recovered there after their missions were complete. However, on August 19, 1963, a QB-47E which was returning from a mission was diverted to an Eglin main base runway instead because of a severe thunderstorm over Duke field.

Eglin main base had a relatively new 12,000-foot runway which was perfect for landing a large unmanned aircraft such as the QB-47E. Some 877 acres of scrub oak and pines had been cleared for this runway and its adjoining taxiways and ramps, and a section of the base railroad main line had also been relocated.

The drone flew normally on the approach to the northwest end of the runway. It descended as it came in over Highway 85 near where the Northwest Florida Regional Airport now is, and touched down.

In 2007, Mr. Bob Loring recalled that touch down. "I was the armament tech for dearming the destruct package. We returned to Eglin Main to dearm the aircraft. We always positioned ourselves half way down the runway and chased the aircraft when it stopped. The destruct pack was an initiator in the tail section that was connected to primer cord that was wrapped around the aft fuel tank. It was a routine job and took only a few minutes. Normal flights were at Field Three [Duke Field], but thunder clouds prevented the recovery there and it was decided to land the airplane at Eglin Main. It was just about quitting time and the [Eglin Parkway] loop [around the southeast end of the runway] going towards Ft. Walton was very heavy with traffic."

"I can still remember the landing and watched as the aircraft landed. If I am correct, the left engines would not throttle back. I believed that the landing was going to be aborted, but when the throttles were throttled up, only

the left bank of engines responded. The aircraft veered off the runway about halfway down. The landing gear remained on the aircraft until hitting the railroad tracks. The fuselage continued toward the highway. ..."

The official History of Eglin AFB states that: "A USAF Q-47E Stratojet of the 3205th Drone Director Group, veered off course on touchdown at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, crashing onto Eglin Parkway parallel to the runway. Two cars were crushed by the Stratojet, killing two occupants, Robert W. Glass and Dr. Robert Bunde, and injuring a third, Dorothy Phillips. Mr. Glass and Dr. Bunde both worked for the Honeywell Corporation. Mrs. Phillips was the wife of Master Sergeant James Phillips, a crew chief at the base. Mrs. Phillips was treated for moderate injuries and released later that day. Both vehicles were destroyed by fire. Four firefighters were treated for smoke inhalation while fighting the blaze which reignited several times. Fire crews had to lay over a mile of hose to reach the crash from the nearest hydrant."

A newspaper photo showed a B-47 wing blocking Eglin Parkway. The plane had apparently burst into flame roughly a half mile from where it finally came to rest. Trees were burnt to mere stumps and pieces of the plane and engine nacelles littered the path of the wreck. Air police routed traffic around the base and scene of the tragedy, allowing only those cars to enter the base whose destination was the housing area."



QB-47E path superimposed on current aerial photo

In January 2014, Mr. James L Phillips wrote that: "Neither of those cars was recognizable in the salvage yard. My mother was in the second car, a blue and white '57 Chevy Belair station wagon. The first car was nothing but a charred mass. Our car only had the slightest bit of blue paint left, a patch of about 4 inches by 4 inches on the tailgate. My mother escaped with only a few abrasions and burns. She is alive and strong as ever at 86. I am her oldest son, and all of us, her children, are all still here with her. She is a charmed and charming woman."

There are no large drone aircraft operating today from Eglin Main, Hurlburt Field, or Duke Field. Tyndall AFB near Panama City, however, has an active drone operation where QF-16 drones are used as aerial targets. Lessons learned from the QB-47E accident and other incidents over the years have been incorporated into the current drone operation safety procedures at Tyndall and other locations so that the chances of a similar accident are made very small.

Events, Groups, and Sites of GSOC Interest

It's time to renew GSOC Annual Dues for 2015. 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 mail your check and any changes in your address, phone, or surnames being researched to GSOC, P.O. Box 1175, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-1175.

Center for Lifelong Learning Registration Schedule for Jan 2015 Semester

Registration Date: Friday, January 9th, 2015

Times: 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. for current students (*those who have attended one or both of the past two semesters*); 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. for new students

Location: Auditorium of the joint campus of UWF and NWFS in Fort Walton Beach

Fees: A \$50 registration fee entitles students to take as many as 4 classes; additional classes over 4 cost \$10 each

Late Registration: 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon, January 12, 13, and 14, 2015, in the UWF administrative office building.

For more information, call 850-863-6548 or email CLL at cll@uwf.edu

All courses for the upcoming semester begin on the week of January 19th and continue for eight weeks, except where different start dates and number of sessions are specifically stated in the catalog.

Most Thursday and Friday classes meet at the University of West Florida. Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday classes meet at off-campus locations that are specifically listed in the detailed course listings.

Detailed course listings can be found at: http://cll-fwf.org/CLL_Courses.html

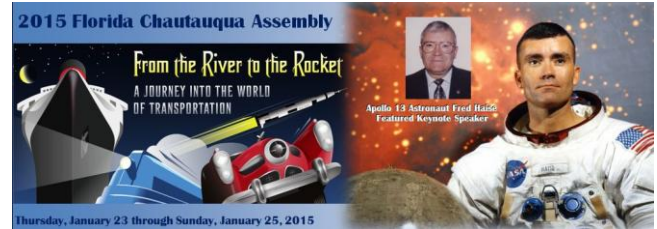
Navarre Library

8484 James M. Harvell Road, Navarre, FL

Library volunteers are available from 9 am until noon to give general genealogy research guidance. To ensure a volunteer is available, call before you visit: 981-7323

The 2015 Florida Chautauqua Assembly

**Thursday, Jan 23 through Sunday, Jan 25, 2014
DeFuniak Springs, Florida**



A Journey Into the World of Transportation: From the River to the Rocket. This year's historic event begins with a keynote presentation by Apollo 13 Astronaut Fred Haise and includes educational breakout sessions, performance teas, evening dinner performances and exhibits. All sessions and events will relate to the history of transportation. For information:

<http://www.florida-chautauqua-center.org/>

PERSONAL GENEALOGY & FAMILY HISTORY WORKSHOP

The next PG&FH workshop will be 8 Jan 1000-1200. We will be discussing *WHY STUDYING REGIONAL HISTORY IS IMPORTANT WHEN DOING GENEALOGY*. This discussion will be facilitated by Marc Strickland who will also provide a couple of case studies for why we need to study history. You are encouraged to bring and discuss your personal genealogical experiences with history to share.

Contact: Marc Strickland, cell phone 850-855-0319
marcstrickland5@gmail.com

**OKALOOSA
ANNIVERSARY
2015**

"100 Years Young – Okaloosa County, Florida"

January kicks off a year-long celebration of Okaloosa County history at the *Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida*, as we celebrate its Centennial in 2015. Join us for a special presentation, "100 Years Young – Okaloosa County, Florida" by historian Hank Klein, during *History Sandwiched-In*, a free lunch-time lecture, Friday, January 9, 2015, 12:00 p.m.

Klein will explain the evolution of territories, state, and how Okaloosa became a county in 1915.

Bring a sandwich and take your lunch break at this informal lunch-time education program. This lecture is free and open to the public. SPACE IS LIMITED. Please call to reserve a seat. (850) 678-2615

GSOC INFORMATION

Officers for 2015

President, James Young
1st Vice President (Programs), Del Lessard
2nd Vice President (Membership), Charlene Grafton
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 2014 issue, was published and distributed in September 2014.

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.

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.

Nostalgia

Sunday, Monday and Tuesday
January 4-5-6
'Cat On A Hot Tin Roof'

"I'm not living with you—we just occupy the same cage!"

Tennessee Williams' explosive prize play starring Elizabeth Taylor, Paul Newman and Burl Ives.

Special New Years' Eve Show
Starting at 11 p.m.
THE REVENGE OF FRANKENSTEIN
Plus comedy and Cartoons
AT THE
FOX THEATRE
In Crestview

Okaloosa News Journal, January 1, 1959



The January GSOC meeting will be on Saturday, January 10, 2015, at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida at 10 AM.

The speaker will be Mr. Hank Klein who will discuss his latest book, *Destin Pioneer Settlers...A Land History of Destin, Florida from 1819-1940*. See page 1 for more information about Mr. Kein and this program.

GSOC membership dues for 2015 are due!

"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

