

# THE GSOC NEWSLETTER

## THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

**JANUARY 18, 2019**



# Happy New Year



### IN THIS ISSUE

- Page 1 NEW GSOC OFFICERS
- Page 2 MESSAGE FROM GSOC PRESIDENT
- Page 3 THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM, UPCOMING EVENTS, NOTICES & MINUTES
- Page 6 EVENTS AND INFORMATION

## 2019 GSOC OFFICERS & APPOINTEES



### FROM LEFT TO RIGHT

GSOC President: Cindy Barber

Corresponding Secretary: Val Moreland

Recording Secretary: Barbara Bethea

GSOC First Vice President/Programs: Mike Kleypas

GSOC Second Vice President/Membership  
Chairperson: Jerry Rush

Webmaster: Jim Young

### Not in photo

Treasurer: Phil Hoge

Immediate Past President: Jon Shepherd

Genealogist: Margaret Harris

Newsletter Editor: Edward Crosby

## MESSAGE FROM 2019 GSOC PRESIDENT CINDY BARBER

Welcome to GSOC 2019. My path to President was hard and filled with conflict. I am extremely busy with other commitments, participating in the ProGen39 Study Group, teaching and working. I repeatedly said 'no'. My husband said 'no', but in the end, my belief that the Genealogy Society deserves a chance to move forward or die gracefully won out. I knew that I could not shoulder the responsibilities of the Society alone and am so grateful to Mike Kleypas and Barbara Bethea for letting me and others press them into service. The other members of the Board - Jerry Rush, Val Moreland, and Phil Hoge agreed to stay, too! I am counting on the entire leadership team to help bring a great year to GSOC. Ed Crosby and Jim Young are our face to the public. Their work on the newsletter, website and Facebook page is very valuable.

That said, I will pull no punches here. This is YOUR CHANCE as a member of the society to step up. If you have an idea, we want to hear it. If we are met with silence, the board will bring in programs and activities we are interested in. If we bring a project idea forward and are met with silence, there will be no project. We are all busy and many of us have health issues. I care about the concept of a Genealogy Society. I feel a debt to those Societies who provide me local knowledge and assistance for my personal research, I value the friendships created by a shared hobby. I know you care, for many of you pressured me to accept this leadership role.

The founding members of the Society set forth these Purposes:

1. Bring together people interested in genealogy and Family History
2. Provide an educational interchange of information and ideas relative to Genealogy and Family History
3. Support Genealogical Libraries, produce Journals, handbooks and other publications relative to Genealogy, family history, genealogical research techniques, and organization of data
4. Provide instruction in the various phases of Genealogical research and compilation of data and histories
5. Help gather or update information from area courthouses, cemeteries, churches, etc.
6. Disseminate information through meetings, a newsletter, website and an annual journal, each to be published on a regular basis, as determined by the Board of Directors
7. Cooperate with other Genealogical Societies

Everything we do over the next year will be in support of these Purposes.

With the advent of online records, much of the traditional projects Genealogy Societies completed in the past are no longer as attractive, but there are still many genealogists that prefer books they can hold in their hands. A project brings society members together, educates, and fulfills EVERY purpose set out by our founders.

What do we tell people who are stuck in their research? The most common answer is "Contact the local Genealogy Society for assistance." Are we the experts on Okaloosa County Records? Should we be? Are skills we may learn researching Okaloosa County transferable to our personal research?

The first quarter of 2019 promises to fly by -

Join us in February for our Birthday Celebration! We will be honoring our past, sharing snacks and looking to the future. The leadership team will be there to explore the direction you, the members, want to take the Society. We plan to have some of our old scrapbooks and Journals to explore. What would you like to learn in 2019? What projects should the Society explore? How can we reach out to the entire county? Bring your ideas!

The LDS Church is holding a Family History Fair on 9 March in Fort Walton Beach. Last year's event was very good and this one appears to be on track to be better! We will need a team to be responsible for the GSOC table, so please volunteer for a time slot.

Okaloosa County is huge. Even though we meet in Fort Walton Beach, we need to reach out to the entire county. I have made a commitment to the Crestview Library to hold two genealogy related events there this year. The first is "A Day of DNA" on 27 April. This will be an all-day event and tickets will be sold. This has the potential to draw people from the I-10 corridor. We will be asking for committee volunteers at the January meeting.

Let's roll up our sleeves, share our passion, and have fun with our friends!

# UPCOMING EVENTS:



**January 26, 2019, 10:30 AM**

## **MAJOR PUBLIC LAND LAWS IN THE UNITED STATES**

**Presented by Hank Klein**

The Homestead Act of 1862 opened much of our nation to settlement, especially the south, mid-west, and west. There were many other regional and national land acts. Hank Klein will present historical information about the difference between Public vs. State owned land, Patent Deeds, the Public Land Survey System, the division of public land into Townships, Ranges, & Sections and more. Learn about Veterans Subdivisions that were made available for Homesteading Northwest Florida as late as 1950.

---

### **OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST**

23 Jan – 10:30 am “The Early Days of West Florida” presented by Hank Klein @ Robert Sykes Public Library, Crestview, Call for Reservation: 850-682-4432

5 Feb - Who Do You Think You Are? Magazine’s annual Transcription Tuesday event -on line

23 Feb - GSOC Birthday Party; GSIG Follows

9 Mar - LDS Church, FWB Family History Fair

23 Mar - GSOC Meeting - Tom Sajwaj; GSIG Follows

27 Apr - Day of DNA, Robert Sykes Public Library Crestview

---

### **2019 Dues**

A separate email was sent with the new membership form. Please complete the form and bring it to the January meeting, or mail it in. The address is on the form. If you did not receive the email, the form is also on our website:

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

---

### **Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County (GSOC) Meeting Minutes, 15 Dec 2018**

President Jon Sheperd welcomed GSOC members and visitors to the combined December meeting and Christmas luncheon which was held at the Ft. Walton Yacht Club.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Minutes from November Meeting were in the December Newsletter. Jon thanked our newsletter editor, Ed Crosby for incorporating them in the newsletter. As there were no changes or recommendations to the newsletter, it was approved by acclamation.

**Election of 2019 Officers:** Jim Young was in charge of our nominating committee and election voting. Jim reported that he emailed the slate of nominees to the GSOC members and received 21 responses. All the responses were unanimous in approval.

Note: List of new officers is at the end of minutes.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Jon is stepping down after two years as president and gave the following remarks:

**Year End Report:** *I close out my two-year term as President of GSOC and would like to highlight some of the achievements of GSOC for this last year. These are just a few:*

*We again enjoyed the benefits of meeting in the FWB library where we had several visitors at almost every meeting.*

*We brought in several new memberships.*

*Our members gave presentations at both the Ft Walton Beach and Panama City Family History Fairs.*

*Five of our members taught or led five genealogy classes at the Center for Life-long Learning.*

*We published a great Journal about how we, or our ancestors, found their way to Northwest Florida.*

*We started two efforts: The Genealogy Special Interest and Genie groups. We also initiated a Family History Club at the Crestview Library (Cindy Barber added that this effort did not last long, unfortunately. It died due to lack of interest.)*

*Reorganized the FWB library genealogy section and ordered new reference books.*

*And my favorite, we enjoyed food at eight different restaurants in FWB.*

**The Year Ahead:** *The current and some future GSOC Board members met a couple weeks ago and looked at ways we could make GSOC even more relevant and helpful to the community in their pursuit of ancestors. I will let Cindy and the new Board address some of the ideas at later date but know that some of them will depend on members volunteering their time and expertise. I hope you will help when the call is made.*

### **Acknowledgement of 2018 officers and select members:**

- Jon acknowledged the contributions by the following key GSOC members:
- Jerry Rush. Keeping track of membership and dues
- Phil Hoge. Keeping track of our money
- Kathie Sheperd. Keeping comprehensive minutes of our meetings. She is rotating off the Board after three years.
- Val Moreland. Keeping our correspondence straight and getting out the publicity
- Sue Basch. Great counsel and advice during the year.
- Jim Young. For the great work as Webmaster and Facebook administrator. Also, for heading up the nominating committee again this year.
- Ed Crosby. For being the newsletter editor and publishing some very interesting articles.
- Cindy Barber. For initially setting up our speakers for the year and for again being the Journal Editor. Jon also gave Cindy a special thank you for coordinating our luncheon today at the Fort Walton Yacht Club.
- Jon thanked everyone in attendance, saying "your meeting attendance and help in other ways during the year ensured that GSOC will continue to be a vibrant organization."

## **REPORTS:**

**Programs:** The speaker for our January meeting will be Hank Klein. He will be talking about Major Public Land Laws.

**2nd VP Jerry Rush:** Jerry is accepting GSOC membership renewals for 2019 and thanked those who turned in their forms and dues at the luncheon.

**Treasurer Phil Hoge:** Phil is on vacation. The GSOC treasury balance at the end of November was \$1,463.96. Phil will work on the end of year recap report when he returns.

**Recording Secretary Kathie Sheperd:** Kathie reported that the new books for the Fort Walton Library Book order were ordered. For the list of new books ordered, refer to the November GSOC Newsletter (on the GSOC website).

**Corresponding Secretary Val Moreland:** Nothing sufficient to report.

**Newsletter, Ed Crosby:** Not Present

**Webmaster, Jim Young:** Nothing sufficient to report.

**Genealogist, Margaret Harris:** Margaret was present (so great to have her back with us!) and reported that she is slowly improving.

Any other old or new business?

Donna Elliot reported that there is a new beginning genealogy (continuing education) class at the Northwest Florida State College in Niceville. GSOC member, Beverly Gross, will be teaching it and the class begins on January 29<sup>th</sup>. There will be six classes, each with a different topic. The cost to attend is \$45.

#### **Fun Activities**

The group had a little fun at the meeting. There was a group activity of "Who Said What?" based on our 2018 guest speakers and Mike Kleypas was the winner. Jon also introduced the Genealogist's Wish List and "You Know You Are a Genealogist If ... Activities."

#### **Door Prizes:**

The board members each brought one or more Christmas gifts which were handed out randomly via ticket drawing. Jon thanked everyone who generously donated gifts.

#### **INSTALLATION OF the GSOC BOARD OF OFFICERS:**

Jon asked Jim Young to step in and lead in the formal installation ceremony of the 2019 GSOC officers. Three individuals are newly elected, and three individuals are continuing to serve in their present positions.

For 2019, the following members were sworn in for the positions adjacent to their names:

- GSOC President: Cindy Barber
- GSOC First Vice President/Programs Chairperson: Mike Kleypas
- GSOC Second Vice President/Membership Chairperson: Jerry Rush (who continues in this position)
- Recording Secretary: Barbara Bethea
- Corresponding Secretary: Val Moreland (who continues in this position)
- Treasurer: Phil Hoge (who continues in this position)

Newly installed officers should refer to the 2016 By-laws for further information and duty descriptions. These by-laws are available on the GSOC webpage.

Note: The elected officers and the immediate past President, Jon Sheperd, shall make up the GSOC Board of Directors.

#### **CLOSING:**

Jon thanked everyone for coming and his appreciation to Cindy for coordinating the Christmas luncheon. He thanked Jim for heading up the nominating committee and for managing the officer installation ceremony. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas, a joyous holiday, and a Happy New Year.

The GSOC will be back at the normal meeting location (FWB Library) on Jan 26<sup>th</sup> and with guest speaker, Hank Klein, talking about Major Public Land Laws.

/s/

Kathie Sheperd  
GSOC Recording Secretary

## Events and Information of GSOC Interest

### Officers for 2019

President, Cindy Barber  
1st Vice President (Programs), Mike Kleypas  
2nd Vice President (Membership), Jerry Rush  
Treasurer, Phil Hoge  
Recording Secretary, Barbara Bethea  
Corresponding Secretary, Val Moreland

### Appointees:

Immediate Past President, Jon Sheperd  
Journal Editor, Cindy Barber  
Genealogist, Margaret Harris  
Publicity Chairperson, Val Moreland  
Newsletter Editor, Edward Crosby  
Webmaster, Jim Young

### Addresses

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

Email: [gsocokaloosa@yahoo.com](mailto:gsocokaloosa@yahoo.com)

Newsletter Editor: [edcrosby@valp.net](mailto:edcrosby@valp.net)

GENIE Section: [EditorGSOCFLnews@gmail.com](mailto:EditorGSOCFLnews@gmail.com)

Genealogy Special interest Group: [GSOCSGISG@gmail.com](mailto:GSOCSGISG@gmail.com)

### Membership

Annual membership dues are \$24 for individual and \$35 for individual and spouse at same address. You can obtain a membership form from our web site or use the copy included in this newsletter.

### The Newsletter

The GSOC Newsletter is now published on or before the third weekend of each month. Suggestions for articles are welcome. The editor, Edward Crosby, can be contacted by phone at (850) 678-5423 or by email at [edcrosby@valp.net](mailto:edcrosby@valp.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 2018 issue was published and distributed in September 2018 and has been mailed to all GSOC members. The theme of the 2018 issue is the "Why did I come here". If you are a member and didn't receive your copy, please contact us.

**NOTICE: Web Site has been restored:**  
<http://www.rootweb.ancestry.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.

### GSOC on Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/okaloosagsoc>

The address to the official page of the Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County is shown above; or you can go to your Facebook account and search for **Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County**. This page provides the latest information about our future meetings and other news that is important to members or prospective members. There is also a Facebook group. It is useful for exchanging information about your research and getting help with questions you may have about the Society or resources available to you. You can find it by going to your Facebook account and searching for **Friends of the GSOC**.

### The GSOC Books

The five GSOC cemetery, marriage, and funeral books are all out of print, but are now available on the GSOC web site for reading on line and for downloading as searchable PDF files, at no charge. **Please note that all these GSOC books are copyrighted by The Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County and may be only used for personal use. Reproduction is prohibited without the permission of the GSOC.** Go to the web site, scroll down and click on the **GSOC Books** link, click on the name of the book to access, and read it on line. Save it to your computer to download it. Because of the size of these books, it may take them a few minutes to display (depending on the speed of your internet connection.)

## GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF OKALOOSA COUNTY

**Web Site has been restored: [www.rootweb.com/~flocgs](http://www.rootweb.com/~flocgs) E-mail: [gsocokaloosa@yahoo.com](mailto:gsocokaloosa@yahoo.com)**

I hereby apply for membership or the renewal of my membership in the Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County

### ANNUAL DUES (Membership Year 1 Jan-31 Dec)

Individual \$24.00 Family \$35.00 (For Individual & spouse at the same address)

Please PRINT or TYPE all information:

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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

Preferred Telephone (Home/Cell): \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Can information be shared with other members? Name: Yes/No, Address: Yes/No, Phone: Yes/No, Email: Yes/No

Your level of experience: Beginner \_\_\_ Intermediate \_\_\_ Advanced \_\_\_ Family Genealogist \_\_\_ Professional \_\_\_

### Please indicate areas of GSOC in which you would like to serve or contribute:

Newsletter Editor \_\_\_ Write Newsletter Articles \_\_\_ Webmaster \_\_\_ Journal Editor \_\_\_ Journal Staff Member \_\_\_ Write Articles for Journal \_\_\_ Serve on Short-term Committee \_\_\_ Nomination Committee \_\_\_ Organize Field Trips \_\_\_ Christmas Party Organizer \_\_\_ Give Genealogy Presentation \_\_\_ Workshop Leader \_\_\_ Workshop Volunteer \_\_\_ Special Event Organizer \_\_\_ Special Event Volunteer \_\_\_ Librarian \_\_\_ Publicity \_\_\_ CD Sales \_\_\_

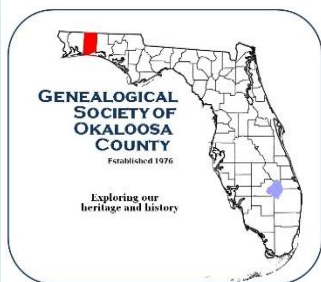
### Research: Name of families and states you are researching

Surname	State or Area

Surname	State or Area

PLEASE MAIL FORM (ALONG WITH CHECK) TO THE GSOC P.O. ADDRESS ABOVE (OR BRING FORM AND CHECK TO NEXT SOCIETY MEETING)





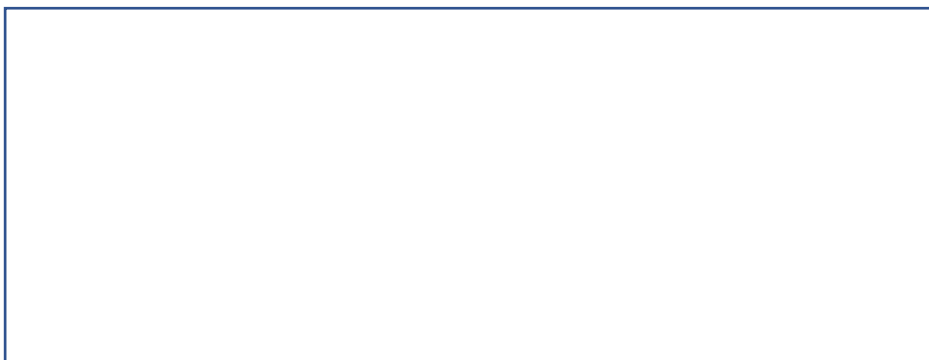
Our next meeting will on Saturday,  
January 26th, at 10:30 am.

*Featuring:*

*“Major Public Land Laws in the United States”  
Presented by Hank Klein*

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

*“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