

The GSOC Newsletter

The Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County, Florida

January 18, 2020



GSOC President's Corner

Do we know how to Party! The GSOC Christmas Luncheon at Tradewinds was a BLAST! We had the whole restaurant to ourselves! The service and food were fantastic! There were prizes and Jim Young did a great job with the Installation of Officers.

Not to be outdone... and noticing that the Library was **OPEN** on the 4th Saturday, we threw an informal "After Christmas Party" at the FWB library December 28th. Eleven GSOC members and guests asked questions, talked about DNA testing and swapped stories. Cindy and Margaret brought snacks.

Nicki shared a book she got for Christmas – "*Tracing Your Ancestors Using DNA: A Guide for Family Historians*", edited by Graham S. Holton. Although no one has read it through, it looks to be very well written and in 'English' more than science. This may be a good addition to your library.

The Genealogy Addicts got enough of a 'fix' to make it to the January meeting.

The Library collection continues to grow! If you have not been in, you really need to come check out all the new books. The volunteers have been busy with the books and helping people. We'll be working to make the back wall 'friendlier' over next few months.

We are kicking the New Year off with a **BANG!** We have so much scheduled, no one should be bored! Take a look at all the events on the schedule!



Cindy Barber

Cindybarber2@gmail.com



Dont't forget the Family Tree Maker Users Group Meeting will be held immediately after the GSOC Meeting on January 25th.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

- Jan 14th - DNA Interest Group - Niceville Library
- Jan 25th - GSOC meeting
- Jan 25th - Family Tree Maker Users Group -
Immediately after the GSOC meeting
- Jan 27th - Digitization Day - Destin Library -
GSOC doing presentations throughout the day.
- Feb 11th - DNA Interest Group

UPCOMING PROGRAMS/ACTIVITIES

- Feb 22nd - GSOC Birthday Celebration
- Mar 28th - African American Research by Jodie Biles
- Apr 25th - DNA Program by John Marshall

VIDEOS AND WEBSITES ONLINE

<https://www.forgottenbooks.com/en/search?q=Genealogy>

<https://www.familytreeforum.com/en> - To search – tap “menu on top right side.

<https://bespokegenealogy.com/free-genealogy-books/>

https://familytreewebinars.com/archived_webinars.php

<https://www.familytreecircles.com/>

2020 History Presentations

By: "Hank" Klein

Destin historian, author and speaker, Hank Klein, will give a number of presentations about the history of the local area at popular museums, libraries, and other locations this winter.

Date: Wednesday, Jan 22 @10:00am

Coastal Library of Walton County

Title: **The OLD East Pass and the Destin Lighthouse Keepers**

Date: Thursday, Jan. 30 @6:00pm

Destin Library

Title: **The Early Days of WEST FLORIDA**

Date: Thursday, Feb 12, 6:00pm

Destin History and Fishing Museum

Title: **Moreno Point...What we call Destin, FL today**

GSOC - Meet the Member Article

We would like to get to know you and introduce you to all the GSOC members by publishing an interview in the monthly newsletter.

To get started, please answer the questions below.
This is not a novel writing exercise and you do not have to answer anything you are not comfortable answering.
If you would like to share something else that is connected to Genealogy, please do. We'd really like a picture, too, so members can put a name with a face.
Send your article to: gsocokaloosa@yahoo.com.

Tell us a little about yourself -

Where were you born?
Have you lived in other places? Where?
What is your background (Where did you work, what did you do, etc?)
When did you start doing genealogy?
What geographic areas have you researched?
Have you attended any conferences?
Do you belong to any other genealogy related societies?
Tell us about one of your brick walls.
Have you DNA tested?
What have you learned from testing?
Were there any surprise results?
Does one of your ancestors have an unusual name?
Do you have an ancestor you would consider famous?
If you could ask one ancestor a question, who would you ask and what would the question be?

Board for Certification of Genealogists to Sponsor Free Webinars

Registration for the Board for Certification of Genealogists' twelve-monthly webinars in 2020 is now live at our partner website "Legacy Family Tree Webinars":
<https://familytreewebinars.com>).

Date	Speaker	Topic
January 21	Jan M. Joyce, DBA, CG, CGL	Creative Hypothesis Development for Complex Genealogy Problems
February 18	Barbara Vines Little, CG, FNGS, FUGA, FVGS	A Convincing Argument or a Convolved Mess
March 17	Karen Stanbary, CG	Techniques for Integrating Documentary and Genetic Information in a Research Report
April 21	Rebecca Whitman Koford, CG, CGL	Maryland State Archives Decoded
May 19	Teresa Steinkamp McMillin, CG	Discover the Holdings of German Archives
June 16	David Ouimette, CG, CGL	Genealogical Treasures in Irish Archives
July 21	Warren Bittner, CG	Elusive Immigrant: The Search for Dora Lühr
August 18	Thomas W. Jones, CG, CGL, FASG, FNGS, FUGA	The Advance of Research Habits Over Recent Decades—And the Downside
September 15	Melissa A. Johnson, CG	Reconstructing the Murphy Family Using DNA & Documentary Evidence
October 20	Angela Packer McGhie, CG	Using DNA Test Results to Confirm a Pedigree
November 17	Shannon Green, CG	Separating and Merging Identities of Same-Named Men
December 15	Judy G. Russell, JD, CG, CGL	From the 18th to the 21st: The Records of Prohibition

BCG's webinars are normally held on the third Tuesday of each month at 8 p.m. Eastern time. In order to accommodate those who might have schedule conflicts, webinars may be accessed by the public at no charge for a week after each live broadcast.



MEET THE MEMBER: JODIE BILES

Where were you born?

I was born in Cleveland, OH.

Have you lived in other places? Where?

I moved to Worcester, MA in 1977, but moved back home in 1978 after my mother's death. I joined the Army in 1982 and have lived in many different states and two other countries.

What is your background (Where did you work, what did you do, etc?)

I was in the Army for over 8 years. I went in as an aviation sheet metal mechanic, but after 2 ½ years I became a Counterintelligence Agent. In the civilian world I have held many positions. I am a skilled seamstress and ran a business out of my home overseas. My last 9-5 job was as the Deputy Director of Bob Hope Village in Shalimar, FL.

When did you start doing genealogy?

I have been interested in my Ancestry for as long as I can remember. I didn't start doing serious research and documentation, until 2016.

What geographic areas have you researched?

Most of my research has been concentrated in Henry County, VA and independent Martinsville, VA on my father's side and the counties of Rockingham, Forsyth, Davidson and Guilford counties in North Carolina.

Have you attended any conferences?

Not yet.

Do you belong to any other genealogy related societies?

Yes, I belong to African-American Historical and Genealogical Society (AAHGS), National Genealogical Society (NGS) and Museum & Archives of Rockingham County (MARC).

Tell us about one of your brick walls.

I have many, many brick walls, but one that I have been working on is the origins of my Great Grandmother Margaret "Maggie" Walser.

Have you DNA tested? (What have you learned from DNA testing? Were there any surprise results?)

Yes, I have tested with 23andMe and Ancestry. I also uploaded to GEDmatch, My Heritage, Family Tree and DNA.LAND. I have had no real surprises. Ethnically, I am basically 1/3 European and 2/3 African. I did have one close cousin show up that no-one in the family knew about. Her grandfather was adopted and didn't know who his real parents were.

Does one of your ancestors have an unusual name?

I have come across several unusual first names in my research. I have a cousin whose middle name is Crumpton. I had cousins with these one of a kind names: Chalmers, Virgus, Mann and Surry. My uncle has a family name that I want to do more research on, Maceo Antonio.

Do you have an ancestor you would consider famous?

My 2xGreat Grandmother Keziah was impregnated by the plantation owner's son who was the overseer. His line goes back to Patrick Henry and Alexander Spotswood (Lieutenant Governor of Virginia, appointed in 1710)

If you ask one ancestor a question, who would you ask and what would the question be?

From what I have learned of my mother's family, the mother of my Great Grandmother Maggie, was born in Africa. I would ask her where in Africa she was from or what tribe she belonged to.

IGHR is a week-long Educational Institute. You select one course and attend it all week. There are also optional evening sessions.

This year's session is 26-31 July. Registration opens 2 February with a rolling schedule.

For course information visit: <https://ighr.gagensociety.org/>

Cindy attended last year and is going back in 2020. If you have any questions, she can answer them.

Cindy Barber



Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County

Minutes of the December 12, 2019 Meeting

Location:	Tradewinds Restaurant, Valparaiso (Christmas Luncheon)
Call to Order:	12:30 pm
President Comments:	The meeting was called to order for the installation of Officers.
Installation of Officers:	Jim Young conducted the Installation Ceremony, thanking the 2019 Officers and Special Duty Volunteers for their contribution. He then presented the new officers to the members present and charged each of them with fulfilling their responsibilities.
2020 Officers:	President: Cindy Barber 1st Vice President-Programs: Mike Kleypas 2nd Vice President- Membership: Jodie Biles Treasurer: Phil Hoge Recording Secretary: Barbara Bethea Corresponding Secretary: Val Moreland
Meeting Adjourned:	12:45 pm

*The December meeting was only opened for the Installation of Officers. No other business was conducted. A member sent corrections/additions to the November minutes. The revised minutes are listed below. The November minutes as corrected/amended will be presented for approval at the January meeting.

Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County

Minutes of the November 23, 2019 Meeting

GSOC Meeting:	2019_11_23*
Call to Order:	10:32 am
Elections:	Jon Sheperd, Chairman of Nominations Committee, President: Cindy Barber 1 st Vice President-Programs: Mike Kleypas 2 nd Vice President- Membership: Jodie Biles Treasurer: Phil Hoge Recording Secretary: Barbara Bethea Corresponding Secretary: Val Moreland Entire slate of officers was approved.
Approval of October's Minutes:	Minutes were approved as printed in newsletter.
Finance Report:	Phil reported: \$1996.40 in account, Blue Box \$743.33.
Membership Report:	Jon for Jerry – 68 members, 5 additional organizations. During Nov. and Dec. you can join for 2020. Fill out a membership form even if previously filled out. Nothing is released on form unless indicated in the privacy information section. There is a limit of 30 research names for each member on the form. The compiled Ancestor Research list was sent out to all members. A similar list is also on our website (Google: Genealogy Society of Okaloosa County).
Correspondence:	Val – nothing to report.
Website Report:	Jim – up to date.
Newsletter Report:	Nicki – nothing to report. Send any newsletter suggestions to Nicki.
Genealogist Report:	Margaret – she was able to use our cemetery information to help someone.
Okaloosa County Research Guide:	Cindy – Research guides are printed and were passed around. Members get one free. After that they are \$3. Non-members \$5.
President Report:	Cindy had following comments: Free books on the table.

	<p>Remainder of books is being shelved.</p> <p>November 2 – Maker Day was a success!</p> <p>FamilySearch Affiliate Library contract has been submitted; city is working with SLC.</p> <p>Family Tree Maker meetings are starting in January and will follow the monthly GSOC meeting.</p>
Volunteers for library:	1-4 on Wednesdays. Passed sign-up sheet around.
Beginning Genealogy Presentation:	Jon gave this presentation at the Crestview library on Nov. 16 th . It went over really well. Cindy reminded us that we will do other presentations in the Spring and Fall in Crestview.
Introduction to DNA Workshop:	<p>Cindy hosted this workshop in Destin on October 29th. Two people attended.</p> <p>January – Another Destin workshop TBD.</p>
DNA Group:	Meets in Niceville on 2 nd Tuesday of each month from 18:00-19:30.
Programs Report:	Mike reminded everyone the next meeting will be our Christmas Luncheon.
Christmas Luncheon:	The luncheon will be on Thursday, 12 December at Tradewinds in Niceville. We have a reservation for 11:30 am. Kathie Sheperd is coordinating. Price is \$14, tax tip and drink. Payment is required by Dec. 6.
Show and Tell Program:	<p><u>The following gave a presentation:</u></p> <p>Ed Crosby talked about the DNA and life of Honeybees.</p> <p>Margaret Harris talked about some features of FamilySearch.</p> <p>Jon Sheperd talked about his recent trip to Northern Ireland and how he connected with places his ancestors were at.</p> <p>Jody Biles talked about visiting cemeteries and other places associated with her ancestors.</p>
Door Prize Winners:	Hilma won the honey, Ed won the jam.
Questions Asked:	None
Meeting Adjourned:	12:03 am.

DESCENDANCY RESEARCH: ANOTHER PATHWAY TO GENEALOGY



**A Webinar Presentation by
MICHAEL L STRAUSS, AG**
January 25, 10:30 AM

Breaking through the challenges of brick walls has never been more rewarding; genealogists are often taught that the only way to doing successful research is to search backwards through time; going back as far as you can. This lecture assumes a new focus on doing research by tracing all of the descendants of an ancestral couple to present; as we will examine the methodology to find living persons who may hold the key to your family history research. Focus is also given to provide an actual case study of doing this kind of research.

Michael L. Strauss, AG is a professional Accredited Genealogist® (ICAPGen), and a nationally recognized speaker. A native of Pennsylvania and a resident of Utah, he has been employed as a Forensic Investigator for more than 25 years. Strauss holds a BA in History and is a United States Coast Guard veteran. He is a qualified expert witness in the courts in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. Michael is featured on Lisa Louise Cooke's Genealogy Gems with his regular segments of "Military Minutes." Strauss is a faculty member at SLIG, GRIP, and IGHR where he is the Military Course Coordinator.

*******Attention*******

Due\$ Are Due!
**Bring your check and
Membership form
to the meeting
or mail it in!**
**The membership form
is in this newsletter**

"SHOW & TELL" PROGRAM

**I would like to "Thank" each of our
presenters for making the November
"Show & Tell" Program a success!**

Mike Kleypas

- Ed Crosby - "Researching a Friend's Father"
- Margaret Harris - "Memories" Feature of Family Search
- Jodie Biles - "African American Cemeteries, Their Culture & Historical Significance."
- Jon Sheperd - "Shepard Family History in Northern Ireland" with side notes and pictures of he and Kathie's trip

Fortunately, we are blessed with members that possess a wealth of knowledge and are willing to share that knowledge and research with all of our members. If anyone in the future wishes to make a presentation, or recommend topics or speakers, please let me know.

Mike Kleypas – Program Chairman

HAPPENINGS SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

News from the "DNA Interest Group"

In December we learned about Jonathan Brecher's FREE Shared Clustering Application for Ancestry matches available at:

[https://github.com/jonathanbrecher/
sharedclustering/wiki/Shared-Clustering-versus-other-
clustering-tools](https://github.com/jonathanbrecher/sharedclustering/wiki/Shared-Clustering-versus-other-clustering-tools) .

Several of us tried it out at the meeting and we all went home to see if this tool would help with our matches. We'll share our experience at the January meeting. The DIG meets on the 2nd Tuesday at the Niceville Library from 6-7:15 PM.

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

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~flocgs> E-mail: gsocokaloosa@yahoo.com

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

ANNUAL DUES (Membership Year 1 Jan-31 Dec)
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 your information be shared with other members?

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

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

Please indicate areas of GSOC in which you can serve or contribute

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

Research: Names of families and states you are researching. If no change so indicate.
If family membership- use left column for husband's family and right column for wife's.

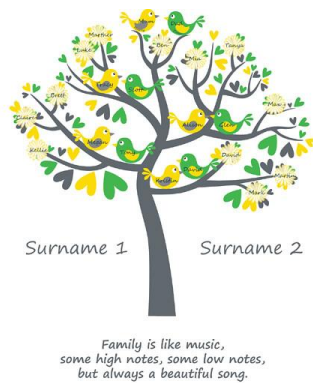
Surname	State or Area

Surname	State or Area

PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM ALONG WITH YOUR CHECK TO THE GSOC POST OFFICE ADDRESS ABOVE
(OR BRING THE FORM AND YOUR CHECK TO THE NEXT MEETING OF THE SOCIETY)



Our next meeting is Saturday,
January 25th, at 10:30 am



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

