

THE GSOC NEWSLETTER

THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF
OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

JULY 6, 2012

Next GSOC Meeting

July 14, 2012

Our July meeting will be held at the Heritage Museum at 10 AM and will be followed by an optional Dutch Treat lunch at a nearby restaurant.



Mr. Dale Cox

The speaker will be Dale Cox, a native of Two Egg, Florida. Mr. Cox is a writer and historian who has received growing praise for the unique literary style and depth of research evident in his books. Called a "skillful reconstructor of battle narrative" by one national reviewer, Mr. Cox's works range from local histories to widely acclaimed volumes on small but significant Civil War battles.

Mr. Cox will be speaking on Florida's greatest naval disaster of the Civil War. It took place on May 27, 1863, when a deadly explosion wrecked the warship C.S.S. *Chattahoochee* in the Apalachicola River at Blountstown. Those killed immediately were buried in Chattahoochee, where a monument marking their graves can be seen today. The ship was soon raised by the Confederates and towed upriver to Columbus, Georgia, where she was refitted. In 1865, she was scuttled by her own crew to prevent her capture during the Battle of Columbus. Rigged with three retractable masts and two independently operating steam propulsion systems, the *Chattahoochee* was the most powerful operational Civil War warship to cruise the Apalachicola, Chattahoochee and Flint River system. Her draft was shallow enough to allow her to operate on the rivers, but her size, armament and overall design left little doubt that she was intended for use as a commerce raider.

You can learn more about Mr. Cox and his research at <http://civilwarflorida.blogspot.com/> and <http://www.exploresouthernhistory.com>

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GSOC Meeting Minutes, June 9, 2012

Mary Ellen Ahlstrom, Recording Secretary

Carol Lessard greeted each person as they entered the Heritage Museum for the June meeting of the Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County. She asked everyone to sign a list in keeping with attendance records.

President Donna Elliott officially opened the meeting for business at 10:00 AM. She welcomed members in attendance and introduced the newest member of the society, Carl Laws. There were seventeen members present.

Mrs. Elliott asked for approval of the minutes of the May meeting. A motion to accept the minutes as recorded in the newsletter was made by Ken Elliott and a second was made by Del Lessard. The minutes were approved.

Ken Elliott, Vice President and Chairman of Programs, reported on forthcoming programs.

Carol Lessard filled in for Sue Basch, membership chairman, who was absent. Bob Basch, Treasurer was absent but sent a report of the status of the Treasury. Mrs. Elliott gave his report. Balance of the Treasury as of this date is \$2,482.07 with no outstanding checks.

Jim Young, Corresponding Secretary, announced he had brought several publications he had received for the society. He turned these publications over to Hilma Jenus who will place them in the Fort Walton Beach Library for public use.

Publicity Chairman, Pat Pruett announced of notices she had placed in local newspapers.

It was announced that the next Journal to be published by the society was in progress. Malcolm Flanagan will serve as co-editor with Beverly Gross.

Old business was called for but none was presented. There was no new business, however as previously announced, the society still needs a Historian. If anyone is willing to accept this position, please let Mrs. Elliott know.

A report was given by Tom and Robyn Stiles who had recently attended the National Genealogical Society workshops in Cincinnati, Ohio. They also gave out brochures of the upcoming conference and workshops to be held in Birmingham this fall by the Federation of Genealogical Societies.

Minutes Continued on Page 2

Minutes (continued)

Mrs. Elliott excused herself to attend a function of her church for which she was committed while the members made a decision on where to go for the usual Dutch Treat lunch.

The program for the month was presented by Gena Marini, Director of the Heritage Museum. Ms. Marini began her program by announcing she had recently attended a Leadership Okaloosa Conference and was expecting a position in the upcoming Honorary Command at Hurlburt Field.

She mentioned it all began in 1969 as the Historical Society of Okaloosa and Walton Counties and had been in this location since 1971. In 1994 the title was changed to Heritage Museum Association of Northwest Florida. She told of the present day Board of Trustees and passed around a photo and short bio of each member of that board. In 2010 a [traveling] Vietnam Wall [exhibition] was sponsored by the Museum honoring Eglin's 75th anniversary. In 2011 the museum was honored to win the Golden Image Award. She invited everyone to Google YouTube and see the video in the WSRE "In Your Own Back Yard" series that was made about the Museum and which features one of our GSOC members.

Ms. Marini drew tickets for three door prizes prior to taking the group on a tour of the museum.

Following the guided tour the group reassembled for three more door prizes. Ending her presentation she announced the museum would continue with the annual Heritage Alive Crafts and will be conducting Home Schools on Fridays for school age children. She reminded all of the successful 36th. Annual Saturday In The Park and announced the 37th. would be held in April 2013. She also mentioned the possibility that the museum could possibly be relocating in the future. She, the Board of Trustees and officials of the Northwest Florida State College are involved in discussions and future plans for this possibility.

In closing, Ms. Marini asked for anyone interested in volunteering at the museum and other sponsored activities of the museum to contact her. There are numerous ways volunteers are needed and used and she would welcome all who would consider giving of their time.

The meeting was adjourned by Vice President, Ken Elliott at 11:40 AM.

Editor's Note: The images and text in the column to the right are from the WSRE TV production of an episode of the "In Your Own Back Yard" series which featured the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida. This is the video that Ms. Marini mentioned in her talk. The entire video is available on line and can be seen on YouTube. Just click on (or set your browser to) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VK1kaIt3Ho>



WSRE: "In the early 1800s, hardy homesteaders established farms scattered across the northern part of the area now known as Okaloosa and Walton Counties. The region retained its primitive pioneer character for over 100 years. Not until the 1940s did the small farming and fishing communities enjoy such modern conveniences as electricity, telephones and paved roads. Located in the historic district of Valparaiso, Florida, The Heritage Museum illuminates the everyday life of a by-gone era. It features replicas of a one-room schoolhouse, railroad depot, a pioneer home and displays ranging from mullet fishing to the timber industry. Tours of the museum are brought to life by guides in period costumes who interpret pioneer life in Okaloosa and Walton Counties and also provide insights into early Native American life in the region, local military history, the founding of Valparaiso and much more."



Beverly Gross, Museum guide and past president of the GSOC, in costume, as she introduces a group of visitors to pioneer historical exhibits and lifestyles.



A Pioneer Life exhibit, one of the many exhibits that the Museum has carefully and accurately created.



A typical schoolroom with slates, a hands-on exhibit for showing modern students how their grandparents and great grandparents were educated.

THE HISTORY OF ST. ANDREWS BY THE SEA EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF DESTIN FLORIDA

By SANDRA S. GILLILAND

In 1911, an English family, Anglican missionaries to Canadian Indians, moved to Santa Rosa, about 20 miles East of Destin. They had been convinced by unscrupulous promoters to join a colony of Canadians, planning to settle and raise citrus fruit. This family, Mr. Clement TAYLOR and Mrs. TAYLOR and their son Garfield, was destined to be one of the most important factors in the founding of St. Andrews Church. Mr. TAYLOR had been a lay reader in the Church of England and very interested in establishing an Episcopal Church in this area.

After the disappointment of discovering that citrus could not be grown in North Florida, the TAYLORS moved to Destin, then known as "East Pass", in 1915. They stayed only a very short while, moved back to Santa Rosa until late 1923, then they moved back to Destin permanently. Mr. TAYLOR quickly became acquainted with other residents of the area and soon found other families who also dreamed of a church for their families to attend.

John MALTEZO, a Greek fisherman, and Clement TAYLOR soon got together with other residents, and with the combined efforts of these people, plans began to form. They had their first meeting that year, in the barrel shed of Wiley MARLER'S fish house. Together, they knelt, in the salt spilled from packing the fish, for their first prayers. They included Mrs. Isobel MALTEZO and her family, Mrs. Mary WOODWARD, Mrs. COX (Stella), Mrs. Dave MARLER, (Vera), Mrs. Ed WALTER, (Cleo), Mrs. Ben MARLER, and her sons Tony, Nicky and Andrew.

In 1924 the little group made arrangements with the Methodists to use their building, near what was then the residence of Garfield TAYLOR. Mrs. Martha DESTIN gave the money to help them get started.

Their bishop, who had to travel from Jacksonville, usually had to come by horse and buggy or tin lizzie. He would come to perform any confirmations or baptisms that were needed and usually stayed in the home for one of the members, since there were no hotels or motels in the area at that time.

There were only a few houses and cottages scattered here and there. It was a big event to take a trip over to the bay side to visit the cousins or to go over to the gulf side. A trip to town was a three day affair, which took you all day one way to Pensacola. You could usually hitch a ride on a mail boat if you did not own a boat of your own. There was no Fort Walton at that time only Camp Walton which was a very small place reached by ferry and you could only reach Niceville by boat also, and it was only a very small fishing community then too.

On July 1, 1927 Bishop JUHAN, who traveled on sand trails from Panama City, then known as St. Andrews, held the first confirmation in St. Andrews by the Sea. The visiting Rector from St. Andrews Church of Panama City presented the class. They were Mrs. Isobel MALTEZO, Mrs. Inez WOODWARD, Mrs. Mary COX, Mrs. Stella MARLER, Mrs. Ruby MELVIN and Mrs. Inez ZIEL. Looking at St. Andrew's

present membership, you will see many of these last names today.

Shortly after that first confirmation, the little Methodist Church, that had been so lovingly shared with this little group burned to the ground. From that time until 1937, services were held either in the home of Mrs. Isobel MALTEZO or at the TAYLORS.

During this time, Mr. John MALTEZO donated all of his property, north of the road, to the little group, in order that their hopes and dreams of a new building might be realized. Lumber for the building was boated over from Pensacola, and hauled and unloaded on the beach. It was then hauled by hand piece by piece to the site where the church would be built. Before a building could be started, the Great Depression of 1929 hit and their hopes of finances and further materials were delayed again.

Mr. John MALTEZO died in 1932, without ever realizing his dream of seeing St. Andrews built. He had been in charge of finances and treasurer of the little organization, kept the books, and handled all the business matters. For a while there was chaos, until someone could be found to take charge. Finally, in 1947 the Rev. Alvin BULLEN took charge.

The road through Destin, U. S. Highway 98, was completed in 1934 and open for traffic. People could travel either to Pensacola or Panama City on a two lane hard surface road. Pensacola had incorporated a toll bridge charging \$1.10 for a round trip. At that time, the men of St. Andrew decided to go ahead and put up the building. In doing so, they found that all the lumber, laying in the open air had rotted beyond use. Coincidentally, they discovered that St. Catherine's Church, in Pensacola, was being torn down. So, they salvaged what materials they could, heart pine, foundation blocks, the altar, pews and other items and brought them back to Destin by truck. They, the members, began construction which was done in their spare time, and took a while to complete. Finally, the first service was held in 1937.

Until 1953, services were held in that little structure, at which time, the main building, the present concrete structure, was completed. It had been started under the administration of Rev. Anthony DIFFENBAUGR, on the plans he and his parishioners had drawn. The steeple is topped by an Irish or Celtic Cross, made out of Spanish Cedar in the hobby shop of Robert T. FRAZIER and he then had it covered with sheet copper by BARIOS & ACOSTA in Pensacola.

On September 3, 1959, ground was broken for the new parish house, Sunday school and nursery was completed March 17, 1960. At this time, it was under the administration of Rev. William ERWIN.

The main body of the church was not air conditioned until May of 1964. Before that, the windows were kept open in the summer heat, and there was a constant disturbance of dog flies, bees, an occasional lizard and a bird or two.

On October 20, 1963, ground, donated by Mr. and Mrs. Coleman KELLEY, was broken for the rectory. It was completed after many setbacks, in Feb. of 1965, under the administration of Rev. Robert C. JOHNSON, the first family to occupy it.

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Today as you come up over the crest of the Destin Bridge, you can see in the distance, the Celtic Cross glistening bright white and invitingly in the sunlight. St. Andrews is growing with leaps and bounds, especially with the growth of Destin. Under the administration of Rev. Alexander GREENE, Rector and Rev. William HAZELETT. Curate. the church is drawing up plans for a new sanctuary. If everything goes as planned, the new structure will house at least 650 people. We wish them much success in their new endeavor.

My many thanks to Rev. GREENE, Dale ALLEN, the church secretary and great-great granddaughter of John MALTEZO, Tommy TAYLOR, great-great grandson of Clement TAYLOR, for lending their assistance to the writing of this paper.

The above article was published in Volume VII, Issue 26, the Spring 1983 edition of the GSOC "A Journal of Northwest Florida". The author, Sandra S. Gilliland, was the president of the GSOC at that time.

Postscript:

St Andrews By The Sea Episcopal Church Since 1953

The concrete block church completed in 1953 seated 250. As the tallest structure in Destin for some time, the church's steeple served as a navigation aid to those at sea, even as the church was a place of spiritual and social orientation for many in the community.

The 1970s was a period of energy and rapid growth in numbers. During that time the present church building and the education building were built.



In 2000 the clergy, staff, and all but about a dozen people left the Episcopal Church to become

affiliated with the Anglican Mission in America.

The remaining congregation of St. Andrew's By-the-Sea continued holding services. Arriving in 2001 as Interim Rector, the Rev. Donald L. Cramer led the congregation until his death in 2003. Following Fr. Don's death, the Rev. L. Roberts Graves (Fr. Bob) served as Interim Rector, and the Rev. David B. Powell, the first full-time Rector of the re-emerging St. Andrew's By-the-Sea Episcopal Church, served from 2004-2009. Fr. Powell was followed by the Rev. David S. Luckett and the Rev. Maurice L. Goldsmith as interim Priests-in-Charge. The current full-time Rector is the Rev. R. Barry Crow.

Source: Information from the church's web site at <http://www.standrewsbtssepiscopal.org/history.htm>

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

6/16/2012: I am looking for any and all information on a **Charles H. Babcock born 1928 died 1959**. We believe him to be a lost baby taken from our family member in 1928. The parties are all deceased but he has a sibling that is eighty six years old and still wants to find her only sibling. We believe this Charles is probably him.

We know he is buried in Beal cemetery but they only have on the stone the birth year and date we would love to find out the exact month and day he was born and died. We would love to know if possible why he died since he was pretty young. Is there an old obituary? Any and all information will be much appreciated.

I am a cousin to both Charles and his sister and can check through my computer for her. I live in Ohio so this is my only way to search.

God Bless,
Sandra Windle
Halogranny@aol.com



Charles H. Babcock's Marker
Beal Memorial Cemetery, Fort Walton Beach, FL
Source: <http://www.findagrave.com>

6/19/2012: Thank you for any and all help with this. If you should find anything that will tell why Charles Henry Babcock died. I am assuming it might be service related but don't have a clue just my guess. **I did talk to Beal Memorial Cemetery and they told me his exact date of death was December 17, 1959.** They knew nothing else that would help, I got to thinking there must have been a funeral home involved and so I called Beal and the lady there said that McLaughlins would have been the funeral home in 1959 so I called them but unfortunately they cannot find or don't have the book from 1959. So I am totally hoping you find something on Charles H. Babcock. I know that he grew up in Peoria, Illinois That's all that I know there except the people who raised him were Alva and Lela Babcock. Thanks to the find a grave site I found all the graves and burial. Thank God **Lela's obituary listed that Charles was in Florida at Eglin air force base in 1954** but unfortunately Charles died after her and before Alva died. I am so sure this is our Charles Henry McDougall. I would so to find something more about Charles' life for his only sibling. Thanks so much for your help with this matter. I hoped someone would help seeing that the Babcock's are deceased and his Mother is deceased and we assume his father is deceased by now . The parents divorced years ago. ... Again thank you so very much for helping me.

God Bless,
Sandie



Civil War Sesquicentennial

Selected Highlights of July 1862

<http://blueandgraytrail.com>

July 1 Battle of Malvern Hill Robert E. Lee [CS] attacked George B. McClellan [U.S.], whose men made a gallant stand in front of the James River. Lee called off his attack after failing to break the Union line.

July 1 President Lincoln signs the Pacific Railway Act, incorporating the Union Pacific Railroad and subsidizing it with federal funds

July 1 [circa] General David Hunter organizes the 1st South Carolina Regiment. It will later become the 33rd U. S. Colored Infantry.

July 1 United States public debt exceeds \$500 million for the first time.

July 2 Earl Van Dorn is given command of the Military District of Mississippi

July 2 Lincoln issues a call for 300,000 3-year recruits

July 6 Major General Ambrose Burnside leaves North Carolina by boat and heads to Harrison's Landing

July 7 Battle of Hill's Plantation Arkansas

July 8 Abraham Lincoln visits with George McClellan at Harrison's Landing Virginia

July 9 John Hunt Morgan [CS] turns back federal troops and takes Tompkinsville Kentucky

July 11 Ulysses S. Grant [US] ordered to assume command of the Army of the Tennessee, Army of the Mississippi and other western troops.



July 12 Congress authorizes the Medal of Honor for gallantry in action for non-commissioned officers and privates who "...distinguish themselves by their gallantry in action, and other soldier-like qualities...". While the military is almost evenly split on the creation of the medal, politicians are strongly for it

July 12 Abraham Lincoln writes a letter to the Congressmen from the border states, warning them of his upcoming Emancipation Proclamation. In it he states, "I do not speak of emancipation at once, but of a decision at once to emancipate gradually

July 14 U. S. Senate passes a bill creating West Virginia

July 15 The C. S. S. Arkansas sails past the federal fleet on the Mississippi River with guns ablaze, destroying three ships.

July 16 *We are coming, Father Abraham, Three Hundred Thousand More* appears in the New York Post. Written by James Sloan, the marching song was intended to help raise volunteers following Lincoln's request to Congress that it increase the size of the army by 300,000 men. **[Read the lyrics and link to the music on the following page.]**

July 17 Congress passes The Confiscation Act of 1862. This allows for confiscation of property from people who participate in the war

July 21 In a tersely worded telegram, Braxton Bragg [CS] informs Jefferson Davis that he will move his army in force from Tupelo, Mississippi to Chattanooga, Tennessee

July 22 President Lincoln presents his Emancipation Proclamation to his Cabinet. William Seward recommends waiting until a victory to present it to the public.

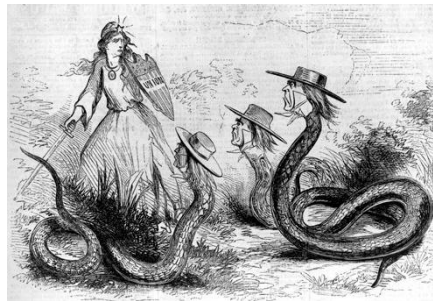
July 23 Moving his men by railroad from Tupelo, Mississippi, Braxton Bragg reappears in Chattanooga, Tennessee after a journey of more than 770 miles. It was the largest troop movement by rail during the war for the Confederates.

July 23 Major General Henry Halleck becomes commanding general of the United States Army

July 28 Railroads introduce the mail car, allowing mail to be sorted as a train travels

July 29 Belle Boyd was arrested as a Confederate spy. She was released a month later on lack of evidence.

July 30 The term Copperhead is used for the first time in writing by the Cincinnati Gazette. It was used to indicate people who would not admit they were Southern sympathizers, and "peace at any price" Democrats. People who did admit Southern



sympathies were called "dough-heads."

July 31 In response to Union General John Pope's order that citizens be shot as spies, Confederate President Jefferson Davis orders Pope's officers be held as felons and not prisoners-of-war.

July 31 Braxton Bragg [CS] and Kirby Smith [CS] meet in Chattanooga to agree on strategy against the Army of the Ohio.

WE ARE COMING, FATHER ABRAHAM

In the summer of 1862, following a series of Northern military setbacks, Abraham Lincoln issued a call for 300,000 three-year volunteers to fill the depleted ranks of the Union Army. This song, inspired by that request, first appeared as a poem in The New York Post. The words were written by James Sloan Gibbons, a Quaker abolitionist, and were set to music by Stephen Foster and others.

We are coming, Father Abraham,
three hundred thousand more,
From Mississippi's winding stream
and from New England's shore.
We leave our plows and workshops,
our wives and children dear,
With hearts too full for utterance,
with but a silent tear.
We dare not look behind us
but steadfastly before.
We are coming, Father Abraham,
three hundred thousand more!

**CHORUS: *We are coming, we are coming,
our Union to restore,
We are coming, Father Abraham,
three hundred thousand more!***

If you look across the hilltops
that meet the northern sky,
Long moving lines of rising dust
your vision may descry;
And now the wind, an instant,
tears the cloudy veil aside,
And floats aloft our spangled flag
in glory and in pride;
And bayonets in the sunlight gleam,
and bands brave music pour,
We are coming, father Abr'am,
three hundred thousand more!

CHORUS

You have called us, and we're coming
by Richmond's bloody tide,
To lay us down for freedom's sake,
our brothers' bones beside;
Or from foul treason's savage group,
to wrench the murderous blade;
And in the face of foreign foes
its fragments to parade.
Six hundred thousand loyal men and true
have gone before,
We are coming, Father Abraham,
three hundred thousand more!

CHORUS

Click on the following link or set this address in your browser to hear a MIDI version of the music.
To return back here, click on the X in the upper right corner of that page.

<http://www.folkarchive.de/abraam.html>

What Happened When the Fighting Ended?

by Gettysburg Reb

What happened to the armies of the Civil War after the fighting stopped and the defeated combatants surrendered? How did the soldiers get home? What were their experiences in traveling home?

After the surrender of the Confederate Armies, the first being Gen Robert E. Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia, thousands of soldiers of both armies, the union troops of the Army of the Potomac and the defeated confederates had to be disbanded. The difference between the Union and Confederate soldier in getting home was vastly different.

The northern soldier was returning to a land virtually untouched by war. He was well fed, given new uniforms, was able to travel by train or boat to his home state. The North had a demobilization plan, the South did not. For the confederate soldier there were no plans to get him home, he was left to find his way home as best as he could. More times than not, he had little or no money, he wasn't paid in months, the railroad system in the South was in poor shape due to the war. His home most likely was affected by the war, some lost everything.

For the Confederate Soldier getting home after the war was very different than his Union counterpart. For most it meant walking, many had no money and had to beg for food on their way home. The Confederate Government had no demobilization plans and made no provisions for their troops getting to their home states. At the fall of the government and the surrender of the rebel armies, it was left up to each individual soldier to make his way home.

Not only did they have no money or transportation, they had to look out for Union troops that patrolled the countryside of the South. In most cases the victorious Union soldiers treated the returning Southern soldier as brother Americans, but there were also cases of undo harassment. Railroads in the south after the war were very limited in what the rails could handle. Due to the war, many railroad lines were destroyed and trains could only go so far before being forced to stop. What trains that were running were used by the Federal Government to transport the Union soldiers and equipment to the North.

The common Confederate Soldier after the surrender was tall, thin, with long hair and beard. They wore the uniform of Southern gray, most were ragged and dirty, some without shoes. As compared to the Union soldier who for the most part had a good uniform with sound shoes and were well fed. It took some of the rebel soldiers months to reach their homes, in many cases to find what was once a beautiful farm laid waste and barren as a result of the war.

Extracted from
http://contributor.yahoo.com/user/163431/gettysburg_reb.html

Going Home

Monette Morgan Young

Thousands of stories could be written telling how and when tired, sick, or maimed young men reached their homes in the lower southern states after the Army of Northern Virginia had been surrendered and consequently disbanded.

The story of two of them, Jim White, and Dave Haney was told to me by Jim White's grandson, my cousin Clarence Morgan. Jim told Clarence the story of their return.

These boys were both from Pontotoc county in north Mississippi. Though several miles apart, the two families considered themselves close neighbors since houses were scattered in those early settlements. Jim and Dave enlisted about the same time, since Jim told his grandson that they were together "all the way through" and Jim's service was for four years.

These two hardship-beset and hunger-racked youths had marched and had fought uncomplainingly for their beloved South. They had stood near enough to their General Lee to hear his sad voice announce their surrender. Then they were told that General Grant had reluctantly given permission for them to ride their horses home if they had a horse. The two boys, comrades for so long, wanted to make the trip home together; but Jim looked at his tired and bony horse. He knew it could never make it back to Mississippi even if he walked and led it. Dave's horse was in better shape.

Jim had an uncle in North Carolina, Bob White. The boys with their horses, the near dead one and the other in better condition, managed to get to the home of this uncle. Jim asked him if he and Dave could stay there and help make a crop while his ailing horse rested and grazed and hopefully could recuperate. Bob White readily agreed but told them that he could not pay them anything but that he could give them food and beds.

So until October 1st of that year, the two young men stayed there and worked. On October 1st they left to head home to Mississippi. Bob White told his nephew that the old horse still could never get there. It had improved but little. So he swapped Jim a good horse for the one in such poor condition. He also gave him \$5. That must have been a real sacrifice. There was so little money anywhere in the devastated South.

Jim and Dave started home. Along the way they often asked permission to sleep in barn lots and to tether their horses in them. They wanted to sleep near the animals which were so valuable to them. Sometimes they stopped for a while by roadside and let their horses graze on grass that might be still green in that late fall and early winter. Then they would travel on.

Jim made the \$5 go as far as possible. Occasionally Jim had to pay for food, but they were also given a little food from the depleted households along the way: a bowl of vegetables, a glass of milk, or a wedge of cornbread. People in the uppermost southern states must have truly sacrificed as they helped the now disbanded army as it

struggled homeward, by ones, twos, or more, some on foot, some wounded and sick, all ragged and hungry.

In one community, a man who seemed to be in better circumstances than his neighbors refused to let them sleep in his barn lot. He directed them to the home of a black man nearby and said that man might help them, or allow them to sleep in his lot. The black man gladly obliged and shared some of his family's scarce food. Jim offered him 10 cents for the food, but he refused the money saying that he always tried to help people.

Jim and Dave arrived at Dave's family home in Pontotoc county on October 30th. Jim's family, however, had moved over into neighboring Calhoun county. Communications being poor to non-existent, Jim's parents had not been able to notify him that they had moved. The Haynes family told Jim how to get to the new place. He was told to follow the Skuna River west, walking on the north side of the river until he came to the first bridge, cross the bridge and go eastward up the south side about four miles.

Most of the land along the Skuna "bottom" in 1865 was still virgin forest. Mr. White said he walked under those huge trees almost the entire distance he had to go. Jim said he found the bridge and then turned east as he had been directed. Very shortly he found a place being cleared for fields and could hear sounds of axes chopping and there he found two young men clearing land. One of the young men was my great uncle James Todd (Jimmy) Morgan, another four-year veteran of the war. The other young man was Ike Stacy.

Jim White was just two or three miles from his parents' home by then and he was soon reunited with them. Jim would later marry Miss Nancy Wade and they would become the parents of several fine sons and daughters. Nancy Wade's brother was one of the Confederate soldiers who was missing in action and he was never accounted for.

Jim White became known as a man who always fed hungry passers-by. Any 'tramp' who asked for food was given it and the more ragged and the more travel worn the person looked, the better food Jim insisted be served them.

For a few of my young years, I would live as a close neighbor to Mr. Jim White, when he made his home with one of his sons whose house was very near ours. I saw him often then, never realizing that he had stood near General Lee in Lee's finest moment. Oh! What I could have asked Mr. White and what he could have told me.

I recall Jim White as a feeble elderly man. I never dreamed when I was a child that he had been strong and husky once and had walked home from Virginia.

Taken from The Cherry Hill - Poplar Springs - Reid Community in Calhoun County, Mississippi, Second Edition, by Monette Morgan Young

Events, Groups, and Sites of GSOC Interest

July 10 & 11

Governor Stone Historic Schooner

See the *Governor Stone* July 10-11 at the Original Waterfront Crab Shack, 104 Miracle Strip Parkway SW, Fort Walton Beach. July 11 is a fundraiser event for the vessel. Crab Shack will donate a percentage of their sales that day to the Friends of the Governor Stone. Come enjoy great seafood on the water and tour the Governor Stone on July 11. Check the *Governor Stone* web site for further details.

www.governorstone.org

July 14

Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso FL
Night at the Museum -- A Guided Tour with historic exhibits and a unique Wine and Food Tasting Experience

Sponsored by fine dining restaurants in Niceville and Valparaiso. Saturday, July 14. Tour begins at 7 PM. Live Entertainment, Silent Auction, Raffles, enter a 50/50. Historic exhibits of local and regional interest including new exhibits such as artifacts on loan from the Okaloosa County Supervisor of Elections and Boggy Bayou Mercantile, a hands-on exhibit for children.

Advanced ticket sales only \$30 each (\$25 for Museum members.)

www.heritage-museum.org/wp/

July 20

Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso FL

Free Lunch-time Lecture, 12 PM

The Civil War: Straight's Brigade Raid,

Jim K. Baughman and Nelson O. Ottenhausen

Call (850) 678-2615 to reserve a seat

www.heritage-museum.org/wp/

August 18

Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso FL

Free Lunch-time Lecture, *Air Raid Nights and Radio Days*, Don Schroeder, Author, 12 PM

Call (850) 678-2615 to reserve a seat

www.heritage-museum.org/wp/

August 25

Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso FL

Annual Yard Sale. Saturday, August 25, at 7 am.

www.heritage-museum.org/wp/

October 13

Laurel Hill FL Hobo Festival

Begun in 1992, the Laurel Hill Hobo Festival is an annual event scheduled for the second Saturday in October.

www.laurelhillnow.com/hobo_festival.htm

November 3

Baker Block Museum, Baker FL



Annual Heritage Festival

<http://bakerblockmuseum.org/clouds/inthecLOUDS/index-a.html>

November 8, 9, & 10

Florida State Genealogical Society 2012 Conference

The 2012 FSGS Annual Conference, "The Best of Times: Genealogy + Technology" will be held at the Hilton Deerfield/Boca Raton in Deerfield Beach, Florida. The Hilton is located between Ft. Lauderdale and Palm Beach next to the Deerfield Country Club and an 18-hole executive golf course. It's just off I-95 and is convenient to the Amtrak railway station and the Tri-Rail station and also accessible to three major airports in Ft. Lauderdale, Palm Beach and Miami.

The Atlantic Ocean and beaches are less than two miles away with plenty of shopping and cultural venues within minutes from the hotel. The Hilton is offering the same nightly rate three days before the conference arrival date and three days after the conference departure date.

www.flsgs.org

November 10

Rocky Bayou State Park, Niceville FL

Annual Fall Pioneer Day

The GSOC will participate in this event by having a booth at the park instead of the usual meeting.

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flocgs/

December 8

Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County

Annual Holiday Party and Installation of Officers

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flocgs/

December 8

Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso FL

Yule of Yesteryear Holiday Celebration
and Victorian Tea

www.heritage-museum.org/wp/

STATE-WIDE EVENTS

More Florida genealogy events are on the Florida State Genealogical Society website at www.flsgs.org/events.php

GSOC INFORMATION

Officers for 2012

President, Donna Elliott
 1st Vice President (Programs), Ken Elliott
 2nd Vice President (Membership), Sue Basch
 2nd Vice President (Membership) Asst, Carol Lessard
 Treasurer, Bob Basch,
 Recording Secretary, Mary Ellen Ahlstrom
 Corresponding Secretary, Jim Young
 Immediate Past President, Malcolm Flanagan
 Journal Editor, Beverly Gross
 Historian, Sue Basch
 Genealogist, Margaret Harris
 Publicity Chairperson, Pat Pruett
 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 2011 issue, Volume XXXII, Issue 100, was published and distributed in November 2011.

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.

Meeting Location



Arrow indicates the door to the room used for GSOC meetings at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida

GSOC Publications

Volume I (out of print), Cemeteries of Okaloosa County, Florida 24 cemeteries east of the Yellow River & north of the Shoal River	Out of print but available on CD, see below
Volume II (out of print), Cemeteries of Okaloosa County, Florida 26 cemeteries north and east of the Yellow River	Out of print but available on CD, see below
Volume III Cemeteries of Okaloosa County, Florida 11 cemeteries south of the Shoal River	\$5.00 plus \$3.00 postage
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.	\$5.00 plus \$3.00 postage
Santa Rosa County Marriages 1869-1906 Over 7,000 names with every-name index, 123 pages.	\$5.00 plus \$3.00 postage
Walton County Marriages (out of print), 1895-1915 Over 10,000 names with every-name index, 165 pages.	Out of print but available on CD, see below
The GSOC Publications Disk This compact disk (CD) contains searchable PDF files containing the books listed above: <i>Cemeteries of Okaloosa County, Volumes I, II, and III; Funeral Records of Okaloosa County; Santa Rosa County Marriages 1869-1906; and Walton County Marriages 1885-1915</i>	\$15.00 plus \$2.00 postage

Please send your order information with your check to
GSOC, P.O. Box 1175, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-1175
 and mark your envelope "Book Sales"



The July GSOC meeting will be on July 14, 2012, at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida at 10 A.M.

The speaker will be writer and historian Dale Cox.

Mr. Cox will be speaking on Florida's greatest naval disaster of the Civil War which took place on May 27, 1863, when a deadly explosion wrecked the warship C.S.S. *Chattahoochee* in the Apalachicola River at Blountstown.

"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

