



JULY 4, 2014

Next GSOC Meeting

July 12, 2014

Our speaker for the July 12 GSOC meeting will be Amy Raley, Historian Associate at the Local History and Genealogy branch of the Mobile Public Library. She will speak on early immigration routes in the "old Southwest", and "The Federal Road."

A graduate of McGill-Toolen Catholic High School and Huntington College, she is currently working on her Master's degree from the University of Southern Mississippi.

Her professional research specialties have been the migration and movement of our ancestors into the Southeast and the folkways of community, such as cooking and work ways. On a personal level, her projects have included recording her family's oral history through recipes in the kitchen, and researching the culinary history for this area and the economy in the kitchens of our Southern great great grandmothers.



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Future GSOC Meetings

August 9 – Bert Blackmon, a Baldwin County, AL, history buff who will discuss military records.

September 13 – Show and Tell. The time for any GSOC members who would like to share an exciting "find" or interesting genealogical tale from their own personal experience. Please contact Del if you would like to be one of the show-n-tellers.

GSOC Meeting Minutes June 12, 2014

Donna Elliott, Acting Recording Secretary

President Jim Young called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM and welcomed 17 members and 3 guests. Other officers present were 1st Vice President Del Lessard and Corresponding Secretary Carl Laws. Carol Lessard, Assistant Membership, signed in members and guests and introduced our newest member – Shirley Stanifer. Another recent new member, John Sheperd, was the winner of the door prize drawing.

The "Blue Box" collection was taken to support the local genealogical libraries and our journal.

President Jim announced that in order to keep the business portion of the meeting short, officer's reports, which were previously submitted, would be included in the minutes, instead of being given at the meeting.

The following are the reports submitted:

1st VP/Programs, Del Lessard – Our speaker for the July 12 GSOC meeting will be Amy Raley. Raley, who is the historian associate at the Local History and Genealogy branch of the Mobile Public Library, will speak on early immigration routes in the "old Southwest" and "The Federal Road". On August 9 our GSOC speaker is Bert Blackmon, a Baldwin County, Ala. history buff who will discuss military records. Get ready for "Show and Tell" at our Sept 13 meeting. This is the time for any GSOC members who would like to share an exciting "find" or interesting genealogical tale from their own personal experience. Please contact Del if you would like to be one of the show-n-tellers

2nd VP/Membership, Sue Basch – no report.

Treasurer, Bob Basch – no report.

Recording Secretary, Pat Pruett – no report.

Corresponding Secretary, Carl Laws – no report.

Jim reported that the Journal Steering Group had met and set a theme and a time schedule for publishing the journal. Also, a "Style and Writing Guide" has been developed and will be sent to the general membership.

Lunch Plans: 1st V Pres. Del asked for show of hands for lunch today. Twelve members opted to attend the Dutch Treat luncheon at Hog Heaven following the meeting.

Del then introduced our guest speakers – Don Allgood, Deputy Clerk of the Circuit Court of Okaloosa County and Records Manager for the 1st Judicial Circuit, and D. T. Smith, Systems Analyst for the County Information Services. They gave a very informative program on how to access digitized official and court records from our own computers using a secure log-on which can be requested from the County Clerk's office.

President Jim Young adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

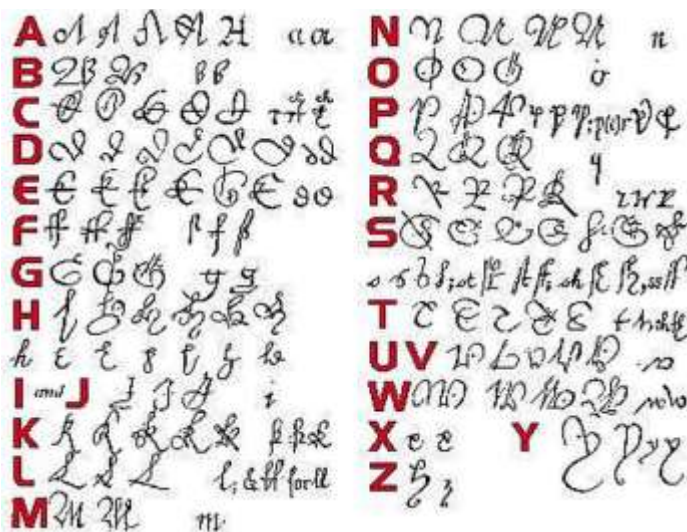
Recently Received Publications from Other Societies

Buried Treasures Vol. 45, No. 4 Oct - Dec 2014
Buried Treasures Vol. 46, No. 1 Jan - Mar 2014
Pea River Trails Vol. 39, No. 1 spring 2014
Yakima Valley Genealogical Society Vol. 46, No. 2 Jun 2014
Kinfolks Vol. 38, No. 2 May 2014
The Seeker Vol. 44, No. 1 May 2014

These and all other publications received are available for review in the History Room of the Fort Walton Beach Public Library.

Handwritten Documents

One of the most difficult things about reading old handwritten documents is the variation found in cursive capital letters. This chart illustrates this problem and may be helpful when trying to read or transcribe letters and documents found during genealogical research.



How to Access the Members-Only Section of the GSOC Website

The button shown here is near the bottom of the first page of the GSOC website. If you click on it, you will be taken to a log-on screen. By entering your GSOC member password and then clicking on "Go", you will have access to the Members-Only section.



our previous Journals as well as a Newsletter from a sister genealogical society.

To get the password, please call or email the GSOC webmaster at 862-8642 or youngjmy@cox.net

The GSOC Logo

The GSOC Board has agreed that the GSOC logo should contain the official name of the Society, the date it was established, a map of Florida (the entire state) with the location of Okaloosa County highlighted, and the legend "Exploring our heritage and history" or "Celebrating our heritage and history".

The layout of these items should be attractive and should be appropriate for the use that is to be made of the logo. The following two examples illustrate two variations of the logo.



How Do You Pronounce "Ye"?

by Dick Eastman in his May 31, 2014 On-Line Column



Many of us have encountered "ye" in old documents. Of course, we have all seen tourist shops labeled as "ye olde" something-or-other. How many of us know how to pronounce that?

For years, I assumed it was pronounced as it was written. I would pronounce it as "Yee Old." I was a bit surprised later to learn that I had been wrong.

What looks like a "y" is a written character deriving from the old English letter, "thorn," representing the "th" sound. No, it is not the letter "y," it is the letter thorn. The thorn was commonly used in written English in the Middle Ages and for some time after. That explains why we see it on old documents and even in modern written sentences that imitate historical writing. Other than these cases, the thorn has now almost disappeared.

The thorn originally appeared to be written a bit different than the letter y as it had a descender. In fact, it looked more like a lower case "p" on top of a lower case "b" than a "y." It typically looked like this: Þ

This was before the days of printed books when all documents were written by hand. The exact shape varied from one scribe to the next. Depending upon the scribe, the second letter was often written above the thorn, as in y^e. Reprints of the 1611 edition of the King James Version of the Bible always show "ye" written as shown to the left.



By the mid-15th century almost all scribes stopped using the descender, and the thorn has since been written in an identical manner as the modern letter "y."

While the Middle English thorn is now written exactly the same as a modern letter y, it always was pronounced with a voiced "th" as in "this." In other words, several hundred years ago the word that was written as "ye" always was pronounced as "the," exactly the same as it is today. An educated person of 1611 would always pronounce it as "the" although today we might spell it as "thee" when referring to a person, as in "thee of little faith."

So what killed the thorn? According to at least one source, it was the printing press. Here's a simple but plausible explanation from <http://www.h2g2.com>:

"The thorn was particularly popular as a sign for 'th' in Medieval English, but with the advent of printing came a problem. There was no thorn sign in the printing fonts, as they were usually cast outside of England. So, since the sign for thorn slightly resembled the lower-case 'y', that's what was substituted."

The thorn has since been replaced by other letters in all languages except Icelandic, where it is still used.

So, how do you pronounce "Ye Olde Pizza Parlor"?

Answer: "The Old Pizza Parlor"

When You Go Digital, Go Gold!

by Jim Young

In addition to saving the result of your genealogical research in paper form in files, scrapbooks, and binders, consider also saving and sharing it in digital form. I am the Historian for my church and I'm in the process of saving current information about our church and its members in digital form on DVDs. In addition to text documents, obituaries of members from the newspaper and photos, I am also including audio and video files, a copy of the church's web site files, and a scan of our color pictorial directory.

I scan the documents into the PDF format as this has become a universal format for documents and can be read by a wide range of programs. I scan the photos into JPG format for the same reason. Copies of these DVDs will be saved locally and copies will also be sent to our archive center to join the official records of our denomination.

One of my concerns has been the longevity of the DVDs themselves. It's likely that at some time in the future the information will need to be moved to newer media, but to do that, the DVDs need to remain in good condition.

I've been working with the experts at our archives and they recommend that archival quality DVDs be used. There are several sources of these DVDs, but the archivist said that they use **Archival Gold DVD-R and CD-R** disks. There are several different manufacturers of these. They are a little more expensive than standard disks, but not excessively so.

According to the manufacturers, the reflective layer in these disks is made with 24K gold, one of the most inert materials on earth with maximum resistance to the harmful effects of oxidation, a main cause of failure of optical media. Results of an accelerated aging process to test longevity show Archival Gold disks may safely store images for more than 100 years. Gold DVD-R has a speed of 8x and can store up to 4.7GB. Gold CD-R has a speed up to 52x and can store up to 700MB.

Before worrying about the longevity of your CDs or DVDs, though, you'll need to create them! Sharing your genealogy research with family and friends can be easy and inexpensive. A family history CD (or DVD if more space is needed) has the ability to hold large amounts of data in a small space, and can include photos, sounds, scanned document images, and even video - something a printed family history just can't equal. And, since a CD is compact and relatively inexpensive, you can easily share it with other family history researchers at family reunions, genealogical conferences, or through the mail. Not all of these need to be of archival quality, obviously.

You may already have the skills and equipment needed to do this. There is an excellent on-line discussion at http://genealogy.about.com/cs/publishing/a/genealogy_cd.htm concerning publishing and sharing your genealogy on CDs. It discusses various software that can be used; or, if you want to save the expense of purchasing specialized software, or just want more creative input, then you may want to tackle creating a family history CD on your own and the article talks about how to do this.

The Kindness of Strangers

"The Letters in The Trunk"

by Jim Young

"I've always depended on the kindness of strangers" is Blanche DuBois' final line in Tennessee Williams' play, *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Have you ever thought about how much genealogy researchers also depend on the kindness of strangers? People we don't know or will probably never meet have spent thousands of hours researching and documenting their results and have generously made these available to us. Thousands of people whose names are not known to us have researched family lines that intersect ours or have spend many tedious hours indexing census records, military rolls, and land transactions that give us the essential information we need.

Sometimes we do get the opportunity to know names, and sometimes we have an opportunity to express our gratitude to them. I'd like to tell you of a recent experience that I had that allowed me to do that.

First, a little background. My great great grandparents, Thomas Jefferson Young and Mary Mildred Winn Young, had seven daughters and one son. The son was Thomas Wilson Young who married Sarah Frances Blue and they became my great grandparents. I have a good bit of information about them and their descendants, but have very little information, if any, about my great great grandparents and the seven great great aunts in that line.

Since the mid-1800s our Young family has lived in Calhoun County, Mississippi in the area where the town of Vardaman was organized in the early 1900s. Knowing of my interest in history, several friends who still live in that area have asked me for several years to write a history of the area and I finally agreed to head up a project to do that. We call it the **Vardaman History Project** and I created a web site to help document some of the information we're collecting and to encourage other people to provide additional information, photographs, maps, memoirs, letters, etc. My name and Email address are shown on the web site.

In May of this year I got an Email from someone I didn't know, **Linda Murrah Evans**. She wrote, *"I would like to contact any descendants of Thomas J. Young (1810-1877) and Mary P. Winn Young (1814-1856)." She went on to give some additional information she had found about the Thomas J. Young family and then added, "I recently discovered the Vardaman History Project and this seems to be the Young family mentioned on your web site. Could you have someone in the Young family who is interested in family history contact me? I have some papers which were given to me because I have a (very) distant connection to the family but they would make a closer family member very happy."*

She continued, *"A lady in California bought an old trunk on E-bay and it was filled with these letters, cards, receipts, and photos. She searched until she found me on Find A Grave and asked if I would like to have them or if I could find a closer family member. My family is from Webster County [MS] where the Youngs lived at one time. I have a lot (maybe all? I'll have to check) of it scanned and would be glad to share with someone who cares."*

She concluded her Email, *"I found one very distant connection in Texas, but he asked the wrong question: were they landowners or some such and that discouraged me from sharing with him. If I cannot make contact with the family, I plan to donate the papers to the Mississippi Department of Archives."*

I was floored! What a potentially wonderful treasure trove. I immediately emailed her back and she responded the same day. She had indeed scanned all of the material and was sending me two flash drives containing the scans.



The 'lady in California' who bought the trunk on E-bay is **Mary McAllister**. I have written both Mrs. McAllister and Mrs. Evans with my sincere thanks and heartfelt gratitude for their generosity and their

work in getting this material to our family.

The flash drives that Mrs. Evans sent me contain **702** files. These are in the form of JPG images and there is a separate image for each page of the letters, the cards, and the other documents. The oldest letter is from the early 1850s and the most recent from the 1920s. These images represent approximately 310 letters, 15 postal cards, and 60 photos and receipts. They are good quality, high resolution images and represent a tremendous effort on the part of Mrs. Evans to scan them. She also has done quite a bit of research using the names contained in the various letters and documents in order to try to locate descendants and she has also given me a copy of those research notes with links, where they exist, to specific letters that were in the trunk.

Two of Thomas J. and Mary Winn Young's daughters were Martha Jane "Matt" Young and Elizabeth "Eliza" Young. Matt Young never married and was apparently the original owner of the trunk. Her sister Eliza married John Green England who lived in neighboring Sumner (later renamed Webster) County. Matt Young went to live with Eliza and Green, as he was called, and lived with them all the rest of her life. Many of the letters in the trunk were written to Matt during the Civil War by lonely Confederate soldiers from Calhoun County that she knew from before the war. Other letters in the trunk were written to Eliza and Green from members of the England family, some of whom had moved to Texas. One letter of particular interest to me was written by my great grandfather Thomas Wilson Young to his sisters Matt and Eliza concerning the disposition of the estate of their father.

I have only just started studying the material and have many questions. Since some of the letters written to Matt during the Civil War were love letters, I wonder what happened that resulted in her never marrying. There were two different series of these letters and I wonder if the young men ever returned from the war.

There is enough material from the trunk to work on for years, and I've just started!

Thanks so much to these two "strangers": Mrs. McAllister for her work to find someone from the family connected with the material in the trunk and Mrs. Evans for her research that led her to me and for the sheer physical effort required to scan and preserve this material in digital form.

The Airman I Never Knew

My quest to find out what my dad did as an airman in World War II

by Michael C. Sirak

Slightly abridged from an article in the May 2014 issue of *Wingman Magazine* published by the Air Force Association

My dad, Michael J. Sirak, was an airman in World War II. He didn't bomb Schweinfurt or the Ploesti oil fields, nor did he fly the Hump or battle Japanese Zeros with the Flying Tigers in the skies over China. As far as I know, he wasn't a part of any mission that became the stuff of Hollywood blockbusters.

However, he didn't need to accomplish those feats to earn my respect. Like millions of America's sons and daughters, he served his country when called upon. Fresh out of high school, his time in uniform helped shape the man he became. The GI Bill allowed him to escape humble beginnings and attend college - the first in his family to do so - and then settle into a career and start his own family.

As a boy, I vaguely remember dad telling me about his wartime service. For years, I thought he flew Curtiss-Wright C-46 Commandos in a unit that towed assault gliders. As a young adult, a friend's comment brought me to realize this assumption was probably wrong. My dad was a staff sergeant and, with some exceptions I later learned, staff sergeants were not pilots in the war. I was shocked, since I'd seen a picture of dad in the cockpit of a C-46.



I didn't get a chance to ask again about his wartime role before he died in 1994. Since then, though, my exposure to all things Air Force as an editor of *Air Force Magazine* made me wonder if I could find out more about what he did.

Through my own research, the help of others, and some luck, I've been able to compile a more complete, albeit still-unfinished, picture. Perhaps my experience will help others wanting to know more about a deceased loved one's service in World War II or any other conflict, for that matter, even if they have little to go on initially.

Among his papers, I found my dad's enlistment record, report of separation, some newspaper clippings and photos, memorabilia typical to any veteran of the era. From these, I had a start. Born in June 1926 in Dunlo, Pa., Michael Joseph Sirak enlisted in the Army on Jan. 28, 1944. He was on "enlisted reserve" status through July

6, 1944 - one month after D-Day - until after his 18th birthday and graduation from high school.

He then entered active service on July 7, 1944, and spent one year, 11 months, and 25 days in uniform before the Army released him on July 1, 1946, with an honorable discharge. His record shows that the Army discharged him "at the convenience of the government," as part of the service's demobilization. This simple summation was all I had to start with.

Like most people do today, I turned first to the Internet, which has surely made research easier. Online searches yielded valuable information, but in some ways, I had hoped for more. Don't expect to find the answers to all your questions online.

For example, I didn't find much about my father's military service at Ancestry.com, other than the enlistment record I already had. My experience was the same with fold3.com, marketing itself as having "the Web's premier collection of original military records." I found only my dad's death notice there.

This is not an indictment of those websites. I know others who have benefitted much from using them, and these sites are continually adding more records to their archives. Both websites offer free trials so it's possible to explore them before committing to a membership.

A single photo can be a treasure trove of information. I found one picture of my dad in uniform standing in front of a sign with the 434th TCG written out in large letters. That chance find was huge in refining my search. I also scrutinized photos for items like unit markings, insignia, and aircraft types to discover new details or corroborate others.

Based on these, and my initial searches online, I determined that he served with the 434th Troop Carrier Group, an Army Air Forces unit that flew C-46 and Douglas C-47 Sky train transport airplanes as well as Horsa gliders and Waco CG-4 gliders during his time with the unit. Wartime photos of dad show C-46s, but I didn't find any photos with C-47s from his unit.

The 434th TCG was the predecessor of today's 434th Operations Group, a component of Air Force Reserve Command's 434th Air Refueling Wing, operating KC-135 Stratotanker aerial refueling aircraft at Grissom ARB, Ind.

When dad was with the 434th, the unit's Stateside operations shifted from Baer Field in Fort Wayne, Ind., to Alliance Army Airfield in western Nebraska, to George Field in southeastern Illinois, to Greenville Army Air Base in the northwestern part of South Carolina, according to the Air Force's fact sheet on the unit.

Searching online for associations and reunion organizations affiliated with the 434th yielded fruit. I came across the Air Force's "brief history" of the group through a fan website for the 71st Special Operations Squadron, which traces its lineage to the 71st Troop Carrier Squadron.

My dad worked in the group's headquarters squadron as an administrative noncommissioned officer, according to his separation qualification record. He was a private for a month, a corporal for 19 months, and a staff sergeant for the final four months of his service. He spent no time overseas during the war, according to the record. This meshes with my memory of what he told me. He received

the Good Conduct Medal, the American Campaign Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal.

From my research into dad's unit, I learned a good deal of World War II history. Airmen of the 434th participated in the war's three major Allied airborne operations in the European Theater's western front: Overlord, the D-Day assault on Normandy, France, in June 1944; Market Garden, the air-borne drop in Holland in September 1944; and Varsity, the airborne assault on the east bank of the Rhine River in Germany in March 1945.

During the war, the group hauled mail, food, clothing, and other supplies from England to bases in France and Germany and evacuated wounded personnel. After the war ended in Europe, the group's transports evacuated former Allied prisoners of war to relocation centers in France and Holland.

The group's overseas assets returned to the United States in August 1945. It was in November 1945 that the group transitioned from the C-47 to the C-46, according to the unit history. Around this time, the group's aircraft carried wounded veterans from ports of debarkation to general hospitals throughout the United States.

In February 1946, the group moved to Greenville, NC. Then its airmen began training with airborne troops from Fort Benning, Ga. The Army inactivated the 434th TCG on July 31, 1946, several weeks after my father's separation. The group came back as a Reserve unit in March 1947.

My research showed that even official, seemingly authoritative information sources may have discrepancies. For example, an online database had dad's enlistment date as July 7, 1944. That was the date he actually began his service, after having enlisted in January of that same year.

I also came across unexpected documents that helped me along the way. One of them was dad's application to have his time in the Army count toward his years of service for his teacher's retirement plan in the state of Ohio.

Searching library databases for small-town local newspapers, either the hometown of your loved one during his/her time in uniform or the local paper in the city where he/she was assigned, can result in nuggets of useful information.

My March 2014 request for dad's official military personnel file from the National Archives and Records Administration remained pending at the time of this article's publication. These requests can take months to fulfill due to the sheer volume that NARA handles.

However, there's a chance that the July 12, 1973, fire at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, destroyed my dad's file. (See www.airforcemag.com, search for "The Records Fire.") It's still worth trying, though, since NARA's website states that "although the information in many of these primary source records was either badly damaged or completely destroyed, often alternate record sources can be used to reconstruct the service of the veterans impacted by the fire."



My dad's scrapbook contained an undated newspaper clipping from sometime in 1946 shortly after his separation from the Army. It states: "Good luck and best wishes to: S/Sgt. (now Mr.) Mike Sirak, former member of this group now struggling along in civilian life. One will get you 10 that it don't last long!"

It didn't, as my dad soon went on to earn a degree in elementary education from a Pennsylvania state teacher's college and relocated to northeast Ohio, where he spent his career as a teacher and later as an elementary school principal. There he raised his family.

The story of my dad's military service still has holes that I hope to fill with more research. It's been an interesting search so far to fill in the blanks of my dad's life during wartime. He was part of America's Greatest Generation, and for that, I am proud and grateful.

Michael C. Sirak is editor of Wingman Magazine.
This article is reprinted here by the specific permission of Air Force Magazine, published by the Air Force Association.

Looking for the information on the following people:

WEEKLEY,	Adolphus
"	Fran K.
"	Ella
	(assumed to later be
	Ella Coe Crawford)
"	Aaron
"	Andrew Jackson

Please call Glenda Manis at 678-7318.

The July Hurricane of 1916

A tropical disturbance organized into a tropical storm on June 29, 1916, in the southwest Caribbean Sea. It moved to the north-northwest and strengthened into a hurricane on July 2. It continued to intensify, reaching major hurricane strength in the northern Gulf of Mexico and made landfall near Gulfport, Mississippi, on July 5th. The newly-organized Okaloosa County with a temporary county seat at Milligan suffered very significant damage from flooding.

The town of Milligan, built close in on the banks of the Yellow River, was the worst damaged town in the whole county with the track of the railroad covered in water for something like a mile, and the business section two to five feet under water. The water was 32 inches deep at the steps of the temporary courthouse, likewise at the depot. The railroad track was washed up from the depot to the end of the trestle, a distance of more than a quarter of a mile. The water was several inches deep in several of the residences of the town late Sunday evening, which caused several families to leave town and go out on the hill to spend the night. Several head of hogs and chickens were drowned on the streets and in the yards.

During the high water at Milligan, the Bull Frog Bath House, the erection of which called for nearly a half column write up in the *Milligan Journal*, broke its moorings and went down Yellow River. Thus it is the "best bath house in this section of the state" has been lost.

(Partially from *The Okaloosa News*, Crestview, Okaloosa County, Florida, July 14, 1916. Newspaper pages copied from microfilm at the Baker Block Museum mostly by Ann Spann and transcribed by Donna Bishop Wright.)



Civil War Sesquicentennial

Selected Highlights of July 1864

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

1864 was a curious month in the Civil War. While it should have been clear that the South was in dire straits militarily, a rumor went round Washington that the capital was about to be attacked. In reality this was never an option open to Lee at this time. However, the panic in the city served Lee well. Sherman continued his relentless march to Atlanta.

July 1st: President Lincoln appointed Senator William Pitt Fessenden as Secretary of the Treasury. Though Fessenden was reluctant to take up the position, he soon proved to be a very good choice.

July 2nd: Lee ordered Confederate troops to destroy the Baltimore to Ohio railway. If this was successful, it would greatly hinder the movement of Union troops should they be required to defend the capital.

July 3rd: Washington DC was awash with rumours that the South was about to launch an attack on it; the numbers talked about were grossly inflated but this would have fitted in with Lee's desire to destroy the Ohio-Baltimore railway.

Having outflanked his opponents, Sherman's force was actually nearer to Atlanta than Southern troops. This forced the South's commander in the area, Johnston, to make a hasty withdrawal so that Atlanta was better protected. Johnston set up his line of defence along the Chattahoochee River.

July 5th: Panic ensued in Washington DC as many believed that the city was just about to be attacked.

Lincoln suspended habeas corpus in Kentucky, as he believed that the South was receiving too much help from the state's citizens. Martial law was introduced throughout the state.

July 6th: Thousands of Union troops were rushed to Washington. This is what Lee had hoped for as it relieved the pressure on his army.

July 8th: Part of Sherman's army outflanked the defences at Chattahoochee and Johnston decided to withdraw to Atlanta.

July 9th: A hastily assembled Union force of 6,000 fought the South by the banks of the River Monocacy. The South's 10,000 men, most were experienced and battle-hardened, overwhelmed the Union troops.

July 10th: Sherman took the decision not to make a full-frontal assault on Atlanta.

July 11th: Confederate troops commanded by General Early arrived on the outskirts of Washington. However, the impact of the summer heat had reduced the number he commanded from 10,000 to 8,000. Early was also lightly armed with small artillery guns. The delay at the

River Monocacy was vital for the defenders as it allowed a force of 20,000 to gather in the city and to build more defences. Scouts informed Early as to what he faced and he decided to abandon his original plan to assault the capital. In fact, Early did the opposite – he ordered his men to withdraw from their positions.

July 14th: Pursued by Union troops, Early's men withdrew to the Shenandoah Valley. Lincoln expressed his belief that the pursuit had not been vigorous enough.

July 16th: Sherman started his advance on Atlanta.

July 17th: Jefferson Davis relieved Johnston of his command and appointed **John B Hood** in his place. Hood was the youngest commander of an army in the war aged 33 years. He lost his left arm at the Battle of Gettysburg and his right leg at the Battle of Chickamauga.

July 18th: Lincoln rejected tentative peace talks with the South as they based their proposals on the basis that there would be an independent South.

July 19th: Sherman spread out his army in an attempt to surround Atlanta. Three separate Union armies faced the defenders in Atlanta - the Armies of the Tennessee led by McPherson, Cumberland led by Thomas and Ohio led by Schofield. Hood determined that his best approach was to attack one and inflict overwhelming damage on it before moving on to the next. Hood resolved to attack the Army of the Cumberland.

July 20th: Hood attacked the Army of the Cumberland with 20,000 men at Peacetree Creek. Thomas had a similar number of men. However, the South's army in Atlanta had spent months on the defensive and not the offensive. The attack was a major failure: the South lost four brigadier-generals in the attack and 4,000 men – 25% of those who fought for the South in the attack. The Union lost 300 dead and 1300 wounded – less than 10% of the total number of Union troops who fought at Peacetree Creek. For Hood and Atlanta, the failure at Peacetree Creek was a huge one.

July 22nd: Hood still believed that being offensively minded was his best approach. He ordered an attack on the Army of the Tennessee commanded by McPherson who was killed in this battle. The North lost a total of 3772 men (1333 wounded) while it is thought that the Confederates lost 6,500 men killed and wounded with another 2,000 missing. However, Hood claimed the battle as a victory as his men captured 13 artillery guns. But the defenders of Atlanta could not afford to lose 8,500 men in one battle.

July 23rd: Union forces suffered a major defeat at Kernstown losing 1,200 men (600 killed) and fled in disarray towards Bunker Hill, West Virginia.

July 28th: Hood attacked the Army of the Tennessee again. This was also a failure as the South lost 4,600 men while the Union lost just 500.

July 31st: Lincoln met with General Grant to discuss the war. Grant was acutely aware that Lincoln's political survival depended on how well the Union forces in the field were doing.

Events, Groups, and Sites of GSOC Interest

Personal Genealogy & Family History Workshop

Presents the free July program:

**“How to digitize & repair damaged photos
with affordable software”**
by Jackie Youngblood

6 July, 3:00 – 5:00 pm
339 Lake Drive, Fort Walton Beach, FL
For information: Marc “Poppy” Strickland
marcstrickland5@gmail.com 850-855-0319

Work Has Begun on the 2014 GSOC Journal

Work on the 2014 publication of the *GSOC Journal* began with a meeting of the 2014 *Journal* Steering Committee on May 28th. The committee discussed the theme to be used for this year’s issue, the proposed publication date, and the schedule needed to meet that date.

The 2014 *Journal* will conclude the theme series that began with the 2011 issue and continued through the 2012 and 2013 issues: the world wars, the Great Depression, and how they affected Okaloosa County and the people who lived in it during that period. The 2014 issue will conclude with the Korean Conflict era.

The editor of the 2014 issue will be Jim Young with the associate editor yet to be confirmed. Several volunteers to help with formatting, editing, labeling, and mailing have come forward.

A guide to help those writing articles for the *Journal* has been prepared and is available by clicking [here](#).

A copy of these guidelines has been sent to each GSOC member.

Bay County Genealogical Society, Panama City, FL:
No meetings in July and August

West Florida Genealogical Society, Pensacola, FL:
Meetings are not held in July

Walton County Genealogy Society, DeFuniak Springs, FL:
No meetings in Jul, Aug, and December

However,

The GSOC continues to meet on the second Saturday of each month. If you are in town, come and join us.

If you have visitors, bring them!

FamilyLobby.com Offered as Alternative for Soon-to-be Closed MyFamily.com

MyFamily.com is part of the Ancestry.com family which plans to shut it down on Sept. 5, 2014.

The following information is from FamilyLobby.com

As the closure of MyFamily.com nears, former users are looking for an alternative to host a virtual gathering place for family located all over the globe.

FamilyLobby.com has similar features that MyFamily.com users have enjoyed for many years and could offer a smooth transition.

FamilyLobby.com is a **free** website with a unique family URL, where members can share photos, videos, newsletters and more to keep family members connected. To build a family website, users can simply visit FamilyLobby.com and click on the “create” button to get started. A virtual tour and sample site offer helpful insights for new users.

The top features of FamilyLobby.com include:

Family Tree. Here users can upload photos and information in family tree format, making it easy to view children, parents and grandparents on one page.

Photo Gallery. In the photo gallery, family members can upload and share photos, and family members can leave comments. Photos can also be viewed as a slide show.

Members. This where family members are displayed in quick list format, showing name, phone and contact info, making it easy to connect and send information to everyone.

Discussion Board. This is a private area where members only can leave messages for each other.

News and Newsletter. After family members post news items, FamilyLobby.com makes it easy for the user to click on these and create and send a newsletter to family members.

Also as part of its free family website, FamilyLobby.com users can utilize the family calendar option, journal and more. Users can also add music and change the page themes as they are easy to customize as the seasons change or as events take place. Many site upgrades are available for a small fee.

One important feature of FamilyLobby.com is that it aides the user in planning a family reunion. Family reunions are an important get-together for families to reconnect. The private discussion board option allows for easy back and forth sharing of ideas.

Begun in 2005, FamilyLobby.com has a strong user base and plans to continue building in the years to come as a family web hosting site.

Disclaimer: This is presented for information only. The GSOC has not evaluated FamilyLobby.com

GSOC INFORMATION

Officers for 2014

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

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

(Elected, Appointed, and Ex Officio positions)

Addresses

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

Meetings and Membership

Regular meetings of the GSOC are held at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, 115 Westview Avenue, Valparaiso, FL, at 10 AM on the second Saturday of each month. There is no admission charge and all are welcome. The meetings are usually followed by an optional Dutch treat lunch at a nearby restaurant.

Annual membership dues are \$24 for an individual and \$35 for an individual and spouse at the same address. If you would like to become a member, want to renew your membership, or want to update your membership record, please go to the GSOC web site and get one of the appropriate forms.

The Newsletter

The GSOC Newsletter is published on or before the first Friday of each month. Suggestions for articles are welcome. The editor, Jim Young, can be contacted by phone at 850 862-8642 or by email at youngjmy@cox.net. Letters to the editor are welcome and may be published.

The Journal

The GSOC Journal, *A Journal of Northwest Florida*, is published once each year. The 2013 issue, Volume XXXII, Issue 102, was published and distributed in December 2013.

The Web Site

The GSOC web site is hosted by Rootsweb at:
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~flocgs>

The site is updated frequently and contains information about future GSOC meetings, minutes of past meetings, copies of the newsletters, articles and items of genealogical and historical interest, and much more.



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

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, parent's 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

WHERE SHALL I GO TO SCHOOL?

The Okaloosa News

Crestview, Okaloosa County, Florida, July 14, 1916

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA GAINESVILLE

Investigate the advantages before choosing your College.

436 students from 54 Florida counties and 24 states and foreign countries 1915-1916.

Total \$18 including summer school.
Write at once for catalog.

A.A. Murphree, President

FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE FOR WOMEN TALLAHASSEE

An institution of the Highest Rank for the Education of Young Women.

189 students from Florida counties and 11 states 1915-1916.

Total \$18 including summer school.

(From The Okaloosa News, Crestview, Okaloosa County, Florida, July 14, 1916. Newspaper pages copied from microfilm at the Baker Block Museum mostly by Ann Spann and transcribed by Donna Bishop Wright.)

Courtesy of the Baker Block Museum

Phone: 850-537-5714

Mail: P.O. Box 186; Baker FL
32531 bakermuseum@aol.com



The July GSOC meeting will be on Saturday, July 12, 2014, at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso, FL, at 10:00 A.M.

The program will be presented by Amy Raley, Historian Associate at the Local History and Genealogy Branch of the Mobile Public Library. She will speak on early immigration routes in the "old Southwest", and "The Federal Road".

*"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

You