

THE GSOC NEWSLETTER



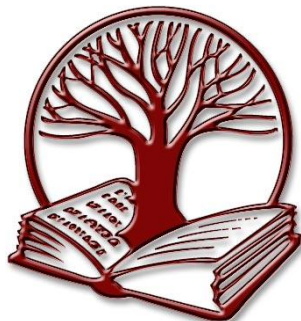
THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF
OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

JULY 3, 2015

Next GSOC Meeting

July 11, 2015
10:00 am

Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida



Our July 11th meeting will be a combination "book bash" and kickoff for the 2015 Journal. The idea is that everyone brings in a selection of their genealogy books or other reference material for display and perusal by other members/guests. No oral

presentation is required, just answer questions about how helpful and useful the book(s) were.

Since some of us prefer using the Internet, some members may want to bring in a list of or talk about their favorite web sites or other on-line references. Still others may like to bring their laptops or tablets and show samples of what they have been doing on line. Arrangements can be made to use the Heritage Museum's WiFi capability (please contact Del Lessard in advance if you would like to do this.)

We will also use this meeting to discuss the preparation of the 2015 Journal. The theme of the Journal this year will be the centennial of Okaloosa County's organization. We need Journal articles from our members (and others). It will be great to have contributions from members about their own family research which somehow involved the creation of the county. If not their own family research, then other relatively easy to research short articles, such as county veterans and casualties of either World War, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, etc.; or perhaps short articles about towns or cities that were once important but now are just road signs. Maybe some members could compile listings of county officials since 1915 (sheriffs, school leaders, etc.) using the resources of the Baker Block Museum and the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida. We hope to brainstorm additional ideas for articles at this meeting and will seek volunteers to research and write them.

June 13 GSOC Meeting Minutes

Del Lessard, 1st Vice President for Programs

The June meeting of the GSOC convened in the conference room at the Milto, FL, public library at 10 a.m. Present were 11 GSOC members (Charlene Grafton, Margaret Harris, Val Moreland, Sally Long, Bob Richburg, Carl Laws, Donna Elliot, Ken Elliot, Pat Walker, Del Lessard, and Carol Lessard,) and one guest, Evelyn Briney, Carol's mother. Several members of the Santa Rosa Genealogy Society were also present. No GSOC business was discussed.

Pensacola State College history professor Dr. Brian Rucker gave an entertaining and informative presentation on that portion of eastern Santa Rosa County that became part of Okaloosa County in 1915. He described how early pioneers along the Yellow River in what is present day Okaloosa County settled, and used the river to connect with markets in Pensacola and lumber mills in Bagdad, Florida. Rucker named several of the families that settled in what eventually became Okaloosa County. He also identified several families who filed homestead applications in Santa Rosa County between 1909 and 1911 for land that became part of Okaloosa County just a few years later. (This was from one of his books). Vic Campbell (vic@buzzcreek.xom) recorded the meeting on his cell phone and said he would provide a copy.

After Dr. Rucker's presentation, members explored the genealogical resources at the Milton library.

Nine members and one guest ate lunch afterwards at David's Catfish House in Milton.

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Unexpected Company for Dinner

by Monette Morgan Young (July 1915 – February 2000)

Monette Morgan was born on her parents; very small family farm in a remote rural area in north central Mississippi. In her memories of those times and places she paints a picture of a now-gone slower pace of life.

“Dinner” was the noon-time meal. “Supper” was the evening meal. Snacks, if any, were popcorn or nuts that had to be shelled, or wild grapes. There was no raiding the refrigerator or grabbing a treat from the freezer!

If company would come suddenly (and there was no way to arrive but suddenly since there was no way for a message to get there), and it was at or near noon, this is what would have been put on the table. Some greens of some kind might already have been cooking. If so, they were part of the meal. We managed to save Irish potatoes most of the winter in the potato house, so we would have hurriedly gone to the potato house for potatoes; and, perhaps, a quart of berries, some cucumber pickles canned only in a weakened vinegar, never very sour, and never spicy, and maybe some other relish which Mother made much of in the summer. We’d also most likely would get a jar of our canned sausage, or some ham or middling meat to fry. Mother would also have



cooked cornbread and biscuits. After we and our company had been served huge amounts of all this, we would clean our plates well of vegetables and other food and then we’d

butter several biscuits and spoon sweet berries on them, sort of a homespun shortcake. The berries were usually on the table all year round. In addition to the greens there may have been dry butter beans or peas cooking in the Dutch oven on the stove when the company arrived.

At every meal, company or otherwise, there would be coffee and buttermilk. Only occasionally would sweet milk be offered. We usually let the sweet milk sour and then churn it for butter. Consequently, since all people were usually started off being given buttermilk as children, all liked it. I still adore it.

After Church

We gathered early at the church and visited and visited and visited after church. We often would not see each other for another month. A feeling of the most abject loneliness came over me as we left the church and turned the final turn to the Reid Hill and

set the wheels of our buggy toward the east and our lonely home--lonely to me then. Oh! If I could only turn my car there now and still find the old house there!

Often we would be invited to someone’s home for dinner after the church service and then we’d go on home about 4 o’clock in the afternoon. I remember once when we were invited to Mr. Jesse and Miss Docia Patterson’s. Mr. Jesse hunted fox and he had Miss Docia a beautiful set of fox scarfs made of pelts of red foxes he had killed. I remember that she had made a cream pie of the juice of the purple plums that she had canned the autumn before. She had evidently strained the plums and had gotten some pulp along with the juice. The plum juice pies I make now are a pretty good substitute for Miss Docia’s but I will never forget hers. I was about five and the sermon had lasted until after one o’clock. It was about two o’clock when we were eating. I have never since or before tasted a pie which tasted just like that.

Very often we went by Cousin Nan’s for Sunday dinner. Mother loved her and she loved Mother. Cooking was the least of Cousin Nan’s concerns but she put plenty of substantial food on her table. Cousin Nan always had a big container of honey with its comb on the table along with the usual preserves and jellies and her biscuits and corn bread and many vegetables and some cured meat.

If we went home for our Sunday dinner, it was an ample nourishing one too. There would be two or three vegetables and, if it were summer, sliced tomatoes and onions. Early summer vegetables would be stewed cabbage, string beans, and new potatoes. Mother made slaw of chopped cabbage and vinegar. Sometimes we had that. Sometimes we had fried chicken, but we had to sell the chickens for our summer cash flow. We did buy canned salmon and occasionally had salmon patties.

Sometimes company came home with us. We could seat several around the table; and, if the crowd was large people ate in shifts. The hostess always waited and the children always waited and yearned for the “pulley bone” of the fried chicken (but it was always gone when we got to the table).

In our community we did not cut up a chicken as they do now. The whole chicken was cut first in the breast area. The cut was made just above the breast bone and that piece began to come out shaped like a

valentine with the wishbone in it (which we called the "pulley bone"). In those days that was the only piece I ever wanted. The remainder of the breast with not much meat left on it by then, was cut in with the back and then the remainder of the chicken was cut as we do now.

If several people came home with us, we might have, in later summer, creamed corn and always



butterbeans and crowder or purple hull peas. We would have tomatoes, of course, and uncooked cucumber pickles (cucumbers marinating in vinegar for about a day). There might be a large cobbler if there was a large crowd -- cobbler pie, peach, blackberry, or apple. There were usually two sweets including a cake. Mother made a wonderful cake with her basic two-egg recipe and a filling and frosting of milk, sugar, and butter cooked into a white fudge, a sort of praline taste and consistency. I will never taste that again and I cannot make it. I also cannot make tea the way she made it. She also made dough that she worked with her hands and rolled out on a cutting board to a thickness about like that of biscuit dough. When they were cut out, she sprinkled them with granulated sugar. They were as thick as a small biscuit, slightly crisp but still chewy. She did not serve those at company dinners.

If a large crowd came, she took a very large fryer and boiled it. She made this into a big chicken pie or sometimes just topped it off with dumplings. To the cooked chicken and much broth (and no skin) in a large pan she added dumplings after she had gotten the very rich broth to boiling in a large pan she could set in the oven later. She made the dumpling dough about like her biscuit dough but made it firmer and let the dough lay out on the rolling board about 30 minutes after she had rolled it thin and cut it into strips. That gave it some firmness and consistency. When she had enough dumplings in the broth, and they were nearly cooked, she made the crust of that same dough. She cut a round circle the size of the pan and cut it in quarters and laid those quarters on top of the other mixture and then set all in the stove. Just before she put the crust on, she added some milk and plenty of butter to the broth. She could estimate how many dumplings to put in the

pan so that it would be just enough. She always made sure that there was plenty of juice. She put this in the stove and browned it. Some people added about two boiled eggs into the juice/dumpling area but Mother did not. I dislike the modern method of making chicken pies with English peas, carrots, celery, etc., down in the dumpling area. That old way of making chicken pie is the right way.

If only a couple of people came, she might just fry a chicken or some ham. She also made ham pies by the above method by boiling slices of ham in a pan until done and then adding milk, butter, dumplings, and a crust. That dish might be on a winter table or occasionally a summer one.

Breakfast

Our breakfast was usually a piece of some kind of fried meat for each of us, usually "middling" (salt pork), plenty of biscuits, and a big bowl of thickened gravy (called cream gravy now). "Thickened" distinguished it from what is now called red-eye gravy. Red-eye gravy was made by draining most of the fat from the frying pan after the meat, ham, shoulder, or middling strips were fried; pouring in a little water which was allowed to simmer a few minutes to get the residue from the bottom of the pan. That would then be put in a bowl and dipped on biscuits. Most times we had both kinds of gravy as well as a big bowl of butter and a small pitcher of molasses (sorghum). We often had oatmeal, too.

We saved most of our eggs to sell. In the summer when Daddy was working so hard and looking so tired, Mother began to cook eggs for his breakfast. I remember hearing her tell him, "Don't start counting these eggs in a month and saying how much they would have sold for!" Eggs were about fifteen cents a dozen. Mother didn't put an egg in our cornbread unless special company was coming. Cornbread with an egg was called 'egg bread'. We said 'cornbread' when speaking of the bread made without an egg.

Sweet potatoes were often cooked for breakfast. They were prepared in several ways. One favorite way was to fry them in fairly thick slices, sprinkle them with a little salt while they were cooking, and then sprinkle them with sugar when they were done. They were often cooked that way for breakfast. Families who had several boys who worked in the field cooked all such foods because a breakfast eaten at perhaps 4:30 A.M. needed to be most substantial so the worker could have strength until lunch time maybe seven and a half hours later.

Funerals in the early days of Northwest Florida

Burial methods in the rural areas of northwest Florida between about 1875 and 1925 were similar to those in rural areas in other less developed areas of the south and west. These areas saw a flow of new settlers. Some were homesteaders, some found jobs in the turpentine and sawmill industries, and others moved through on their way to other places. Disease, lack of doctors, lack of medical knowledge, wild animals, and relatively dangerous work caused death to be a too-familiar event for people of all ages. Families had to rely on themselves and their few neighbors for help in taking care of their dead. The warm climate and lack of improved roads here caused additional hardships for grieving relatives.

There were only a few towns and most of the very earliest burials outside the towns took place on the family homestead. The grave was within walking distance and easy to take care of. Gradually more family members and then friends and neighbors might be added until what had been a family cemetery grew into a community cemetery. Sadly, some burials took place in isolated areas where a family may have lived for only a few years before moving on; and single graves, or two or three, were left behind. Some families who were just traveling through had to bury a loved one along the trail. Most of these have been lost forever because of the crude wooden markers that were used. Others disappeared as the wilderness reclaimed the land, hiding forever these final resting places.

Eglin AFB is dotted with small cemeteries left behind when the U.S. Government claimed the land. GSOC member Mary Ellen Wexler is to be commended for contributing the document *Burials on Eglin Air Force Base, Okaloosa County, Florida* to the USGenWeb Archives. It can be seen at:

www.usgwarchives.net/fl/okaloosa/cemetery.html

Further information about some of these graves can also be found in Volume III of the GSOC cemetery series.

As more people moved in, land for a church was obtained and a cemetery was usually begun next to the church. In northwest Florida, land for graveyards was sometimes donated along bodies of water so that boats could be used to transport the deceased. The Jesse Rogers cemetery in Mary Esther and the Sunset cemetery in Valparaiso are examples. The more permanent turpentine stills and sawmills sometimes established their own graveyards for workers killed in the woods or at the stills or mills. Early development companies were known to donate land for cemeteries near their developments and they usually selected hilltops or elevated land because of high water tables.

Friends, and neighbors usually prepared bodies for burial. If there weren't any nearby neighbors or friends, the family members had to take on the task of washing

and dressing the body. A "cooling board" held the body while it was prepared for burial. This was often a wide wooden plank between sawhorses or other available supports. In some cases, a door was taken down and used until the coffin was ready.

Men constructed the wooden coffins using wood which may have been stored at a central location for that purpose. The coffins increased in width from the head to about a third of the way down and then tapered from there to the feet. The lids were flat. Traditionally, coffins were almost never built before a person died, even in



Traditionally shaped wooden coffin made of pine. These can still be purchased.

those cases where death was expected soon. There are stories, however, of people who made their own coffins,

or had them made by others, and kept them in their houses or barns. The coffins were lined on the inside with cotton and muslin: black for older people, and white for younger people. The outside was covered with the same fabric or sometimes left uncovered. Later, coffins could be bought in stores in the towns.

Deceased men were usually prepared for burial by men friends or neighbors. Women and older girls prepared female bodies. The deceased were buried in their best clothes, white or black dresses for women, dark suits for men, and white clothing for children. Shrouds and robes also were used. After the body was dressed and placed in the coffin, it was placed in a room in the home. People brought an assortment of foods to the family of the deceased, and then stayed. If the house overflowed with people, friends camped in the yard until the burial took place. Neighbors sat up with the body all night out of respect, to comfort the family, and to protect the deceased. If available, flowers were picked from gardens, and wildflowers were gathered where they could be found.

News of the death had to be carried by word of mouth or through the mail, which often didn't arrive until after the burial.

The graves were dug by men of the community who volunteered for this task.



Torso-shaped grave marker, usually placed at head and feet

Graves were marked in many different ways. A common early marker was a simple wooden cross. More elaborate heart pine and cypress pieces, carved to resemble a human's torso were later used. The top of the grave might be decorated with colored glass, pottery pieces or sea shells. Marking a grave with a cedar sapling was another early tradition.

Permanent concrete markers, often home-made, were fairly common. In the earliest days, only a few people were able to afford marble or granite grave markers.

Okaloosa County Cemeteries, Volumes I, II, and III

In the mid-1990s, the Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County published a three-volume series of books entitled, *Okaloosa County Cemeteries*. Volume one includes cemeteries north of the Shoal River and east of the Yellow River. Volume two includes cemeteries west of the Yellow River and north of Shoal River. Volume three contains cemeteries in south Okaloosa County.

The books document (as of the early 1980s) the graves in all cemeteries in Okaloosa County, and include maps of their locations. Because the state of Florida did not require death records until after the first World War, the knowledge of these graves is vital to people searching for their family history.

"Sometimes all you can get is the tombstone inscriptions," said **Flo Lembeck**, Genealogical Society President, when she and **Martha Rogers** were interviewed for an article by **Pamela Crawford** in the *Crestview News Leader* on July 14, 1993.



Martha Rogers and Flo Lembeck in the Old Bethel Road Cemetery

Entries in the books include all information written on the tombstone. This could include birth and death dates, marriage date, poems, scriptures, and documentation of membership in organizations. The society also documented the existence of unmarked graves.

The presence of unmarked graves is of great concern to the genealogical society. **Martha Rogers**, who compiled much of the information for the books, urges people to not let these graves remain unmarked. "We are hoping that the generations of today would get with the older generations before they die to identify these unmarked graves," said Rogers.

The bulk of the grave documentation was completed by **Rogers, Lembeck and George Green**. The work was completed between the years of 1981 to 1984 and was done mostly on the weekends and in the afternoons after the members had finished work. Various other volunteers aided the documenters as they went about their work.

The genealogy members went to the cemeteries in pairs armed with apparatus that made their work easier. Bug spray and a thermos of cold water made the excursions more enjoyable. Flour was used to help ease the reading of the inscriptions. If the writing had faded with time, flour rubbed onto the tombstone would make the writings read able. The flour was then eaten by ants.

See page 9 of this issue for information on how to get digital copies of these publications.

BOOK REVIEW

The Jesse Rogers Memorial Cemetery, Mary Esther, Okaloosa County, Florida

Compiled by Isabelle Rogers Algee, Copyright 1992,
printed by Banner Printing Co., Tiptonville, TN

Reviewed by Jim Young

This wonderful 68 page book is available in the Mary Esther Library, the Fort Walton Beach Library, and the Valparaiso Library (in the genealogy section).

At the beginning of the book, Mrs. Algee writes:



The complete history of this cemetery will never be known by present generations, but this has been learned. It was originally called the Mary Esther Cemetery, and was in use long, long before the turn of the century. There was a wide sand beach and a high bluff. There was even a road between the water and the bluff, but the beach, road, bluff, and part of the cemetery was lost in a hurricane early in the century.

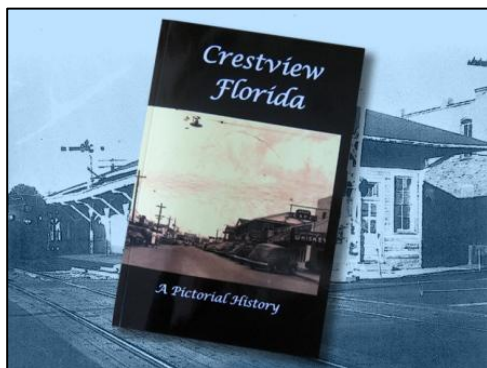
...The cemetery was originally a Rogers family cemetery, but many people were buried here that were not members of the Rogers family. The land was originally part of the property of Jesse and Margaret Rogers, who came to this area with their family from Jackson, County, MS, between 1838 and 1843. This land was left to their son William Jesse "Bogar" Rogers who willed it to an old oak tree so it could never be sold and would always remain intact. The oak finally died and had to be removed. ...

The book includes the history and a sketch of the cemetery and also a detailed listing, well indexed, of the graves. Many of the grave listings include additional family information.

This book is a genuine local treasure and is an outstanding resource for those researching families in this area.

The cemetery is located on US 98 in Mary Esther, Florida, across from the Target store.

Crestview Florida: A Pictorial History



By BRIAN HUGHES | News Bulletin
Published: Tuesday, May 26, 2015

BAKER — *Crestview, Florida: A Pictorial History* offers an illustrated glimpse of the Hub City as far back as the city's 1880s establishment.

And there's more to come as Crestview gears up for its 2016 centennial celebration, Baker Block Museum Director Ann Spann said.

"We're excited about being part of the Crestview centennial," Spann said.

Featured photographs culled from the museum's collection help readers trace the city's progress, beginning with shots of crews laying Louisville and Nashville Railroad track.

"We're excited about it," Spann said. "We just got it on the shelf last week."

The book, published by the North Okaloosa Historical Association, is dedicated to the late James "JC" Connor, a longtime museum and association volunteer.

"He initially worked with us on this project," Spann said. "He was very much a force behind it."

We Are the Chosen

In each family we are the ones who are called to find the ancestors.
To put flesh on their bones and make them live again,
To tell the family story and to feel that somehow they know and approve.

To me, doing genealogy is not a cold gathering of facts but, instead,
Breathing life into all who have gone before.

We are the story tellers of the tribe.
We have been called as it were by our genes.
Those who have gone before cry out to us:
Tell our story.
So, we do.

In finding them, we somehow find ourselves.

How many graves have I stood before now and cried?
I have lost count.
How many times have I told the ancestors
'you have a wonderful family, you would be proud of us'?

How many times have I walked up to a grave
and felt somehow there was love there for me?
I cannot say.

It goes beyond just documenting facts.
It goes to who I am and why I do the things I do?
It goes to seeing a cemetery about to be lost forever
to weeds and indifference and saying I can't let this happen.
The bones here are bones of my bone and flesh of my flesh.

It goes to doing something about it.
It goes to pride in what our ancestors were able to accomplish.
How they contributed to what we are today.
It goes to respecting their hardships and losses,
their never giving in or giving up.

Their resoluteness to go on and build a life for their family.
It goes to deep pride that they fought to make and keep us a Nation.
It goes to a deep and immense understanding
that they were doing it for us
That we might be born who we are.
That we might remember them.
So we do.

With love and caring and scribing each fact of their existence,
Because we are them and they are us.
So, as a scribe called, I tell the story of my family.

It is up to that one called in the next generation,
To answer the call and take their place in the long line of family storytellers.

That is why I do my family genealogy,
And that is what calls those young and old
to step up and put flesh on the bones.

[Author: Della M. Cumming ca 1943.]



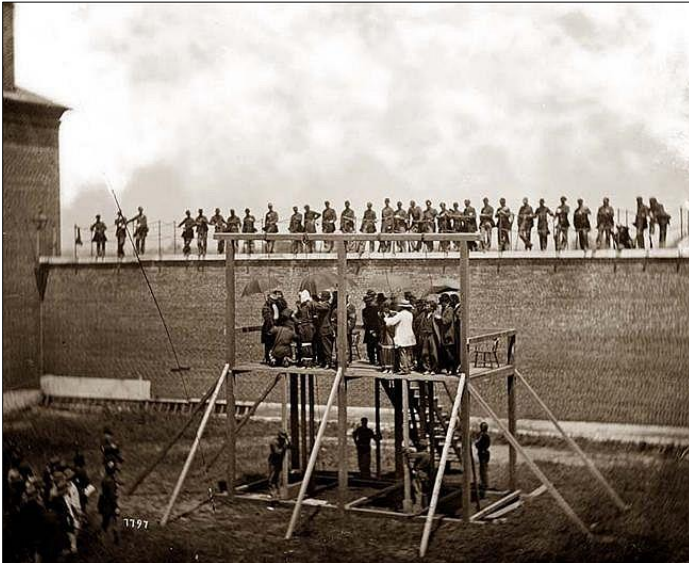
Civil War Sesquicentennial

Selected Highlights of July 1865

This is the last of our Civil War Sesquicentennial Series

July 7 Secretary of War Edwin Stanton orders Union troops to stand guard at Ford's Theater to prevent it from reopening following the assassination of President Lincoln

July 7 Conspirators Lewis Payne, George A. Atzerodt, David Herold and Mary Surratt are hanged in Washington, D. C. for the assassination of President Lincoln



Adjusting the Ropes



Executed

July 8 John T. Ford agrees to lease Ford's Theater to the War Department

July 13 President Andrew Johnson appoints William Marvin provisional governor of Florida

Okaloosa County Post Offices

Year Established-Year Closed

Almirante (1828-1867)
 Austinville (1855-1867)
 Baker (1912-Date)
 Berryport (1922-1924)
 Bethel (1883-1909)
 Blackman (1884-1926)
 Boggy (1893-1910)
 Bolton (1907-1931)
 Brick (1909-1916)
 Bryant (1897-1901)
 Camp Walton (1907-1932)
 Campton (1892-1908)
 Chaffin (1882-1889)
 Cobb (1906-1912)
 Corbett (1909-1912)
 Cowan (1904-1905)
 Crestview (1883-Date)
 Deerland (1899-1918)
 Destin (1896-Date)
 Dixon (1888-1894)
 Dorcas (1892-1918)
 Eglin Air Force Base (1958-Date)
 Eglin Field Br. (1941-1949)
 Floroso (1924-1943)
 Fort Walton (1932-1953)
 Fort Walton Beach (1953-Date)
 Franklin (1908-1915)
 Galliver (1911-1938)
 Garden City (1910-1919)
 Garniers (1906-1937)
 Gattis (1907-1911)
 Harris (1902-1918)
 Haseman (1918-1919)
 Hester (1898/1912)
 Holt (1883-Date)
 Horsehead (1888-1890)
 Howell (1897/1918)
 Laurel Hill (1896-Date)
 Mary Esther (1871-Date)
 Metts (1908-1917)
 Milligan (1889/DPO)
 Milligan Rur. Sta. (?-Date)
 Miramar Beach Sta. (?-Date)
 New Valparaiso (1921-1925)
 Newell (1897-1916)
 Niceville (1910-1919)
 Niceville (1925-Date)
 Oak Grove (1878/1916)
 Okaloosa Island (1959-1960)
 Otahite (1880-1914)
 Pineaway (1890-1896)
 Red Rock (1907-1925)
 Rock Creek (1912-1919)
 Shady Hill (1916-1916)
 Shalimar (1943-Date)
 Svea (1897/1910)
 Valparaiso (1925-1937) and (1947-Date)
 Valpariso (1937-1947)
 Violet (1886-1887)
 Wardville (1855-1867)
 Wright (1911-1916)

Source: <http://www.postalhistory.com/>

Events, Groups, and Sites of GSOC Interest

Dear Editor: A few weeks ago Sandra Dreaden of the Crestview Public Library sent me a copy of your May 2015 Newsletter for the Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County. As a public service I have been volunteering my time on Monday evenings at the Public Library to tutor people in how to begin or improve their family Genealogical research online.

I'm sure most of your members are quite experienced at genealogical research, but perhaps newer members or beginners will see your newsletters and may consider contacting us at the Library for assistance.

GENEALOGICAL TUTORING: Please call 682-4432 to schedule one-hour appointments for one-on-one assistance in family history research on Mondays at 5:00, 6:00 or 7:00 pm at the Crestview Public Library. A Crestview Public Library card is required.

Thank you for your consideration!

Elder Richard Kestle, Senior Missionary
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

National Register of Historical Places in Okaloosa County

The following are currently on the National Register of Historical Places. Three are currently available for public visits, but the rest are in controlled access areas under Eglin AFB jurisdiction.

1. Camp Pinchot Historic District is on the west side of Garner's Bayou, approximately ½ mile north of Fort Walton Beach. This is on Eglin AFB property and access is restricted.
2. Crestview Commercial Historic District is roughly bounded by Industrial Drive, North Ferdon Boulevard, North Wilson Street, and James Lee Boulevard.
3. Eglin Field Historic District, the historic heart of Eglin AFB, is roughly bounded by Barranca, Choctawhatchee, Fourth, and "F" Avenues. Access is restricted.
4. Fort Walton Mound is located in downtown Fort Walton Beach on highway 98.
5. Gulfview Hotel Historic District 12 Miracle Strip Parkway, Southeast, downtown Fort Walton Beach.
6. McKinley Climatic Laboratory, Building 440 at Eglin Air Force Base
7. World War II JB-2 Launch Site Address Restricted
8. World War II JB-2 Mobile Launch Site Address Restricted

Murphree Genealogical Association (MGA) 2015 Convention

The national MGA Convention will be held in Oneonta, AL, on July 31st and August 1st. July 31st will be a genealogy day



with access to ancestry web sites and a scanner and a printer available. We will have family history books and records from the Blount County Memorial Museum.

The Saturday tour includes the Blount County Memorial Museum, Horton Mill Covered Bridge, Murphree's Valley, the Daniel Murphree Cabin, the Quilter's building with quilts available to purchase, and the old school house at Palisades Park.

The Saturday night banquet will include a live band and we will sing and recite old Irish songs and blessings that our ancestors cherished. We will also hear some remarkable stories about the Murphrees.

Remember to bring your laptop computers and any old pictures, stories and articles that you would like to share. We will be taking pictures of each major family again. Get ready for some great fellowship and learn more about our family history. Books will be available for purchase from Robin Sterling and the Jordans. Registration with payment for the convention fee and/or the banquet must be submitted by July 14th.

For more information and registration forms, please see www.murphree.us

The Murphree Genealogical Association was organized in October, 1963. It is dedicated to furthering research on the ancestry and descendants of Daniel Murphree I (ca 1715-1771) and his wife Sarah.

Our purpose is to preserve the Murphree heritage, to share information, and to promote fellowship among families who share a common ancestry. Membership is open not only to Murphrees, Murphree descendants, and Murphree cousins, but to anyone interested in researching their connections to this family line.

Disclaimer: The GSOC President and Newsletter Editor is a Director of the MGA and is also the webmaster for that organization.

GSOC INFORMATION

Officers for 2015

President, James Young
1st Vice President (Programs), Del Lessard
2nd Vice President (Membership), Charlene Grafton
Treasurer, Bob Basch,
Recording Secretary, Pat Pruett; Asst. Frances Hoge
Corresponding Secretary, Carl Laws
Immediate Past President, Donna Elliott
Journal Editor, TBD; Historian, TBD
Genealogist, Margaret Harris
Publicity Chairperson, Val Moreland
Webmaster & Newsletter Editor, Jim Young

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Email: gsocokaloosa@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor: youngjmy@cox.net

Meetings and Membership

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

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

The Newsletter

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

The Journal

The GSOC Journal, *A Journal of Northwest Florida*, is published once each year. The 2014 issue, was published and distributed in September 2014.

The Web Site

<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 GSOC Publications Disk

This compact disk (CD) contains all of the books listed below in searchable PDF files. To get a copy, please send your check for \$17.00 (shipping is included) with your order information to **GSOC, P.O. Box 1175, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-1175**, and mark your envelope "Book Sales"

Volume I, Cemeteries of Okaloosa County, Florida; 24 cemeteries east of the Yellow River & north of the Shoal River and I-10

Volume II, Cemeteries of Okaloosa County, Florida; 26 cemeteries north and west of the Yellow River

Volume III, Cemeteries of Okaloosa County, Florida; 11 cemeteries south of the Shoal River

Funeral Records of Okaloosa County; Records from McLaughlin Funeral Home, Crestview, FL, from 1927 - 1984. Over 11,000 entries. Includes the names of the deceased and, when given, the names of parents. Deceased are listed alphabetically, parents names are indexed.

Santa Rosa County Marriages, 1869-1906

Over 7,000 names with every-name index, 123 pages.

Walton County Marriages, 1895-1915

Over 10,000 names with every-name index, 165 pages.

Nostalgia

The Breeze, DeFuniak Springs, July 2, 1914





The July GSOC meeting will be on Saturday, July 11thth, 2015, at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso, at 10 AM.

The program for the meeting is described on page 1 of this Newsletter. It will consist of a discussion of reference material that has been found to be useful by members and also as a kick-off meeting for the 2015 GSOC Journal

"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

