



THE GSOC NEWSLETTER

THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

JULY 23, 2018

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July 28, 2018

Susan Lewis

Presents

"Legacy Publishing"

"Your story is the greatest legacy that you will leave to your friends. It's the longest-lasting legacy that you will leave to your heirs." –Steve Saint



There's a story inside everyone. The problem is, most people feel their story is insignificant compared to others. They haven't had massive upheavals or staggering tragedies, great moments or huge success. So, why bother? Who would want to read about a person who woke up every day, went to work at the same job, raised a family and lived a long life? Your family, that's who. They want to know about the part of you that existed BEFORE. As a child, as a teen, your friends, the prom, your first job, your first date. It might not seem like much to you...but to your loved ones, it's the world. You see, the hard part isn't coming up with the story because you've lived the story. The hard part is knowing how to write it and then, how to go about getting it published. With some guidance and a little "insider knowledge", tackling your memoir won't feel as overwhelming.

Susan Lewis served on the West Florida Literary Federation's Board of Directors as Director of Student Poetry for 8 years. She is the Vice President of the Gulf Coast Authors, was a finalist for Northwest Florida's Poet Laureate and has published seven books, one of which, "Goodbye, Mama" was a Best Seller, about the death of her mother. She owns Proper Publishing, which is a publishing company that specializes in legacy/memoir publishing.

Susan Lewis has volunteered with Hospice for the last 22 years, hosts a monthly support luncheon for Military Loved ones, has mentored Marines and Marine spouses through MCFTB/MATSG-21 for over 10 years, and teaches poetry on a volunteer basis through the Escambia County School District to children of all grade levels. Married for 30 years to GySgt Steve Lewis (retired) together, they have three children, Steve, Minnie and Ben.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

August 25, 2018 Dr. Jamin Wells Presents a “Oral History Interview Workshop”



Dr Jamin Wells is an assistant professor and director of the Public History Master's Program at the University of West Florida. He teaches courses in local, environmental, digital, and public history. Dr. Wells has an undergraduate degree in history from the University of Rhode Island and master's degrees from the University of Rhode Island and the University of Delaware. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Delaware where he was a fellow in the Hagley Program in Capitalism, Technology, and Culture.

Dr. Wells has special interests in Coastal history, history of capitalism, community history, history of violence, historical memory, and digital humanities. He has written several articles for publication and one book all dealing with shipwrecks. He is committed to researching, writing, and teaching a usable past.

This workshop introduces the basic tools and techniques for conducting an oral history interview. It will cover a range of topics, including: how to select interviewees, how to formulate questions, basic recording equipment, and how to present and preserve finished interviews. Dr. Wells will also discuss legal and ethical responsibilities and share a wide array of resources with participants.

GSOC members are encouraged to bring questions about doing family member interviews to the meeting.



PANAMA CITY FAMILY HISTORY FAIR

Saturday, August 4, 2018

9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (CST)

LDS Church

3140 State Avenue – Panama City

FREE – Everyone Invited

Casual Dress

[Some of the Classes to Choose From](#)



Getting Started: Familysearch.org

DNA Bootcamp: Knowing the Basics

Military Records Search

You've Been DNA Tested – Now What?

Preserve Your Family History: Scan, Save, Share

Ancestry – Perfect Accompaniment to Family Search

Family Search Related Apps and Websites

Small Group Sessions for Family Search Help

A Genealogist Visits Archives: What You Need To Know

Boots on the Ground: Where the Internet Ends & Field Work

Indexing: Making Research Records Available

Online Resources for Genealogists

Knocking Down the Brick Walls

Tracing Your Revolutionary Patriot Ancestors

Photography for Genealogists

TRAINING SESSION for LDS Family History Consultants

Preservation of Family Papers & Archives

Small Group Sessions for Indexing Help

There will also be signup sheets for setting up appointments with your local LDS

Family History Consultants for Individual Assistance in getting started.

Opening/Information 9:00 a.m. – 9:20 a.m. We will have six 50-minute sessions for classes.

[Visit our Facebook Page \(Panama City Stake Family History\) for a schedule of classes.](#)

BRING YOUR LAPTOP

IMPORTANT TIME SENSITIVE NEWS

Your story “why you chose this area to live” needed for journal By Cindy Barber

These scorching days of summer push many of us inside in the afternoon. Out west, we called it siesta time! We rose early to get our chores done before the heat of the day arrived. Grandma opened the house up to capture the cool morning air, then promptly closed the house back up before the sun got high in the sky. The house stayed cool until evening.

Most of us are huddled in the AC, many watching a movie in the afternoon, or working on our genealogy. This is the PERFECT time to write that one or two paragraph story about why you chose this area to live in. We are gathering the stories to place in this year's Journal.

It's a personal thing. Two brothers moved from Maryland to Virginia, following a path that would not become the National Road for several more years. One brought his wife and young children on the arduous journey. They lived in Virginia for almost 12 years before moving on to Central Ohio. About the same time, 2 other brothers also moved from Maryland to Ohio. They chose to settle in a Northern County. Why did they choose separate areas, many miles apart? Why were only two first in Virginia? There was land available in both places. Did their membership in the early Methodist church influence their decision? I would really like to know.

Your story about why you chose this area will answer similar questions you grandchildren, great-grandchildren, or distant cousins may have 100 or 200 years from now. It may not seem important, but many of us came here from distant areas. Why did you come? or more importantly, why did you stay?

Send your story to cindybarber2@gmail.com

If you do not use a computer, write it out and bring it to the next GSOC meeting.

Do you know someone with an interesting story? Ask them to write about it!

MY DNA JOURNEY

BY: Cindy Barber

Thanks for joining me on my DNA Journey. This is part two of an undetermined number of articles on this newbie's journey into DNA testing.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Part one of Cindy's articles was previously presented at the March 24, 2018 GSOC meeting and was reported in the April 23, 2018 newsletter. For your convenience it is reprinted below in Italic font:*

SECOND CASE STUDY: Cindy Barber's presentation was titled "What would you do?" Cindy discussed a case which began in 1937. Ruth's (age 17) parents had separated and father was deceased, meets "Glenn." They got their marriage license in a neighboring county and on the license, Glenn, age 20, states his parents were deceased. However, on the 1940 census, Glenn lives with his "deceased" father, mother and two brothers and reports himself as divorced. There is a daughter with him – age 2 years & 9 months. Also, in the 1940 census, Ruth lives in a boarding house with a woman her mother's age and both have slightly changed names. Both Glenn and Ruth remarry other people. About 1965, while shopping for school clothes, Ruth meets a man on the elevator by chance and there was recognition and fear. Over the years, Ruth mentioned she had been previously married, but she is now deceased. The daughter from the 1940 census is now deceased. The children of Ruth believe that the daughter might be a half-sister. Cindy discussed with the GSOC about how to possibly proceed.

I chose to test with Family Tree DNA. I did Family Finder and mtDNA tests. My sister and her daughter did Family Finder tests. My other sister refuses to test. My results came in first. We cannot address my sister's Daddy question yet, but I am looking at my matches, watching webinars and reading Facebook groups to learn as much as I can. I just uploaded to GEDMatch.

My thoughts? DNA testing is a huge noise on my screen. There are hundreds of possible near cousins out there. Learning to use the tools is time consuming. Building out my tree to connect the six cousins I have connected with took away from research time I could have used on my incomplete historic lines. Those little green leaves do help when building out my modern cousins. The Facebook groups are mind blowing. They quickly 'go off the deep end' or seem to constantly answer the same questions.

For me, just starting in genetic genealogy and trying to make sense of all these 'Beginners' articles quickly crosses my eyes. Don't get me wrong - I had 3 years of biology in high school, I bred guppies, I bred horses, I worked with a friend to NOT breed deaf dogs. But that was MANY, MANY years ago and the goal was to produce a certain product. In Genetic Genealogy, I am trying to figure out how that person came to be.

Blaine Bettinger's book – *The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy* was good. His workbook – *Genetic Genealogy in Practice* gave real world examples and helped me even more. Blaine also has a blog and his videos on Legacy family tree webinars play on my computer regularly. (continued page 9)

Old Disease Names Frequently found on Death Certificates

Submitted by: Kathie Sheperd

A

Ablepsy – Blindness
Ague - Malarial Fever
American plague - Yellow fever
Anasarca - Generalized massive edema
Aphonia - Laryngitis
Aptha - The infant disease "thrush"
Apoplexy - Paralysis due to stroke
Asphyxia/Asphixia - Cyanotic and lack of oxygen
Atrophy - Wasting away or diminishing in size.

B

Bad Blood - Syphilis
Bilious fever - Typhoid, malaria, hepatitis or elevated temperature and bile emesis
Biliousness - Jaundice associated with liver disease
Black plague or death - Bubonic plague
Black fever - Acute infection with high temperature and dark red skin lesions and high mortality rate
Black pox - Black Small pox
Black vomit - Vomiting old black blood due to ulcers or yellow fever
Blackwater fever - Dark urine associated with high temperature
Bladder in throat - Diphtheria (Seen on death certificates)
Blood poisoning - Bacterial infection; septicemia
Bloody flux - Bloody stools
Bloody sweat - Sweating sickness
Bone shave - Sciatica
Brain fever - Meningitis
Breakbone - Dengue fever
Bright's disease - Chronic inflammatory disease of kidneys
Bronze John - Yellow fever
Bule - Boil, tumor or swelling

C

Cachexy - Malnutrition
Cacogastric - Upset stomach
Cacospsy - Irregular pulse
Caduceus - Subject to falling sickness or epilepsy
Camp fever - Typhus; aka Camp diarrhea
Canine madness - Rabies, hydrophobia
Canker - Ulceration of mouth or lips or herpes simplex
Catalepsy - Seizures / trances
Catarrhal - Nose and throat discharge from cold or allergy
Cerebritis - Inflammation of cerebrum or lead poisoning
Chilblain - Swelling of extremities caused by exposure to cold
Child bed fever - Infection following birth of a child
Chin cough - Whooping cough
Chlorosis - Iron deficiency anemia

Cholera - Acute severe contagious diarrhea with intestinal lining sloughing
Cholera morbus - Characterized by nausea, vomiting, abdominal cramps, elevated temperature, etc. Could be appendicitis
Cholecystitis - Inflammation of the gall bladder
Cholelithiasis - Gall stones
Chorea - Disease characterized by convulsions, contortions and dancing
Cold plague - Ague which is characterized by chills
Colic - An abdominal pain and cramping
Congestive chills - Malaria
Consumption - Tuberculosis
Congestion - Any collection of fluid in an organ, like the lungs
Congestive chills - Malaria with diarrhea
Congestive fever - Malaria
Corruption - Infection
Coryza - A cold
Costiveness - Constipation
Cramp colic - Appendicitis
Crop sickness - Overextended stomach
Croup - Laryngitis, diphtheria, or strep throat
Cyanosis - Dark skin color from lack of oxygen in blood
Cynanche - Diseases of throat
Cystitis - Inflammation of the bladder

D

Day fever - Fever lasting one day; sweating sickness
Debility - Lack of movement or staying in bed
Decrepitude - Feebleness due to old age
Delirium tremens - Hallucinations due to alcoholism
Dengue - Infectious fever endemic to East Africa
Dentition - Cutting of teeth
Deplumation - Tumor of the eyelids which causes hair loss
Diary fever - A fever that lasts one day
Diphtheria - Contagious disease of the throat
Distemper - Usually animal disease with malaise, discharge from nose and throat, anorexia
Dock fever - Yellow fever
Dropsy - Edema (swelling), often caused by kidney or heart disease
Dropsy of the Brain - Encephalitis
Dry Bellyache - Lead poisoning
Dyscrasy - An abnormal body condition
Dysentery - Inflammation of colon with frequent passage of mucus and blood
Dysorexy - Reduced appetite
Dyspepsia - Indigestion and heartburn.
Heart attack symptoms
Dysury - Difficulty in urination

E

Eclampsy - Symptoms of epilepsy, convulsions during labor
Ecstasy - A form of catalepsy characterized by loss of reason
Edema - Nephrosis; swelling of tissues

Edema of lungs - Congestive heart failure, a form of dropsy
Eel thing - Erysipelas
Elephantiasis - A form of leprosy
Encephalitis - Swelling of brain; aka sleeping sickness
Enteric fever - Typhoid fever
Enterocolitis - Inflammation of the intestines
Enteritis - Inflammation of the bowels
Epitaxis - Nose bleed
Erysipelas - Contagious skin disease, due to Streptococci with vesicular and bulbous lesions
Extravasted blood - Rupture of a blood vessel

F

Falling sickness - Epilepsy
Fatty Liver - Cirrhosis of liver
Fits - Sudden attack or seizure of muscle activity
Flux - An excessive flow or discharge of fluid like hemorrhage or diarrhea
Flux of humour - Circulation
French pox – Syphilis

G

Gathering - A collection of pus
Glandular fever - Mononucleosis
Great pox - Syphilis
Green fever / sickness - Anemia
Grippe/grip - Influenza like symptoms
Grocer's itch - Skin disease caused by mites in sugar or flour

H

Heart Sickness - Condition caused by loss of salt from body
Heat Stroke - Body temperature elevates because of surrounding environment temperature and body does not perspire to reduce temperature. Coma and death result if not reversed

Hectical Complaint - Recurrent fever
Hematemesis - Vomiting blood
Hematuria - Bloody urine
Hemiplegy - Paralysis of one side of body
Hip Gout - Osteomyelitis
Horrors - Delirium tremens
Hydrocephalus - Enlarged head, water on the brain
Hydropericardium - Heart dropsy
Hydrophobia - Rabies
Hydrothorax - Dropsy in chest
Hypertrophic - Enlargement of organ, like the heart

I

Impetigo - Contagious skin disease characterized by pustules
Inanition - Physical condition resulting from lack of food
Infantile Paralysis - Polio
Intestinal colic
Abdominal pain due to improper diet

J

Jail Fever - Typhus

Jaundice - Condition caused by blockage of intestines

K

King's Evil - Tuberculosis of neck and lymph glands
Kruchhusten - Whooping cough

L

Lagrippe - Influenza.
Lockjaw - Tetanus or infectious disease affecting the muscles of the neck and jaw. Untreated, it is fatal in 8 days.
Long Sickness - Tuberculosis.
Lues Disease - Syphilis.
Lues Venera - Venereal disease.
Lumbago - Back pain.
Lung Fever - Pneumonia
Lung Sickness - Tuberculosis
Lying in - Time of delivery of infant

M

Malignant Sore Throat - Diphtheria.
Mania - Insanity.
Marasmus - Progressive wasting away of body, like malnutrition.
Membranous - Croup Diphtheria
Meningitis - Inflammations of brain or spinal cord
Metritis - Inflammation of uterus or purulent vaginal discharge
Miasma - Poisonous vapors thought to infect the air
Milk Fever - Disease from drinking contaminated milk, like undulant fever or brucellosis
Milk Leg - Post partum thrombophlebitis
Milk Sickness - Disease from milk of cattle which had eaten poisonous weed
Mormal - Gangrene
Morphew - Scurvy blisters on the body
Mortification - Gangrene of necrotic tissue
Myelitis - Inflammation of the spine
Myocarditis - Inflammation of heart muscles

N

Necrosis - Mortification of bones or tissue
Nephrosis - Kidney degeneration
Nepritis - Inflammation of kidneys
Nervous Prostration - Extreme exhaustion from inability to control physical and mental activities
Neuralgia - Described as discomfort, such as "Headache" was neuralgia in head
Nostalgia - Homesickness.

P

Palsy - Paralysis or uncontrolled movement of controlled muscles. It was listed as "Cause of death"
Paroxysm - Convulsion
Pemphigus - Skin disease of watery blisters
Pericarditis - Inflammation of heart
Peripneumonia - Inflammation of lungs
Peritonitis - Inflammation of abdominal area
Petechial Fever - Fever characterized by skin spotting Puerperal exhaustion Death due to child birth

Phthiriasis - Lice infestation Phthisis
Chronic wasting away or a name for tuberculosis
Plague - An acute febrile highly infectious disease with a high fatality rate
Pleurisy - Any pain in the chest area with each breath
Podagra - Gout
Poliomyelitis - Polio
Potter's Asthma - Fibroid pthisis
Pott's Disease - Tuberculosis of spine
Puerperal Exhaustion - Death due to childbirth
Puerperal Fever - Elevated temperature after giving birth to an infant
Puking Fever - Milk sickness
Putrid Fever - Diphtheria
.

Q

Quinsy - Tonsillitis.

R

Remitting Fever - Malaria
Rheumatism - Any disorder associated with pain in joints Rickets Disease of skeletal system
Rose Cold - Hay fever or nasal symptoms of an allergy.
Rotanny Fever - (Child's disease) ???
Rubeola - German measles

S

Sanguineous Crust - Scab
Scarlatina - Scarlet fever
Scarlet Fever - A disease characterized by red rash
Scarlet Rash - Roseola
Sciatica Rheumatism in the hips
Scirrhus - Cancerous tumors
Scotomy - Dizziness, nausea and dimness of sight
Scrivener's palsy - Writer's cramp
Screws - Rheumatism
Scrofula - Tuberculosis of neck lymph glands. Progresses slowly with abscesses and fistulas develop. Young person's disease
Scrupox - Skin disease, impetigo
Scurvy - Lack of vitamin C. Symptoms of weakness, spongy gums and hemorrhages under skin
Septicemia - Blood poisoning
Shakes - Delirium tremens
Shaking - Chills, ague
Shingles - Viral disease with skin blisters
Ship Fever - Typhus
Siriasis - Inflammation of the brain due to sun exposure
Sloes - Milk sickness Small pox Contagious disease with fever and blisters Softening of brain Result of stroke or hemorrhage in the brain, with an end result of the tissue softening in that area
Sore Throat Distemper - Diphtheria or quinsy
Spanish Influenza - Epidemic influenza
Spasms - Sudden involuntary contraction of muscle or group of muscles, like a convulsion

Spina Bifida - Deformity of spine
Spotted Fever - Either typhus or meningitis
Sprue - Tropical disease characterized by intestinal disorders and sore throat
St. Anthony's Fire - Also erysipelas, but named so because of affected skin areas are bright red in appearance
St. Vitas Dance - Ceaseless occurrence of rapid complex jerking movements performed involuntary
Stomatitis - Inflammation of the mouth
Stranger's Fever - Yellow fever
Strangery - Rupture
Sudor Anglicus - Sweating sickness
Summer Complaint - Diarrhea, usually in infants caused by spoiled milk.
Sunstroke - Uncontrolled elevation of body temperature due to environment heat. Lack of sodium in the body is a predisposing cause.
Swamp Sickness - Could be malaria, typhoid or encephalitis
Sweating Sickness - Infectious and fatal disease common to UK in 15th century

T

Tetanus - Infectious fever characterized by high fever, headache and dizziness
Thrombosis - Blood clot inside blood vessel
Thrush - Childhood disease characterized by spots on mouth, lips and throat
Tick Fever - Rocky mountain spotted fever
Toxemia of Pregnancy - Eclampsia
Trench Mouth - Painful ulcers found along gum line, Caused by poor nutrition and poor hygiene
Tussis Convulsiva - Whooping cough
Typhus - Infectious fever characterized high fever, headache, and dizziness

V

Variola - Smallpox
Venesection - Bleeding
Viper's Dance - St. Vitus Dance

W

Water on Brain - Enlarged head
White Swelling - Tuberculosis of the bone
Winter Fever - Pneumonia
Womb Fever - Infection of the uterus.
Worm Fit - Convulsions associated with teething, worms, elevated temperature or diarrhea.

Y

Yellowjacket - Yellow fever.

(Source:

www.usgennet.org/usa/ar/county/greene/olddiseases1.htm)

OPINION: Far from the tree: The illusions of genealogy

CARL ZIMMER, CONTRIBUTED TO THE GLOBE AND MAIL,
PUBLISHED JULY 13, 2018

Submitted by: Jerry Rush

Carl Zimmer writes the Matter column for The New York Times and teaches science writing at Yale University. His latest book is *She Has Her Mother's Laugh: The Powers, Perversions, and Potential of Heredity*, from which this essay is adapted.

For four seasons, Harvard professor Henry Louis Gates has been hosting the genealogy television show *Finding Your Roots*. In each episode, Mr. Gates presents celebrities with a book full of research into their ancestry, drawing from genealogical records and genetic tests. On a recent show, Mr. Gates introduced the actor Ted Danson to one of his 18th-century ancestors, Oliver Smith of Connecticut. Mr. Danson learned how Mr. Smith defended his seaside town against the British during the Revolutionary War.

Mr. Danson proudly patted the page that chronicled Mr. Smith's heroics. "Well done, well done," he said. "I never imagined a one-of-me's out there in the revolution."

But when Mr. Danson turned to another page in his ancestry book, his mood swiftly shifted. Now he discovered that Oliver Smith bought a slave named Venture.

Mr. Danson fell silent. Mr. Gates tried cheering him up by pointing out that Mr. Smith later allowed Venture to purchase his own freedom.

"What's it like to find that out?" Mr. Gates asked.

"Complicated," Mr. Danson said.

Mr. Danson is far from the first person to experience such complicated feelings. For centuries, people have been exploring their genealogy, hoping to find impressive ancestors and fearing the discovery of disreputable ones. Medieval kings in Europe showed off their family trees as justification for their power. In Spain, noble families hire professional genealogists to prove they didn't have a trace of Jewish ancestry – which was considered a devastating stain that could lose them a government job or a lucrative marriage.

By the 1700s, the appeal of genealogies had spread beyond aristocratic circles. Prosperous merchants and farmers tried to find a link to nobility in the branches of their family tree. Thomas Jefferson, for example, tried to track down the Jefferson family's coat of arms back in England. "I have what I have been told were the family arms, but on what authority I know not," Jefferson complained to a friend in 1771.

Another Founding Father, Benjamin Franklin, took matters into his own hands. He travelled to the English village of Ecton, where the Franklin family had lived for centuries. Determined to uncover his genealogy, he perused the parish registers,

inspected the moss-covered gravestones of his ancestors, and chatted with the rector's wife about the Franklin family. The rector later sent him a hand-drawn family tree stretching back to 1563.

"I am the youngest Son of the youngest Son of the youngest Son of the youngest Son for five Generations," Franklin wrote to a cousin, "whereby I find that had there originally been any Estate in the Family none could have stood a worse Chance of it." Yet Franklin also came away from his research proud that he inherited the virtuous temperament of his ancestors, "for which double Blessing I desire to be ever thankful."

After gaining their independence, Americans grew even more fascinated with genealogy. It served as a way to link themselves back to Europe. Old colonial families preserved their high status by flaunting their origins across the Atlantic. They put coats of arms on their silverware, their hearses and their gravestones.

Bourgeois families used genealogy to buy respectability of their own. They hired the United States' new class of professional genealogists to uncover connections to aristocracy and provide coats of arms, despite the fact the new-found heraldry often turned out to be fake.

Families of lesser means kept track of their genealogy in less ostentatious ways. They sewed needlepoint family trees and recorded names through the generations in their family Bibles. If they couldn't prove they inherited noble blood, at the very least they could feel some pride in virtuous blood.

In the early 1800s, a Massachusetts woman named Electa Fidelia Jones investigated her roots, celebrating the Puritan blood that ran through her like a "magnetic wire," vibrating two centuries later with a message for anyone who could appreciate it. She was thrilled to discover some of her fourth cousins through her research; the find was a better inheritance than any ancient fortune, she said.

But other kin did not please Jones. She uncovered a female relative and her husband from the 1750s who were "so near idiocy that it was said at the time of their marriage that laws ought to be enacted to prevent the marriage of those so unfit to sustain the relations which they assumed." Among the children this unfit couple had, Jones complained, some were "so low in the scale of being that I do not wish to make their acquaintance so far as to ask after their name & age."

As Jones drew her family tree, she left those branches hidden. She preferred to spend her time dreaming of visiting her Puritan ancestors. "I love to go back in imagination to those old firesides," she said.

It also became popular to search for famous individuals in one's ancestry. In Virginia, many prominent whites claimed to be descended from Pocahontas. Their obsession with her would later cause legal headaches.

In 1924, Virginia legislators passed the Racial Integrity Act, barring interracial marriages. The law defined whites as people “whose blood is entirely white, having no known, demonstrable or ascertainable admixture of the blood of another race.”

That language would render many of Virginia’s most prominent families as no longer white. So, the state legislature tacked on a so-called “Pocahontas exception.” Even if Virginians were up to one-16th Native American, the revised law held, they would still be considered white. People who were one-16th black, on the other hand, were still black.

The obsession with famous people endures today. The Order of the Crown of Charlemagne is an American organization of people descended from the medieval king. To become a member, you have to prove your link to Charlemagne. But the order makes the task easier by providing a list of “Gateway Ancestors” you can link yourself to. On its website, charlemagne.org, the order declares that its objective is “to maintain and promote the traditions of chivalry and knighthood.”

But many people could not follow such a clear paper trail into the past. Adopted children were often left wondering who their biological parents were. Some Holocaust survivors were left so traumatized by their time in concentration camps that they told their children little about their ancestors. And slavery robbed millions of Africans of much of their pasts.

It wasn’t just their connections back to Africa that disappeared. As families were broken up to be sold off, those connections were eroded all over again. Slaves could not record genealogical information the way white Americans could. Instead of leaving wills, slaves were listed in them, alongside oxen and pewter. The erasure of African genealogy reached down all the way to their names. In 1679, a New York mariner named John Leggett bequeathed to his son “a negro boy ... known by the name of ‘You-Boy.’” The abolitionist Frederick Douglass, born in 1818, knew nothing about his ancestry beyond his maternal grandparents, with whom he lived for his first seven years. “Genealogical trees do not flourish among slaves,” Douglass later wrote.

For generations, slavery’s erasure left many African-Americans with a longing to know their ancestors. In 1976, Alex Haley reconstructed his own genealogy in *Roots*. He inspired a generation of African-American genealogists to dig through old historical records for their own clues to their ancestry. African-American genealogists were among the first to take advantage of genetic testing in the early 2000s, when its price dropped low enough to make it a consumer product. They began discovering genetic links between African-Americans and their distant cousins in West Africa.

In the years since, genetic testing and online genealogy websites has proven to be an explosive combination.

Ancestry.com has signed up more than 10 million customers, while 23andMe has more than five million. While today’s companies are using cutting-edge software to analyze DNA, they are playing on the old desires that drive us back deep into our ancestry. Some companies promise to reveal your inner Viking. “Who knew a kid from Queens is descended from royalty?” asks an ad for Ancestry.com.

As we flock to these services, we rarely ask what exactly we’re seeking. Our emotions run deep, and sometimes don’t make a lot of sense. Before appearing on *Finding Your Roots*, Mr. Danson had no idea who Oliver Smith was. But suddenly he felt a surge of pride, followed immediately by one of shame. Are we supposed to believe that virtue and vice could secretly make their way down through eight generations, from Oliver to Ted?

Before the 20th century, genealogists had no idea what descendants biologically inherited from their ancestors. They only spoke vaguely of blood. The discovery of DNA seemed to solve that mystery: We had a bond with the past made of genes. But heredity actually works in deceptive ways.

We inherit one copy of each chromosome from our mothers and the other copy from our fathers. They inherited their chromosomes in turn from our grandparents. Which copy of a given chromosome gets passed down from a parent to a child is mainly a matter of chance. That flip of the genetic coins has a remarkable consequence: As you work your way back through your ancestry, you’ll encounter an ancestor from whom you inherited no DNA at all. And the further back you go, the more of those ancestors you’ll meet. Graham Coop, a geneticist at the University of California, Davis, has estimated that if you look at your ancestors from 10 generations back, almost half of them will have no genetic connection to you.

Discovering that we are descended from someone famous makes us feel special, but that feeling is another genealogical illusion, based on a faulty picture we have of family trees. We picture them as forever branching in two – two parents, four grandparents, eight great-grandparents and so on. If that were forever true, your family tree over the past few thousand years would contain more people than have ever lived.

In fact, our family trees don’t branch outward forever. Our ancestors are related to each other, either as close cousins or distant ones. The diverging branches of our ancestry eventually fold back in on themselves.

The merged geometry of our family trees has its own astonishing consequence: If you could pick two strangers and follow their ancestry back through time, it wouldn’t take all that long to find a common ancestor. In Europe, some of the people who lived a thousand years ago are the ancestor of every living European. Charlemagne is likely one of those common ancestors. If you go back a few thousand more years,

you'd find people who are ancestors of all living people on Earth.

While hundreds of millions of Europeans may descend from Charlemagne, most of them likely don't carry even a wisp of his DNA. But scientists can estimate the ancestry of our genes by comparing our DNA to that of people from different parts of the world. When I got my own DNA analyzed, for example, I learned that it's 43-per-cent Ashkenazi Jewish, 25 per cent from northwestern Europe, 23 per cent from south-central Europe (Italy, in other words), 6 per cent from southwestern Europe and 2.2 per cent northern Slavic.

But it's a mistake to look at these figures as a clue to our essential nature. Learning your ancestry percentages is not like learning the human body is 61-per-cent oxygen, 23-per-cent carbon. My father is Jewish, but that only means he descends from a community of Ashkenazi Jews that emerged in Europe in the Middle Ages. They descended in turn from other communities scattered across Europe and the Near East. My mother has traced some of her ancestors to England, but the English are not pure, either: Their ancestry traces back to

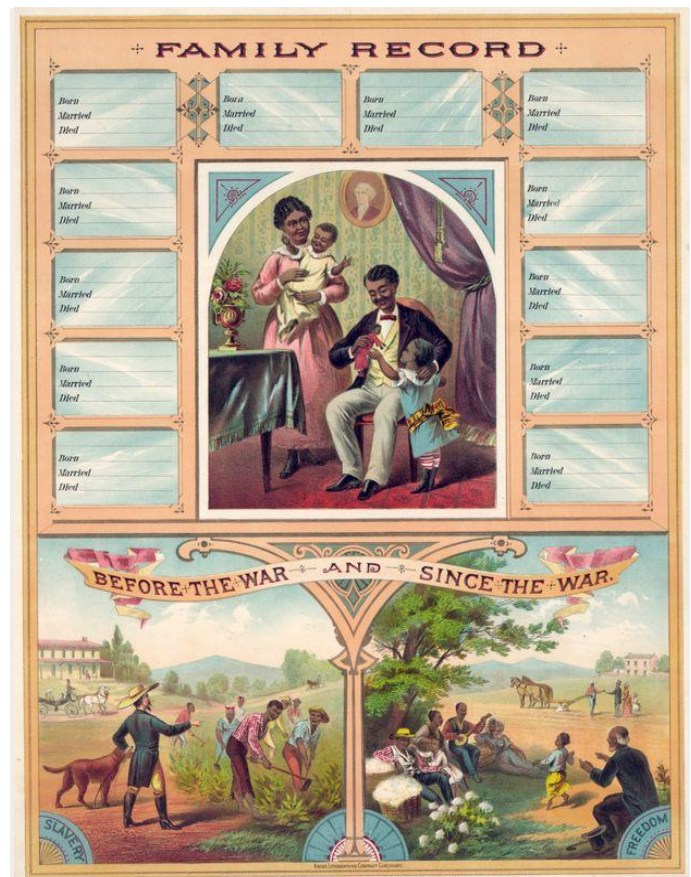
waves of genetically distinct people who moved across Europe in the Stone Age and the Bronze Age from distant places such as Russia and Turkey.

None of this is to say that we can't learn important lessons from genealogy and genetics. But the most important lesson is that we don't inherit our essence from some particular ancestors. We inherit all of history, our lives shaped by the broad trends of the societies in which we and our ancestors lived. In the words of Ted Danson, it's complicated.

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A blank family record surrounded by vignettes showing childhood days, a district school, our wedding day, our last resting place, other scenes and flowers, circa 1889. LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



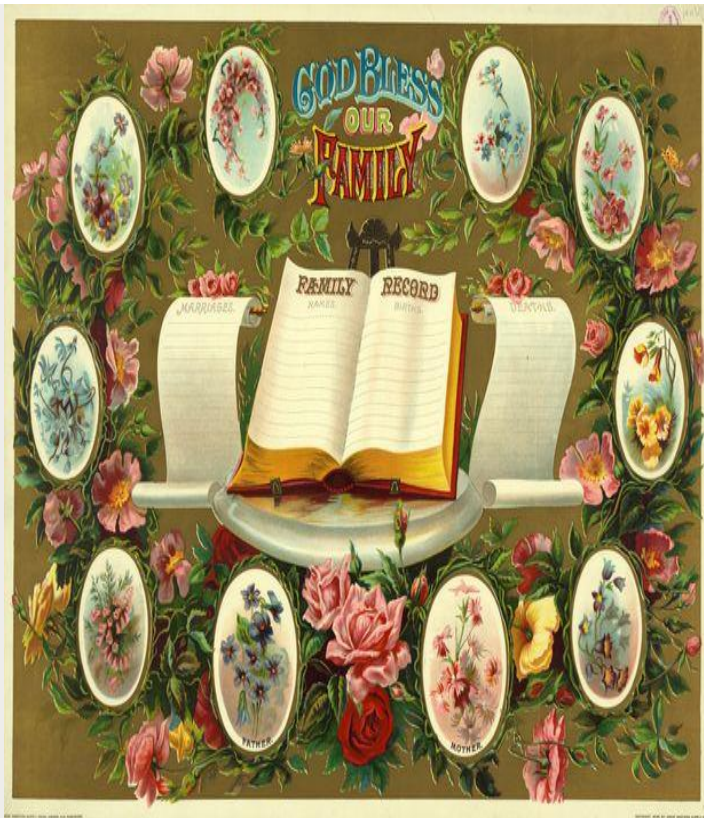
A chart exhibiting two farms, contrasting slavery with freedom in connection with a family record, circa 1880. LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

MY DNA JOURNEY

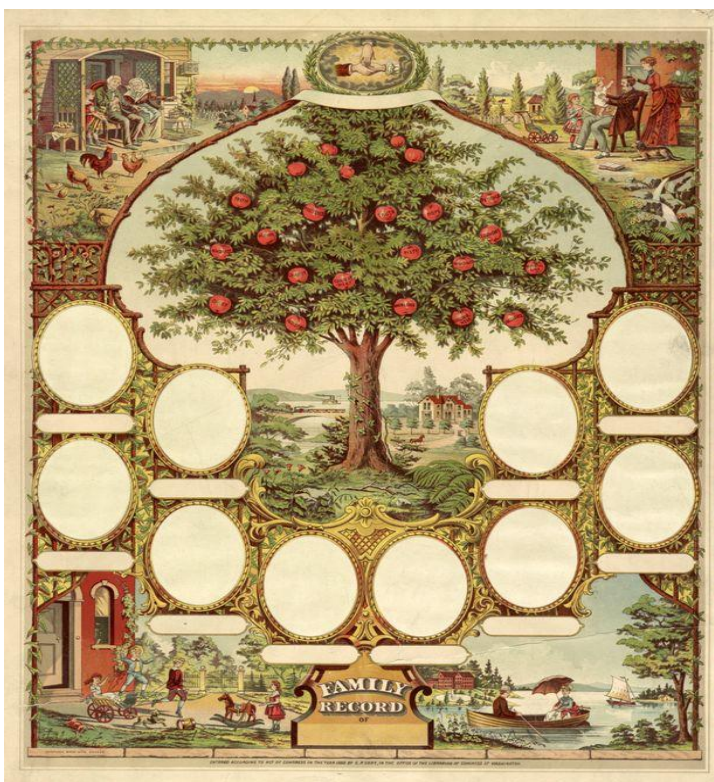
(Continued from page 3)

My sister's results came back. Sorry, Big Sis – we are FULL SIBLINGS. Dad was your father. I proved it possible on paper and now we have DNA.

Relationship Range	Shared cM	Longest Block
Full Siblings	2809.483398	219.095993



God bless our family, family record, Chicago, 19th century. LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



A chart for a family record with ovals for portraits and spaces for textual data, circa 1888.

Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County Meeting Minutes, 23 June 2018

President Jon Sheperd welcomed members, Sharon Marsh (guest speaker), and visitors. There were 20 people present.

OLD BUSINESS:

Minutes from the May GSOC meeting were published in the June 2018 Newsletter. There were no changes or additions to the minutes.

Field Trips: The field trip to the Baker Block Museum on Friday, June 8th was interesting but not well attended as only five members came. Jon said he was impressed by the museum's extensive local history and genealogy section. The Baker Block Museum is an excellent source for those who have ancestors from the local area. The GSOC will delay the next fieldtrip (to the Pensacola genealogy library) until the fall. Details will be announced in the coming months.

Family History Fair: The LDS church in Panama City will have a Family History Fair at their church on State Avenue on Saturday, Aug 4th, from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm. Jon will be one of the guest speakers. They have not yet provided a schedule of classes.

2018 Journal: Just a reminder that the theme for the journal this year is "Why did you or your Ancestors come to NW Florida?" Please start thinking about how you can contribute with your own story. Jon turned in his article and he said he spent about 30 minutes on it, so this is not something difficult or time consuming. Please contribute your story to make the Journal worthwhile. Point of contact is Cindy Barber.

Interim VP Volunteer: Jon gave "one last plea." He needs anyone that is willing to be the interim GSOC Programs VP for the rest of the year. Please contact him if you are willing to help (Secretary's note – the work is mostly done, please help and save Jon some time so he does not have to manage two positions. Come on People!)

NEW BUSINESS:

This month's door prizes were won by our guest speaker Sharon Marsh who chose the honey and Marvin Cochrane who chose the Harry and David pepper relish.

Lunch at local restaurant: Lunch was held at AJ's on the Bayou.

REPORTS:

1st VP: Upcoming presenters. Susan Lewis will give a presentation on Legacy Publishing at our July meeting. Jamin Wells will do a workshop on how to conduct an oral history interview at the August meeting.

2nd VP Jerry Rush: Jerry sent reminder letters and two people responded (and paid their membership dues). As a reminder, dues are \$24 per individual and \$35 for family. Dues are used to pay for guest speakers who travel from out of the area and for GSOC expenses such as the overhead projector and storage cabinet. Membership renewal forms are always available on the table by door.

Treasurer Phil Hoge: Phil reported that our bank balance had \$2,098 as of June 23, 2018. A total of \$172.27 has been collected this year for library publications and books (Blue Box donations). Historical annual Blue Box collections: \$339.79 (2016) and \$298.42 (2017).

Recording Secretary Kathie Sheperd: Nothing sufficient to report.

Corresponding Secretary Val Moreland: Nothing sufficient to report.

Newsletter, Ed Crosby: Nothing sufficient to report.

Webmaster, Jim Young: Jim couldn't be with us. The website is temporarily located at <http://www.youngj.us/GSOC> until Root Web returns

Genealogist, Margaret Harris: Margaret was not able to make the meeting due to on-going illness. Val gave the group a general report and said that prayers and well wishes were appreciated.

PRESENTATION:

Jon introduced Sharon D. Marsh. Sharon Marsh is a descendant of several northwest Florida pioneers on her mother's side of the family and early Florida Panhandle arrivals to the new state of Florida on her Dad's side. After retiring from a day job, she pursued her love of history, genealogy, and writing. That resulted in the publication of a book on the 1st Florida Cavalry Union Volunteers, a regiment of Southern men who fought for the Union in Pensacola and the Panhandle. Sharon is descended from one of the men who served and related to many more. Her presentation will talk about the regiment and some of the people that were in it. Sharon is also involved in several other projects and has her own blog and website. These can be found in the June newsletter available on the GSOC website. Sharon currently lives in Brewton, AL.

Ms. Sharon Marsh:

Sharon introduced her subject: "The 1st Florida Cavalry Union Volunteers in the Civil War; The Men and Regimental History and what that tells us about this Area during the War."

In Florida, 1st FL Cavalry Union men came from Walton County - 62 men (or 11% of the force), Santa Rosa County - 58 Men (6%), Holmes County - 37 men (13%) and Washington County - 35 men (10%). In Alabama, the men were from Coffee County - 53 men (3%), Covington County - 47 men (4%), Dale County - 40 men (2%), Henry County - 39 men (2%) and Baldwin County - 32 men (3%). These counties were all northwest Florida counties at the time, and the Alabama counties to the immediate west and north of them. The men were primarily agricultural and yeoman farmers, although some worked at Ft Barrancas and made bricks.

The 1st Florida Cavalry Union volunteers fought in nine engagements while serving in the Union, but not all men participated because of a lack of horses.

The engagements were:

- Gonzalez Farm/15 Mile Station/Pollard - July 1864
- *Battle of Marianna - Sept-Oct 1863
- Expedition to Milton Oct 1864
- Expedition to Pine Barren Creek FL - Nov 1864
- Expedition to Mitchell & Pine Barren Creek - Dec 1864
- Expedition to Perdido Mills, AL - Feb 1865
- Sander's Detachment to Alabama - Feb 1865
- *Mobile Campaign - March-April 1865 with Raid in South AL, Destruction of the AL/FL RR, & Siege of Ft Blakely, AL
- Occupation of Montgomery AL

**Note: In the two largest engagements, the men largely acted as guides and scouts for larger Union forces.*

To analyze the participation of the men, Sharon had to track down the muster cards. She spent many years doing this and even found some never before examined muster cards stored at a church. Some cards had been photocopied front and back many years previously, but mixed up and then stored, and then lost, for years. She had to put all those cards together.

Through careful research, Sharon noted the Unionists, deserters and dodgers:

- 256 men definitely served in the Confederacy (and were 36% of the men in the 1st FL)
- 147 men may have served but the records were not sufficient (21% of the men in 1st FL)
- 301 men do not appear to have served in the Confederacy (43% of the men in the 1st FL).

Dodgers were harder to track down.

Of the 256 men who served in the Confederacy before joining the 1st FL, Sharon made a careful study of every man who joined or were drafted in 1861 (38 men); 1862 (104 men); and 1863 (114 men).

By examining and analyzing every muster card and record she could find, Sharon concluded that 19% of the men deserted and never returned, 9% served honorably for 1864, deserted after the war was over & had desertion charges dropped afterward, 4% were discharged for disability, 1.1% were captured and died, 15% died of disease, 1.7% were officers who were honorably discharged, 0.3% were enlisted and dishonorably discharged, 0.6% were killed in action (2) and 2 were missing in action, and 332 served enlistment to muster out on 17 Nov 1865.

There were 539 men who served honorably (76.6%) against a desertion rate of 23.4%. Most men reenlisted although the desertion rate increased 1864. She reported that General Lee said 24% of the Confederate Army deserted. In this area of the country, the draft was unpopular, and many people were starving. There were pockets of people who just did not want to serve.

Sharon went on to recognize some of the men who served: Darby Swinney, Celestine J. Ward, Elias S. Worley, William L. Carter, Rev. Nicholas Baggett, Thomas Y. Taylor, William L. Barrow, Moses A. George, Abraham L. Miller, and Elias L. Barnes.

Sharon's meticulous research and analysis amazed the GSOC members. She presented a textbook case on how to completely study and analyze a subject matter, even though it took many years (two decades)! Members all joined in applause in acknowledging her prowess.

Sharon wrote a book about her research and it is titled: The 1st Florida Cavalry Union Volunteers in the Civil War. It delves further into the area history and genealogy of the men who served. The GSOC purchased a hardback copy of the book for the Fort Walton Beach Library's genealogy reference area.

Her (*excellent*) book is available for purchase at:

www.lulu.com/spotlight/sdmarsh.com

www.amazon.com

www.bn.com

Follow her blog on NW Florida History is at: www.nwfloridahistory.com

CLOSING:

John thanked Sharon Marsh for her outstanding presentation and thanked members and visitors for coming. The next meeting will be at the Fort Walton Beach Library on July 28th at 10:30. Ms. Susan Lewis will talk about Legacy Publishing.

/S/

Kathie Sheperd

Recording Secretary, Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County

Events and Information of GSOC Interest

Officers for 2018

President, Jon Sheperd
 1st Vice President (Programs),
 2nd Vice President (Membership), Jerry Rush
 Treasurer, Phil Hoge
 Recording Secretary, Kathie Sheperd
 Corresponding Secretary, Val Moreland

Appointees:

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

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 Newsletter Editor: edcrosby@valp.net
 GENIE Section: EditorGSOCFLnews@gmail.com
 Genealogy Special interest Group: GSOCSGSIG@gmail.com

Membership

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

The Newsletter

The GSOC Newsletter is now published on or before the third weekend of each month. Suggestions for articles are welcome. The editor, Edward Crosby, can be contacted by phone at (850) 678-5423 or by email at edcrosby@valp.net. 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 2017 issue, was published and distributed in September 2017 and has been mailed to all GSOC members. The theme of the 2017 issue is the Education. If you are a member and didn't receive your copy, please contact us.

NOTICE: Temporary Web Site
WWW.youngj.us/GSOC

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

GSOC on Facebook

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

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

The GSOC Books

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

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF OKALOOSA COUNTY

Temporary Web Site: WWW.youngj.us/GSOC E-mail: gsocokaloosa@yahoo.com

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

ANNUAL DUES (Membership Year 1 Jan-31 Dec)

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

Please PRINT or TYPE all information:

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

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

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

Your level of experience: Beginner ___ Intermediate ___ Advanced ___ Family Genealogist ___ Professional ___

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

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

Research: Name of families and states you are researching

Surname	State or Area

Surname	State or Area

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



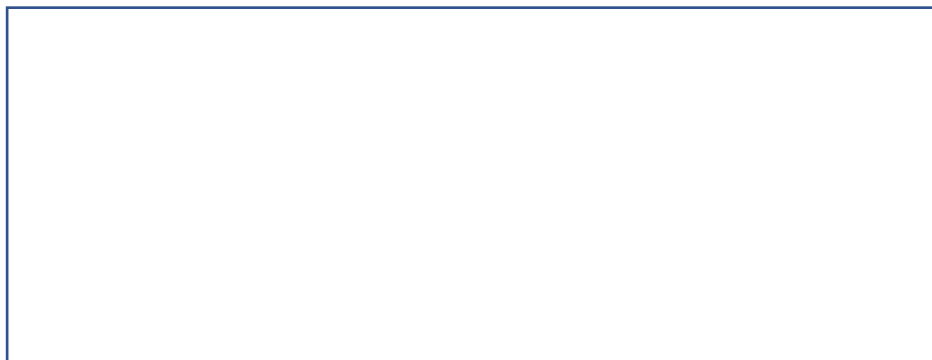
Our next meeting will on Saturday,
July 28th, at 10:30 am.

Featuring:

*“Legacy Publishing”
Presented by: Susan Lewis*

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

“Whatever you know, whatever you learn – Pass it On!”



Genealogical Society of
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