

The GSOC Newsletter

The Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County, Florida
July 2020



GSOC PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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Is it really time for another newsletter? As I write this, the pandemic seems to be getting worse. Okaloosa County's hospital beds are in short supply, Walmart and several other major retailers have mandated masks in all locations. The Flying J and Pilot truck stops were mandating masks several weeks ago.

I asked each member of the board to write an article for the newsletter. Jodie and Barb's are in this issue. Are you "Doing Genealogy"? My cousins and I are starting in again after a hiatus. The heat and humidity of summer are driving us inside. I tell Gerry we are practicing social distancing while being social as we compare notes and take the time to work on some of the 'little things' that may produce leads.

If you have a breakthrough, a question, or just want to share, please email Nicki with a blurb for the newsletter. Do you have an idea to keep the Society going while we await a vaccine?

Let's Get Back to Genealogy!

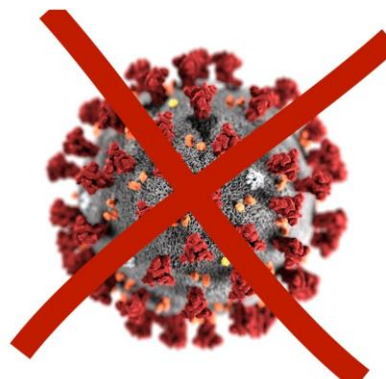
GSOC is going to ZOOM into meetings!

Monthly Meeting
August 22nd

We are moving the meeting to ZOOM and scheduling it at
7 PM Shalimar Time!

Join us for this first meeting! We'll check in, share what we
have been doing with our genealogy and share ideas for
future meetings.

Watch your email for the invitation to the ZOOM meeting!



Discovering the Watt Family - By Jodie Biles

Hello everyone, hope you're as busy as I am. I have more than enough time on my hands. Occasionally, I do random searches on Ancestry for ancestors that are hard to find information for. Recently, I was looking at my Huff ancestors. My grandmother was born Luna Huff. Her father was James Henry Huff and her mother was Victoria WASHINGTON Huff. James Henry was born before 1870 so he is listed on the 1870 census as Henry, along with his mother Martha and his grandmother Amy WATT Stephens.

I have always been curious about Martha's and James Henry's father, Tom Huff. Thomas Huff lived next door to a man named Moses WATT. This led me to believe he may have been related to Martha's mother or at least come from the same plantation/farm on which Amy had been enslaved. I discovered an intricate tree that included Moses WATT. The owner of this Ancestry tree posted this detailed story about Moses and his enslaver to include names:

This research is the story of my great grandfather Moses. The 1870 census record records him as being born in North Carolina in abt 1820. He became the property of Hugh Boyd Watt of Rockingham County, N.C. by birth, purchase, gift, or Will.

Hugh Boyd Watt (Oct 30, 1789-Apr. 28, 1845), the son of Cpt. John Watt married Elizabeth Phillips (June 12, 1792-Sept. 24, 1822) on Dec. 20, 1810 in Rockingham County, N.C. From this marriage, there were 7 children. He moved his family to Jones County, Ga. Elizabeth Watt died from Bilious fever. He later married Lucy P. Finney (Sept. 4, 1804-Dec. 16, 1881) of Jones County, Ga. on Jan. 23, 1823. From this union, there were 5 children. Hugh willed a total of 31 slaves and all their increase or that may be hereafter, including the slave Moses. Moses was willed to his and Lucy's daughter, Frances Ann Kimbrough (Nov. 1, 1823-Oct 9, 1883). The Will was dated July 5, 1844 (Muscogee County) and he appointed his loving wife, Lucy P. Watt Executrix. Frances Ann was buried in Pierce Chapel United Methodist Church Cemetery in Midland, Ga. Hugh Watt was buried in Copper Clad Farm Cemetery in Midland, GA.

As many slaves did after being emancipated, Moses took the slave master's name, Watt. This research suggests Moses had no wife or children while enslaved. In 1867, he and formal slaves, Tom Watt, Ephraim Peters, Charles Ramsey and Daniel Kimbrough became employees of Thomas Jefferson Watt, the son of Hugh and Lucy P. Watt.

Lucy P. Finney married Colonel Bartley Martin Cox (July, 1802-Dec 22, 1872) on May 6, 1847. He died in Camilla, Ga. Lucy P. Finney married William A. Amos (Jan. 3, 1801-Oct. 21, 1887) on Aug. 14, 1861 in Muscogee County, Ga. Lucy Amos was buried in Copper Clad Farm Cemetery in Muscogee County.

GJH

I have Ancestry/23andMe matches with all the surnames above listed in their trees. I also knew from Martha's death certificate that Amy Watt was born in North Carolina. I wish I had looked into Moses Watt more extensively before. After digesting this information I went back to the 1870 census and found a Ramsey and Kimbrough living nearby. I found an 1869 Poll Tax document with Thomas Huff, Daniel Kimbrough, Ephraim **Ramsey** and Charles Ramsey. I believe Ephraim Peters and Tom Watt changed their names to Ephraim **Ramsey** and Thomas **Huff**. I do know that Thomas, who had been in Virginia, was reunited with his father, Thomas Sr. This could be the reason for his name change. I do not know Ephraim's reasoning, but it was not uncommon for ex-slaves to change their names. I can't wait to read the will of Hugh Boyd Watt to see how much more info I can find.

"In Memory Of My Dad" by Barbara Bethea

When I started doing genealogy my mother neglected to tell me things. When I found her mother in the 1920 census she was living with her parents but had a different last name. Questioning my mother she said oh yes she was married before and he died in WWI. Since we are living in the time of a pandemic I thought it would be interesting to bring up his death. He actually died in England of the flu!



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



To all whom it may concern:

Know Ye, That JAMES A. BOWDEN
a Private of 12th Company of the Coast Artillery Corps
of Massachusetts, who was enlisted at Fall River
on the second day of July, one thousand nine hundred
and twelve, to serve three years, is hereby Honorably
Discharged from the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia by reason of
Expiration term of enlistment.

Said JAMES A. BOWDEN was born in Fall River
in the State of Massachusetts, and when enlisted was 19 years
of age, by occupation a Clerk, had blue eyes,
black hair, fair complexion, and was 6 feet 2 inches in height.

Given at Fall River, Massachusetts, this second
day of July, one thousand nine hundred and fifteen.

Harvey H. Skinner
Captain

Edouard F. Feltus
Commanding,
12th Coast Artillery Corps, U. S. A.

CHARACTER.

No objection to his re-enlistment is known to exist.

VERY GOOD

Harvey H. Skinner
Capt. Coast Artillery Corps, Comdg. 12th Co.

MILITARY RECORD.

Continuous Service at date of discharge: 3 years months days

Previous Service: First enlistment.

Non-commissioned officer: No.

Marksmanship: marksmen

Horsemanship: none

Service under Sections 141 and 142, Militia Law:

None

2nd. class gunner

Wounds received in service: none

Physical condition when discharged: good

Married or single: Single

Remarks: Service honest and faithful

Harry H. Keener
Capt. Coast Artillery Corps

Commanding 10th Co.

The within-named _____ was
re-enlisted as a private in
M. V. M., and mustered in this day to serve for the term of _____ year,
unless sooner discharged.

Dated at _____ this _____ day of _____, _____
Mustering Officer.



WEBINARS AND WEBSITES ONLINE

How to Use Directories to find a missing Census:

https://family-tree-advice.blogspot.com/2020/07/missing-census.html?fbclid=IwAR1gLxtYZvvq079Ed0qYGV-X2YyjHWMwpiRmqYkl-UfgEZxZbsZ_yeaPWWA

Familytreewebinars:

<https://familytreewebinars.com/upcoming-webinars-multireg.php>

Free:

https://familytreewebinars.com/archived_webinars_free.php

<https://thegenealogyreporter.com/free-genealogy-webinars-for-april-2020/>

<https://www.familytreemagazine.com/premium/best-free-genealogy-websites/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/genealogyteach/free-genealogy-forms/>

https://familytreewebinars.com/download.php?webinar_id=1288

https://familytreewebinars.com/download.php?webinar_id=786

National Genealogical Society:

<https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/free-resources/websites/>

The Best Genealogy Blogs:

<https://blog.genealogybank.com/list-of-best-genealogy-blogs>

50 Best Family History Blogs:

<http://freepeoplesearch.org/blog/50-best-family-history-blogs.html>



Check out the website that has an article regarding: Pensacola during the 1905 Yellow Fever Outbreak and the 1918 Influenza Pandemic:

<https://nwfloridahistory.com/2017/11/06/pensacola-disease-outbreaks-the-1905-yellow-fever-outbreak-the-1918-influenza-pandemic/>

Coronavirus Information

THE NEW CORONA VIRUS

Middle East Respiratory Syndrome- Coronavirus (MERS-COV)

MANY PEOPLE WONDER ABOUT THE NEW CORONA VIRUS. What is it?

Corona is a large group of viruses, which can infect both humans and animals with cold related diseases. The intensity of the infection ranges from common cold to acute respiratory syndrome.

However, the new strain of coronavirus, which causes MERS, is a novel virus to humans. So far, the information related to the disease, its signs, modes of transmission and even the sources of infection is very limited.

Ministry of Health, in cooperation with WHO and international experts, are working on finding out more about this virus.

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF THE NEW CORONA VIRUS INFECTION?

- Coughing
- Fever
- Pneumonia
- Shortness of breath
- In some cases* Vomiting
- In some cases* Diarrhea
- In advanced cases, the patient can have very serious complications, which can lead to death, such as:*
- Severe pneumonia
- Renal (kidney) failure

IS THERE A TREATMENT FOR THE NEW CORONA VIRUS?

There is no treatment until now. Supportive medical care is provided to help relieve the acuteness of the symptoms and control complications.

Unknown

IS THERE A VACCINE FOR THE NEW CORONA VIRUS?

NO VACCINE

So far, there is no vaccine.

HOW THE NEW CORONA VIRUS DOES TRANSMIT BETWEEN PEOPLE?

It is believed that the New Corona Virus transmits like other Corona viruses and Flu, which transmits through:

- 1 Direct contact with infected patients.
- 2 Droplets during the patient's coughing or sneezing
- 3 Contact with patient's tools then directly touching the nose, mouth or eyes.

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE METHODS OF PROTECTION FROM THE NEW CORONA VIRUS?

- 1 Maintain good hand hygiene by constantly washing hands with soap and cleaning them with hand sanitizers, especially after coughing, sneezing or using toilets, before handling or preparing food, and after contact with patients or their personal belongings.
- 2 Avoid direct hand contact with eyes and nose as much as possible.
- 3 Wear masks in the heavily crowded areas especially during Hajj or Umrah.
- 4 Avoid as much as possible contact with patients and their personal tools, and use masks.
- 5 When coughing or sneezing, use tissues to cover both mouth and nose. After that, dispose the used tissue in the trash can. Then wash your hands thoroughly and properly. When you sneeze and there are no tissues available, use the upper part of your arms to cover your mouth and nose and avoid using your hands.
- 6 Maintain good hygiene habits in general.
- 7 Wash vegetables and fruits very well before eating them.
- 8 Keeping a good healthy diet and exercising along with other healthy habits, in addition to having enough sleep, will enhance the body's immunity system.

Do you have any inquiry . . ?

8002494444 www.moh.gov.sa/coronanew

/SaudiMOH /SaudiMOH /MOHPortal

وزارة الصحة Ministry of Health



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