GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF OKALOOSA COUNTY (GSOC)
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GSOC Calendar

June 12. The June GSOC meeting will be held at the Heritage Museum at 10 AM. The program is "Let the Records Show…Original Documents and More Prove our Case" by Margaret Harris. Members are invited to bring COPIES of original records in their own research to display and share. There will be an optional Dutch treat lunch at a local restaurant following the program.
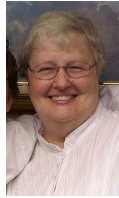
June 17-20. The Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Wall and Traveling Museum will be in Okaloosa County June 17-20, 2010, at the Fairgrounds, 1958 Lewis Turner Blvd., Fort Walton Beach.

General Meeting Notes
May 8, 2010

Although no regular May 2010 meeting was held, below are notes from the visit to The West Florida Genealogy Library.

The GSOC met at the West Florida Genealogy Library on the campus of Pensacola Junior College in Pensacola, Florida, at 10:00 a.m. Sixteen members were present.

Mr. Bill Nelson, Director of the library, provided an extensive overview of the library's collection. Bill also gave a brief history, future plans, and guidelines for using the library and answered many questions.

After his presentation GSOC attendees were offered the conference room to meet and use for individual research. There was a brief discussion about a request from the Crestview library for funding of Ancestry access instead of a donation of books. This discussion was tabled until the next officers and general meeting.

GSOC members conducted individual research using the library conference room to assemble materials. Several library assistants were available to help members. The library collection contained extensive local information. There were also other collections arranged by geographical areas of the United States.

Notes respectfully submitted by Mike Martell. Recording Secretary

TWO OKALOOSA TOWNS

Boggy

Some say the Donaldson family was here in 1834. From 1911-1912, Boggy was a village and steam boat landing on Boggy Bayou. There were two turpentine companies and three general stores, a saw mill and a Notary Public. Population was 900 at the time. It had a post office from 1893 until 1910 when the area became known as Niceville.

Early families: Anchors, Armstrong, Burleson, Edge, Meigs, Nathey, Parish, Reynolds, Spence, Walton.

Valparaiso

A small settlement was established, built around a sawmill located near the north side of Tom's Bayou. In 1901, Allen Brown, Jr., established a homestead here and acquired title to 15,000 acres of timbered land.

Chicago industrialist, John B. Perrine, purchased the Brown estate lands in 1909. Mr. Perrine wrote that he was impressed with the natural advantages, scenic beauty and healthfulness of this bayou country. He called the area Valparaiso, a Spanish word meaning "Vale of Paradise". Perrine planned a model community and immediately petitioned Florida Legislature to grant a municipal charter. In 1921 this charter was granted and the City of Valparaiso was created. Perrine died suddenly shortly after the charter was granted.

James E. Plew a Chicago financier, purchased the assets of the Valparaiso Development Company. He then organized the Valparaiso Realty Company, with himself as President and his son-in-law, C. W. Ruckel, as secretary.

In 1935, Mr. Plew laid the foundation of what was to become Eglin Air Force Base. In that year he leased 137 acres of land south of Tom's Bayou to the City of Valparaiso for the annual sum of one dollar.

Source: http://www.bakerblockmuseum.org/oldtowns.html