

THE GSOC NEWSLETTER

The Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County, Florida

June 3, 2011

GSOC Calendar

June 11, 2011

Our June program at the Northwest Florida Heritage Museum will be ***We Are So Connected - Part II***, by GSOC member **Hilma Jenus**. In Part I, which was presented in August 2010, Hilma talked about how interesting it is to make connections that go far beyond "Name - Date of Birth - Marriage - and Death" (the so-called HATCH, MATCH, and DISPATCH approach). She discussed ways to connect through everyday experiences as well as through research, while telling family stories to make her points clear.



July 9, 2011

Our July meeting will be at 10:00 at the Heritage Museum. The program will be presented by GSOC member **Beverly Gross**. Beverly is a renowned genealogist and teacher of genealogy. Her topic will be: ***Tracing Your Family Backwards to Find Their Roots: Migration, Immigration, and Emigration Routes***.



August 13, 2011

Information concerning our August meeting will be provided as the details are firmed up.

September 12, 2011

Our field trip to the Special Collections Department of the University of West Florida Library in Pensacola will now be our September 12th meeting. Time, carpool details, and a map will be provided in the September newsletter.



October 8, 2011



Our October meeting will be held at the Valparaiso Community Library where we will see and hear about the extensive collection of genealogical material housed there.

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Minutes of the May 14th Meeting

Donna Elliott, 1st Vice President, opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. in the Northwest Florida Heritage Museum in Valparaiso, Florida. There were 17 members and eight guests in attendance. Donna recognized the eight guests individually and thanked all for attending.

Bob Basch made a motion to accept the April minutes as posted. Ken Elliott seconded the motion and the membership approved the April minutes.

Bob Basch, Treasurer, announced a balance of \$2858.00 with approximately \$200.00 in outstanding obligations.

The blue box was passed around to collect money for library books in the various Okaloosa county libraries. Donna asked about the next week's presentation of Books by GSOC to the Crestview Library. **Martha Trau**, GSOC Crestview Library representative, was unable to present the books and **Mike Martell**, Recording Secretary, will make the presentation on Thursday the 19th of May at the Crestview Friends of the Library monthly meeting.

Beverly Gross said the Northwest Florida Heritage Museum, Baker Block Museum, and the Northwest Florida State College are working together to preserve historical materials, and family histories. Beverly said the Northwest Florida Heritage Museum needs a volunteer to catalogue the area obituaries. The Museum has the obituaries from local papers but needs a volunteer to cut them from the news paper, mount and file them.

There was a program change since our last meeting. The June meeting field trip to Pensacola and the Special Collections Library at the University of West Florida has been canceled. Due to budget cuts the Special Collections Library is closed on Saturdays during the summer. The visit has been rescheduled for September the 10th, 2011.

Hilma Jenus will provide a program at the June meeting titled "We are so connected". Hilma provided this program last August but only presented about one half of the material. **Beverly Gross** will be presenting a program in July. August is still open. The October meeting will be at the Valparaiso Community Library, Valparaiso Florida. Mr. **David Weatherford**, Valparaiso Community Library Director, will provide a tour of the library's genealogy materials and his tips on genealogy research. November will be a member show and tell.

Beverly Gross said that Destin, Florida had been nominated as the Luckiest Fishing Village in the U.S. You can go on-line and put in your vote. The town getting the most votes gets a cash award. Currently Destin is in fourth place. Members were encouraged to vote. The web address for voting is "wfnfishingtown.com"

Pat Claussen won the door prize, a thumb drive.

Jim Young, Corresponding Secretary and Web master had no report.

Carol Lessard, Asst. 2nd Vice President (Membership), asked that all present sign the attendance sheets on the table.

Pat Pruett, publicity chairman, was not in attendance and no report was given.

Hilma Jenus, GSOC Fort Walton Beach Library representative had no report.

Martha Trau, GSOC Crestview Library representative reminded members the seven books purchased by GSOC will be presented at the Crestview Library this Thursday at 10:30.

Donna Elliott introduced **Wayne Sconiers**, President of Walton Genealogical Society, who presented a program called "Preserving your family memories". This program demonstrated how you can create a CD/DVD with family pictures, voice and music.

Upon the conclusion of the program 17 members and guests went to the Boat House for lunch.

Respectfully Submitted, Mike Martell, Recording Secretary

HEADS UP INFORMATION

2011 FSGS Annual Conference

November 11th and 12th
Sheraton Orland North Hotel
600 Lake Destiny Drive – Maitland, FL

Conference Topics: "Finding the Maiden Names of Your Female Ancestors", "The War of 1812 and Its Genealogical Consequences", "Migrations 1607-1850", and "Newspaper Genealogy."

GSOC Donates Books to the Crestview Library



Sandra Dreaden, Crestview Library, receiving one of the seven books presented recently by the GSOC. This presentation was made by Mike Martell, GSOC Recording Secretary, at the 19 May Meeting of the Friends of the Crestview Library

GSOC PRESIDENTS: 1976-2011

THE SOCIETY EXPRESSES ITS HEARTFELT THANKS TO THESE VOLUNTEERS WHO HAVE SERVED AS GSOC PRESIDENT

1976 Eileen O. McCall	1996 Joy Scott Forsman
1977 Eileen O. McCall	1997 Katherine Davis
1978 Fred Burgess	1998 Margaret Harris
1979 Gailon McHaney	1999 Margaret Harris
1980 Carolyn Walters	2000 Frances Whitaker
1981 Eileen O. McCall	2001 Ron Senterfitt
1982 Sandra Gilliland	2002 Ron Senterfitt
1983 Sandra Gilliland	2003 Margaret Harris
1984 Gary Cyr	2004 Margaret Harris
1985 Martha Rogers	2005 Chuck Licari
1986 Carolyn Shearer	2006 Chuck Licari
1987 Carolyn Shearer	2007 Beverly Gross
1988 Florence Lembeck	2008 Beverly Gross
1989 Marsha G. Cox	2009 Beverly Gross
1990 Marsha G. Cox	2010 Malcolm Flanagan
1991 Marsha G. Cox*	2011 Malcolm Flanagan
1992 Florence Lembeck	
1993 Florence Lembeck	
1994 Martha Rogers	* Acting
1995 Martha Rogers	

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.

INTRODUCING THE GSOC PUBLICATIONS DISK

A compact disk (CD) which contains the following six GSOC publications is now available:

Cemeteries of Okaloosa County, Volumes I, II, and III
Funeral Records of Okaloosa County
Santa Rosa County Marriages 1869-1906, and
Walton County Marriages, 1885-1915

It can be ordered for \$15.00 plus \$2.00 postage from the GSOC at P.O. Box 1175, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-1175

Civil War Sesquicentennial Selected Highlights of June 1861

June 1, Confederate mail service officially began today;
The Federal blockade of the City of Fernandina
(now Fernandina Beach, FL) started
today with the arrival of the Union
ship, U.S.S. Perry.

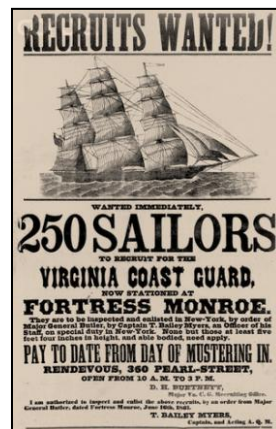


June 3, Battle of Philippi: First land engagement of the Civil War between Union and Confederate forces

June 8, Tennessee votes to secede from the United States; Virginia turns its state militia over to the Confederate States of America

June 13, Confederate President **Jefferson Davis** has designated today as a Confederate "Day of Thanksgiving," and calls for fasting and prayer for the Confederate States of America.

June 20, **The First Florida Cavalry began assembling at Camp Mary David, six miles south of Tallahassee. The unit will be activated for Confederate service in two weeks.**



June 21, North Carolina Secession Convention voted to unfurl a new flag, a blue field with red and white bars with an insignia and two dates: May 20th, 1775 (Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence) and May 20th, 1861 (Secession from the United States).

June 23, Confederate Navy began reconstruction of ex-U.S.S. Merrimack as ironclad C.S.S. Virginia at Norfolk.

FOOD IN HISTORY: THE WORLD WAR II K-RATION

The **K-ration** was an individual daily combat food ration which was introduced by the United States Army during World War II. It was originally intended as an individually packaged daily ration for issue to airborne troops, tank corps, motorcycle couriers, and other mobile forces for short durations.

The K-ration provided three courses: breakfast, lunch ("dinner") and supper. The K-ration was the Army's answer to the demand for an individual, easy-to-carry ration that could be used in assault and combat operations. It was noted for compactness and superior packaging and was acknowledged as the ration that provided the greatest variety of nutritionally balanced components within the smallest space.

The three-meal combination contained such common units as pemmican biscuits and gum. In addition, the breakfast unit furnished malted



milk tablets, canned veal loaf, soluble coffee, and sugar; the dinner package had dextrose tablets, canned ham spread, and bouillon cubes; and for the supper unit there were the D bar chocolate, sausage, lemon powder, and sugar. The Army quickly noted the success of the new ration with the paratroops and in 1942 the item was adopted for all-service use as Field Ration, Type K.

Many changes were effected in the components and packaging of the K-ration during the seven revisions of the ration before the final World War II specification was published. During that period the variety of biscuits was

increased, newer and more acceptable meat products were introduced, malted milk tablets and D bars gave way to a variety of confections, additional beverage components were provided in improved packages, and cigarettes, matches, salt tablets, toilet paper and spoons were ultimately included as accessory items.

**The instantaneous success
of the ration with attendant
popular publicity was a
source of amazement to the
developers.**

The cartons containing the individual meals also were subject to many changes. The first cartons were coated both inside and out with a thermoplastic compound. Later they were wax-coated on the outside only, wrapped in waxed paper, then coated with a commercial product specified not to melt at 135 degrees nor crack, chip or become separated at minus 20 degrees below zero.

As finally specified, the breakfast packet contained a canned meat product, biscuits, a compressed cereal bar, soluble coffee, a fruit bar, gum, sugar tablets, four cigarettes, water-purification tablets, a can opener, toilet paper, and a wooden spoon. The



dinner carton had a canned cheese product, biscuits, a candy bar, gum, a variety of beverage powders, granulated sugar, salt tablets, cigarettes, and matches, a can opener and spoon. The supper packet included a canned meat product, biscuits, bouillon

powder, confections and gum, soluble coffee, granulated sugar, cigarettes, can opener, and spoon. The biscuits, beverages, sugar, fruit bar, confections, gum, and spoon were packaged in a laminated cellophane bag while the canned meat and cheese product were put in a chipboard sleeve-type box. The two units were



assembled and sealed in a waxed carton inclosed in the nonwaxed outer carton labeled with the K-ration design and color. Twelve complete rations were packed in a fiberboard box which was overpacked in a nailed wood box for oversea shipment.



A GI of the United States 76th Infantry Division dines on K-rations outside a German pillbox.

The first million K-rations were ordered in May 1942 and were followed by increasing millions. In 1944, the peak year of production, more than 105 million rations were procured.

Toward the end of the war, the usefulness of the K-ration was coming to an end as a result of the emergence of a superior C ration.

**Source: Quartermaster Corps
History of Rations**

Events, Groups, and Sites of Genealogical Interest

Walton County Genealogical Society



The Walton County Genealogical Society newsletter, *Walton Relations*, is available on line at their website:
<http://www.waltoncountyheritage.org>

The Walton County Genealogy Society meets the second Saturday of each month at 10:00 AM at the Walton County Heritage Museum except during the months of July and August.

Bay County Genealogical Society

Meetings are held the **third** Saturday of each month at 1:00 p.m. in the conference room of the new Bay County Public Library at 898 West 11th Street, Panama City, Florida. (Exception: meetings are NOT held in July and August.) The BCGS web site is located at:

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flbcgs/>

Free Lunch-Time Lecture "Diary of a Lonesome Soldier" Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida

The *Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida*, 115 Westview Ave., Valparaiso, FL, will host a free lunch-time lecture, "Diary of a Lonesome Soldier", on **Wednesday, June 15 at 11:00 a.m.** This lecture is free and is open to the public. Donations are appreciated.

GSOC Recording Secretary Michael J. Martell will tell the story of an American intervention into Russia during the end of WWI from the diary of his grandfather, Wilfred L Martell. Mr. Martell will discuss his research, show artifacts and describe the weapons and fighting that occurred in 1918 during the Russian intervention.

Bring a sack lunch and join us at the Heritage Museum for this session of *History Sandwiched-In*, an informal lunchtime education program. This lecture is free and open to the public. SPACE IS LIMITED. Please call to reserve a seat. (850) 678-2615

Santa Rosa County

<http://santarosahistoricalociety.com/index.htm>

Santa Rosa County GenWeb Project

<http://www.db229.com/>

West Florida Genealogical Society, Inc.



The WFGS holds monthly meetings (except in July) at the new [West Florida Genealogy Library](#), which opened January 26, 2010.

The meeting room opens at 9 a.m. for coffee and donuts and socializing. The meeting begins at 10 a.m. with a brief business meeting and then a program. Refer to the section

on the WFGS web site entitled, "2011 Calendar," for complete information. [Click Here For Map to West Florida Genealogy Library.](#)

The WFGS web site is at:

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flwfgs/>

Murphree Genealogical Association



The national MGA biennial convention will be held on July 22nd and 23rd at the Renaissance Resort at World Golf Village, St. Augustine, FL. Most of the Murphrees in the U.S. are descended from Daniel Murphree (1717-1771) who was born in Ireland and died in North Carolina.

The convention will include the usual genealogy workshops, Irish music, socializing, Murphree trivia, local tours, and more. Convention room rates are available.

For more information contact the MGA president, **Walter "Dub" Murphree** at 904 533-2325.

MEMORIES

The Box Supper

by Monette Morgan Young (1915-2000)

When I was thirteen I was allowed to participate in a box supper at the old Reid school. No one under thirteen was allowed to bring a box. Girls would decorate a nicely-shaped box and make it really pretty with frills and ruffles of pastel crepe paper, or sometimes red and/or white crepe paper frills. The girls, or their parents, furnished the goodies in the box. The highest bidder for each box got to share the food in the box with the girl who brought it. Box suppers were a very popular way to raise funds for the school.



The boy friends of the older girls really bid high on the boxes. There were old stories in the various communities of certain love smitten young men who had to pay \$25 or more for their sweetheart's box. The

other young men would realize that it was hers and raise the bidding until he paid that astronomical (in that day) price.

People went to nearby towns and bought "loaf" bread and that great rarity and great delicacy, bananas. The boxes held pieces of cake, pieces of pie, ham, chicken, stuffed eggs, bananas, all such. The parents ate at home before the family went to the school; or they carried undecorated boxes for themselves and their children who weren't participating in the box supper auction.

I was quite excited at the prospect of carrying a box. I think I recall that mine was pink.

There were about fifteen or sixteen boys who would be of an age to bid on and buy our thirteen and fourteen-year-old offerings. The boxes were separated thusly, i.e. the younger girls and the older girls. The big girls' boy friends were working at sawmills, etc., and had more money to spend. Big girls told their sweet hearts what their boxes looked like.

As in all schools there was a caste system in old Reid school, which is where this box supper I'm writing about was held, about October 1928. There were about three boys in the school who could not, I said to myself, could **NOT** buy my box. I considered some of the "cute" ones who might. I don't know what the criteria for "cute" was. All the boys wore overalls. Some of the "cute" ones were just as poor as those of the lower echelon, but they were in the "cute" category.

I dreamed of who might, just might, buy my box. I prepared it with such care. The night came. They put the little girls' boxes up first. Some were selling for 15¢ and some for 20¢. Then mine went up and my worst fears came to pass. One of the **MOST** uncute ones of all of those we had deemed 'uncute' began bidding on it. Girls today might class him as a "nerd". He may have been the only bidder. It sold for 25¢. I almost crawled under the seat. The only consolation I had was that my third cousin **Monette Hannaford's** box went to one maybe worse. But even at thirteen, she had a flair and bravado I never had. Nothing ever embarrassed her.

I sat in my misery until the bidding was over. We were all given our boxes and there was a number on it and our "dinner date" had the number also and we were to find him. I told Mother I would not eat with him. She said I would and that settled it. Monette Hannaford picked up her box and went tripping off, saying, "I've got to find 'my feller' ". I slunk off with mine.

My "feller" and I ate in stony silence. He was as embarrassed as I. I was surprised that I didn't get any more flak from the older girls whose sole joy on this earth was to make the lives of us younger girls pure torment.

About two years ago, I read in the paper that my "feller" from that night had died. My conscience hurt. I'm sorry I was not nicer that miserable night.

My Mother, **Monette Morgan Young**, was born in 1915 on her parents' small farm in Calhoun County just east of Reid, MS, and attended rural elementary schools, usually where her mother was teaching at the time. She and **Thomas Young** were married after their graduation from Vardaman (MS) High School and made their home in Vardaman where their three children were born. Tom Young died a few months after returning from his WWII Army service in 1946 and Monette continued raising their three children with the help of her parents. She became a Licensed Practical Nurse and worked in Calhoun City and Okolona, MS, and for 20 years as the office nurse for Pediatrician Dr. Gilbert Levy in Memphis, TN.

After her retirement in Memphis, she moved to Jackson, MS, to be near her oldest daughter and she died there in February 2000 at the age of 84. She was survived by her son James and her youngest daughter Diana.

Monette loved family and community history and writing. She did extensive research on her own family line (**Morgan, Murphree, Hardin, Swindoll**, and others) as well as on her husband's line (**Young, Richards, Blue, Winter**, and others.) She won several awards for her poetry and had numerous published articles. She was the author of *The Cherry Hill – Poplar Springs – Reid Community in Calhoun County, Mississippi* and "The Box Supper" story above was extracted from that book.



Monette Young

By Jim Young

Book Review

PLAIN FOLK OF THE OLD SOUTH by Frank Lawrence Owsley, June 1949

Updated Edition 2008 with a new introduction by John B. Boles
Paperback, 5-1/2 by 8-1/2 inches, 279 pages, LSU Press

Frank Lawrence Owsley (1890–1956) was born in Alabama. He graduated from Alabama Polytechnic Institute (now Auburn University) and taught southern history for many years at Vanderbilt University, and later at the University of Alabama.

John B. Boles is Professor of History at Rice University and editor of the *Journal of Southern History*.

First published in 1949, *Plain Folk of the Old South* refuted the popular myth that the antebellum South contained only three classes—planters, poor whites, and slaves. Owsley draws on a wide range of source materials—firsthand accounts such as diaries and the published observations of travelers and journalists; church records; and county records, including wills, deeds, tax lists, and grand-jury reports—to accurately reconstruct the prewar South's large and significant "yeoman farmer" middle class. He follows the history of this group, beginning with their migration from the Atlantic states into the frontier South, charts their property holdings and economic standing, and tells of the rich texture of their lives: the singing schools and corn shuckings, their courtship rituals and revival meetings, barn raisings and logrollings, and contests of marksmanship and horsemanship such as "snuffing the candle," "driving the nail," and the "gander pull." A new introduction by John B. Boles explains why this book remains the starting point today for the study of society in the Old South. (Synopsis by the LSU Press.)

Plain Folk of the Old South is of interest to genealogists for several reasons, including the author's detailed discussion of the migration routes of the yeoman farmer middle class from the east to the west and south.

This book is not listed in the Okaloosa County Public Library Cooperative on-line catalog as being in any of the libraries in the Cooperative. However, it can be purchased through Amazon.com as well as directly from the Louisiana State University Press (\$22.95 plus shipping.)

GSOC INFORMATION

Officers

President, Malcolm Flanagan
1st Vice President (Programs), Donna Elliott
2nd Vice President (Membership), Lorna Sainz
2nd Vice President (Membership) Asst, Carol Lessard
Treasurer, Bob Basch
Recording Secretary, Mike Martell
Recording Secretary Assistant, Frances Hoge Corresponding Secretary, Jim Young
Immediate Past President, Beverly Gross
Historian, Sue Basch
Genealogist, Margaret Harris
Publicity Chairperson, Pat Pruett
Webmaster & Newsletter Editor, Jim Young
(Elected and Appointed positions)

Addresses

Web Site: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~flocgs>

Email: gsocokaloosa@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor: youngimy@cox.net

P.O. Box 1175, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-1175

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 Journal

The GSOC Journal, *A Journal of Northwest Florida*, is published once each year. The 2010 issue, Volume XXXII, Issue 99, was published in September 2010.

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 youngimy@cox.net. Letters to the editor are welcome and may be published.

The Web Site

The GSOC web site is hosted by Rootsweb at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~flocgs>. It is updated frequently and provides information about future programs as well as information about Okaloosa County and the GSOC itself.



Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County
Next meeting: Saturday, June 11, 2011, at 10 AM

"We Are So Connected - Part II"
by Hilma Jenus

Location: Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida
115 Westview Avenue, Valparaiso, Florida

Genealogical Society of
Okaloosa County (GSOC)
P.O. Box 1175
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549* 1175

