

THE GSOC NEWSLETTER

THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
OF OKALOOSA COUNTY,
FLORIDA

JUNE 1, 2013

Next GSOC Meeting

June 8, 2013



Our June meeting will be held at the Heritage Museum, beginning at 10 am. The program will be presented by Margaret Harris, well-known local teacher of genealogy and the GSOC Genealogist. Her topic is "Online Family Trees". She is going to talk about some of the online resources that are available; and, should you use them, the privacy protections and other considerations that you should be aware of.

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Lest We Forget

This issue of *The GSOC Newsletter* helps to remind us that freedom isn't free by re-telling the stories of three men from Okaloosa County, James Stanley, Auburn Merritt, and Charles Gavin, who paid enormous personal prices to help ensure our continuing freedoms.

GSOC Meeting Minutes May 11, 2013

Frances Hoge, Assistant Recording Secretary

The GSOC monthly meeting was held on Saturday, 11 May 2013, at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso, FL. President Donna Elliott called the meeting to order at 10: AM and welcomed 17 members and 3 guests.

The following officers were present: Donna Elliott, President; Sue Basch, Vice President Membership; Bob Basch, Treasurer; and Frances Hoge, Assistant Recording Secretary. Absent: Ken Elliott, Vice President; Jim Young, Corresponding Secretary; Pat Pruitt, Publicity and Recording Secretary.

Donna asked for a motion to approve the April Minutes as printed in the Newsletter. A motion was made to accept the minutes as published by Bob Basch and seconded by Bob Sutherland. The Minutes were approved as published.

Officer and Committee Reports were provided as follows:

Programs: Donna presented the update in Ken's absence. Margaret Harris is the speaker for June. Her topic will be "On Line Family Trees." Farris Powell is the speaker for July; the Creek/Seminole Indians are his topic.

Treasurer: Bob Basch reported a balance of \$2,249.21 with no outstanding bills. The "Blue Box" was passed around for donations to assist local libraries to purchase genealogical publications.

Newsletter: Donna reported that Jim Young was at an annual family reunion in Mississippi.

Publicity: Pat Pruitt was out of town. Donna again announced that the Publicity position was open. An easy position, as Pat has it well set up, it is also a good way to get involved and get to know people in the organization.

Genealogist: Margaret Harris related that this day was the anniversary of her husband's death and she was using it to memorialize him and she related a story of his genealogy research. In his honor she started a year-long project for writing his history.

Library reports: The Ft. Walton Library report was presented by Hilma Janus. She did not get the Sign-Up Sheet prepared as yet and she is gathering the publications that go to the Library. Beverly Gross, Valparaiso Library; there is nothing new to report, Wednesday lectures by Dave Weatherford continue at 9:30 AM, usually current events and history, but if you are curious about your roots it is a good place to do research.

Old Business: There was no old business to discuss.

New Business:

Donna thanked the volunteers for "Saturday in the Park": Bob and Sue Bausch, Carl Laws, Chuck Licari, Frances Hoge, Jim Young and Ken Elliott.

Bob Basch stated that the budget was set early in the year, but eventually the group may have to give some thought to fund-raising to bring in money. Please provide Bob

Basch with any ideas concerning this project. A couple of suggestions were to do research for people who are interested in their roots and provide a report for a small fee, with the proceeds going to the GSOC, and to sell tickets for raffles.

Donna introduced guest, Mrs. Betty Sheehan, who has written an extensive book about her family history, The Choice/Choyce Compendium, and graciously donated it to the Society.

Donna provided the following announcements: **1.** Mother's Day Victorian Tea, May 11, 2-00-3:30, Heritage Museum; **2.** Genealogy Jamboree – Cumberland Gap, TN, June 6, 7, & 8 – for information: genealogyjamboree.us (a good place to research the Civil War and families in the area); **3.** Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference (FGS), August 21-24, 2013, Ft. Wayne, Indiana (Courses offered in mid-west research, one of largest facilities offering a great conference).

Donna provided the following free websites: **1.** Genealogy.about.com - educational "how-to" articles; **2.** Genealogyintime.com – news, articles, records, on-line searches; **3.** Usgwarchives.net – US Genweb Archives – links to each states' genealogy resources.

Lunch Plans: The group voted on Bienville Café for lunch. Approximately 12 members will attend.

Program: Donna Elliott introduced Charleen Grafton, Nurse Case Manager and author. What's in Your Genes? is her 7th and latest book. Charleen presented a very informative program entitled "What's in Your Genes? Human Threads Linking Genetics and Genealogy." She presented slides that depicted our genes with detailed descriptions and encouraged members to get informed about their genes and family traits in order to be their own advocate when being treated medically. She feels it is becoming necessary in the changing scenario of medical treatment. Everyone present was given a handout on "Genetic Testing, What you need to know."

The meeting was adjourned at 11:34 AM.

GSOC Mystery Member



Our June Mystery Member was not present at our May meeting and does not live in either Crestview, Niceville, Valparaiso, Shalimar, Mary Esther, or Fort Walton Beach.

Recently Received Publications from Other Societies

Southern Echoes, Augusta Genealogical Society, Inc., Augusta, GA, Vol. XXXIV, No. 9, May 2013, 12 pages

The West Florida Genealogical Society Newsletter, Pensacola, FL, Vol. 31, Issue 9, May 2013, 4 pages

Chronicle, Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort, KY, Summer/Fall 2012, 33 pages [received by GSOC on 4 May 2013]

The Butler County Historical & Genealogical Society Quarterly, Greenville, AL, Vol. 49, No. 1, 25 pages

American Spirit, Daughters of the American Revolution, Washington, D.C., Vol. 147, No. 3, May/June 2013, 50 pages

The Upper Cumberland Researcher, Upper Cumberland Genealogical Association, Inc., Cookeville, TN, Vol. XXXVIII, No. 1, Spring 2013, 26 pages

The Seeker, Crawford County Genealogical Society of Southeast Kansas, Pittsburg, KS, Vol. 3, No. 1, May 2013, 42 pages

Genealogical Gazette, Quarterly, Southwest Georgia Genealogical Society, Inc., Albany GA, Vol. 31, No. 2, May 2013, 48 pages

These and all other publications received are available for review in the History Room of the Fort Walton Beach Public Library.

James Farrell Stanley

CMSgt USAF (Retired)

March 1, 1921 - March 23, 2008

"I was born in Okaloosa County, the fifth of ten children of Obie and Mary Williams Stanley, and I joined the Army Air Corps on July 27, 1942. My first assignment was at Keesler Field followed by Buffalo, NY, for P-40 aircraft training. I went to Atlantic City for training, then to Gunnery School in Las Vegas. After tours at Salt Lake City and Scott Field, Illinois, I went to Bangor, Maine for overseas assignment in England.

I flew missions over Germany as a waist gunner. On the fourteenth mission our aircraft was shot down. Seven of us became German Prisoners of War. We were confined with only bread and water at Dulag Luft, Frankfurt, for interrogation for the first two weeks.

Trains moved us to Stalag Luft-6 near Lithuania. The barracks type buildings were surrounded by double barbed wire with guard towers. We were locked in at night with bunk bed mattresses stuffed with straw. Toilets were garbage cans at the end of the barracks. Showers were taken during daylight at an outside shower building. Food was black bread and potatoes. The Red Cross furnished some clothes and shoes. **Continued...**

James Farrell Stanley (Continued)

After about four months, we left from Stalag-6 in the hold of a coal freighter. It was so crowded we took turns sitting and standing for thirty-six hours. There were no life vests, water supply or latrine facilities. Food was Red Cross parcels.

We debarked, were handcuffed to each other and transported by box car to about three kilometers from Stalag Luft IV. We were made to run (still handcuffed) to the camp. Guards used rifle butts and bayonets to exercise authority. As they hit someone they named a marine invasion front in France.

At Stalag Luft IV 12' by 12' rooms housed 24 men. Bedding was paper bags stuffed with straw on five narrow slats in a triple deck frame and two light blankets. In cold weather, men doubled in bed to prevent freezing. Each room had a small coal heater. Fifteen coal bricklets allotted per day would last four hours. Blackout shutters prevented ventilation at night. Two hand pumps on the compound furnished water for all uses. Limited amounts of clothing and footwear were sent through Red Cross. Germans furnished none. Outside toilets were used during daytime and cans at night. We pumped and poured water over each other's soaped-up body for bathing. I got two hot baths during delousing processes while incarcerated.

As Allied troops advanced, we were forced to leave the camp and were marched from place to place, sleeping in the woods or sometimes in old barns. Our only food was potatoes left by farmers. Everyone had to get and boil his potatoes.

Many, including me, were sick with diarrhea for three weeks but marched without medical treatment except dry charcoal. Everyone had body lice.



We were sitting around on May 2, 1945 as Allied tanks rolled over the hill. Prisoners were praying, laughing, shouting and tossing things into the air. The Allies announced freedom and directed us to the Ebb River Bridge where American troops waited. What a day to remember!"

Written by: Fannie L. Brown, Baker FL
based on a paper written by James
Farrell Stanley, Crestview FL

James Farrell Stanley was imprisoned in Stalag Luft IV

Stalag Luft IV was a German World War II prisoner-of-war camp in what is now Poland. The camp was opened in May 1944.

The camp was divided into five compounds separated by barbed wire fences, with the POWs housed in 40 wooden barrack huts, each containing 200 men. Prisoners in compounds A and B had triple-tiered bunks, but there were no bunks at all in the other compounds, and POWs

slept on the floor. None of the huts were heated. An International Red Cross inspection in January 1945 reported that the camp held 8,976 prisoners (8,033 Americans.) Two letters and four postcards were permitted per month. These letters were harshly censored forcing prisoners to tell families that they were being treated well and that there were no problems whatsoever.

On February 6, 1945 some 8,000 men of the camp were forced on a "Black March". The prisoners were allowed to carry as many of the remaining Red Cross parcels as they could. They were forced to march under guard about 15–20 miles per day, zigzagging, to escape the encroaching Soviet Red Army, for 86 days.

The treatment was very bad. The sick were mistreated when dysentery and diarrhea set in. Some prisoners were bayoneted; others kicked and hit. Shelter was either a barn or in the open. A bushel or two of steamed potatoes for a barn full of men was the best ever received. Often, the food was placed in the barn in the dark of night for the men to get what they could. Clothing was gathered from what they could find; the German government provided none. They each carried two blankets, and an overcoat for bedding.

At this point, the average POW had lost 1/3 of his body weight since capture. POW's drank from ditches beside the road or ate snow when available. Cigarettes, watches, rings or whatever they had to trade with the farmers along the way, provided some food. However doing so risked the farmers and the POW's lives. The POW's ate charcoal to help stop dysentery and every POW became infected with lice. Pneumonia, diphtheria, pellagra, typhus, trench foot, tuberculosis and other diseases ran rampant among the POW's.

Acts of heroism were virtually universal. The stronger helped the weaker. Those fortunate enough to have a coat shared it with others. The Germans sometimes provided a wagon for the sick. However there seldom were horses available, so teams of POWs pulled the wagons through the snow. When a wagon was not available and a POW fell out along the road, a German guard would drop back and a shot would be heard. The guard would then come back into formation alone. However, not all Germans were hated - the guard Shorty was carried by several prisoners after he couldn't go on.

They reached Stalag 357 around April 3, 1945. The prisoners, and the Germans as well, knew liberation was close at hand. The sounds of the encroaching American artillery could be heard getting louder and louder. The German guards became less harsh in their treatment of POWs, because they knew that the prisoner roles would soon be reversed.

They were in this camp for only about a week when compounds A and B from Stalag Luft IV were taken out on their final march, this time east, for about three weeks. It was just as harsh as before except for somewhat better treatment by the Germans.

On the morning of May 2, 1945 the POWs were all sitting in a ditch next to the River Elbe near Lauenburg, Germany, when the British arrived and liberated the "camp". Soldiers were given virtually nothing and told to march west. Thus Stalag Luft IV ended.

Wikipedia

Auburn Folmar Merritt

United States Navy

November 2, 1921 - October 31, 1941

"Auburn left school to join the U.S. Navy in January of 1941. He was sent to Norfolk, Virginia and was assigned to the *Reuben James*. His favorite subject in school was Agriculture. He made several items in Agriculture, one of which was a fold-up ironing board for my Mother so we would not have to iron on the kitchen table. He was always trying to make life better for our family."

Written by Auburn's sister, Atrice Merritt Reeves, Crestview, FL



The U.S.S. Reuben James

The *Reuben James* was based at Hvalfjörður, Iceland, she sailed from Argentia, Newfoundland, 23 October 1941, with four destroyers to escort eastbound convoy HX-156. While escorting that convey at about 0525 on 31 October 1941, *Reuben James* was torpedoed by German submarine U-562. Her magazine exploded, and she sank quickly. Of the crew, 44 survived and 115 died. *Reuben James* was the first U.S. Navy ship sunk by hostile action in World War II.



Many Americans were loathe to enter World War II at all. By October 1941, Japan had been occupying parts of China for ten years, and the Rape of Nanking was four years old. The Battle of the Atlantic was in full swing, and the Battle of Britain was a year in the past, after a year of almost-nightly bombardment of England by Germany. Despite these assaults on friends and allies of the U.S., and the losses of U.S. ships and merchant marines, the U.S. had

remained officially neutral. Many Americans thought the sinking of the *Reuben James* to be the sort of wake-up call that would push Germany-favoring Americans to reconsider, and people undecided to side with Britain. The political use of the incident didn't have much time to work. **Five weeks later Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, and by the end of 1941, the U.S. was at war with the Axis Powers.**

Woody Guthrie wrote the song "The Sinking of the *Reuben James*". He performed the song with Pete Seeger and the other Almanac Singers. The Guthrie song has an original tune for its chorus, but its verses are set to the tune of the song "Wildwood Flower". The song was also performed by Johnny Horton, the Kingston Trio, and the Chad Mitchell Trio.

The Sinking Of The *Reuben James*

Words and Music by Woody Guthrie

Have you heard of a ship called the good *Reuben James*
Manned by hard fighting men both of honor and fame?
She flew the Stars and Stripes of the land of the free
But tonight she's in her grave at the bottom of the sea.

Chorus:

Tell me what were their names, tell me what were their
names,

Did you have a friend on the good *Reuben James*?
What were their names, tell me, what were their names?
Did you have a friend on the good *Reuben James*

Well, a hundred men went down in that dark watery
grave,

When that good ship went down only forty-four were
saved.

'Twas the last day of October we saved the forty-four
From the cold ocean waters and the cold icy shore.

It was there in the dark of that uncertain night
That we watched for the U-boats and waited for a fight.
Then a whine and a rock and a great explosion roared
And they laid the *Reuben James* on that cold ocean floor.

Now tonight there are lights in our country so bright
In the farms and in the cities they're telling of the fight.
And now our mighty battleships will steam the bounding
main

And remember the name of that good *Reuben James*.

Click on the link below to hear the Kingston Trio singing "The Sinking of the *Reuben James*" and to watch a scrolling list of the names of those who went down with the ship:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I7jBbCQwJ0g>

Mrs. Reeves words are from *The Heritage of Okaloosa County*, Volume I, 2004.
Account of the sinking is from Wikipedia and other internet references, and the photos are from the U.S. Archives.

The Sears, Roebuck and Company Mail-Order Houses

Extracted from the Sears Archives

The hour has arrived. Dad gathers Mom and Sis into the carriage. He hops in the wagon with his brothers to ride off to the railroad station. The day and hour have come to greet the first shipment of your family's brand-new house. All the lumber will be pre-cut and arrive with instructions for your dad and uncles to assemble and build. Mom and Dad picked out the Rosita from Sears, Roebuck and Company's catalog. It will have two bedrooms and a concrete block foundation,



plus a front porch—but no bath. They really wanted No. 155, with a screened-in front porch, built-in buffet, and inside bath, but \$1,100 was more than Dad said he could afford. In just a few days, the whole family will sleep under the roof of your custom-made Sears Modern Home.

Entire homes would arrive by railroad, from pre-cut lumber, to carved staircases, down to the nails and varnish. Families picked out their houses according to their needs, tastes, and pocketbooks. Sears provided all the materials and instructions, and for many years the financing, for homeowners to build their own houses. Sears's Modern Homes stand today as living monuments to the fine, enduring, and solid quality of Sears craftsmanship.

No official tally exists of the number of Sears mail-order houses that still survive today. It is reported that more than 100,000 houses were sold between 1908 and 1940 through Sears's Modern Homes program. The keen interest evoked in current homebuyers, architectural historians, and enthusiasts of American culture indicate that thousands of these houses survive in varying degrees of condition and original appearance.

Sears was neither the first nor the only company to sell mail-order houses, but they were the largest, selling as many as 324 units in one month (May, 1926). The origin of the Modern Homes program is actually to be found a decade before houses were sold. Sears began selling building materials out of its catalogs in 1895, but by 1906 the department was almost shut down until someone had a better idea. Frank W. Kushel, who was reassigned to the unprofitable program from managing the china department, believed the homebuilding materials could be shipped straight from the factories, thus eliminating storage costs for Sears. This began a successful 25-year

relationship between Kushel and the Sears Modern Homes program.

A specialty catalog, the Book of Modern Homes and Building Plans, appeared in 1908. For the first time, Sears sold complete houses, including the plans and instructions for construction of 22 different styles, announcing that the featured homes were "complete, ready for occupancy." By 1911, Modern Homes catalogs included illustrations of house interiors, which provided homeowners with blueprints for furnishing the houses with Sears appliances and fixtures.

It should be noted that suburban families were not the only Modern Home dwellers. Sears expanded its line to reflect the growing demand from rural customers for ready-made buildings. In 1923, Sears introduced two new specialty catalogs, Modern Farm Buildings and Barn. The barn catalog boasted "a big variety of scientifically planned" farm buildings, from corncribs to tool sheds. The simple, durable, and easy-to-construct nature of the Sears farm buildings made them particularly attractive to farmers.

Between 1908 and 1940 (when Modern Homes sold its last house), Modern Homes made an indelible mark on the history of American housing. A remarkable degree of variety marks the three-plus decades of house design by Sears. A skilled but mostly anonymous group of architects designed 447 different houses. Each of the designs, though, could be modified in numerous ways, including reversing floor plans, building with brick instead of wood siding, and many other options.

Sears had the customer in mind when it expanded its line of houses to three different expense levels to appeal to customers of differing means. While Honor Bilt was the highest-quality line of houses, with its clear-grade (no knots) flooring and cypress or cedar shingles, the Standard Built and Simplex Sectional lines were no less sturdy, yet were

simpler designs and did not feature precut and fitted pieces. Simplex Sectional houses actually included farm buildings, outhouses, garages, and summer cottages.

The American landscape is dotted by Sears Modern Homes. Few of the original buyers and builders remain to tell the excitement they felt when traveling to greet their new house at the train station. The remaining homes, however, stand as testaments today to that bygone era and to the pride of homes built by more than 100,000 Sears customers.

Several of these houses were built in Okaloosa County. One, built on Shell Avenue in Fort Walton Beach, was destroyed by fire in late February 2007. It had been shipped by railroad to Pensacola and brought to Fort Walton Beach by barge in 1910.

Another was built around 1929 in Galliver, a small community in Okaloosa County between Milligan and Holt on US-90.



Sears Roebuck & Company house, Galliver, Florida (7/17/2007)

In an article in *The Heritage of Okaloosa County, Volume II*, by Sylvia Cook Reeves, it was still there in 2007. According to her, "It is a yellow two-story home with cellar and white trim, still in good condition, and modern in appearance... It arrived via railroad at either the Galliver or Holt depot, straight out of the mail-order catalog."

The Magnolia Grill in downtown Fort Walton Beach on historic Brooks Avenue is another Sears, Roebuck and Company House. This house is now a thriving restaurant and contains many historic items from early Fort Walton Beach history.



The Magnolia Grill

Aids to identifying Sears houses include numbered markings on joists and rafters exposed in the attic or basement. These markings were keyed to the blueprints and assembly blueprints and assembly instructions provided by Sears.

Charles Gavin **United States Army** **1922-1946**

Charles Gavin was born in Laurel Hill, Florida, in 1922. His parents were Mattie Alice (Clary) Gavin (1881-1965) and Charles Franklin Gavin (1878-1935). Charles was the youngest of five children and the only boy. He went by the nickname of Junior. His sisters were Edna, Jewell, Evelyn, and Lunell.

Charles grew up enjoying the things that young boys of that time period did. He loved hunting and fishing and roaming around the woods and area creeks. Bandy Branch was a favorite place for swimming and playing. His sister Evelyn would often accompany him there and helped teach him to swim. She said they would tie syrup buckets to their arms to keep them afloat. Charles turned 19 years old in 1940 and with the growing threat of war he decided to join the Army. Only a year passed before the attack on Pearl Harbor plunged us into war with Japan.

Charles fought in many of the tough island battles of the Pacific campaign. When I was a young child, I remember listening intently to Uncle Junior's reports of battles with Japanese when he was home on leave. Being raised in the country and very familiar with hiking through the woods with a gun probably explains why he was picked as a scout for his unit. He told us of one time when he was scouting out ahead of his group and passed by a small grass hut in the jungle. He suddenly had a strange feeling and could feel the hairs on the back of his neck stand up. Wheeling

quickly he fired a burst into the hut and a Japanese sniper fell dead. Charles would always wonder if the sniper was about to shoot him in the back or wait to fire into the group. Some of the battles Charles was involved in were



the invasions of New Guinea and Luzon Island of the Philippines. For his service in these battles he was awarded the Philippine Liberation Medal with 2 bronze stars; American Defense Service Medal; Asiatic-Pacific Service Medal with 2 bronze stars and 1 bronze arrowhead; American Service Medal; World War II Victory Medal; and the Good Conduct Medal.

After the war had ended but before he was returned home, Charles was stationed in the Philippines and fell in love with and married a young lady named Juliet. In 1946 while crossing a bridge during a storm, his jeep ran off the bridge into the water. A newspaper report stated that witnesses saw Charles come up for air before diving back down to try to free Juliet from the wreck. He was unable to free her and drowned with her. They were found embraced in the wrecked vehicle. After surviving many ferocious battles with the Japanese, he died in a tragic accident before returning home with his wife.

Prepared by: his nephew, Richard H. Rials
Extracted from *The Heritage of Okaloosa County, Florida, Vol. II*, 2008,
Okaloosa County Heritage Book Committee



Civil War Sesquicentennial

Selected Highlights of June 1863

<http://blueandgraytrail.com>

June 1 Ambrose Burnside orders the Chicago Times to close because of the paper's anti-Lincoln rhetoric.

June 3 Robert E. Lee begins moving the Army of Northern Virginia, encamped near Fredericksburg, west towards the Shenandoah Valley

June 4 Abraham Lincoln suggests the ban on the Chicago Times be lifted and Edwin Stanton orders Ambrose Burnside to do it

June 7 Battle of Milliken's Bend. Confederate forces attack the Union garrison driving federals to the banks of the Mississippi, where the gunboats Lexington and Choctaw turn back the advancing Rebels



June 9 Battle of Brandy Station. Largest cavalry battle on American soil pitted Alfred Pleasonton [US] against Jeb Stuart [CS]

June 11 General John Hunt Morgan leaves Alexandria, Tennessee to raid Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana

June 13-15 Battle of Winchester. Ordered to withdraw because of the approach of the Army of Northern Virginia, Major General Robert Milroy [US] tried to hold his position in Winchester. By afternoon on the 14th, he realized his mistake and decided to withdraw that evening. Dick Ewell [CS] ordered a division to camp north of the town to prevent such a move and Milroy found himself trapped. Confederates captured or killed the 6000 men in the city

June 14 Nathaniel Banks orders a ground assault against Port Hudson but fails to breach the walls.

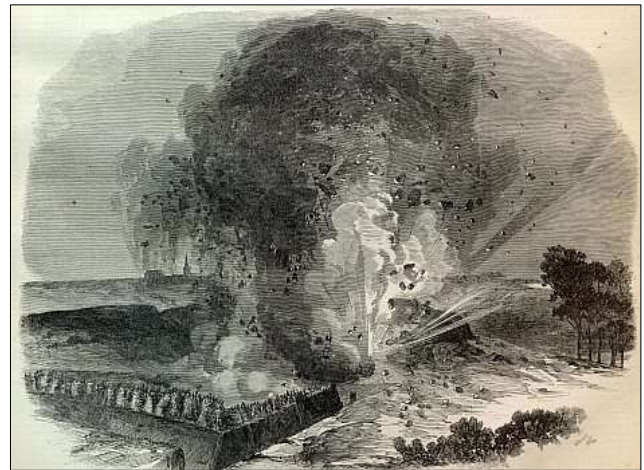
June 17 The CSS Atlanta, an ironclad in Warsaw Inlet, engages the USS Weehawken and USS Nahant before surrendering

June 18 Major General John McClelland is relieved of command by Ulysses S. Grant for insubordination

June 20 West Virginia becomes the 35th state to enter the United States, but the first to enter where the terms slave and free no longer mattered

June 23 Army of the Cumberland begins the Tullahoma Campaign against the Army of Tennessee

June 23 Forward units of the Army of Northern Virginia begin crossing the Potomac River into Maryland northwest of Harper's Ferry



June 25 Union soldiers try to exploit an explosion under the Confederate entrenchments at Vicksburg. The Rebel line easily repulses the attack

June 26 General Jubal Early [CS] passes through Gettysburg on his way to York.

June 26 Rear Admiral Andrew H. Foote [US] dies in New York City

June 28 George Meade [US] assumes command of the Army of the Potomac, replacing Joe Hooker.

June 28 Jubal Early seizes York, Pennsylvania

June 28 Judson Kirkpatrick is appointed commander of the 3d Division of Cavalry Corps, Army of the Potomac

June 30 Advanced units (2 brigades under Buford) of the Army of the Potomac occupy Gettysburg.

June 30 Army of Northern Virginia Major General Henry Heth orders a brigade under James J. Pettigrew to march to Gettysburg to investigate reports of a large quantity of footwear in the city.

Events, Groups, and Sites of GSOC Interest

Saturday, June 1, 2013

Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida (HMNF)
115 Westview Ave., Valparaiso



Corn Hole Tournament

Fun, Fun, Fun! All ages and skill levels welcome!

Tournament Begins: 2 pm
Registration/Warm-ups:
12:45 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Place: Twin Oaks Horseshoe Pits (corner Hwy 85N & College Blvd., Niceville) **Teams:** Blind Draw/Double Elimination **Prizes:** Cash 1st & 2nd Place !! **Fee:** \$10



RAFFLE: NEW set Corn Hole Boards with Bags! (Tickets: \$5 or 5 for \$20), Tickets are available in advance at the Museum and you do not need to be present to win.

For additional information call 678-2615

All Proceeds will benefit the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida

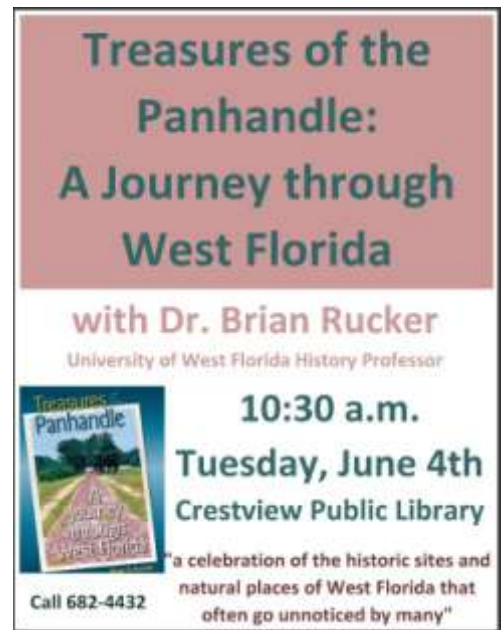
The Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida has joined a collaboration among the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense, and more than 1,800 museums across America to offer free admission to all active duty military personnel and their families from Memorial Day, May 27, 2013 through Labor Day, September 2, 2013. The complete list of participating museums is available at www.arts.gov/bluestarmuseums.

The HMNF is open Tue. – Sat., 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Admission is \$5-Adults, \$4-Seniors, \$3-Children, Free-Museum Members, Free-Active Duty Military and up to five family members May 27, 2013 through September 2, 2013.

gmarini@heritage-museum.org

Saturday, June 1, 2013, 10 AM
West Florida Genealogical Society
West Florida Genealogy Library
5740 N. 9th Ave, Pensacola, FL.

Bruce Rover, former WFGS president, will demonstrate the use of the 2012 Family Tree Maker program, including inputting data, photos, syncing data to your Ancestry.com site, how to generate various family pedigree charts and listing references, among other things. Contact Cynthia Dean 850-432-7072 or email cgdean@bellsouth.net



Lecturer, author and Pensacola State College history professor Dr. Brian Rucker will discuss his newest book *Treasures of the Florida Panhandle: A Journey through West Florida* at the June 4th First Tuesday series program at the Crestview Public Library. The illustrated guide to the twelve Panhandle counties is a celebration of the historic sites and natural places of West Florida that often go unnoticed by many. A PowerPoint presentation will accompany the lively discussion.

The library is located at 1445 Commerce Drive behind the Post Office in north Crestview. The program begins at 10:30 a.m. with coffee and cookies served starting at 10 a.m. Call 682-4432.



Wednesday,
June 5, 2013
Valparaiso Public Library
459 Valparaiso Parkway
Valparaiso, FL. 32580
Phone: (850) 729-5406

The Valparaiso Library will host a three-part Genetics and Genealogy presentation by Charlene H. Grafton, nurse case manager and author, based on her new book *What's in Your Genes?: Human Threads Linking Genetics and Genealogy*. The first session, at 10 am on June 5th, is entitled *Human Physical Traits*. The second session, *Human Disease Traits*, will be at 10 am on July 3rd, and the third session *All About Gene Testing* will be at 10 am on September 4.

David Weatherford, Library Director
dweatherford@valp.org

GSOC INFORMATION

Officers for 2013

President, Donna Elliott (850 585-1739)
 1st VP (Programs), Ken Elliott (850 678-5452)
 2nd VP (Membership), Sue Basch (850 865-6637)
 2nd VP (Membership) Asst, Carol Lessard (850 678-4567)
 Treasurer, Bob Basch (850 897-3310)
 Recording Secretary, Pat Pruett (850 678-2023)
 Asst Recording Secretary, Frances Hoge
 Corresponding Secretary, Jim Young (850 862-8642)
Immediate Past President, Malcolm Flanagan
Journal Editor, Malcolm Flanagan (850 217-9455)
Historian, TBD
Genealogist, Margaret Harris (margmarieh@cox.net)
Publicity Chairperson, TBD
Webmaster & Newsletter Editor, Jim Young (850 862-8642)

(Elected, Appointed, and Ex Officio positions)

Addresses

P.O. Box 1175, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-1175
 Web Site: <http://www.rootswest.com/~flocgs>
 Email: gsocokaloosa@yahoo.com
 Newsletter Editor: youngimv@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 youngimv@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 2012 issue, Volume XXXIV, Issue 101, was published and distributed in November 2012.

The Web Site

The GSOC web site is hosted by Rootswest at:
<http://www.rootswest.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 symbol on the left is the QR code for the address of the GSOC web site. Scanning this symbol with properly equipped mobile devices will connect that device to the GSOC website.

Meeting Location



The arrow indicates the door to the room used for GSOC meetings at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida

GSOC Publications

Volume I (out of print), Cemeteries of Okaloosa County, Florida 24 cemeteries east of the Yellow River & north of the Shoal River and I-10	Out of print but available on CD, see below
Volume II (out of print), Cemeteries of Okaloosa County, Florida 26 cemeteries north and west of the Yellow River	Out of print but available on CD, see below
Volume III Cemeteries of Okaloosa County, Florida 11 cemeteries south of the Shoal River	\$5.00 plus \$3.00 postage
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.	\$5.00 plus \$3.00 postage
Santa Rosa County Marriages 1869-1906 Over 7,000 names with every-name index, 123 pages.	\$5.00 plus \$3.00 postage
Walton County Marriages (out of print), 1895-1915 Over 10,000 names with every-name index, 165 pages.	Out of print but available on CD, see below
The GSOC Publications Disk This compact disk (CD) contains <u>searchable</u> PDF files containing the books listed above: 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	\$15.00 plus \$2.00 postage

Please send your order information with your check to
GSOC, P.O. Box 1175, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-1175
 and mark your envelope "Book Sales"



The June GSOC meeting will be on Saturday, June 8, at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso, FL, at 10:00 A.M.

The program will be presented by Margaret Harris, well-known local teacher of genealogy and the GSOC Genealogist. Her topic is "Online Family Trees". She will talk about some of the online resources that are available; and, should you use them, the privacy protections and other considerations that you should be aware of.

"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

