

THE GSOC NEWSLETTER

The Genealogical Society of
Okaloosa County, Florida

June 6, 2014

Next GSOC Meeting

June 14, 2014



The speaker for our June meeting will be Mr. Don Allgood, Director of Records in the Okaloosa County Clerk of Circuit Court office. This office which processes passports, marriage licenses, and manages official records has recently relocated from the Shalimar Annex to the Okaloosa Courthouse Annex Extension in Fort Walton Beach.

Mr. Allgood will discuss the functions of his office and provide us a guide to the records maintained there and how to access them. Accompanying Mr. Allgood will be Mr. D. T. Smith of the county's Information Services department who will discuss the Clerk's efforts to digitize records.

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GSOC Meeting Minutes for May

May 10, 2014

Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida
Pat Pruett, Recording Secretary

1st Vice President Del Lessard, in the absence of President Jim Young, called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

Del welcomed members and eight guests including, our speaker and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Rova.

He then explained the purpose of the Blue box that was passed around by treasurer Bob Basch.

Next on the agenda was the selection of a place for lunch and a show of hands of those planning to attend. Eighteen people chose to attend.

VP Del explained that to allow our speaker sufficient time for his presentation, that the rest of the business meeting would follow his program. He then introduced Mr. Bruce Rova, a past president of the West Florida Genealogical Society, who along with his wife, have been ardent genealogists for many years. Mr. Rova's program was

entitled "Who's that Lady?". He presented an informative program and suggested many resources for identifying the females of the family. He then answered a number of interesting questions from those present. Mr. Rova suggested we consider using the motto, "Do Not Give Up".

VP Del, after thanking Mr. Rova, proceeded with the general meeting by asking for a motion to approve the minutes from our April meeting as printed in our Newsletter on our GSOC Website. Bob Sutherland made the motion, which was seconded by Val Moreland and approved by the members present.

Officers Reports

1st V/President for Programs Del Lessard - said that in June the speaker will be Mr. Don Allgood of the Okaloosa county clerk's office who will present "A Guide to Okaloosa County Records" as his program. On 12 July, Ms. Amy Raley, will be our speaker and her program will be "The Federal Road, Immigration Routes of the old Southwest" and on 9 August, Mr. Bert Blackmon will speak on military records.

2nd V/President for Membership Sue Basch - reported that we have 69 members and 4 applications pending. Sue suggested that the new members take the opportunity to talk with some of the long standing members to integrate into the membership. She then introduced Margaret Harris and Hilma Jenus for their benefit. She also had the newer members who were present stand and be acknowledged.

Treasurer Bob Basch - reported that we are doing very well and have a checkbook balance of \$2468.47 at the present time.

Secretary Pat Pruett - Nothing to report.

Corresponding Secretary Carl Laws - pointed out that the newest journals that he has received are on the display table and will be given to Hilma to take to the FWB library.

Committee Reports:

Publicity - Val Moreland - asked members to be sure that she has their correct e-mail address for her publicity announcements.

Genealogist - Margaret Harris - Announced that the Family History Center in FWB is in need of volunteers and they will train anyone interested in helping there.

Library Reports:

Ft. Walton Beach - Hilma Jenus said that she has not been there this past month.

Valparaiso - Charlene Grafton - Not present

Newsletter/Website – Jim Young –Not present

Old Business – Donna Elliott asked about the signup sheet for those who want to work on the Journal. She asked to add her name to the list. Margaret Harris discussed our GSOC participation at the recent “Saturday in the Park”. It was agreed that we should have a presence there.

New Business – None

Announcements – Sue asked everyone to check their info on the membership list.

Door Prize – Del had a ticket drawn for the door prize, which was a jar of homemade preserves and it was won by Ken Elliott.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:35 AM.

Funding Requested for CCC Worker Statue and Site Marker

Niceville’s Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp greatly enhanced the local economy during the years of the Great Depression. Niceville is home to the only CCC camp in Okaloosa County and the first in the State of Florida.



The camp has now been documented and an ad hoc committee is working to recognize the contributions of the CCC to Niceville, Okaloosa County, Eglin Air Force Base and the State of Florida by placing a CCC Worker Statue and site marker on the grounds of Edge Elementary (originally Niceville High School) where the camp was first located.

Currently the cost for the CCC Worker Statue is \$22,600, guaranteed until December 1, 2014. Shipping charges are additional.

The Chamber Foundation is pleased to support this worthwhile historical and educational community project. The Board of Directors of the Niceville Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce Foundation, a 501c3 organization, will serve as the fiscal agent on behalf of the CCC Monument Fundraising Effort.

Donations may be made payable and mailed to:

Niceville Valparaiso Chamber Foundation
1055 East John Sims Parkway
Niceville, FL 32578.

Please note in the memo section that it is a CCC Fund Donation.

Thank you for your interest and support in this important endeavor.

Elisa Mitchiner, Niceville, Florida Online History Center
<http://bogglyflorida.com/Niceville/>

Florida’s Oldest Civil War Monument Restored and Rededicated

DeFUNIAC SPRINGS — The state’s oldest Civil War-era monument, which sits on the lawn of the Walton County Courthouse, has been refurbished.

The monument was erected in 1871, just six years after the Civil War ended, by the Walton County Female Memorial Association. It lists the names of 94 Confederate dead.

At the top of the marble obelisk is an urn holding a hand with a finger pointing to heaven. The monument, which was built in New Orleans, was restored by the Walton County Heritage Association. The group raised about \$3,500 to restore the monument.



The Confederate war memorial sits in front of the Walton County Courthouse in DeFuniac Springs in this photo from 2011. A hand with a finger pointing skyward was part of the original monument, but it was

stolen and destroyed by vandals.

“It’s an important part of history,” said Marie Hinson, who chaired the monument committee for the Heritage Association. “It’s a wonderful historical piece in our town that we can be proud of.”

The monument was vandalized several years ago when a thief made off with both the hand the urn, Hinson said. The piece was restored by GLMCO Memorials in DeFuniac Springs and dedicated in a ceremony April 28.

“It’s beautiful,” Hinson said. “It’s encircled with a sidewalk all the way around it and sidewalks leading to it.”

Photo: DEVON RAVINE / Daily News
Article by KARI C. BARLOW / Daily News

The GSOC Newsletter’s Guest Author for June

The Mystery Gravestone in the Marler Memorial Cemetery (following on page 3) was written by William (Bill) Mills. Mr. Mills is a Fort Walton Beach resident and a friend of Mr. Hank Klein. Mr. Klein who has presented programs to us several times about the early days and people of Destin introduced us to Mr. Mills and his recent work on this mystery.

As you can tell by reading his article, Mr. Mills is an exacting researcher and his well-documented story is a great example of this.

The Mystery Gravestone in the Marler Memorial Cemetery

By Bill Mills – rifnraf51@hotmail.com

Who is the stranger, Edward M. Knapp, buried among the Marler-Destin relatives in the family cemetery? He has one of the tallest, most distinctive gravestones in the cemetery. It is the only "Woodsman of the World" gravestone, (these were provided by the Woodsman of the World Life Insurance Company upon the death of their members before 1920). Because he has no known relationship to anyone buried in the cemetery, we set out to find out who Edward M. Knapp was and why he was buried in the Marler Memorial Cemetery.



Gravestone of Edward M. Knapp – 1871 to 1910
in Marler Memorial Cemetery, Destin, FL

The Knapp Family – Edward's father, John Sullivan Knapp was born 1844 in Illinois and Edward's mother, Christina, was born in 1853 in Missouri. Edward Morris Knapp was born in Asley (Scott County), Illinois on August 14, 1871 and grew up in Westchester (Scott County) which is located just north of Asley. Scott County had a population of 10,500 when Edward was born in 1871. Today the population is 5,200. The size of the 1870s population was due to the arrival of the railroad in the 1850s.^{1,2} They lived in a farming community where work was hard, even for a young boy. Edward's father, John S. Knapp was a Lieutenant in the Illinois infantry during the civil war, was wounded, and became disabled from a gunshot wound. John was an agriculture inspector in 1880 in Scott County, Illinois according to the Federal Census. Edward Knapp had one sister and four brothers as follows:

Josephine B. Knapp was born in 1874. She was a nurse and transported sick patients by ship from the Panama Canal Zone to New York City in both 1912 and 1913. Josephine Knapp's occupation was a nurse in St. Louis according to the 1920 Federal Census.^{3,4}

Hiram Henry Knapp was born in 1877. According to the Federal Census he lived in St. Louis in 1910, then in 1920 he

lived in Iowa, and finally he settled in Kansas City in 1930 where he lived until his death in 1930.^{5,6,7,8}

Henry Harper Knapp was born in 1883. He lived in Omaha (Douglas County), Nebraska about 1903. He married, raised a family, became a farmer, and lived in Nebraska until his death in 1953.^{9,10,11}

George Delbert Knapp was born in 1888. George arrived in Florida about 1911, but could have been there earlier. He departed Florida about 1917 when he too moved to Nebraska where his brother Henry lived. In 1920 he married, and settled in Wilber (Saline County), Nebraska where he raised his family and farmed, until his death in 1970.^{12,13,14,15}

Lester Leroy Knapp was born in 1893. He registered for the draft in Pike County, Illinois in 1917. Lester joined the U.S. Army and was stationed in Germany in 1920, in the 1st Engineering Division. When he returned from World War I he married in Pennsylvania and lived there until his death in Philadelphia in 1967.^{16,17,18,19,20}

Searching historical records for Edward Morris Knapp found him living in Saint Louis, Missouri in the 1890s, likely attending school. On March 2, 1897 he married Cecily Flynn in Clayton (St. Louis County), Missouri. By the time of the 1900 Federal census Edward and his wife, Cecily, were living in Havana, Cuba at the Headquarters, Department of Matanzas and Santa Clara Hospital Corps; Armed Forces-Foreign Company. On December 14, 1901 in Havana, Cuba their son Nathan was born.^{21,22,23,24}

Edward's military service records stated he enlisted on August 3, 1898 in Missouri, in K Company, 3rd Regiment, U.S. Volunteer Engineers. He transferred to the #82 Headquarters Department; Camp Michie, Matanzas, Cuba on August 29, 1898. Edward was discharged April 12, 1899 and held the rank of private, corporal, and sergeant, which was amazing for his eight month career! His service records provided his age, where he was from, and his physical description. Edward had blue eyes, brown hair, and was 5 foot 6 inches tall. Edward's military service was during the Spanish-American War (1898). This was a

⁵ 1910 Federal Census - St. Louis, Missouri

⁶ 1920 Federal Census – Davenport (Scott County), Iowa

⁷ 1930 Federal Census - Kansas City, Missouri

⁸ Find-a-Grave - Forest Hill Cemetery, Kansas City, Missouri

⁹ Marriage License – Omaha (Douglas County), Nebraska

¹⁰ 1910, 1930, and 1940 Federal Census – Omaha (Douglas County), Nebraska

¹¹ Find-a-Grave - Forest Lawn Cemetery, Omaha (Douglas County), Nebraska

¹² Marriage License – Omaha (Douglas County), Nebraska

¹³ Draft Registration WWI - Walton County., Florida

¹⁴ 1930 and 1940 Federal Census – Wilbur (Saline County), Nebraska

¹⁵ Find-a-Grave - Sunnyside Cemetery, Wilbur (Saline County), Nebraska

¹⁶ Draft Registration WWI - Pike County, Illinois

¹⁷ 1920 Federal Census – U.S. Armed Forces, Germany

¹⁸ 1935 Pennsylvania State and 1940 Federal Census - Buck County, Pennsylvania

¹⁹ Social Security Death Index – Lester Leroy Knapp, 1967

²⁰ Find-a-Grave - Baltimore National Cemetery, Baltimore, Maryland

²¹ 1900 Federal Census – U.S. Armed Forces, Havana, Cuba

²² Declaration for Widows Pension by Cecily Knapp

²³ 1930 and 1940 Federal Census - St. Louis, Missouri

²⁴ Find-a-Grave - Oak Hill Cemetery, Kirkwood, St. Louis County, Missouri

¹ 1880 Federal Census – Westchester (Scott County), Illinois

² U.S. Army Service Record of Edward M. Knapp – National Archives and

Records Administration, St. Louis, MO

³ Passenger Arrivals New York City (Ellis Island 1892-1924)

⁴ 1920 Federal Census - St. Louis, Missouri

conflict between the United States and Spain that ended Spanish colonial rule in the Americas and resulted in U.S. acquisition of territories in the western Pacific and Latin America.²⁵

The Spanish-American War - The war originated in the Cuban struggle for independence from Spain, which began in February 1895. Spain used force to stop the rebellion, but the American people supported the rebels. There was a growing popular demand for U.S. intervention after the unexplained sinking of the USS Maine on February 15, 1898 while it was in Cuba. A massive explosion of unknown origin sank the ship in Cuba's Havana harbor killing 260 of the nearly 400 American crew members aboard. It was rumored to have been sunk by Spanish mine at the time. However, in 1976 a naval investigation determined that the cause of the explosion was the spontaneous combustion of coal (the fire set off the ammunition stores and blew up the ship).

One of the first American battleships, the Maine, weighed more than 6,000 tons and was built at a cost of more than \$2,000,000. The USS Maine had been sent to protect U.S. citizens and property after rioting in Havana. Spain announced an armistice on April 9, 1898 and granted Cuba limited powers of self-government. The U.S. Congress soon afterward issued resolutions that declared Cuba's right to independence, demanded the withdrawal of Spain's armed forces from the island, and authorized the President's use of force to secure that withdrawal while renouncing any U.S. design for annexing Cuba.²⁶



Wreckage of the USS Maine [ARC-1]
in the harbor at Havana, Cuba)

Spain declared war on United States on April 24, 1898 and in turn the U.S. declared war on Spain on April 25, 1898. Commodore George Dewey took over the Philippines on May 1, 1898 and destroyed the Spanish fleet. General William Shafter located the Spanish Caribbean Fleet in Santiago, Cuba. The Spanish Fleet ran from the harbor on July 3, 1898 and by July 17, 1898 the ships came under fire by U.S. forces and they were sunk or were beached and burned. This ended the war.

A total of 274,000 U.S. soldiers were sent to Cuba. Of the 5,462 who died, only 379 were actually killed in battle. The others died from tropical disease and unspecified "other" causes, including malaria, yellow fever, and dysentery. By the Treaty of Paris (signed December 10, 1898), Spain renounced all claim to Cuba, ceded Guam and Puerto Rico to the United States, and transferred sovereignty over the Philippines to the United States for \$20,000,000.

On January 1, 1899, General Brooke took formal control of Havana. Within the year American corporations had set up offices in Cuba, buying up farm land to control the sugar, tobacco and mines. Edward M. Knapp was sent out with other American soldiers to villages across Cuba to convince the Cuban people to vote in the election for annexation to the United States, explaining the benefits to them. On June 16, 1900 the Cuban people went to vote for independence or for annexation to the United States. They voted for independence. The Cuban flag flew over Havana again, and on May 20, 1902, Tomás Estrada Palma was sworn in as the first president of the new Republic of Cuba.

On December 16, 1903, the U.S. signed a treaty with the Cuban government leasing Bahía Honda and Guantánamo Bay as deep water naval bases for \$2,000 a year. There is no 99-year clause, and the treaty could only be terminated when both governments agreed to the termination. Bahía Honda was abandoned in 1912 for expansion of land leased around Guantánamo Bay.²⁷

In 1909, Cuba asked the United States to take control over the government and President Theodore Roosevelt appointed a military governor of Cuba on January 28, 1909. A total of 92 kilometers of new roads were constructed during the occupation and the U.S. Army manned about thirty different posts. After the second U.S. military occupation of Cuba ended, revolutionary forces continued fighting in Cuba. In 1910, fighting stopped with the arrival of additional U.S. military personnel. The United States has been in Cuba since the Spanish-American war and remains at our naval base in Guantánamo Bay today. From 1880 to 1959 there was a revolutionary movement in Cuba. In 1959, the new Cuban government (with Fidel Castro as their leader) requested the return of Guantánamo Bay, but the U.S. banned its soldiers from entering Cuban territory, and told Castro, NO! The United States reinforced Guantánamo Bay by installing mines and wire. In retaliation Castro then took control of all the American companies in Cuba.

The Knapp Involvement with the Panama Canal - When Edward Knapp left Cuba is not known, but he continued to work for the government as a civil servant until late 1910. He may have gone to Panama to work on the canal. His sister, Josephine B. Knapp was located in the Panama Canal Zone on August 4, 1912 when she left Cristobal on the ship "Colon" for New York City. Then again on November 22, 1913, Josephine left Cristobal on the ship "Panama" going to New York City. She listed her home residence as Destin, Florida. She was found in the 1920 Federal Census in St. Louis, Missouri as a nurse, so she may have been transporting sick patients aboard ships back from Panama to New York during the building of the Panama Canal.^{28,29}

France attempted to build a canal across the Isthmus of Panama from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean from 1881 to 1902, but failed. The United States took over the construction of the Panama Canal in 1904. In 1905, President Theodore Roosevelt sent a team of engineers to Panama. Edward Knapp could have been with them. They had to build places for workers to live, baseball fields, billiard rooms, an assembly room, a reading room, bowling

²⁵ War Department Pension Record - Edward M. Knapp dated April 8, 1919

²⁶ USS Maine (ARC-1), Wikipedia - [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Maine_\(ARC-1\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Maine_(ARC-1))

²⁷ Cuba-American Treaty 1903, Wikipedia -

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cuban%E2%80%93American_Treaty

²⁸ Passenger Arrivals, Ellis Island 1892-1924 - Ships Colon and Panama

²⁹ 1920 Federal Census - St. Louis, Missouri

alleys, dark rooms for the camera clubs, gymnastic equipment, an ice cream parlor and soda fountain, and a circulating library. Hotels and stores were also built. The project was mammoth; they built two lakes, cut through mountains and constructed two dams and many large locks.³⁰



Dredges Building the Panama Canal

On October 10, 1913, the dike at Gamboa, which had kept the Culebra Cut isolated from Gatun Lake, was demolished; the initial detonation was set off telegraphically by President Woodrow Wilson in Washington, DC. On January 7, 1914, the *Alexandre La Valley*, an old French crane boat, became the first ship to make a complete transit of the Panama Canal under its own steam, having worked its way across in the final stages of construction. There were 40,000 workers working on the Canal. According to hospital records, 5,609 workers died from disease and accidents during the American construction of the Canal.

Could Edward Knapp also have been working for the government in the Panama Canal Zone? After his discharge from the military Knapp stayed in Cuba and he served as clerk, Engineer Department at Large, from April 17, 1899 to July 31, 1902, at the Engineer Office, Territorial Department. Then the same day, July 31, 1902, under Presidential Executive Order dated May 6, 1896 whereby President Grover Cleveland established the civil service Knapp was appointed clerk in classified service (Civil Service) in Cuba.

It was at this point that he may have been reassigned to Panama to assist with the building of the Panama Canal, which was a very large engineering project. The next we know of Edward is when his wife had a baby in St. Louis, Missouri. Their second child, a daughter Rhoda I. Knapp, was born on April 9, 1906. Edward Knapp continued working as a civil servant for the U.S. Army until November 30, 1910 when he resigned. He and his family planned to join Edward's parents in Northwest Florida, near Destin, when they returned to the United States.³¹

The Knapp's Homestead in Shoals (Washington County), Florida – Edward's parents had staked a claim under the Homestead Act of 1862 on land in Shoals, Florida in 1909. On April 24, 1914 his father, John S. Knapp was granted Land Patent #392038 on Lots 1 & 2 in Section 29 in Township 2 South, Range 21 West. These lots contained one hundred and forty-four and 15/100 acres and the patent was granted by President Woodrow Wilson. One of

these lots could have been where Edward Knapp built his home.³²

Under the Homestead Act, one had to file a claim for a property, make improvements on the land; build a home, barns, plant crops, and live there for six months of every year. After 5 years the homesteader could apply for title to the property. These Land Patents were granted by the president of the United States. This tells us that John Knapp filed his claim in 1909. Edwards's brother, George D. Knapp, also was granted a homestead on February 21, 1917 by President Woodrow Wilson for one hundred and sixty acres in the northeast quarter of Section 30 in Township 2 South, Range 21 West. This area was known as Shoals, probably because the water in Choctawhatchee Bay in this area was very shallow.³³

Shoals was located on the south side of Choctawhatchee Bay just beyond the east end of the Moreno Point Military Reservation. In 1913 the land along the Gulf of Mexico in Washington County was divided between Okaloosa, Walton, and Bay Counties. The east end of the military reservation became the county line between Okaloosa and Walton Counties. Shoals was the first city in Walton County about seven miles east of the village of Destin, as seen in the 1920 map below.



1920 Map of Northwest Florida – Showing Shoals, Florida

Another well-known future Destinities that homesteaded land in Shoals, Florida was Clement E. Taylor. The Taylors homesteaded two 80 acre parcels in Section 28, Township 2 South, Range 21 West. That land is where the Silver Sands Premium Outlet Mall is located today.^{34,35}

How did Edward Knapp hear about Florida and why did he come here? Could it be that he met people from Destin? Was it the Homestead Act, or maybe both? It happens that before 1910 Andrew Destin was also in Cuba just like Edward Knapp. Andrew was stationed as a lighthouse keeper at the Guantánamo Bay naval base. His brother, Alfred Destin was 90 miles north in Boot Key, Florida as the keeper of the East Washerwoman Shoal Beacon, near

³² Patent Deed #392036 – Book 39, Page 83, Walton County, Florida, Dated March 13, 1914

³³ Patent Deed #568658 – Book 39, Page 146, Walton County, Florida, Dated February 21, 1917

³⁴ Patent Deed #920862 – Book 39, Page 203, Walton County, Florida, Dated October 15, 1923

³⁵ Patent Deed #869146 – Book 62, Page 357, Walton County, Florida, Dated June 21, 1922

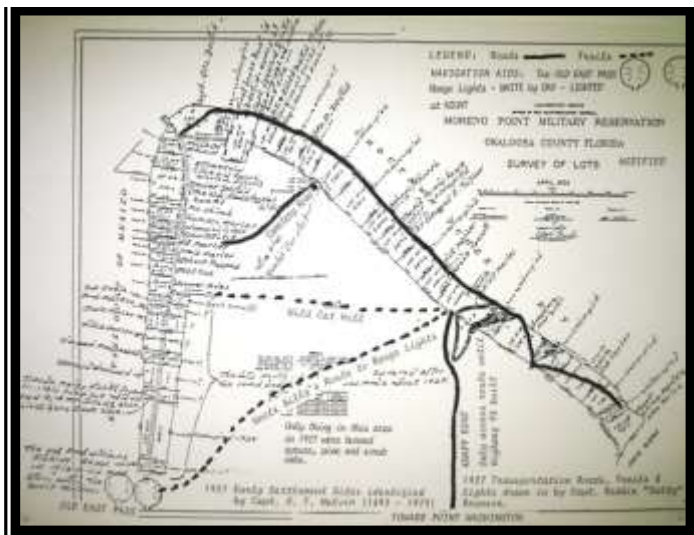
³⁰ History of Panama Canal, Wikipedia - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Panama_Canal

³¹ Cecily Knapp's Declaration For Widow's Pension - Dated March 5, 1919

present day Marathon, Florida. These were the youngest sons of Leonard Destin the founder of Destin, Florida; both eventually settled in south Florida, had families and died in the Miami, Florida area in 1941.^{36,37}

Edward Knapp's Relocation to Shoals, Florida - Edward Knapp resigned on November 30, 1910 from civil service and relocated to Shoals (Washington County), Florida on land that his parents owned. It does seem that he was in the area before 1910 because he was well known to the locals in Destin, Florida. In 1925 the population of Shoals was 32 and Destin was 32. They were the same size. Destin had a post office and a store run by William T. "Billy" Marler. Billy was the postmaster, store operator, and the light tender at the old East Pass which was the inlet to Choctawhatchee Bay.

From a map drawn in 1927 of the Destin pioneer settlers, we find one mention of the Knapps. On this map is the Knapp Road that went from Billy Marler's post office to Shoals. One of the Knapps probably built this road. Edward and Lester Knapp were with the U.S. Army Engineers, George or his father, John Knapp also could have built it. It was the only road into Destin until Highway 98 was built in the mid-1930s.



1930 Government Survey with homes and roads written in by O. T. Melvin and Capt. Reddin Brunson

Edward M. Knapp's Death and Burial – After years of living in foreign countries and working in the U.S. Army's engineering department both as a servicemember and as a civil servant Edward Knapp decided to resign his position on November 30, 1910. Edward and Cecily decided to move with their two children to land homesteaded by Edward's parents at Shoals, Florida.

On December 26, 1910, four weeks after Edward retired from the government, he was in Florida moving his family to Shoals when he drowned in Choctawhatchee Bay between Santa Rosa and Shoals. From an affidavit from William T. "Billy" Marler, we know what happened to him. Edward fell off a motor boat while moving furniture to his

home in Shoals and died. He was pulled from the water, but no one knew how to resuscitate him.³⁸

There wasn't a cemetery in Shoals, and everybody who came to Shoals came through Destin because the water around Shoals was so shallow. Billy built the coffin, helped conduct the funeral service, and ordered the Woodman of the World gravestone. The gravestone came over from Niceville, Florida where the local chapter of the Woodsman of the World fraternal organization was located. According to an affidavit handwritten by Billy, he had been the postmaster of Destin since 1899 and had been the light keeper for East Pass for 34 years. Billy and his son, William E. Marler, both knew Edward and were friends of his and both were at his funeral.

The whole community of Destin came together to take care of their neighbors and allowed this man from another community to be buried in their cemetery. Edward's family was there too; Cecily, his wife and son, Nathan, and daughter, Rhoda and Edwards's parents. After Edward's death Cecily, and the children moved back to St. Louis. The children grew and married, but had no children of their own. Cecily remarried and out lived her husband; she died in St. Louis, Missouri in 1954.^{39,40}

Edward's father, John, stayed in Shoals, Florida on his homestead as did his children George and Josephine. Before 1914 John and his wife, Christina went into the old soldier's home in Quincy, Riverside Township (Adams County), Illinois where they both stayed until their death - John in 1921 and Christina in 1937. Josephine went on to St. Louis and George went on to Nebraska in 1917.^{41,42}

Over the years, at one time or another, both homesteads were owned by all members of the Knapp family named here, even Edward's children. They tried for years to sell the homestead property at Shoals. They sold it back and forth to each other for \$1. The property was finally sold by George D. Knapp and Harry H. Knapp on February 11, 1937 in Douglas County, Nebraska to the DeFuniak Naval Stores Company for \$100.00 for 304 acres. There was blight on the orange trees in this part of Florida so most of the trees were burned to stop the spread of disease. This could have led to the decrease in value of the homesteads.^{43,44,45}

This ends the mystery of who Edward M. Knapp was and why he is buried in Destin's Marler Memorial Cemetery...and shows how the young community of Destin came together to take care of even an outsider in need.

By Bill Mills – rifnraf51@hotmail.com

³⁸ Affidavit Filed with Cecily Knapp Widow's Pension Papers by William T. Marler, Dated August 24, 1936

³⁹ Affidavit Filed with Cecily Knapp Widow's Pension Papers by Nathan Knapp, Dated August 31, 1939

⁴⁰ Rhoda Rose, Daughter of Cecily - Administratrix for Cecily's Estate Filed November 10, 1955

⁴¹ 1920 Federal Census - St. Louis County, Missouri

⁴² 1920 Federal Census - Omaha, Douglas County, Nebraska

⁴³ Land Transfer Trust by Christina Knapp for her Five Children - Dated Sept. 18, 1920, Hidalgo County, Texas

⁴⁴ Warranty Deed – Book 79, Page 92, Walton County, Florida, Dated February 11, 1937

⁴⁵ The Town That Canker Killed – Destin History...and The Roots Run Deep by Vivian Mettee ©1970 – Pages 1-6

³⁶ 1910 Federal Census – U.S. Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

³⁷ 1910 Federal Census - Florida Reef Light Houses, Monroe County, Florida



Civil War Sesquicentennial

Selected Highlights of June 1864

<http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/june-1864-civil-war.htm>

The plight the South found itself in was highlighted when the Confederate government ordered that men up to the age of 70 could be conscripted into the army. Grant lost a considerable number of men at Cold Harbor but they could be replaced. Any loss for the South now was of much greater harm.

June 1st: The Battle of Cold Harbor started. Grant attacked Lee's position near to the 1862 Seven Days battlefields.

Sherman sent out nearly 7,000 troops (3,000 cavalry and nearly 4,000 infantry) to hunt down the cavalry of Bedford Forrest, who continued to be a serious problem along Sherman's supply lines. It was Bedford Forrest's cavalry that was associated with the Fort Pillow, Tennessee, incident.

June 3rd: At 0430 Grant launched a major attack on Lee's positions at Cold Harbor. However, Lee's men were well dug in and in just one hour the Union force lost 7,000 men. The Confederates lost 1,500 men. At 12:00 Grant called off the attack. If the attack had been successful nothing would have stopped Grant and the Army of the Potomac getting to Richmond – just eight miles away. Those living in the city could hear the cannon fire.

June 5th: The South suffered a major defeat at Piedmont in the Shenandoah Valley. A Confederate force of 5,000 suffered 1,500 casualties, including the loss of their commanding officer, General W E Jones.

June 10th: The Confederate Congress introduced military service for all men in the South aged between 17 and 70.

Bedford Forrest defeated a large Union force at Brice's Cross Roads, Mississippi. Forrest had 3,500 men under his command while the Union cavalry force, commanded by General Samuel Stugis, stood at 8,000. The Union army suffered over 25% casualties (a total of 2,240) to Forrest's total loss of 492 men.

June 13th: Lee withdrew his army to Richmond in the belief that Grant had built the roads and pontoons to allow his army to get behind the Army of Northern Virginia and attack Richmond. Lee was wrong in his assessment.

June 14th: The South lost one of its top generals, Leonidas Polk. Killed by artillery fire on Pine Mountain, Polk was not a great strategic commander but he was popular with his men and his loss was a bitter blow to the morale of the Army of the Tennessee.

June 15th: The North started a major assault on Petersburg, the 'backdoor to Richmond'.

June 16th: More units from the Army of the Potomac joined the attack on Petersburg. Against the odds, the defenders held out.

June 17th: The defenders of Petersburg managed a counter-attack. It was not successful, but it did stop the Union troops from advancing any nearer to Petersburg.

June 18th: Lee's main army arrived at Petersburg to bolster the city's defences. The North carried out the last of its attacks – the four days fighting for Petersburg had cost the Union 8,000 men.

June 20th: Grant decided to besiege Petersburg. He concluded that even the Army of the Potomac could not sustain further heavy losses.

June 21st: President Lincoln paid a visit to Grant's headquarters in City Point, Virginia. Grant enlivened the command of the army by appointing new generals. He hoped that new blood would invigorate the way the Army of the Potomac is led. One of his appointments was General David Birney who was given the command of II Corps.



Grant's Headquarters in City Point, Virginia

June 22nd: The Confederates launched a ferocious attack on Birney's II Corps at Jerusalem Plank Road. Birney lost 604 killed, 2494 wounded and 1600 captured. The Confederates lost in total 500 men.

June 25th: Union forces started to build a tunnel underneath one of the main Confederate redoubts in Petersburg.

June 27th: Sherman launched a major attack against Confederate positions at Kennesaw Mountain. The North's forces were stopped just short of the Confederates front line. Union losses were 2,000 killed or wounded out of 16,000 men.

June 28th: Though they held Sherman at Kennesaw Mountain, the South knew that it was only a matter of time until it fell, such was the size of the force they were facing. Their commander here, Johnston, decided to pull back to the Chattahoochee River.

Events, Groups, and Sites of GSOC Interest

Future 2014 GSOC Programs

Date, Speaker, Topic

June 14, Don Allgood, A guide to Okaloosa County records

July 12, Amy Raley, *The Federal Road*, immigration routes of the old Southwest.

August 9, Bert Blackmon, Military records

September 13, Show & Tell, three or four GSOC members discuss their own genealogical "finds"

October 11, George and M. Legge, Using the LDS Family Search website

November 8, Nicole Bucchino, *Tombstone Tales: Cemeteries, Symbols & Stories*

December 13, Annual GSOC Christmas Luncheon, location to be determined

The Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida

115 Westview Ave., Valparaiso, FL 32580



**HERITAGE
MUSEUM**
of Northwest Florida

The Florida Chautauqua, a free lunch-time lecture, Friday, June 13, 12:00 p.m. at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida.

Historian and Archivist, Robert Daniel will talk about the Florida Chautauqua, its history, the Chautauqua Movement, its growth, accomplishments and effects on our region during **History Sandwiched-In**, Friday, June 13, 12 p.m. at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida. Bring a sandwich and take your lunch break at the Heritage Museum during this informal lunchtime education program.

This lecture is free and open to the public. Please call to reserve a seat: (850) 678-2615

West Florida Genealogical Society

June 7, 2014 at 10 AM

West Florida Genealogy Library, 5740 N. 9th Ave., Pensacola, FL 850 494-7373

There will be a presentation by two young Elders on the new records and features of **Family Search**. 1.3 million new records were added last year and over 400,000 since January of this year. They will discuss how to do a search, a pedigree fan chart, share photos, build a family tree, chat with a live person for help, and Finding our Cousins, using Puzilla. Mrs. Lee Scott will also be available to answer any indepth general questions. **FamilySearch.org** is free anywhere, has lots of records to access, and our library volunteers have had training to assist you with it.

Personal Genealogy & Family History Workshop

Monthly workshops - 1st Sunday 3:00 to 5:00pm
(Apr & Oct - 1st Thursday 10:30am to 12:30pm)

339 Lake Drive, Fort Walton Beach

ABSOLUTELY FREE...NO STRINGS...NO HIDDEN AGENDAS

Bring your genealogy & family history challenges and let's work them together...like a family.

Questions & Details
Marc "Poppy" Strickland
marcstrickland5@gmail.com
850-855-0319

For more information, contact Marc "Poppy" Strickland,
marcstrickland5@gmail.com, 850-855-0319

Valparaiso Community Library

459 Valparaiso Parkway
Valparaiso, FL 32580
(850) 729-5406

Genealogy University



Associate History Professor David Weatherford discusses genealogy, American Southern history, and family history. Topics will include American and World history, U.S. immigration/migration patterns, and research techniques. Class meets at 9:30 a.m. every Wednesday.

GSOC INFORMATION

Officers for 2014

President, James Young
1st Vice President (Programs), Del Lessard
2nd Vice President (Membership), Sue Basch
Treasurer, Bob Basch,
Recording Secretary, Pat Pruett
Corresponding Secretary, Carl Laws
Immediate Past President, Donna Elliott

Journal Editor, TBD; Historian, TBD
Genealogist, Margaret Harris
Publicity Chairperson, Val Moreland
Webmaster & Newsletter Editor, Jim Young

(Elected, Appointed, and Ex Officio positions)

Addresses

P.O. Box 1175, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-1175
Web Site: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~flocgs>
Email: gsocokaloosa@yahoo.com
Newsletter Editor: youngjmy@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 youngjmy@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 2013 issue, Volume XXXII, Issue 102, was published and distributed in December 2013.

The Web Site

The GSOC web site is hosted by Rootsweb at:
<http://www.rootsweb.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.

The GSOC Publications Disk

This compact disk (CD) contains all of the books listed below in searchable PDF files. To get a copy, please send your check for \$17.00 (shipping is included) with your order information to GSOC, P.O. Box 1175, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-1175, and mark your envelope "Book Sales"

Volume I, Cemeteries of Okaloosa County, Florida; 24 cemeteries east of the Yellow River & north of the Shoal River and I-10

Volume II, Cemeteries of Okaloosa County, Florida; 26 cemeteries north and west of the Yellow River

Volume III, Cemeteries of Okaloosa County, Florida; 11 cemeteries south of the Shoal River

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, parent's names are indexed.

Santa Rosa County Marriages, 1869-1906

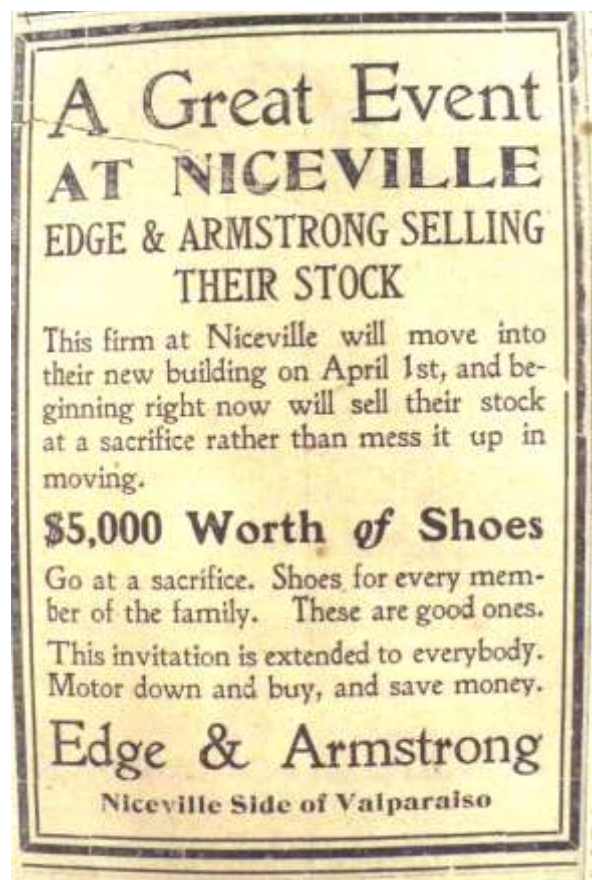
Over 7,000 names with every-name index, 123 pages.

Walton County Marriages, 1895-1915

Over 10,000 names with every-name index, 165 pages.

Nostalgia

94 Years Ago in Okaloosa County:



Advertisement Courtesy of the
Niceville, Florida – Online History Center
at <http://bogglyflorida.com/Niceville/>
Created by Elisa Mitchiner (boggyhistory@yahoo.com)



The June GSOC meeting will be held on Saturday, June 14, at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida at 10 AM.

The speaker for our June meeting will be Mr. Don Allgood, Director of Records in the Okaloosa County Clerk of Circuit Court office. Mr. Allgood will discuss the functions of his office and provide us a guide to the records maintained there and how to access them.

"Whatever you know, whatever you learn – Pass it On!"

HONOR THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE

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

