

THE GSOC NEWSLETTER

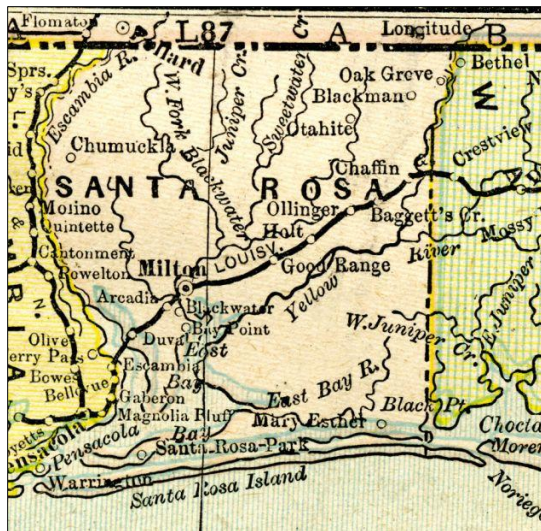
THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF
OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

JUNE 5, 2015

Next GSOC Meeting
Milton Public Library, Milton, Florida
June 13, 2015, 10:00 AM

Field Trip for the June GSOC Meeting

The GSOC meeting on June 13th will be a visit to the **Milton, FL, public library**. Milton is the county seat of Santa Rosa County and the eastern part of that county was taken in 1915 to form the western part of Okaloosa county.



Santa Rosa County Before 1915

History professor Dr. Brian Rucker, a 7th-generation Santa Rosan, will give us a presentation on the history of Santa Rosa County leading up to the creating of Okaloosa County 100 years ago.



The Milton library has an excellent genealogy section including on-line access to Ancestry.com and other digital resources. These will be available for our use.

May GSOC Meeting Minutes Baker Block Museum, Baker, Florida

May 9, 2015

Pat Pruett, Recording Secretary

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

Since there was no business to be conducted, VP Lessard proceeded to introduce the director of the Baker Block Museum, Ms. Ann Spann.

She explained the history of the museum and the donation of the mercantile store that was in use in Baker for one hundred years before the museum existed. She covered all the records available at the Baker Block Museum which are of great help to researchers concerning Okaloosa, Escambia and Santa Rosa counties.

She mentioned a new book called "Okaloosa Strong" which is used in local schools and will be available at the annual Heritage Festival in Baker.

Del reminded us that the June meeting will be a field trip to the Milton Library for research. He then asked for a show of hands of those who would be staying to eat lunch in at the Gator Cafe. Sixteen persons attended.

The meeting was then closed and all those present spent our time on research projects and in viewing the displays in the Museum itself.

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PRESERVING OUR FAMILY HISTORY

Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations; ask thy father, and he will shew thee; thy elders, and they will tell thee. Deuteronomy 32:7 (KJV)

Hog Killing Time

by Monette Morgan Young

The children of today, and many adults, would be horrified by what was required for our ancestors to get meat. Today we go into the supermarket and buy carefully packaged cuts of meat with little or no thought of where they came from. This account describes how pork, a staple in every household back then, was obtained. The lack of refrigerators and freezers dictated, as described here, how the meat was treated.

I will try to recount a hog killing day- It was always a cold day but not a freezing day. If meat froze during or before the curing process was completed it spoiled. And naturally my parents always chose a clear dry cold day. I hated the whole procedure. It was always handled in our small backyard and the whole yard became a great mess with all the butcher work going on there.

The day would come - never on a Saturday for it could not be completed in one day - and Daddy would take his rifle and go to the hog lot. He must have been a good shot for I never heard but the one shot and one agonized squeal and that was it. One shot from him always got the rabbit or hawk or owl, etc., he aimed at.

After he killed the animal he had an old slide waiting. He had a horse- or mule-drawn slide (really a sled, but he called it a slide) and he would take down a section of the split rail fence to retrieve the dead hog. Our hog pasture had no gates.

By the time I remember real well, neighborhood help from the local men was scarce; but he and Mother somehow managed to have several hogs to kill, smaller hogs than if there was plenty of strong help. Our nearest neighbor Mr. Ander was not a strong man and by then Jim and John and Preston, the sons, were married and had moved away. Mrs. Caldwell's family, our next nearest neighbor, were all female. So Daddy would handle a 300 or 350 pound hog alone.

I can recall a strong tripod sort of thing that Daddy set up in the back yard to hang the hog on. We had a huge wash pot which had been filled with water earlier and a fire had been built around it and the water was boiling.

So Daddy would come up with the hog on the slide and the hog would already have been fastened into a "single-tree", a short strong wooden bar with iron hooks on either end and a strong iron hook in the middle. The hog would be fastened to the two end hooks by his strong lower leg tendons and hoisted up under the tripod by the middle hook. His throat had been cut and he had been bled.

Two carpenter's saw horses were put in the yard with planks laid across them to use for the final cleaning and the cutting. A barrel would have been inserted in the ground the day before, very slanted. After the hog was bled he was inserted into the barrel - somehow first one end of the hog then the other was put in there and it was

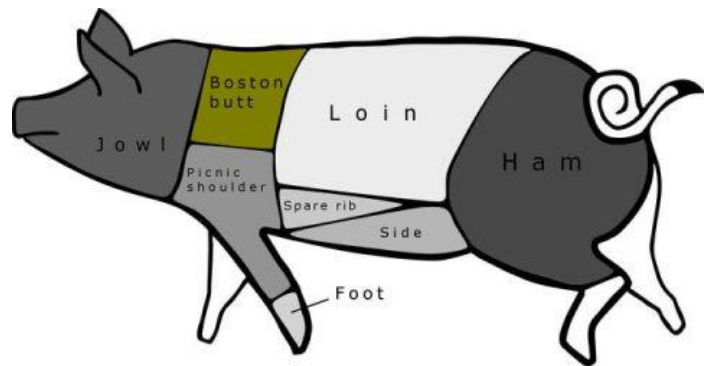
scalded with the boiling water from the pot. The boiling water was poured over him and he was pushed up and down in the water.

Then he was scraped of hair. Part of the scraping was done while he was hanging and I think a part of it was done while he was lying on the improvised platform of planks. He was disemboweled while hanging and the intestines were caught in tubs and Mother and I had to get the "leaf fat. That is the thin fat clinging and connecting the intestine curls. When finally removed, an impressive amount, it was put to one side along with the fat cut off the hams, shoulders, and middlings (bacon) to be later cooked into lard. The long lean loin strip was removed without the bone. Today's butchers leave the bone on the loin strip and call it pork chops.

The leaf fat from the intestines did not have any smell other than a natural meat smell. Mother would not have fooled with preparing chitterlings or have had the smell of them in her house or even near her house.

After we finished with the intestines, Daddy would haul them off on the slide, deep in the woods into a ravine and soon we would see buzzards circling - nature's scavengers.

Daddy cut the hog into appropriate pieces. He would have washed it well after the scraping.



Mother and I would have to cut the fat trimmings off the aforementioned pieces into very small strips. We would start it cooking in the large pot. We cooked the leaf fat in a separate small pot. All this was done so very slowly. Mother knew just how much fire was needed - only a bed of coals to keep around the pots just to keep a simmer. The lard was so precious, we thought. It was our only seasoning for vegetables and for frying. We ate the butter which we made but did not use it for seasoning.

Daddy also trimmed much of the hog's lean portion and it was set aside for sausage making. I protested bitterly. I hated sausage then (but love it now.) Once, to my great distress, they put all that fine lean loin in it, and we heard of some who put hams in it.

Some fat had to be included in the sausage. Mother's proportions were just right. Even though I disliked it, she made the best sausage I ever tasted. She and I also cut the sausage pieces into portions which would fit the sausage grinder. I was the grinder operator. A long and hard job!



After Daddy cut the hog into the mentioned pieces, they took it into the smokehouse and started the curing process. We did not use the smokehouse to smoke meat since we used the "sugar-cured" process. There were big wooden boxes in there. These were for the start of the curing and were partly filled with salt and the hams, etc., were laid in the boxes, skin side up. The cut side was lying on the salt to absorb salt. A thin film of salt was sprinkled over the top side. But they did not bury their meat because of the body heat that was still in it. It needed to be exposed enough to cool down quickly or it might spoil. Some people occasionally did bury it too deep in the salt and much spoilage resulted.

They then started a blinding smoky fire in the smokehouse, but that was only to keep out the green flies (blue-bottle) until the meat was cooled enough to bury completely in the salt.

They killed hogs only when they were sure the temperature would not drop below freezing during the night that the meat lay in its light filming of salt. It was usually a 38 or 40 degree night. I think that after about 3 days they buried the meat in the salt for 6 wks.

Meantime Mother made the sausage of the mound of meat I had ground up. She seasoned and flavored it just so. With plenty of salt and her home-grown, dried and crumbled sage. And with a minimum of pepper.

We had a few sacks we stuffed with sausage but not many. We did not like it after it became rancid in the sacks. Mother canned many jars of it. She fried it, put it into dry and very sterile jars, poured plenty of the hot sausage fat into each jar and turned the jar upside down after it was sealed. A double sealing that was. Not one jar ever spoiled.

We usually finished after dark - the lard business. After the lard had cooked Mother had buckets, 10 lb. lard buckets, from sometime when she had had to buy lard. Some people used stone jars - 2 and 3 and 4 and 5 gallon sized. We did not. She also had some 5 lb. lard buckets. and she strained the lard into these. When it cooled it was snowy white. After that we cleaned the wash pot and made very sure the fire was watered completely out so no stray spark could set the house on fire in the night. That had happened to others.

Mother usually got the sausage made after dark too. It was all in all about a 15 hour procedure. The ribs, backbones, etc., etc, would have been covered or sprinkled heavily with salt and put in the smoke house over night. I would have been sent with some to the Mr. Andrew family and to Mrs. Caldwell's. The next day Daddy would finish cleaning up the back yard.

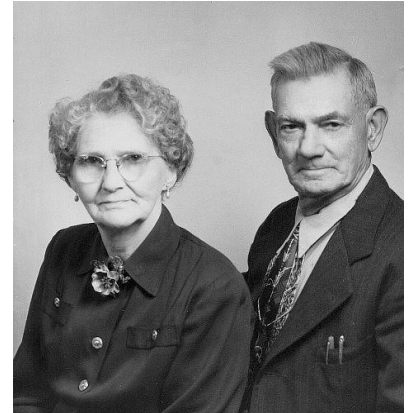
He would go to Granddaddy's with meat too. I never went that far alone. By the next day sausage was ready to be carried around to the neighbors.

After six weeks the hams, middlings and shoulders were taken out of the salt. Mother washed and completely dried them then she rubbed them with a special preparation: sugar, salt, lots of black pepper and some saltpeter for prevention of insect invasion. She would rub them well, put them in clean individual cloth bags and then wrap them in paper then put them in another sack and hang them in the smokehouse. Not one ever spoiled, and oh! what eating!

**Eula Barbara
Murphree Morgan
and Albert Hosea
Morgan**

**Parents of Monette
Morgan Young**

**Moved from their
farm into town in
1936**

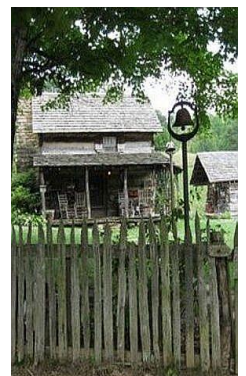


Eula Barbara Murphree Morgan 1885 - 1981 Albert Hosea Morgan 1881 - 1956

We worked hard and I was an only child. I always regretted that so much and envied my many cousins their siblings. Back then none of us had many, if any, "bought" toys. One of my favorite playthings was a large bed of ants in the backyard. I would build them castles of clay and put food in and they would visit there. I also would build bridges and they would use my bridges. Some years later, people begin to box ants up and sell them as interesting playthings. I had been laughed at by the community for playing with them.

When we were in the fields, we ate lunch by the neighbors' dinner bells. We did not have one because Daddy could not have heard it in the bottom field. When he was in the new ground or in the fields below the orchard he could hear Miss Betty White's bell or Mrs. Doss's. When he and/or we, were in the bottom fields we could hear the bells over on the James place. Various families had bells in that area. I think Mrs. Caldwell had one and I think Grandmother had one. We knew all their voices. But we and Daddy did not really need one. When his shadow became a round blob directly under him he knew it was noon time and by his shadow he could estimate the other daytime hours. He became his own sundial.

How sweet those bells sounded- so reassuring. When we heard them ringing, we knew the neighbor men were well and able to be in the field and the wives were able to cook them food. They were wordless messages to the rest of us.

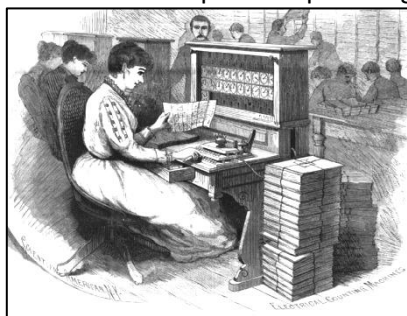


What Happened to the 1890 Census Records?

Perhaps none of the decennial population census schedules might have been more critical to studies of immigration, industrialization, westward migration, and characteristics of the general population than the Eleventh Census of the United States, taken in June 1890. United States residents completed millions of detailed questionnaires, yet only a miniscule fragment of the general population schedules and an incomplete set of the special schedules enumerating Union veterans and widows are available today.

References to the 1890 census records routinely say that they were destroyed by fire in 1921, but an examination of the records of the Bureau of Census and other federal agencies reveals a much more complicated story.

There was not a permanent Census Bureau until 1902. The 1890 Census was administered by the Department of the Interior and political patronage was the most common basis for the appointment of the nearly 47,000 enumerators; no examination was required. This was the first U.S. census to use Herman Hollerith's electrical tabulation system, a method by which data representing



certain population characteristics were punched into cards and tabulated. The censuses of 1790 through 1880 required all or part of schedules to be filed in county clerks' offices. Ironically, this was not required in 1890, and the original (and presumably only) copies of the schedules were forwarded to Washington.

June 1, 1890, was the official census date, and all responses were to reflect the status of the household on that date. The 1890 census law allowed enumerators to distribute schedules in advance and later gather them up (as was done in England), supposedly giving individuals adequate time to accurately provide information. Evidently this method was not at all successful. As in other censuses, if an individual was absent, the enumerator was authorized to obtain information from the person living nearest the family.

The 1890 census schedules differed from previous ones in several ways. For the first time, enumerators prepared a separate schedule for each family. The schedule contained expanded inquiries relating to race (white, black, mulatto, quadroon, octoroon, Chinese, Japanese, or Indian), home ownership, ability to speak English, immigration, and naturalization. Enumerators asked married women for the number of children born and the number living at the time of the census to determine fecundity. The 1890 schedules also included a question relating to Civil War service.

On the population schedule there were fourteen inquiries common to the schedules of 1880 and 1890, while in 1890 there were ten additional points of information.

Enumerators generally completed their counting by July 1 of 1890, and the U.S. population was officially determined to be nearly 63 million. Complaints about accuracy and undercounting poured into the census office, as did demands for recounts. The 1890 census seemed mired in fraud and political intrigue.

In March 1896, before final publication of all general statistics volumes, the original 1890 special schedules for mortality, crime, pauperism and benevolence, special classes (e.g., deaf, dumb, blind, insane), and portions of the transportation and insurance schedules were badly damaged by fire and destroyed by Department of the Interior order. No damage to the general population schedules was reported at that time. In fact, a 1903 census clerk found them to be in "fairly good condition."

Despite repeated ongoing requests by the secretary of commerce and others for an archives building where all census schedules could be safely stored, by January 10, 1921, the schedules could be found piled in an orderly manner on closely placed pine shelves in an unlocked file room in the basement of the Commerce Building. At about five o'clock on that afternoon, people saw smoke coming through openings from the boiler room into the file room. Minutes later a watchman noticed smoke in



the fifth floor men's bathroom. He took the elevator to the basement but was forced back by the dense smoke. By then, the fire department had arrived, the house alarm was pulled, and a dozen employees still working on upper floors were evacuated.

After some setbacks from the intense smoke, firemen gained access to the basement. While a crowd of ten thousand watched, they

poured twenty streams of water into the building and flooded the cellar through holes cut into the concrete floor. The fire did not go above the basement, seemingly thanks to a fireproofed floor.

By 9:45 p.m. the fire was extinguished, but firemen poured water into the burned area past 10:30 p.m. With the blaze extinguished, despite the obvious damage and need for immediate salvage efforts, the chief clerk opened windows to let out the smoke, and except for watchmen on patrol, everyone went home.

The morning after was an archivist's nightmare. Although the basement vault was considered fireproof and watertight, water seeped through a broken wired-glass panel in the door and under the floor, damaging some earlier and later census schedules on the lower tiers. The 1890 census, however, was stacked outside the vault and was, according to one source, "first in the path of the firemen." That morning, Census Director Sam Rogers reported the extensive damage to the 1890 schedules, estimating 25 percent destroyed, with 50 percent of the remainder damaged by water, smoke, and fire. Salvage of the watersoaked and charred documents might be possible, reported the bureau, but saving even a small part would take a month, and it would take two to three years to copy off and save all the records damaged in the fire. The preliminary assessment of Census Bureau Clerk T. J. Fitzgerald was far more sobering. Fitzgerald told reporters that the priceless 1890 records were "certain to be absolutely ruined. There is no method of restoring the legibility of a water-soaked volume."

Four days later, Sam Rogers complained they had not and would not be permitted any further work on the schedules until the insurance companies completed their examination. Rogers issued a state-by-state report of the number of volumes damaged by water in the basement vault, including volumes from the 1830, 1840, 1880, 1900, and 1910 censuses. The total number of damaged vault volumes numbered 8,919, of which 7,957 were from the 1910 census. Rogers estimated that 10 percent of these vault schedules would have to be "opened and dried, and some of them recopied." Thankfully, the census schedules of 1790-1820 and 1850-1870 were on the fifth floor of the Commerce Building and reportedly not damaged. The new 1920 census was housed in a temporary building at Sixth and B Streets, SW, except for some of the nonpopulation schedules being used on the fourth floor.

The disaster spurred renewed cries and support for a National Archives, notably from congressmen, census officials, and longtime archives advocates. It also gave rise to proposals for better records protection in current storage spaces. The *Washington Post* expressed outrage that the Declaration of Independence and Constitution were in danger even at the moment, being stored at the Department of State in wooden cabinets.

Meanwhile, the still soggy, "charred about the edges" original and only copies of the 1890 schedules remained in ruins. At the end of January, the records damaged in the fire were moved for temporary storage. Over the next few months, rumors spread that salvage attempts would not be made and that Census Director Sam Rogers had recommended that Congress authorize destruction of the 1890 census. Prominent historians, attorneys, and genealogical organizations wrote to new Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover, the Librarian of Congress, and other government officials in protest. The National Genealogical Society (NGS) and Daughters of the American Revolution formally petitioned Hoover and Congress, and the editor of the *NGS Quarterly* warned that a nationwide movement would begin among state societies and the press if Congress seriously considered destruction. The content of replies to the groups was invariably the same; denial of any planned destruction

and calls for Congress to provide for an archives building. Herbert Hoover wrote "the actual cost of providing a watchman and extra fire service [to protect records] probably amounts to more, if we take the government as a whole, than it would cost to put up a proper fire-proof archive building."

By May of 1921 the records were still piled in a large warehouse where, complained new census director William Steuart, they could not be consulted and would probably gradually deteriorate. Steuart arranged for their transfer back to the census building, to be bound where possible, but at least put in some order for reference.

The extant record is scanty on the storage and possible use of the 1890 schedules between 1922 and 1932 and seemingly silent on what precipitated the following chain of events. In December 1932, in accordance with federal records procedures at the time, the Chief Clerk of the Bureau of Census sent the Librarian of Congress a list of papers no longer necessary for current business and scheduled for destruction. He asked the Librarian to report back to him any documents that should be retained for their historical interest. Item 22 on the list for Bureau of the Census read "Schedules, Population . . . 1890, Original." The Librarian identified no records as permanent, the list was sent forward, and Congress authorized destruction on February 21, 1933. At least one report states the 1890 census papers were finally destroyed in 1935, and a small scribbled note found in a Census Bureau file states "remaining schedules destroyed by Department of Commerce in 1934 (not approved by the Geographer)." Further study is necessary to determine, if possible, what happened to the fervent and vigilant voices that championed these schedules in 1921. How were these records overlooked by Library of Congress staff? Who in the Census Bureau determined the schedules were useless, why, and when?

Ironically, just one day before Congress authorized destruction of the 1890 census papers, President Herbert Hoover laid the cornerstone for the National Archives Building

In 1942 the National Archives accessioned a damaged bundle of surviving Illinois schedules as part of a shipment of records found during a Census Bureau move. At the time, they were believed to be the only surviving fragments. In 1953, however, the Archives accessioned an additional set of fragments. These sets of extant fragments are from Alabama, Georgia, Illinois, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, South Dakota, Texas, and the District of Columbia and have been microfilmed as National Archives Microfilm Publication M407 (3 rolls). A corresponding index is available as National Archives Microfilm Publication M496 (2 rolls). Both microfilm series can be viewed at the National Archives, the regional archives, and several other repositories.

Before disregarding this census, researchers should always verify that the schedules they seek did not survive. There are no fewer than 6,160 names indexed on the surviving 1890 population schedules. These are someone's ancestors.

The Special 1890 Enumeration of Union Veterans and Widows

Often confused with the 1890 census, and more often overlooked or misjudged as useless, are nearly seventy-five thousand special 1890 schedules enumerating Union veterans and widows of Union veterans. Nearly all of these schedules for the states of Alabama through Kansas and approximately half of those for Kentucky appear to have been destroyed before transfer of the remaining schedules to the National Archives in 1943.

The Pension Office requested the special enumeration to help Union veterans locate comrades to testify in pension claims and to determine the number of survivors and widows for pension legislation. The superintendent of the census planned to print in volumes the veterans information (name, rank, length of service, and post office address) compiled from the 1890 enumeration and place copies with libraries and veterans organizations so individuals could more easily locate their fellow veterans.

Question 2 on the general population schedules inquired whether the subject had been "a soldier, sailor, or marine during the civil war (United States or Confederate) or widow of such person." If the veteran or widow responded "yes" to **Union** service, the enumerator produced the veterans schedule, marked the family number from the general population schedule, and proceeded to ask additional service-related questions.

Although the special enumeration was intended only for Union veterans of the Civil War and their widows, enumerators nevertheless often listed veterans and widows of earlier wars as well as Confederate veterans. Veterans of the War of 1812 are sometimes listed, and there are especially numerous entries for Mexican War veterans.

Study of the records reveals that there are some Confederates listed for every extant state. Schedules consisting nearly entirely of Confederates are not altogether uncommon, especially in extant schedules of Southern states. The Confederate names are sometimes crossed out or marked as errors (presumably by census supervisors), but the information is usually readable.

Listings for widows can also provide telling insights to the veteran's service, her life or remarriage, even their relationship. Eliza Smith of Pennsylvania was simply listed as the "grass widow of a soldier." A Wyoming widow remembered no particulars, only that her husband wore a "blue coat." Remarried widows were listed above their husband's name with their new surname.

At the completion of the 1890 enumeration, the special schedules were returned with a preliminary count of 1,099,668 Union survivors and 163,176 widows. A large number of schedules were found to be incomplete, and many veterans had been overlooked. The Census Bureau sent thousands of letters and published inquiries in hundreds of newspapers hoping to acquire missing data. The initial work of examining, verifying, and classifying the information was suspended in June 1891, awaiting a

congressional appropriation for publication of the veterans' volumes. During that same period, anticipating the publication, the bureau began transcribing information from the schedules onto a printed card for each surviving veteran or widow. No fewer than 304,607 cards were completed before this work was also halted. These cards do not seem to be extant, nor does there appear to be a final record of their disposition. Some cards may have been placed in individual service files.

The veterans' publication seemed doomed. Adequate funding was not available and many considered other census work more pressing. In 1893 the man then in charge of the census, argued that too much time had already passed to make any veterans' publication accurate and he recommended these special schedules be transferred to the Pension Office or the War Department. In 1894 Congress authorized their transfer to the Commissioner of Pensions for use in the Pension Office. The schedules were arranged and stored in bundles, generally alphabetically by name of state or territory, and numbered sequentially. In 1930 legal custody of the schedules passed from the Pension Office to the newly formed Veterans Administration, where they remained until accessioned by the National Archives in 1943.

The existing schedules in this group are available for part of Kentucky through Wyoming, Lincoln Post #3 in Washington, D.C., and selected U.S. vessels and navy yards. The schedules are generally arranged by state and county and then generally by town or post office address. The bundle containing schedules for Oklahoma and Indian Territories are arranged by enumeration districts. Although veterans schedules from the states of Alabama through Kentucky (part) are not known to exist, bundle 198 on roll 118, "Washington, DC, and Miscellaneous," also contains some schedules for California (Alcatraz), Connecticut (Fort Trumbull, Hartford County Hospital, and U.S. Naval Station), Delaware (Delaware State Hospital for the Insane), Florida (Fort Barrancas and St. Francis Barracks), Idaho (Boise Barracks and Fort Sherman), Illinois (Cook County and Henderson County), Indiana (Warrick County and White County), and Kansas (Barton County). All of the accessioned schedules have been microfilmed and are available as National Archives Microfilm Publication M123 (118 rolls).

There is no comprehensive index to the 1890 special enumeration, but indexes to some states or specific areas have been prepared by various publishing companies and private groups. These special enumerations are well worth examination. Although it may be time-consuming to wade through an unindexed county, the information rewards can be priceless and uncommon. Few series in the National Archives rival this one for anecdotal information and local color.



The information about the 1890 Census was extracted from the National Archives *Prologue* at:

<http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/1996/spring/1890-census-1.html>



Civil War Sesquicentennial

Selected Highlights of June 1865

<http://blueandgraytrail.com/year/186506>

June 2 - The last Confederate surrender in the Trans-Mississippi Theater.

The Confederate States Army's Trans-Mississippi Department included Missouri, Arkansas, Texas, Indian Territory [now Oklahoma] and Louisiana west of the Mississippi River.

June 10 - President Johnson appoints William Starkey as provisional governor of Mississippi.

June 13 - Civilian rule is restored in Mississippi.

June 13 - James Johnston, a pro-Union politician, is appointed provisional governor of Georgia.

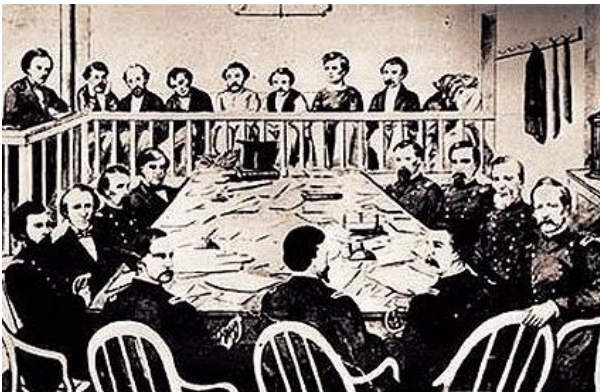
June 17 - Fire-eater Edmund Ruffin dies of his own hand at his plantation Redmoor, Amelia County, Virginia.

June 19 - General Robert S. Granger declares Emancipation Day in Texas, the date when all Negroes are officially set free. Now celebrated as Juneteenth

Juneteenth is a holiday in the United States that commemorates the announcement of the abolition of slavery in Texas, more generally the emancipation of African-American slaves throughout the Confederate South. The term is a portmanteau of *June* and *nineteenth* and is recognized as a state holiday or special day of observance in many states.

June 30 - Andrew Johnson names Benjamin F. Perry provisional governor of South Carolina.

June 30 - Conspirators in the assassination of President Lincoln are convicted by a military tribunal.



Emeline Pigott was a Confederate spy. She was born on December 15, 1836 in Carteret County, NC. When she was 25, she moved with her family to Crab Point, near current day Morehead City, North Carolina. There was an encampment of Confederate soldiers from the 26th NC Regiment stationed across the creek from their farm to help protect the North Carolina Coast. There, she met and fell in love with a young soldier by the name of Stokes McRae, son of a wealthy farm family in Montgomery County, NC. He had graduated from the University of North Carolina and had led a life of idleness until he felt he was called to fight in the Civil War.

Emeline followed the soldiers when they were moved to New Bern, hoping to be of some help. New Bern fell to the Federals after only four hours of fighting and she remained in New Bern until the last train carrying Confederate wounded left for Kinston. She remained in Kinston for several months nursing the wounded.

In May 1863, the regiment was attached to the Army of Northern Virginia and they headed north and took part in the Battle of Gettysburg on July 1. McRae, now a sergeant major, was hospitalized with a shattered thigh. He died on August 2, 1863.

In December 1863, Emeline worked her way back down to the coast and to her home near Morehead City. She organized fishermen to spy for her and she passed this information to Confederate authorities. Emeline also entertained Yankee soldier patrols at her parents' farm, distracting them long enough for her brother-in-law, Rufus Bell, to carry food into the nearby woods for Confederates hiding there.



In 1864, Emeline and Rufus were arrested on suspicion of spying while trying to carry supplies and messages across the lines. Rufus was searched and released when no contraband was found on him. While the Federal soldiers were looking for a woman to search Emeline, she ate some of the incriminating messages and tore the others into tiny pieces.

Emeline was taken to New Bern to stand trial, and she was allowed to take her cousin, Mrs. Levi Pigott, with her. Over the next month, Emeline was scheduled for trial on several occasions, but never went to a hearing. Although the reason was never revealed, she was unexpectedly released from her incarceration and allowed to return home. After her release, it was said that Federal soldiers harassed her until the Civil War ended.

In her later years, Emeline organized a chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy in Morehead City. It was named for her and she held the title of honorary president until her death on May 26, 1919 at the age of 82. She never married.

Emeline is buried in the Pigott family cemetery on the north shore of Calico Creek just off of what is now 20th Street and Emeline Place in Morehead City. The graveyard is cared for by the city, but is padlocked. Her headstone can be seen from the padlocked gate.

From Internet sources including Wikipedia

Events, Groups, and Sites of GSOC Interest

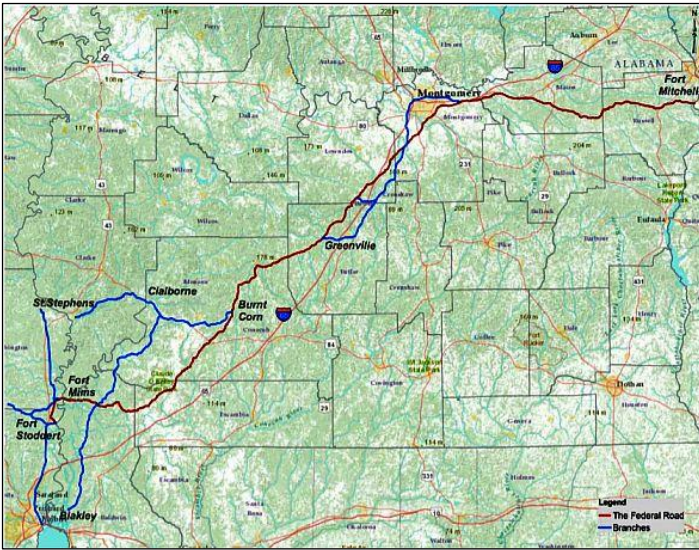
West Florida Genealogical Society

Saturday, June 6, 2015 at 10:00 AM
West Florida Genealogy Library
5740 N. 9th Ave, Pensacola, FL

Archaeological Survey of the Old Federal Road

Speaker: Dr. Greg Waselkov

The Old Federal Road was a major migration route running through what are now the states of Georgia and Alabama, beginning in 1805.



The Old Federal Road in Alabama, circa 1830

Dr. Greg Waselkov, Director and Professor of The Center for Archaeological Studies at the University of South Alabama, will discuss current efforts to produce detailed documentation of the Old Federal Road's actual path through Alabama, as it ran between Milledgeville, Georgia, and Fort Stoddert, Mississippi Territory.

This project is using survey plats, surveyor notes, correspondence, historical documents, and travelers' accounts, plus GIS mapping, to overlay old maps, locate the original road, and meet and document the people who lived along the path.

Members and guests are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be available at 9:45. Meeting begins at 10:00.

Contact: Charlotte Schipman, 850-477-7166,
cschipman@mac.com

Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida

115 Westview Avenue, Valparaiso, FL
850 678-2615

"Okaloosa Geology over a Millennium" June 12, 12 Noon

The Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida presents "Okaloosa Geology over a Millennium," a free lecture, on June 12 at 12 Noon.

Dr. Jon Bryan, Professor of Geology at Northwest Florida State College, will talk about the geological history of Okaloosa County from the time of the supercontinent Pangaea through today. Although not widely known, Okaloosa County contains some important fossil deposits and unique surface features, such as steep head ravines. Come hear about the millions of years of history that lies beneath our feet in Okaloosa County.



Bring a sandwich and take your lunch break at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida for *History Sandwiched-In*, a free lunch-time education program. This event is free and open to the public. SPACE IS LIMITED. Please call to reserve a seat. (850) 678-2615

The Bay County Genealogical Society

Meets in the Conference Room of the
Bay County Public Library
898 West 11th Street, Panama City, FL

We welcome everyone who is interested in family history and genealogy, whether you are a Society member or not.

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 program for Saturday, 20 June 2015, will be **Fold 3** by Mary K. McGraw.

GSOC INFORMATION

Officers for 2015

President, James Young
1st Vice President (Programs), Del Lessard
2nd Vice President (Membership), Charlene Grafton
Treasurer, Bob Basch,
Recording Secretary, Pat Pruett; Asst. Frances Hoge
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

Addresses

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

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 2014 issue, was published and distributed in September 2014.

The Web Site

<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 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, parents 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: Neighborhood News

Crestview News-Journal, June 1957



FAINTS WHILE SHOPPING

MILLIGAN — Mrs. Ida Wilkinson of Milligan, fainted Friday morning in front of Moulton's Dept. Store on Main St., Crestview. The Whitehurst Funeral home ambulance was called and the lady was removed to the home of her daughter, Mrs. Sherman Paulk, in Milligan.

(This must have been a slow news day and this article surely must have been an embarrassment to Mrs. Wilkinson!)



The June GSOC meeting will be on Saturday, June 13th, 2015, at the Milton Public Library, Milton, Florida at 10 AM.

History professor Dr. Brian Rucker, a 7th-generation Santa Rosan, will give us a presentation on the history of Santa Rosa County leading up to the creating of Okaloosa County 100 years ago.

The Milton library has an excellent genealogy section including on-line access to Ancestry.com and other digital resources. These will be available for our use.

"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

