

THE GSOC NEWSLETTER

The Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County, Florida

March 2, 2012

GSOC Calendar

March 10, 2012

On March 10th, we will meet at the **Valparaiso Community Library**, 459 Valparaiso Parkway at 10 AM. Mr. David Weatherford, the Library Director, will provide a tour of the library's genealogy materials and provide the program.



April 14, 2012



Our April 14th meeting will be held at the Heritage Museum. The officers will meet at 9 AM and the General Meeting will begin at 10 AM. The program will be a Show-and-Tell by GSOC members. Bring some

item or items that have been handed down in your family and tell everyone about it/them. If some prized item is not available to bring and show, tell us about it anyway!

May 12, 2012

The May 12th program will be presented by Tony Mennillo, Arturo Studios, and will be held at the Heritage Museum. Mr.



Mennillo's recent book, *Salty Memories Along the Coastal Highway*, contains historical stories of Destin and the Emerald Coast and features 492 vintage photographs. The book,

which showcases the photos of Tony's father Arturo, brings us back to a simpler time when we were captains of our own destiny, a time before highways and condos, a time when the fisherman rather than the tourist was king.

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Florida State Genealogical Society Pioneer Descendant Certification Program

The Florida State Genealogical Society's Florida Pioneer Descendants Certification Program honors descendants of Florida pioneers who settled in the Territory of Florida prior to Florida achieving statehood on 3 March 1845.

Florida Pioneer Descendant Certificate (State) - This award can be given to any person regardless of his or her place of residence who shall provide documentary proof satisfactory to the committee, which establishes a solid chain of evidence that he or she has an ancestor who settled in Florida (present boundaries) before the state was admitted to the union, 3 March 1845. The application and all supporting documentation shall remain the property of the Society and the Florida State Archives.

Florida County Pioneer Certificate - This award can be given to any person, regardless of his or her place of residence, who shall provide documentary proof satisfactory to the committee, establishing a solid chain of evidence that he or she has an ancestor who settled in a county of Florida (present boundaries) before the county was formed. The application and all supporting documentation shall remain the property



of the society and the Florida State Archives.

Florida Pioneer Researcher Certificate - This award can be given to any person, regardless of his or her place of residence, who has successfully completed the research on behalf of a Descendant, to establish a new, previously undocumented Pioneer. The Researcher should not be a Descendant of this Pioneer, but they may be eligible to receive a Descendant's Certificate for a Pioneer in his or her own lineage. The application shall remain the property of the Society and the Florida State Archives.

Memorial Pioneer Certificate - Established to recognize deceased lineal descendants of a Florida Pioneer for whom an FSGS Florida Pioneer certificate (state or county) has been issued.

For additional information concerning how to apply and the types of proof required, please go to <http://www.flsgs.org/cpage.php?pt=6>

GSOC 36th Birthday Celebration February 11, 2012



GSOC President Donna Elliott called the meeting to order and announced that birthday cake and coffee would be served after the business part of the meeting.

She also welcomed our Life Members who had received special invitations to attend.

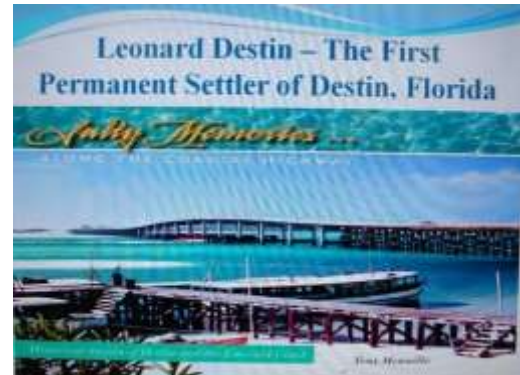


Happy Birthday to us!

Ken Elliott, First Vice President for Programs, introduced our guest speaker, Mr. H.C. "Hank" Klein



Mr. Hank Klein



Title slide for Mr. Klein's presentation



As reviewers of his books have mentioned, Mr. Klein is noted for his attention to interesting detail



The meeting was well-attended and provided excellent information about the founders of Destin

Photo Credit

These photos were made by MSgt Michael Weaver, USAF, who was a guest at this meeting of the GSOC. Thanks to MSgt Weaver for allowing us to use them here.

Obituary
MARY E. DUGAN
 1927 - 2012



Mary E. Dugan, 84, passed away unexpectedly Sunday, Feb. 5, 2012, in Destin, Fla. She was born Feb. 8, 1927, in San Antonio, Texas.

She is survived by two children, Cynthia Roguski and husband, Jim, of San Antonio, and Tim Dugan and wife, Cher, of Mount Juliet, Tenn.; four grandchildren, Tammy Carpenter and husband, Steve, of San Antonio, Kym Roguski of San Antonio, Travis Dugan and wife, Cindi, of Mount Juliet, Tenn., and Heather Wright and husband, Doug, of Murfreesboro, Tenn.; seven great-grandchildren, Casey, Clayton, Jamie, Montana, Sonora, Rowan and Strider; nine nieces and nephews, Violet and Bobby, Joann and Albert, Johnnie and Chuck, Walter and Bill, Leslie and Patsy, Sam and Marilyn, Lou, Kenneth and Lawrence; and numerous great-nieces and nephews; and great-great-nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her loving husband, Harold Dugan; and her son and daughter-in-law, Rodger and Mari Dugan. One of her joys in life was genealogy, along with sharing her thoughts and adventures of her many travels with her husband during their 30 years of military life. But her most valued joy was being with her family and sharing memories of her parents and sisters. Services were held in San Antonio.



Obituary was published in the Northwest Florida Daily News on February 7, 2012

Mary Dugan was a Life Member of the Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County. Margaret Harris, GSOC Genealogist, remembers her:

"Mary was compassionate and friendly to all she met. It's ironical that she passed away so close to our GSOC Birthday; she used to be in charge of the refreshments for that meeting. She was a dedicated genealogist, the GSOC historian for several years, very socially involved, and always ready to take an assignment or help out with a party."



Civil War
Sesquicentennial
Selected Highlights of
March 1862

<http://blueandgraytrail.com>

March 4 Over what is generally regarded as a communication problem, Halleck relieves Grant from command and replaces him with Charles Ferguson Smith.

March 6 Abraham Lincoln proposes that slaves in the border states be emancipated gradually, with compensation to the owners

March 8 The Merrimac (CSS Virginia) battles the USS Congress and the USS Cumberland, destroying both frigates and killing more than 240 of their crewmen.

March 9 The duel of the ironclads, The Monitor and The Merrimac (CSS Virginia). First use of a turreted gun.
Wikipedia



March 11 President Lincoln relieves George McClellan as General-in-Chief of the U. S. Army. He continues as commander of the Army of the Potomac

March 11 For their disasterous performance at Fort Donelson, President Jefferson Davis relieves John Floyd and Gideon Pillow from command.

March 12 Jacksonville is occupied by Union naval forces

March 13 Grant is reinstated to his command

March 13 Jefferson Davis orders Robert E. Lee to "...conduct military operations of the armies of the Confederacy."

March 19 Following more than \$10,000 in renovations, Ford's Theater reopens for business (Ford's Athenaeum was the name at the time)

March 26 Moving along the Santa Fe Trail, Confederates engaged a group of Colorado volunteers at Johnson's Ranch. Federal forces withdraw to Glorietta.

March 28 Jefferson Davis proposes a conscription bill, shocking many Southerners.

March 29 The Central Army of Kentucky and the Army of Alabama and West Florida is merged into the Army of Mississippi in Corinth under Albert Sidney Johnston.

KILROY WAS HERE!

The ubiquitous "Kilroy was here" messages found scrawled on surfaces throughout World War II have prompted many to ask, "Who was that Kilroy fellow anyway, and how could he have been everywhere?" While a number of theories have been advanced regarding his identity the strongest claim of all is the one described here.

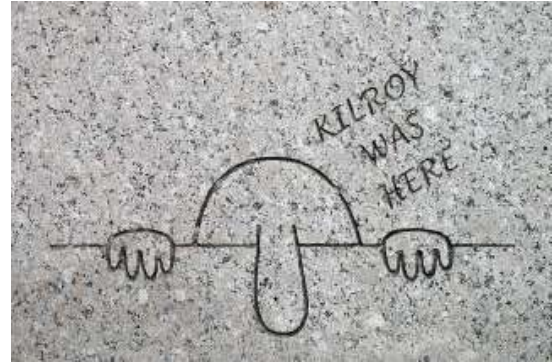
In 1946 the American Transit Association, through its radio program, "Speak to America," sponsored a nationwide contest to find the REAL Kilroy, offering a prize of a real trolley car to the person who could prove himself to be the genuine article. Almost 40 men stepped forward to make that claim, but only James Kilroy from Halifax, Massachusetts had evidence of his identity.

James J. Kilroy was a 46-year old shipyard worker during the war. He worked as a welding inspector at the Fore River Shipyard in Quincy, Mass. His job was to go around and check on the work done by others on the inner bottoms and tanks of ships being manufactured in that yard. He began adding handwritten "Kilroy was here" attestations to areas he had examined as an expression of his growing sense of frustration with bosses who would not believe he had checked over their subordinates' work areas. As he put it, "I was thoroughly upset to find that practically every test leader I met wanted me to go down and look over his job with him, and when I explained to him that I had seen the job and could not spare the time to crawl through one of these tanks again with him, he would accuse me of not having looked the job over." In a fit of pique one day, as he emerged from the hatch of a tank he'd just inspected, he scrawled in yellow crayon on its top, where testers could easily see it, "Kilroy was here."

So, it is asserted, was born the phrase that would quickly travel the globe and be found in all sorts of unexpected places. As for the graphic that has come to be associated with the phrase, it's not clear how the two came to work together. The little drawing of a man peeking over a wall, with just his eyes and nose (and sometimes his fingers) showing, began not as Kilroy but as Mr. Chad, a British bit of tomfoolery sometimes ascribed to cartoonist George Edward Chatterton.

Kilroy's inspection "trademark" was seen by thousands of servicemen who boarded the troopships the yard produced. His message apparently rang a bell with the servicemen, because they picked it up and spread it all over Europe and the South Pacific. Before the war's end, "Kilroy" had been here, there, and everywhere on the long haul to Berlin and Tokyo. To the unfortunate troops outboard in those ships, however, he was a complete mystery; all they knew for sure was that some jerk named Kilroy had "been there first." As a joke, U.S. servicemen began placing the graffiti wherever they landed, claiming it was already there when they arrived. Kilroy became the U.S. super-GI who had always "already been" wherever GIs went.

It became a challenge to place the logo in the most unlikely places imaginable (it is said to be atop Mt. Everest, the Statue of Liberty, the underside of the Arch De Triumphe, and even scrawled in the dust on the moon.) And as the war went on, the legend grew. Underwater demolition teams routinely sneaked ashore on Japanese-held islands in the Pacific to map the terrain for the coming invasions by U.S. troops (and thus, presumably, were the first GI's there). On one occasion, however, they reported seeing enemy troops painting over the Kilroy logo! In 1945, an outhouse was built for the exclusive use of Roosevelt, Stalin, and Churchill at the Potsdam conference. The first person inside was Stalin, who emerged and asked his aide (in Russian), "Who is Kilroy?" ..



Etched on the World War II Memorial in Washington D.C.

To help prove his authenticity in 1946, James Kilroy brought along officials from the shipyard and some of the riveters. He won the trolley car. One report said that he gave it to his nine children as a Christmas gift and set it up as a playhouse in the Kilroy front yard in Halifax. However the newspapers of the time reported that the street car was attached to the Kilroy home and used to provide living quarters for six of the family's nine children.



Manchester New Jersey Veterans Memorial Park

Sources: Wikipedia, www.kilroywashere.org, Google Images

The Shirah Family

Early Permanent Settlers of Destin, FL

By: H. C. "Hank" Klein

klein@aristotle.net

The Shirah family arrived at East Pass in 1921 and brought needed female family members to marry local fisherman and male family members to add needed manpower to the growing fishing fleet which had taken shape at East Pass.

The matriarch of the family, Mary "Minnie" Yohn married Robert William Shirah in Vernon (Washington County), Florida on March 19, 1895. This was the first marriage for young Mary, and the second marriage for Robert. Their first child Mary Alice Shirah (named after her mother and grandmother) was born at Miller's Ferry on the banks of the Choctaw-hatchee River near Vernon (Washington County), Florida on July 8, 1896.



Earliest known picture of Mary "Minnie" Yohn Shirah

Their second child George Dewey Shirah was born on July 8, 1899 in Red Bay, Florida where the young family had recently moved.

According to the 1900 Federal Census taken on June 20, 1900, Robert (age 30) and Minnie (age

23) lived at Mossy Bend on the banks of the Choctaw-hatchee River just outside of Red Bay (Walton County), Florida and they had three children – Mary Alice age 3, George Dewey age 1, and Barney who had just been born on May 15, 1900. Robert was employed as a log driver. This is the earliest known picture of Mary "Minnie" Yohn Shirah.

Their next son Charles Louis Shirah was born on January 1, 1902. Next the family moved to Grassy Point at Southport (then Washington County, now Bay County), Florida and they had another son, James Clifton Shirah who was born on December 12, 1904. Robert and Mary's sixth child Robert William Shirah (named after his father, but called "Bud" all his life) was born on January 4, 1905.

On March 18, 1908 the Shirah family had another daughter – Gladys Pauline Shirah. At the time the 1910 Federal Census was taken (on April 22, 1910) the Shirahs were living at Grassy Point and Robert was working as a Foreman in a local Sawmill.

Robert and Mary's next child was Bessie Shirah who was born on February 18, 1911 and on May 13, 1913 their ninth child was born – a boy named Roy D. Shirah.

Left-to-Right:
Robert "Bud" (age 8),
Bessie (age 2) and
Mary Alice (age 17).



In 1914 their oldest child (Mary Alice) married a local boy, Leander W. May. Leander was born in 1899 and had grown up at Miller's Ferry outside of

Vernon where Mary Alice was born. Their marriage was short lived however as Leander was drafted into the Army during World War I and was stationed at Camp Jackson, South Carolina. He died on July 22, 1918 of pneumonia while in training. Their marriage did produce one daughter – Bessie Lee May who was born in 1917. Also that year Robert and Mary's final child was born on December 16, 1917 and was named Milton D. Shirah.

By 1918 the Shirah family had moved again, this time to Apalachicola (Franklin County), Florida where according to their World War I Draft Registrations the oldest boy, George Dewey Shirah was a Oysterman working for C. J. Bryant Company while Barney Shirah was a laborer at Gulf Beach Packing Company, a wholesale packing plant for fish and oysters.

According to the 1920 Federal Census taken on January 19, 1920 they lived in the Two-Mile area (two miles west of the mouth of the Apalachicola River which was a popular area for fisherman to live and keep their boats). Robert's occupation was listed as a Fisherman and sons Dewey, Barney, Charley, and James are all listed as Oystermen.



Robert and his boat *Seagull*

As the children started to reach adulthood the family began to unravel. Love can do strange things to a family and love did it to the Shirah family. George Dewey the oldest son had met and courted a girl from Tallahassee named Vesta Reeves and wanted to marry her and live in Apalachicola.

After the death of her husband Mary Alice moved back to her parent's home in Apalachicola with her daughter Bessie Lee May. Mary Alice met and courted a fisherman from Destin, Florida who came to Apalachicola area from time to time to fish named George D. Destin and she wanted to marry him. Robert and Mary's daughter Gladys Pauline Shirah had also met and courted a fisherman from Destin, Florida named Clarence Lee Marler and she also wanted to marry him. What was the family to do?

Mary "Minnie" had a solution to let her and Robert's growing children follow their heart and get married, but also to make sure they were safe and sound in their new homes. To do this she and Robert agreed to separate. Robert would stay in Apalachicola with George Dewey and make sure he got married and settled down proper. While Mary "Minnie" agreed to take their other nine children including Mary Alice her oldest and her granddaughter Mary Lee May to Destin to be married to George Destin and daughter Gladys to be married to Clarence Marler. They probably traveled back to Destin in George and Clarence's fishing smacks.

That must have been a very hard decision and Mary "Minnie" must have been a very strong women to leave the

comfort of a husband who was the main breadwinner of the family and a large city with all the modern conveniences that Apalachicola, Florida, had to offer and move with nine of her ten children and one grandchild to the remote fishing village of Destin, Florida, with no running water or electricity and lacking roads or a bridge to the mainland. Mary "Minnie" set up housekeeping on the Destin Harbor in a small house on a lot situated between her future sons-in-law, Clarence Marler and Dewey Destin.

The first to marry was Mary Alice Shirah May. She married George D. Destin, grandson of Captain Leonard Destin the founder of Destin, Florida, on October 23, 1921. Next to marry was Gladys Pauline Shirah who married Clarence Lee Marler on September 10, 1922 and just a month later, George Dewey Shirah married Vesta Reeves in Tallahassee, Florida on October 22, 1922. On December 24, 1924 Barney Shirah married Dee Drake and set up housekeeping in Destin where Barney continued to fish.

The fishermen from Destin often fished in the Gulf of Mexico near Dauphin Island, Alabama and while visiting the local village to get supplies or sell their fish, three of the Shirah boys met and courted, and would eventually marry three of the daughters of Lillian Eleanor Sprinkle. On April 16, 1928 Charles Louis Shirah was the first of three Shirah brothers to marry a Sprinkle daughter when he married Emeris Iola Sprinkle of Dauphin Island. They first settled in Dauphin Island, Alabama for a few years where Charles continued to fish. Then they moved back to Destin, then on to Pensacola, finally settling in Bayou La Batre, Alabama. Also married in 1928 was Bessie Shirah who married Benson Walls on August 5, 1928.

James Clifton Shirah next married a local Marler girl from Destin when on July 12, 1929 he married Helen Marler in Destin, Florida. James and Helen settled in Destin with all their other relatives and James continued to earn his living as a fisherman.



James C. Shirah's fishing license issued by the Captain of the Port of Pensaola.

It states that James works

as a fisherman for Spence Brothers wholesale fish house which was located across the bay in Niceville, Florida.

Robert William Shirah was the next Shirah boy to marry and he married another Sprinkle daughter from Dauphin Island. On February 11, 1929 Robert married Lillian Sabra Sprinkle and settled in Destin where Robert continued to make his living as a fisherman.

There was a saying that circulated around Destin about the three Shirah boys marrying three Sprinkle girls and the subsequent children the Sprinkle girls brought them. It was said that "The Sprinkles showered the Shirah."

The 1930 Federal Census taken on April 7, 1930 shows just how small a village Destin actually was. There were 32 families then living in Destin with a total of 166 individuals. Mary "Minnie" Yohn Shirah (age 46) was now living with

her son Barney (age 29) and his wife Dee (age 26) along with Barney's brother Milton D. (age 14). Barney worked as a fisherman.

Sons Charles Louis Shirah (age 27) and Robert William Shirah (age 24) were boarding with Odom Melvin where they worked as fishermen. Son James Clifton Shirah (age 25) had married Helen Marler and was working as a fisherman, while son Roy D. Shirah (age 16) was boarding with James Sowell and working as a fisherman.

Daughters Mary Alice May Shirah (age 33) had married George D. Destin while Gladys Pauline Shirah (age 23) had married Clarence Marler and daughter Bessie Shirah (age 19) had married Benson Walls.



Gladys (Shirah) Marler and her husband Clarence Lee Marler sitting on the hood of their first automobile – a 1956 Oldsmobile 88.

The final Shirah sibling to marry was the youngest son Milton D. Shirah and

again he married a Sprinkle girl from Dauphin Island, Alabama. On December 23, 1935 Milton married Elgin Inez Sprinkle and they settled in Destin where Milton continued to earn his living as a fisherman. Roy D. Shirah is the only Shirah sibling to never marry, and he too stayed in Destin all his life and earned his living from the sea.

All of the sons and daughters that Mary "Minnie" Yohn Shirah brought to Destin, Florida in 1921 lived, worked, married and brought up families of their own in this small fishing village. They are buried in either the Marler Memorial Cemetery or the Destin Memorial Cemetery in Destin. That is, all except Charles Louis Shirah who is buried in Bayou La Batre, Alabama.

That big decision by Mary "Minnie" Yohn Shirah to leave her husband and take nine of their ten children and one grandchild from the safety and comfort of the big city of Apalachicola to the small village of Destin, Florida brought eligible women for the fisherman of Destin to marry and hardy seamen to join the growing fishing fleets out of East Pass. This Shirah family was one of the early permanent settlers of the small remote fishing village of Destin, Florida.

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The author of this article, Hank Klein, has long been interested in the history of Destin and the genealogy of his father-in-law's and mother-in-law's families (Marler and Shirah) and has written books documenting his research. He also contributed historical research for Tony Mennillo's recently published book Salty Memories along the Coastal Highway.



Mr. Klein lived for many years in both Okaloosa and Bay Counties. He is now retired from his Credit Union career, and he and his wife live in Arkansas. He can be contacted at klein@aristotle.net

Genealogists Help Identify Missing In Action Servicemen

By Polly Kimmitt

You may have heard of genealogists working for the military but wonder exactly what they do. About fifteen months ago I started researching on behalf of the US Army. Since so many people ask me about what I do I thought I'd share a bit of what goes on. I am a case worker, directly employed by The American History Company. They, in turn, contract with various branches of the United States military to perform research into families of missing soldiers to aid in the repatriation effort. Case workers must be either accredited by the International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists or certified by the Board for Certification of Genealogists. I did not apply for this job: I was recommended by a colleague. My area of specialization is New England.

You've heard mottos like, "Keeping the Promise," "Fulfill their Trust," and "No One Left Behind." Well, in recent years, legislation has been passed to make sure this happens after the fact as well as in battle. So in 2009 Congress sent a mandate to the Department of Defense to redouble their efforts to find and bring home personnel killed or missing in action in previous conflicts, back to and including World War II. Both military and civilians work on recovery, identification and repatriation of missing military personnel.

The terms of our contract prohibit us from sharing information that is proprietary to the Department of Defense, but there is plenty of public information about the process.

During *Operation GLORY* in 1954, North Korea returned the remains of more than 2,000 Americans. At the same time, the US recovered remains on South Korean battlefields.

The US identified thousands of these remains. The 848 that could not be identified were buried in 1956 in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, the "Punch bowl."



National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific

So between 1954 and 1990, the US was not successful in convincing North Korea to search for and return additional US remains. However, from 1990 to 1994, North Korea exhumed and returned what they claimed were 208 sets of remains. And then North Korea was once again closed off to the US.

In late October 2011, the US and North Korea reached a new agreement to resume recovery operations in North Korea.

The Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command - JPAC, was activated in 2003, in Oahu, Hawaii. The mission of JPAC is "to achieve the fullest possible accounting of all Americans missing as a result of the nation's past conflicts." The highest priority of the organization is the return of any living Americans that remain prisoners of war. To date, the U.S. Government has not found any evidence that there are still American POW's in captivity from past U.S. conflicts.

Today the Army is pursuing a two-pronged effort. On the one hand, they are going out into the field on excavation expeditions to retrieve remains of any servicemen they can find. They go to battlefields, sites of previous prison camps, crash sites and anywhere an American serviceman is reported to have been seen. They bring the remains back to Hawaii, extract DNA, and keep it on file in a huge database.

On the other hand, each MIA serviceman's case is assigned to a genealogist who is then tasked with locating current day family members in order to find the soldier's official next of kin. In addition, because DNA is essential in identifying remains, the genealogist must determine family members eligible to donate DNA samples. DNA of family members is added to the database and when there is a match, bingo! The remains are returned to the family and closure is finally achieved.

There are lots of considerations when doing this kind of research: privacy, for one thing. Sensitivity to family dynamics is another. The repercussions of the death of a young man can still be discerned in these families, even after sixty years. Family members must be approached with delicacy and empathy. Researchers must learn how to read between the lines when hearing conflicting accounts from family members. Some people are angry that they have never been contacted, and others are delighted that some is still searching for their loved one's remains.

It is extremely rewarding work, if somewhat complicated by the inability to access vital records in many states. And from about 1950 to 1990 there is a great hole in information, be it due to privacy acts or a failure of some institutions to keep up with their filing/storage. I find great satisfaction in this work, however, and only hope that some of the soldiers whose cases I have worked on will be returned to their families one day.

This article is from the 'blog' of Polly FitzGerald Kimmitt, a Professional Genealogist. She is the owner of Kimmitt Genealogical Research and is a board certified genealogist in Massachusetts. Her genealogy 'blog' is at

<http://pk-pollyblog.blogspot.com/>

Thanks to Chuck Licari

Minutes of the Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County

February 11, 2012

President Donna Elliott opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed members and visitors to the 36th Birthday of the Society.

Guests: Marty Ruckel, Mike Weaver, Jan Taylor, and Hank Kline (guest speaker) were welcomed.

Donna announced that Mary Dugan, a Life Member, who had been very active in GSOC, had passed away.

Committee Reports :

Program: Ken Elliott announced the March meeting will be at the Valparaiso Library with David Weatherford as guest speaker. Program will probably be on migration.

April: Member Show and Tell; May: Tony Mennillo (TBD); September: Charlene Grafton – Family DNA; Nov: No regular meeting, member participation in Pioneer Day

Recording Secretary: Mary Walther was introduced. Mike Martell was thanked for serving as backup in January.

Ken Elliott made a motion to approve January minutes as published on the web site; seconded by Pat Pruett. Approved by unanimous vote.

Treasurer: Bob Basch reported the current amount on hand is \$2,317.38. The blue box was passed for donations to purchase books for the libraries.

Newsletter: Jim Young requested members to submit items for the newsletter.

Membership: Sue Basch reported 23 members and 4 guests in attendance. She reminded everyone that annual dues are now due. Guest Mike Weaver pulled the winning ticket for the door prize with Del Lessard holding the winning number.

President Elliott announced several upcoming events and encouraged members to attend if possible:

North Florida Genealogy Conference, March 3, Orange Park, FL.

Walton County Heritage Day, March 10, at DeFuniak Springs. Due to conflict with our scheduled meeting and program, the Society declined to participate this year, but may include it in 2013 schedule.

Archaeology Day, March 10, 2012 from 10:00 – 2:00 pm Jackson Guard, Niceville.

Bay County Genealogy Seminar at the Marina Civic Auditorium on March 10.

Mobile AL Genealogy Society Workshop, March 10, 2012, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Saturday in the Park, Valparaiso, FL, April 21, 2012, 8 am-4 pm, GSOC has been invited to sponsor a booth.

Several other items of interest:

Beginning February 3rd, the NBC program, “Who Do You Think You Are?” started the new season. It is shown at 7:00 p.m., Fridays.

February 21, 2012, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., Lisa Mitchiner will talk about “Looking Back at Niceville History”, at the Niceville Community Center, sponsored by the Florida Humanities Council.

March 25th 2012, PBS is starting a 10 part series on Finding Your Roots.

April 2, 2012 the 1940 Census will be made public.

New Business: The Officers voted to renew the Sustaining Membership in the Heritage Museum for the coming year.

Lunch plans are Dutch treat at Ed’s in Palm Plaza.

In conjunction with the GSOC Birthday celebration, Life Members in attendance were introduced: Jackie Edge, Ginny Trawick, Marsha Cox, Flo Lembeck, and Walt Ruckel. Also acknowledged were former presidents: Flo Lembeck, Marsha Cox, Chuck Licari, and Beverly Gross.

Tom and Robin Stiles served cake and coffee for the celebration.

Ken Elliott introduced the guest speaker, Hank Klein, from Little Rock, AR, who spoke on Captain Leonard Destin, founder of Destin, FL and his connecting families in this area.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Mary Walther, Recording Secretary

A Note From the Editor

Mary Walther, our Recording Secretary, has regretfully informed us that she is resigning because she will be moving back to Illinois shortly. Donna Elliott, President of the GSOC, said, “*Mary, I am sorry that you will be leaving us so soon, but want you to know that we truly appreciate the assistance that you have provided as well as your willingness to support and be an active member of the Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County. Please keep in touch.*”

GSOC Charter Members

The legend for this photo which was included in the February 2012 issue of the GSOC Newsletter did not identify the lady who is fourth from the left. She is Eileen McCall.



L-R: Wiley Benjamin Hill, Jr., Florence Eulala Adams, Geraldine Black, **Eileen O. McCall**, Ruth Usrey, Arthur Wagoner, and Hughlene Cole
(Photo courtesy of Margaret Harris)

Events, Groups, and Sites of GSOC Interest

March 10

Bay County Genealogy Society Seminar

Marina Civic Center, Panama City FL

George Morgan, featured speaker

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flbcgs/programs.htm

March 10

Walton County Heritage Day, DeFuniak Springs FL

Fairgrounds Building, Highway 83N, DeFuniak Springs

www.waltoncountyheritage.org/

March 25

TV (PBS) - Finding Your Roots

with Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

Begins Sunday, March 25, 8 PM

Ten-part series delves into the genealogy and genetics of famous Americans, combining history and science in an exploration of race, family, and identity in today's America. Professor Gates shakes loose interesting stories and surprises in the family trees of Kevin Bacon, Robert Downey, Jr., Branford Marsalis, John Legend, Martha Stewart, Barbara Walters and Rick Warren, among many others.

www.pbs.org/wnet/finding-your-roots/

March 31

Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso FL Book Sale Bonanza

The American Association of University Women, Niceville/Valparaiso Chapter, will hold their annual "Book Sale Bonanza" at the *Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida* on Saturday, March 31, 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Proceeds generated will be used to provide scholarships to deserving women in our community. Used book donations are now being accepted at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, 115 Westview Avenue, Valparaiso, during regular Museum hours, Tues – Sat. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

www.heritage-museum.org/wp/

April 2

Release of the 1940 Census

The unindexed census will be available on April 2nd from the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) website. Shortly after appearing on the NARA site, the 1940 census will be available at Archives.com, Ancestry.com, and FamilySearch.org. The indexing process will begin immediately, but it will be a while before these indices appear online.

www.archives.gov/research/census/1940/

April 21

Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso FL

36th Saturday in the Park, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Heritage 5 K Run/Walk & Kids 1 Mile Fun Run, Craft & Food Vendors, Re-enactments, Car Show, Live Entertainment, KidZone, Games & Contests, and Bake Sale

www.heritage-museum.org/wp/

July 14

Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso FL

A Guided Tour featuring historic exhibits and a unique Wine and Food Tasting experience.

Saturday, July 14, 7 p.m.

History comes to life with Re-enactors. Enjoy Live Entertainment – Silent Auction – Raffles – 50/50 – Local Restaurants. SPACE IS LIMITED! Advanced ticket sales Only \$30 each

www.heritage-museum.org/wp/

August 25

Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso FL

Annual Yard Sale Saturday, August 25, at 7 a.m.

www.heritage-museum.org/wp/

October 13

Laurel Hill FL

First held in 1992, the Laurel Hill Hobo Festival is an annual event scheduled for the second Saturday in October.

www.laurelhillnow.com/hobo_festival.htm

November 3

Baker Block Museum, Baker FL

Annual Heritage Festival

<http://bakerblockmuseum.org/clouds/inthecLOUDS/index-a.html>

November 8, 9, & 10

Florida State Genealogical Society 2012 Conference "The Best of Times: Family History + Technology!"

Mark your calendars for November 8, 9, 10, 2012. Details will be announced next month.

www.flsgs.org

November 10

Rocky Bayou State Park, Niceville FL

Annual Fall Pioneer Day

The GSOC will participate in this event by having a booth at the park instead of the usual meeting.

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flocgs/

December 8

Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County

Annual Holiday Party and Installation of Officers

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flocgs/

December 8

Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso FL

Yule of Yesteryear Holiday Celebration & Victorian Tea

www.heritage-museum.org/wp/

STATE-WIDE GENEALOGY EVENTS LISTED BY THE FLORIDA STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

For a comprehensive listing of upcoming Florida genealogical events, go to www.flsgs.org/events.php

GSOC INFORMATION

Officers for 2012

President, Donna Elliott
 1st Vice President (Programs), Ken Elliott
 2nd Vice President (Membership), Sue Basch
 2nd Vice President (Membership) Asst, Carol Lessard
 Treasurer, Bob Basch,
 Recording Secretary, Mary Walther
 Corresponding Secretary, Jim Young
 Immediate Past President, Malcolm Flanagan
 Journal Editor, Beverly Gross
 Historian, Sue Basch
 Genealogist, Margaret Harris
 Publicity Chairperson, Pat Pruett
 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 2011 issue, Volume XXXII, Issue 100, was published and distributed in November 2011.

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.

Usual Meeting Location



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

GSOC Membership Renewals

Please remember that your GSOC membership expired on December 31, 2011 unless you have renewed it or are a Life Member

GSOC Publications

For ordering information on GSOC publications, please go to:
<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flocgs/GSOC-BookSale.html>

Volume I (out of print), Cemeteries of Okaloosa County, Florida 24 cemeteries east of the Yellow River & north of the Shoal River	Out of print but available on CD, see below
Volume II (out of print), Cemeteries of Okaloosa County, Florida 26 cemeteries north and east 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 all of the books listed above: <i>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</i>	\$15.00 plus \$2.00 postage



The next GSOC meeting will be on March 10, 2012,
at the Valparaiso Community Library, Valparaiso, Florida,
at 10 A.M.

The program will be presented by Mr. David Weatherford,
Library Director and Historian.

*"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

