

THE GSOC NEWSLETTER

THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
OF OKALOOSA COUNTY,
FLORIDA

MARCH 1, 2013

Next GSOC Meeting

March 9, 2013

Our March meeting will be held at the Heritage Museum at 10 AM and will be followed by an optional Dutch Treat lunch at a nearby restaurant.



Mr. Dale Cox

The speaker will be Dale Cox, a native of Two Egg, Florida. Mr. Cox is a writer and historian who has received growing praise for the unique literary style and depth of research evident in his books. Called a "skillful reconstructor of battle narrative" by one national reviewer, Mr. Cox's works range from local histories to widely acclaimed volumes on small but significant Civil War battles. His most recent book is *The Scott Massacre of 1817: A Seminole War Battle in Gadsden County, Florida*, and his presentation will be based on his research for that book.

On November 30, 1817, a combined force of Creek and Seminole Indian warriors attacked a U.S. Army boat carrying a party of around 50 people. The battle was quick and fierce and by the time it ended, only seven of the boat passengers remained alive. The Scott Massacre of 1817 was the bloodiest day of the First Seminole War and was the event that triggered the United States government to authorize General Andrew Jackson's invasion of Spanish Florida. In the first book length study of the battle, Mr. Cox unveils new source material and offers new conclusions about the first U.S. defeat of the four decade long Seminole Wars.

You can learn more about Mr. Cox and his research at <http://civilwarflorida.blogspot.com/> and <http://www.exploresouthernhistory.com>

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GSOC Meeting Minutes February 9, 2013

Pat Pruett, Recording Secretary

President Donna Elliott called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM and welcomed the twenty two members and four guests who were present. She asked the visitors to introduce themselves and to give a bit of information concerning their interests.

Donna asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes from the 12 January meeting which are included in the February GSOC newsletter. There being none, she asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes as shown in the newsletter. Motion made by Robyn Stiles and seconded by Bob Basch. Motion passed.

Officer reports:

Programs: 1st Vice Pres. Ken Elliott said that Mr. Dale Cox, who was to speak with us previously and cancelled due to illness, will be with us in March and will speak on "Seminole Wars in this Area". Ken has planned a "Show and Tell" by the members in April. This is always an interesting program.

Treasurer's Report: Bob Basch reported that we have a checkbook balance of \$2157.99. Since we are having our anniversary celebration today, he will present the 2013 budget at the March meeting. He then passed the Library Book donation Blue Box around.

Corresponding Secretary: Jim Young reported everything is current. He mentioned that he has information about Mr. Cox if anyone is interested.

Committee Reports:

Membership - 2nd Vice Pres. Sue Basch distributed new name tags to those who have renewed their membership for 2013. She has forms available to join or renew membership. \$35.00 family and \$24.00 single

Newsletter and Website - Jim Young said that the Cox.net outbound SPAM filter has a problem with our newsletter and until the problem is solved we should read or download the newsletter from the GSOC website. He will send everyone an email each month announcing when the new newsletter is posted and will provide a link directly to it.

Publicity - Pat Pruett - no report

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Genealogist – Margaret Harris – not present

Library Reports –

- Ft. Walton Beach – Hilma Jenus - Everything is current. (Donna explained to our visitors about the newsletters and journals that we distribute to local libraries)
- Valparaiso – Beverly Gross - Not present
- Crestview – Martha Trau – said she has not stopped by yet.

Donna, at this time, thanked Jim Young for locating the newspaper article from 1976 concerning the establishment of the Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County, which occasion we are celebrating today. She suggested that our visitors also read Jim's article in the April 6, 2012 newsletter to see "if or why they" should join the GSOC or any local genealogical society. We have newsletters archived on the website for the past three years.

Old Business: Donna said that she has a Suggestion Bag for members to submit ideas for speakers, programs, field trips, and any other activities.

(Phil Trau suggested a possible speaker for a later program. A lady he has talked with in Crestview is an American Indian and is very knowledgeable on this subject. Donna suggested Phil invite her to a meeting, so that we may meet her.)

New Business: Donna stated that the Heritage Museum needs volunteers and since they allow us to meet here free of charge, we need to assist Gina, if possible. Gina needs administrative support for many projects, as well as, research assistance, cataloging and many different types of help. So please offer to help in this worthwhile project. Just see Gina Marini in the Museum office.

Announcements:

Wednesday, February 13, 6:00 p.m, Destin History & Fishing Museum, annual meeting. Brief history of Destin and showcase latest exhibits.

Saturday, February 16, two events:

10:00-12:30, Free Genealogy Workshop, at the **LDS Center**, 339 Lake Drive, in Ft. Walton Beach. It will cover exploring and using all the tools of **FamilySearch.org** and the process of indexing.

1:30-2:30 p.m., Bay County Genealogical Society Monthly Meeting at the Bay County Public Library, 898 W. 11th St. Panama City, FL 32401. The program: ***If It's Wrong---Prove It's Wrong!***

Saturday, March 16, 9:00-3:00, Walton County History Fair, Walton County Fairgrounds, 790 Hwy 83 North, admission \$5.00.

A guest, Margaret Nichols, informed us that the DAR is hoping to start a chapter of Daughters of Colonial America. It is a separate organization and they need

twelve ladies to get it organized. You will need to prove your lineage back to the original thirteen colonies and the ancestor must be the original property owner and have been here before 4 July 1776. For more information, contact Margaret at 897-1278.

Following the announcements, Ken had a name drawn for a goody bag of helpful items for genealogists. The winner was Don Hicks.

Twelve members planned to have lunch together at Ruby Tuesdays.

Before a break for cake and coffee to celebrate the GSOC 37th Anniversary, Donna acknowledged those who passed in 2012:

WALT RUCKEL, long time member, friend, and former president;

ED HARRIS, husband of our genealogist, Margaret Harris;

LOUISE K. FITZGARRALD, librarian at the Valparaiso Community Library for 22 years, an avid family historian, and founder of the "Louise Kiisel Fitzgarrald Genealogical Historical Collection" within the Valparaiso Community Library.

Glenda Manis added that another person who was a frequent visitor to our meetings, **TRUDY ELLIOTT**, passed away on 8 Feb.

Donna thanked Sue Basch for taking care of and planning our Birthday Party. A "family tree" made from cupcakes was a pleasant surprise that was appreciated by everyone.

Program: Ken Elliott gave a Power Point presentation on the Flip-Pal scanner that fascinated all of us who were anxious to learn about this clever tool. We were given the opportunity to see it "hands on".

GSOC Mystery Members

Can you identify this GSOC couple? They are current members and they attended the February 9th meeting.



Niceville CCC Camp Worker Statue Project Envisioned

Elisa Mitchiner, historian, researcher, and creator of The [Niceville Florida Online History Center](#) is heading an



effort to purchase and erect a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Worker Statue at the site of the CCC camp which was located in Niceville. She is interested in locating funding sources for this six-foot, 460 pound statue that will cost somewhere near \$25,000 when cast, delivered, and installed. She would like to hear from anyone (contact her at boggyhistory@yahoo.com) who has any ideas for sources for this funding. The statue

would be on Eglin AFB property near the Jackson Guard and the entrance to Eglin's Golf Course.

The Niceville camp was one of the first in the nation; and the CCC and it are both commemorating their 80th anniversary this year. As is typical of many of the CCC camps, some of the young men who were assigned there from other parts of Florida and other states met and married local girls and became Niceville residents. Mrs. Mitchiner has posted a comprehensive [article about the camps](#) at Niceville at the Niceville Online History Center.

According to *Wikipedia*, the CCC was a public work relief program that operated from 1933 to 1943 in the United States for unemployed, unmarried men, ages 18–25. It provided unskilled manual labor jobs related to the conservation and development of natural resources in rural lands owned by federal, state and local governments. The CCC was designed to provide work for young men who had difficulty finding jobs during the Great Depression in the United States while at the same time implementing a general natural resource conservation program in every state and territory. Maximum enrollment at any one time was 300,000; 2.5 million young men participated in the CCC, which provided them with shelter, clothing, and food, together with a small wage of \$30 a month (\$25 of which had to be sent home to their families).

The American public made the CCC the most popular of all the New Deal programs. Principal benefits of an individual's enrollment in the CCC included improved physical condition, heightened morale, and increased employability. Implicitly, the CCC also led to a greater public awareness and appreciation of the outdoors and the nation's natural resources; and the continued need for a comprehensive national program for the protection and development of natural resources.

During the time of the CCC, volunteers planted nearly 3 billion trees to help reforest America, constructed more than 800 parks nationwide and upgraded most state parks, updated forest fire fighting methods, and built a network of service buildings and public roadways in remote areas.

Early Days of the Niceville Camp

The company was originally 172 men, practically all from northeast and north counties of Florida. All being sent to Fort Benning, Georgia, for our preliminary training and examination for the Civilian Conservation Corps.

On May 18, 1933, the company received its entraining order at 1:30 p.m. In record time the entire company, with all equipment, was aboard four passenger and one baggage coach enroute to Niceville, Fla., coming by way of Montgomery, Ala., Pensacola, Fla., and Crestview, Fla., arriving at 8:05 the following morning.

By 1:30 that afternoon all men and equipment had been established in a temporary camp on the Niceville School grounds. Do you remember our first meal here? Sergeant Meadows and Sergeant Brooks had a good hot supper for us, and was it good! Wow.

While in temporary camp forty local men selected by the Forest Service were enrolled. This brought our authorized company strength to two hundred and twelve.

In a few days after our arrival, a large number were turned over to the Forest Service, to begin their duties as members of the Civilian Conservation Corps in the Choctawhatchee National Forest of approximately 400,000 acres. This being under direct supervision of John H. (Navy) Stone, project superintendent and his staff. Principal Forest Ranger E. R. McKee is in permanent charge of the Jackson Ranger Station District.

Work on the permanent camp started immediately on land adjacent to the Jackson Ranger Station. Construction of fourteen buildings was done by members of the company and the recreation grounds were also built by the men. These consist of a baseball diamond, four tennis courts, two volley ball courts, handball court and boxing ring. It is easily seen that recreational facilities are plentiful.



From The Niceville Florida Online History Center

Our first season of athletics was favorable. Seventy-five per cent of all football games won. Nine out of fourteen

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baseball games won and other athletics in like proportion.

Our newer members of Camp Bigby, Company 1402, are from the central and southeast counties of Florida. Having been sent to Ft. Barrancas, Fla., for their preliminary examination for the Civilian Conservation Corps. This company has been extremely fortunate in having new enrollees of the highest type for replacements. There have been to date two new groups of new enrollees. Company 1402 has established a fine reputation in this and adjoining counties as to character, also quantity and quality of work accomplished.

At 2:00 a.m. when every one was asleep in less than ten minutes after the fire which gutted the downtown section of Niceville, the men of this company were busy combating the flames, saving many thousands of dollars worth of property.

The company's average time for getting out of camp on fire duty is less than three and one-half minutes.

For a work record, how is this? Maintained four lookout towers which include landscaping, painting, construction, etc; 37,164 acres forest timber stand improvement as of May 25; average number of bridges per week, three or four crews; telephone lines constructed, 32 miles; telephone lines maintained, 57 miles; fire lanes constructed, 177 miles; fire lanes maintained, 275 miles; truck trails constructed: 80 miles; truck trails maintained: 198 miles; 2 buildings and 2 towers constructed; 56 acres landscaping; 80 acre landing field surveyed, stumped and cleared.

Captain Walter A. Bigby, 67th Infantry (medium tanks), was our first commanding officer in whose honor this camp was named. It is to him that we owe most of our fine work and good times in the CCC.

As to our location, we are nineteen miles south of Crestview on state road No. 54, on the edge of beautiful Choctawhatchee Bay, an ideal location as we are in the hill section of the county.

Company 1402 has a reputation for readiness and willingness to work at any hour and place that is well earned. They have done, are doing and will continue to do their best to maintain the reputation of the best company in the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Several members of this company have been promoted to responsible jobs with the Forest Service. This merely goes to show the high calibre of the men of this company."

Leadership roster of the 1934 Company 1402

Capt. Dwight E. Haven, Q.M.C. Res.; First Lieut. Ivy B. Sorrells, Inf. Res.; Second Lieut. Harry F. Hansen, Inf. Res.; F. A. Collins, Project superintendent; L. B. Andrews, A.B.E., Educational Adviser; J. W. McGriff, M.D., Surgeon; L. O. Barber, 1st Sergeant

(Source: *Memories of District G, Civilian Conservation Corps, 1934*. Civilian Conservation Corps. Typography and Presswork by Parke-Harper Company, Little Rock. Engravings by Peerless Engraving Company, Little Rock. 1934. (District HQ, Fort Barrancas, Pensacola, FL). This memoir is included in the [Niceville Florida Online History Center](#).

William Herndon At the Niceville Camp

Mr. William Herndon, affectionately called Herndon by his friends, grew up on the family farm in Calhoun County, Florida. In 1935, he left the farm and joined the CCC, Ranger station F-3, located in Niceville. Inductees were quarantined for three weeks before they were put to work. His first job was cleaning and repairing tools at Camp Pinchot. As a regular employee he worked under the supervision of Manuel Atwell. The CCC workers worked a 6 hour day or fought fires until they were exhausted.

Each morning Herndon started his workday with two hundred other workers. They had physical fitness before breakfast and then ate at seven am. After breakfast, they would form up for the daily work assignments. At lunch, the food was trucked to the work site, and the men enjoyed a hot meal. At times, the food arrived by a motorcycle with a side car. The men usually arrived back at camp around 2:30 to secure their tools and do chores around the camp. The men were well fed in the mess hall with fresh vegetables, coffee, and dairy products.

CCC Camp, F -3, was located at the site of the present day Jackson Guard Station and across the dirt road from the present day Edge Elementary School. Guard stations and cattle guards were located at the entrance of the camp.

The camp consisted of four barracks, a worker mess hall, shower room, recreation hall, latrine, and headquarters. There were out-buildings for the equipment and vehicles. The camp used wood for cooking and heating although there was electricity for lights.

The camp itself was run by US Army personnel, and the US Forest Service dictated the work that needed to be done. The men constructed bridges, roads, and cleared areas for timber growth. They also were active in fire suppression and fought fires throughout the forest.

Each Saturday half of the workers cut wood until noon for the camp to use during the next week. The other half of the men had free time to participate in sports or take care of personal needs around the camp. There were trucks available to take the men to the surrounding towns. Once a month, a dance was held where the men met the women from the surrounding towns. There were dances, socials, sports, and free time for the men to enjoy.

The men were paid \$30 a month. Twenty-five dollars of that was sent to their families, and they were given \$5 to last them until the next payday. With their money, they paid for their laundry and purchased sundry items at their small exchange store.

After the CCC was disbanded, Herndon transferred to civil service employment with the US Army Air Corps. He worked at Jackson Guard Station until he went into the service during WWII, but he returned to his job when the war ended. He continued to work there until he retired in 1978 with over thirty eight years of service.

Written by: George Atwell. Source: Personal Interview, 19 July 2003. Submitted by William H. Herndon, Niceville, FL. Extracted from *The Heritage of Okaloosa County, Florida*, Vol I, Heritage Publishing Consultants, Inc., and The Okaloosa County Heritage Book Committee, 2004, page 80.

Publications Received by GSOC From Other Societies

The publications received by the GSOC from other genealogical and historical societies are displayed at the next GSOC meeting after they are received and are then taken to the History and Genealogy Room at the Fort Walton Beach Public Library where they are permanently kept and are made available to the public.



The Fort Walton Beach Library is located in downtown Fort Walton Beach at 185 Miracle Strip Parkway SE (US 98). Parking for the library is off 1st Street SE adjacent to the library.

Recently Received

Montgomery Genealogical Society Quarterly, Montgomery, AL, Vol. 19, No. 2, Summer 2012, 65 pages

The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society, Vol. 110, Nos. 3&4, Summer 2012, 647 pages

Kentucky Ancestors, A Genealogy Quarterly, Kentucky Historical Society, Vol. 48, No. 2, Winter 2013, 108 pages

The West Florida Genealogical Society Newsletter, Pensacola, FL, Vol. 31, Issue 6, February 2013, 4 pages

The West Florida Genealogical Society Newsletter, Pensacola, FL, Vol 31, Issue 7, March 2013, 4 pages

The Mesquite Tree, Mesquite (TX) Historical & Genealogical Society, Vol. 48, No. 2, December 2012, 19 pages

Yalobusha Pioneer, Yalobusha County (MS) Historical Society, Vol. 39, Issue 1, Spring 2013, 51 pages

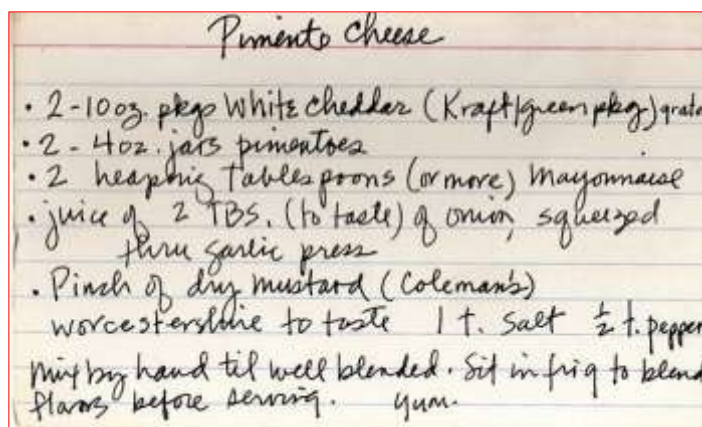
The Coweta Courier, Coweta County (GA) Genealogical Society, Inc., Vol. 32, No. 3, Spring 2013, 26 pages

SOUTHERN CAVIAR

Pimento cheese, sometimes called Southern Caviar, is classic Southern comfort food, a favorite to serve to Sunday afternoon guests, for bridal luncheons, for church potluck occasions, and for that tray of sandwiches we take to the house after someone dies. Because of its rich flavor, ease of preparation and versatility as a sandwich, cracker or vegetable topping, it is an endearing favorite.

Some say it only began to be made in the early 1900's, when it was a delicacy for the Southern farm families who created it. Millie Coleman, author of *The Frances Virginia Tea Room Cook Book* said, "Pimento cheese was a gourmet item. Generally, you ate what you grew. You had plenty of turnip greens and other vegetables, but on the farm you didn't produce your own cheese. And when Southern farmers did make cheese, it was a white cheese, like cottage cheese or ricotta. Yellow cheese was Northern cheese, and to have store-bought cheese, that was a treat."

To turn it into a Southern creation, it got mixed it with mayonnaise, a typically Southern sandwich spread (my sister and many consider Duke's mayonnaise the *only* one). They tossed in pimento peppers, which were once grown and canned widely. It was served on white bread. "Our heritage was the heritage of England and Scotland and Ireland, where they had soft bread like scones," Mrs.



Coleman said.

My recipe card (above) *needs* the grated Vermont white cheddar, an essential ingredient. Over the years I began to spice it up with red onion, grated with a microplane grater, and I add more freshly grated pepper, Coleman's dry mustard, and a little balsamic vinegar. The food processor is a lifesaver, and I use (forgive me) Hellman's mayonnaise. It is the lemony thing I think.

And goodness, no sugar. You can add jalapenos, red pepper flakes, or some tabasco give it a little more kick.

<http://charlottehutson.wordpress.com/2009/05/14/southern-comfort/>

Crestview was the location of three of the last seven hangings in Florida

Before 1923, executions in Florida were carried out by the counties, usually by public hanging. In 1923 the legislature adopted electrocution as the official method of capital punishment. The first electrocution took place at Union Correctional Institution on October 7, 1924.

Between the time of Okaloosa County's formation in June 1915 and the legislature's action in 1923, three men were executed in Okaloosa County. These were Robert Blackwell who was hanged on July 30, 1920, and Putnam Ponsell and Jacob Martin who were hanged together on September 23, 1921.

Robert Blackwell, his brother William, and another man, Will Boyd, were convicted of the murders of an elderly couple, Bud and Nancy Davis. They were shot to death in their Mary Esther home on March 21, 1917, during a botched robbery attempt. Mr. Davis, a Confederate war veteran, refused to hand over his money and reached instead for his rifle.

The Blackwell brothers' trial was the first to result in the death sentence in the still-young Okaloosa County. On the opening day, William Blackwell escaped, forcing a mistrial. He was recaptured three weeks later in Holt.

At the second trial which lasted nine days, they were found guilty and were sentenced to be hanged.

While awaiting the result of their appeal to the Florida Supreme Court, they escaped again, this time from the Escambia County Jail in Pensacola. They were recaptured within two weeks.

Citing a number of errors in the trial, the Supreme Court ordered that a new trial be held. One major error found was that the defendants' motion for a change of venue should have been granted by the trial judge.

Thus, when the defendants were next placed on trial, the trial was held in the Circuit Court of Bay County. The brothers were again sentenced to death and the Supreme Court upheld their conviction and sentences.

In the end, Robert Blackwell was the only one of the three to be hanged. William Blackwell died while awaiting execution and Will Boyd was sentenced to life in prison.

On July 30, 1920, the day of Robert's hanging, the Crestview school which was across the road from the courthouse was dismissed early and some of the children joined the large crowd that assembled on the courthouse lawn.

Religious services were conducted for Blackwell on the day before the hanging and again on execution day. Those gathered sang hymns and prayed for him. He was seated in the courtroom where he shook hands and bid farewell as the people filed by him.

The crowd was separated from the scaffold by a wire fence. A black curtain was placed around the lower portion of the scaffold so spectators could not witness the final scene.



State Archives of Florida, *Florida Memory*

Before the hanging, prominent locals and their wives posed on the scaffold for souvenir photographs. The scaffold was erected on the east side of the old Okaloosa County Courthouse

Young boys in the crowd were said to have sold cups of water from a galvanized bucket. One enterprising man sold pieces of the hanging rope as souvenirs. Business was reported to have been so brisk he had to buy additional rope and pass it off as the real thing.

After the hanging, Blackwell's body was placed in a coffin in the courthouse. The Crestview citizens who had shaken his hand in the morning were viewing his corpse by early afternoon.

One more public hanging took place at the same site on September 23, 1921. Two men, Putnam Ponsell and Jacob Benjamin Martin, were hanged for their confessed murder of a man near Deerland, about eight miles east of Crestview. The murder had taken place July 4 of the same year. John F. Tuggle had offered the pair a ride in his Model T car at the Blackwater River in Milton. The pair murdered Tuggle a short distance off what is now US Highway 90 and took his car and personal belongings.

Newspapers reported that thousands of curious spectators from all over Florida, south Alabama, and south Georgia came to Crestview to watch Sheriff P.J. Steele release the trap on the gallows.

Okaloosa resident Mrs. Myrtle Hart Long Mead was present at both events and recalled them in an article in the Summer 1989 GSOC *Journal*. Her husband James Long had worked with Martin. While Martin was awaiting execution, Long visited him and asked him why they had done such a thing. Martin said, "Long, we had families and could not get a job so we decided to get out on the road and get a ride with the first fellow that came along in a Ford car, take his car and money, and rob and kill the rest of our lives." James said, "I have a Ford car. Suppose I had come along?" Martin said, "Long, I'm afraid it would have been you."

Sources: Wikipedia; Florida Supreme Court Decisions; "Hangings were 'noose'-worthy events in 1920s" by Ann Spann, *Crestview News Bulletin*, July 19, 2008; GSOC *Journal*, Vol. XIII, Summer 1989



Civil War Sesquicentennial

Selected Highlights of March 1863

<http://blueandgraytrail.com>

March 2 Congress rejects a call by President Lincoln to adopt a standard railroad gauge of 5 feet and adopts the 4 foot, 8 and one-half inches gauge. It is sometimes called the Congressional gauge.

March 3 The Conscription Act (National Enrollment Act of 1863) is signed into law by President Lincoln. Congress requires quotas of draftees by state, but allows wealthy Americans the right to buy their way out of service for \$300.00. Also called the Draft Act or any number of variations.

March 4-5 Battle of Spring Hill, Battle of Unionville. Confederate Cavalry under Earl Van Dorn and Nathan Bedford Forrest drive Union Cavalry off on the 4th, then surround and engage the remaining infantry. After heavy fighting on the 5th, the Union garrison surrenders.

March 10 President Lincoln issues an order of amnesty for men absent without leave from the Union Army. They must report by April 1st or they will be considered deserters



March 13 An explosion in the Confederate Ordnance Laboratory on Brown's Island in the James River near Tredegar Iron Works in Richmond kills 69 people, 62 of them women and young girls. A friction primer exploded.

March 16 Ulysses S. Grant ends his Yazoo Pass expedition, but orders William Tecumseh Sherman to try Steele's Bayou again.

March 17 William Bensinger, Robert Buffum, Elihu H. Mason, Jacob Parrott, William Pittenger and William H. Reddick are exchanged for Confederate soldiers from the prisoner-of-war camp at City Point, Virginia. Among the first Medal of Honor winners, these men were members of Andrews Raiders (The Great Locomotive Chase)

March 17 Battle of Kelly's Ford. Federal cavalry under William Woods Averall crossed the ford of the Rappahannock River then ran into a Rebel line. After brief but heavy fighting, the Yankees withdrew that afternoon. Major John "The Gallant" Pelham [CS] was killed in this battle. He was posthumously promoted to Lt. Colonel.



Major John Pelham

March 19 The Albatross and the Hartford become the first federal ships to pass the garrison at Vicksburg, MS.

March 21 Corps commander Major General Edwin Vose Sumner dies in Syracuse, NY of natural causes on his way to assume command of the Department of Missouri.

March 22 A detachment of John Morgan's [CS] cavalry captures the federal outpost at Mount Sterling

March 22 Confederate John Pegram enters Kentucky on a series of raids.

March 24 A small skirmish at Black Bayou marked the end of General William Tecumseh Sherman's attempt to find an unguarded water route into Vicksburg.

March 25 Ambrose Burnside ordered to command the Department of the Ohio

March 26 West Virginia voters overwhelmingly approve the new state constitution

March 28 Battle of Glorieta (Pass), New Mexico territory, Union forces halt the Confederate attempt to take over New Mexico

March 29 Stymied in his attempt to reach Vicksburg on the east bank of the Mississippi, Grant orders General John McClernand to march south on the west bank to Miliken's Bend

Events, Groups, and Sites of GSOC Interest

New Book

Author Charlene H. Grafton's recent nonfiction book ***What's In Your Genes? Human Threads Linking Genetics and Genealogy***, is now available through her website at www.charlenehgraffton.com and also in eBook form at the Amazon Kindle Store, Barnes and Noble Nook Store, Apples iBook Store, Sony Reader Store, Kobo, Copia, Gardners, Baker & Taylor, eBookPie as well as a few other stores in the BookBaby line.



This is Author Grafton's seventh non-fiction book which was written following a series of life-threatening illnesses she describes at length in this book. She asks her readers to join the genetic genealogy revolution by becoming an iPatient and learn how you can overcome the usual reaction of bowing and blindly agreeing to doctors' decisions with-out knowledge about the questions that should be raised. She also suggests that you should expect laboratory testing results to be available to you, call backs the same day and quick responses when abnormal results are noted. By staying alert to your genetic ancestry, your family's health history will have a new meaning for you and your family in the coming age of personalized medicine.

March 2, 2013, 10 AM

West Florida Genealogical Society Regular Meeting
5740 N. 9th Ave., Pensacola, FL
(850) 494-7373

The meeting at 10 a.m. will be followed by library research from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the **West Florida Genealogy Library**, 5740 N. 9th Ave., Pensacola, Florida.

Look through the diverse collections: Family Map books for many U.S. counties, also a seven volume series on Immigrants to New England. Plus a six volume set Directory of Virginia Landowners in 1815 and a complete set of Virginia Soldiers 1776. Browse the military collection: four shelves of Revolutionary and pre-Revolutionary military books, with twelve shelves of volumes on the Civil War: 3 shelves of Union and 9 of Confederate.

For the individual states, there are 14 shelves of books related to Virginia families, including individual counties and the 1787 census (three volume set). Georgia occupies 22 shelves; Alabama 23. South Carolina overflows with information: land transactions, marriage records, court records; the Leon Hollingsworth collection. He was a certified genealogist who spent over thirty years travelling the southeast, recording genealogical data on cards. We have the complete 12 reel microfilm collection of his records.

On a far back wall, 24 shelves of Family History books, plus DAR, Colonial Dames and SAR books.

If you would like some help with your research, please, jot down names, dates, places for your relatives that you want to research, and bring to library. WFGS members will be available to assist.

March 6, 2013, 10 AM

Coastal Branch Library
437 Greenway Trail, Santa Rosa Beach, FL

Author Charlene Grafton will present a program based on her book ***What's In Your Genes? Human Threads Linking Genetics and Genealogy*** as the last of the winter prime time adult programs at this Library. Information: call 850 267-2809

Vendors Sought for April 20, 2013
Saturday in the Park

The **Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida** seeks Arts/Craft/Antique Vendors for the 37th Saturday in the Park on April 20th. Craft vendors must produce quality, hand-crafted, original items only. To register, go online to www.heritage-museum.org or call 850 678-2615.

Useful Web Sites

Here are some unusual or archaic terms often found in old newspapers with examples shown:

[Understanding terms found in historical newspapers](#)

Common genealogical assumptions can provide good leads but they shouldn't be seriously taken as proof without further research:

[Commonly mistaken assumptions in genealogy](#)



Selected FPAN Local Events

March 8: 12:00pm, Public Lecture, Geocaching Talk: "Mosquitoes, Muggles, and Museums," **Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida**, 115 Westview Avenue, Valparaiso, FL 32580. This lecture is free and open to the public. Space is limited. Please call to reserve a seat. (850) 678-2615

March 16: 10:00am-2:00pm, Eglin Archaeology Day, **Jackson Guard**, 107 Hwy. 85 North, Niceville, FL, 32578

March 19: 6:30pm, Niceville Public Library Maritime History Lecture Series, "Talking Smack: The Sailing Vessels of Pensacola's Fishing Industry," **Niceville Public Library**, 205 N. Partin Drive, Niceville, FL, 32578

March 20: 10:00am-12pm, Tour de Fort Bicycling Tour, **Fort Pickens**, Gulf Islands National Seashore, 1400 Fort Pickens Rd., Pensacola Beach, FL 32561

March 22: 6:00pm, Public lecture, "Talking Smack: The Sailing Vessels of the Gulf Coast Fishing Industry," **Bay County Public Library**, 898 West 11th Street, Panama City, FL, 32401

GSOC INFORMATION

Officers for 2013

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

(Elected, Appointed, and Ex Officio positions)

Addresses

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

The Web Site

The GSOC web site is hosted by Rootswest at:
<http://www.rootswest.com/~flocgs>

The site is updated frequently and contains information about future GSOC meetings, minutes of past meetings, copies of the newsletters, articles and items of genealogical and historical interest, and much more.



The symbol on the left is the QR code for the address of the GSOC web site. Scanning this symbol with properly equipped mobile devices will connect that device to the GSOC website.

Meeting Location



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

GSOC Publications

Volume I (out of print), Cemeteries of Okaloosa County, Florida 24 cemeteries east of the Yellow River & north of the Shoal River and I-10	Out of print but available on CD, see below
Volume II (out of print), Cemeteries of Okaloosa County, Florida 26 cemeteries north and west of the Yellow River	Out of print but available on CD, see below
Volume III Cemeteries of Okaloosa County, Florida 11 cemeteries south of the Shoal River	\$5.00 plus \$3.00 postage
Funeral Records of Okaloosa County Records from McLaughlin Funeral Home, Crestview, FL, from 1927 - 1984. Over 11,000 entries. Includes the names of the deceased and, when given, the names of parents. Deceased are listed alphabetically, parents names are indexed.	\$5.00 plus \$3.00 postage
Santa Rosa County Marriages 1869-1906 Over 7,000 names with every-name index, 123 pages.	\$5.00 plus \$3.00 postage
Walton County Marriages (out of print), 1895-1915 Over 10,000 names with every-name index, 165 pages.	Out of print but available on CD, see below
The GSOC Publications Disk This compact disk (CD) contains <u>searchable</u> PDF files containing the books listed above: Cemeteries of Okaloosa County, Volumes I, II, and III; Funeral Records of Okaloosa County; Santa Rosa County Marriages 1869-1906; and Walton County Marriages 1885-1915	\$15.00 plus \$2.00 postage

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



The March GSOC meeting will be on Saturday, March 9, at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, 115 Westview Avenue, Valparaiso, FL, at 10:00 A.M.

Our speaker will be Mr. Dale Cox who will tell us of the research which resulted in his latest book, ***The Scott Massacre of 1817: A Seminole War Battle in Gadsden County, Florida***

Have you renewed your 2013 GSOC membership? The annual GSOC membership is \$24 for an individual and \$35 for an individual and spouse at the same address.

"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

