

THE GSOC NEWSLETTER

THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF
OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MARCH 1, 2014

Next GSOC Meeting

March 8, 2014

The speaker for our March meeting will be Dotty Burdick, Regent, Choctawhatchee Bay Chapter of the National



Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR).

The Choctawhatchee Chapter was organized on April 22, 1967. It draws its members from three counties located in the Panhandle along northwest Florida's beautiful Emerald Coast. Although the meetings are held in Fort Walton Beach, the chapter members include those from the neighboring counties of Santa Rosa and Walton.

Ms. Burdick will discuss "Using the DAR Database for Genealogy Research."

She has been interested in genealogy since childhood and has seven patriot ancestors verified by the DAR. She has also helped others in their family research, and helped establish 27 patriots in their own family lineage.

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GSOC February Meeting

February 8, 2014

Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida
Pat Pruett, Recording Secretary

President Jim Young called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM and welcomed members and six guests. Other officers present were, 1st Vice President, Del Lessard; 2nd Vice President, Sue Basch; Treasurer, Bob Basch; Recording Secretary, Pat Pruett; and Corresponding Secretary, Carl Laws.

Jim explained the Blue Box collection that was taken up by the treasurer in support of our local libraries and our journal.

Del passed out door prize tickets and Chuck Licari's name was drawn for the attendance prize.

President Jim asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the January meeting as published in our February Newsletter. Val Moreland made the motion and it was seconded by Ken Elliott. Motion was passed.

President Jim explained the agenda for today's meeting for the benefit of our members and visitors. He then called for the officers' reports.

Officers Reports:

1st VP/Programs – Del Lessard said that the speaker in March will present a program on the DAR data base. The May speaker will be Mr. Carl Rova, who will present a program on Finding Female Ancestors. Del is also working on obtaining a speaker whose subject will concern military records. Another prospective speaker is the Clerk of Courts.

2nd VP/Membership – Sue Basch said that we had ten new members in 2013 and mentioned that all members need to pay dues now to be current. After March, members will be dropped from the current list and will not receive notification of meetings.

Treasurer's Report – Bob Basch stated that our bank account is getting healthier. We now have a checkbook balance of \$1923.10, with no outstanding bills.

Recording Secretary Pat Pruett – No report.

Corresponding Secretary Carl Laws said several publications that we have received are on display on the table today for viewing. These will be taken to the Ft. Walton Beach Public Library for the Genealogy Room this next week.

Committee Reports:

Publicity – Val Moreland – no report

Genealogist – Margaret Harris – no report

Library Reports:

Hilma and Beverly were not present

Journal – Jim suggested we all be thinking of items to put in our 2014 journal and we need people to form a team to start work on the project early.

Newsletter/Website – Jim would like to have input from members for articles for the Newsletter. We are commemorating the 175th Anniversary of the Civil War and Jim has been putting articles about it in the newsletter. The GSOC website has minutes and newsletters from about 2009 available to view.

Old Business: None
New Business: None

Announcements: Charlene Grafton said that she will be giving a talk on DNA testing information at Troy State local campus on 6 March at 12:00 noon.

Upcoming Events of Interest:

1. Dick Eastman will speak at the Bay County Genealogy Society Seminar on 22 March.
2. The Florida State Genealogical Society will hold their annual conference in Gainesville 28 –30 March.. Nineteen speakers will present programs.
3. The Heritage Museum is holding a luncheon with a speaker on 14 February; and on the 15th will have a Victorian Tea. Their annual **Saturday in the Park Festival** will be on April 20th this year.

Lunch Plans:

Del announced lunch today will be at the Boathouse Land-ing restaurant. Fifteen planned to attend.

There being no more business, the meeting was turned over to Del who introduced the speaker for today, Mrs. Libbi Crowe, genealogist and author of **Genealogy Online**. She is presently working on the 10th edition.

Mrs. Crowe presented a fascinating story entitled **Murder, Mayhem and Many Mrs.'s** about the life of Col. Guy Wyland, and the history of his founding of Navarre many years ago. Several of Col. Wyland's family members live in Valparaiso and some of them were guests at our meeting.

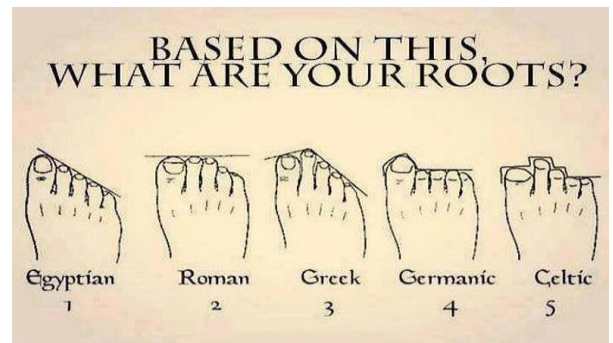
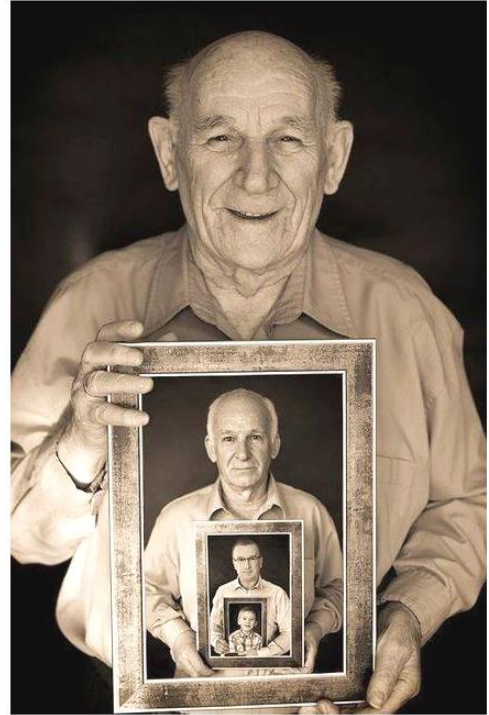


Mrs. Crowe (far right), Col Wyland's daughter (next to her) and other members of Col. Wyland's family

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15.

Following the program, a celebration of the 38th year of the founding of the GSOC was held. Coffee and cake were provided and served thanks to Jim and Bob.

Creative Way to Display Four Generations



Publications Recently Received by the GSOC

The Searcher, California Genealogical Society,
Vol. 5, No. 1, Winter 2014

Yalobusha Pioneer, Yalobusha County Historical Society,
Vol. 40, Issue 1, Spring 2014

The Register, The Kentucky Historical Society,
Vol. 3, No. 4, Autumn

Pea River Trails, Vol 38, No. 3, Fall 2013

The Upper Cumberland Researcher,
Vol 38, No. 4, Winter 2013

Mesquite Historical & Genealogical Society,
Vol. 49, No. 2, Dec. 2013

Tennessee Ancestors, Vol. 28, No. 3, Dec. 2012

100 YEARS OF SERVICE SAINT MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

St. Mary Catholic Church in Fort Walton Beach is celebrating its 100-year anniversary this year. In that time, the congregation has grown from just a handful to almost 1,300, according to the Reverend John Licari.



It has grown from a small church at Shell Avenue and First Street to the present church campus on St. Mary Avenue and now includes a school, a soup kitchen, a nonprofit organization, thrift shop and food pantry.

In the early 1900s a priest came from Pensacola by boat for the holidays, taking about six hours for the journey. Soon afterwards, a temporary pastor came to Camp Walton. \$500 was donated by one member and the area's bishop provided an additional matching \$500 to begin the growth of the church.



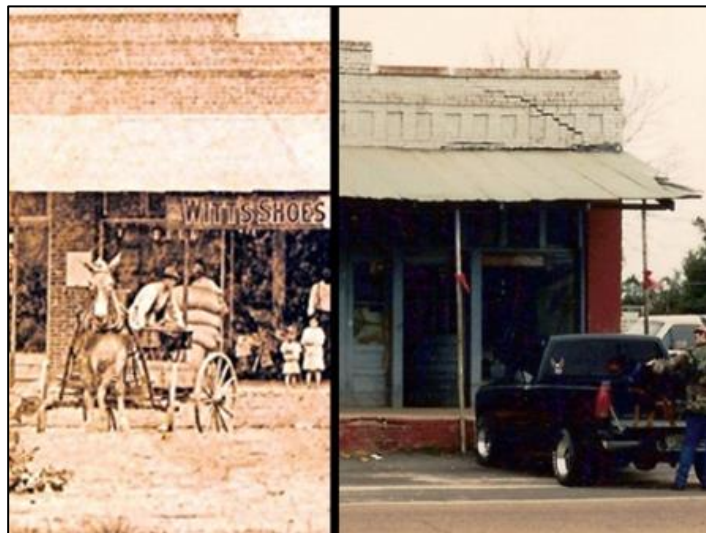
The first church building opened in 1914 with about 30 members. A second church was built in 1939 as the church grew and the current building on St. Mary Avenue opened in 1972.

St. Mary plans to host several events throughout the year to celebrate this anniversary. A gala is planned for April 26th and a parish birthday party will be held on September 8th.

Baker Block Museum Revives Baker Mercantile: Opening Day: March 1st

In the early 1900's, the four store buildings in downtown Baker, Florida, joined together side-by-side, made up that era's version of what we today call a strip mall.

They were called the "Baker Block". One of these stores was the Baker Mercantile which was the town's main place to go to buy groceries and "dry goods".



Baker Block Museum Photos

Over the years, the four buildings went through many changes and were used for a variety of things. The Baker Block Museum and a credit union branch office are now located there.

The Baker Block Museum and North Okaloosa Heritage Association's volunteers and staffers have just completed the renovation of the easternmost of the four stores in this historic Baker Block and have announced that the Baker Mercantile is going to be back in business. Shoppers there will find handcrafted works from regional artists and crafters, as well as locally produced honey, cane syrup and soaps. The museum staffers are excited that they will at last have a museum store, located just inside the mercantile door. Stock includes regional history books, including both volumes of "The Heritage of Okaloosa County."

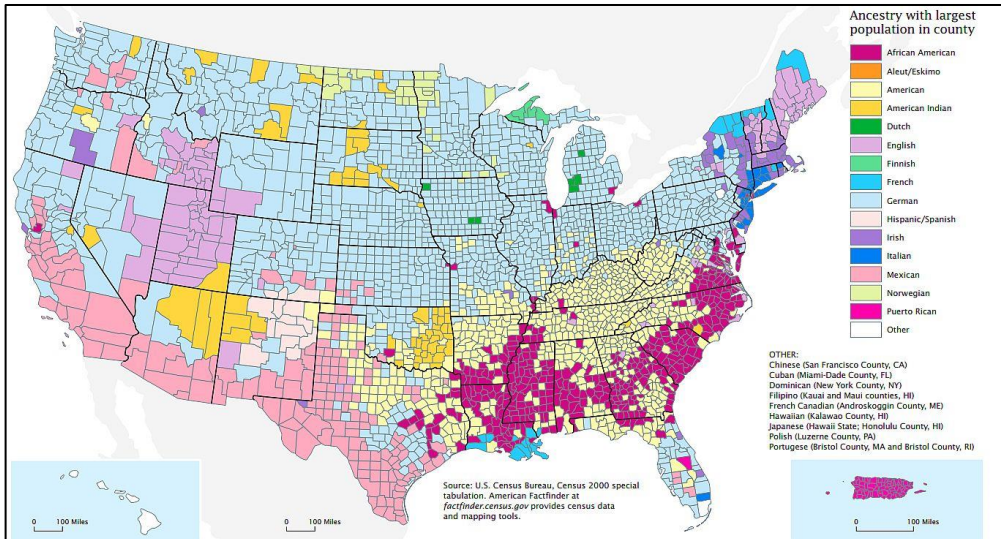
The renovated Baker Mercantile gleams in the golden glow of varnished refinished pine floors and a bead-board ceiling. The new back doors were milled from the building's original virgin pine foundation timbers.

The sunlit front windows will display artifacts typical of merchandise the original Baker Mercantile once offered. The store, which has been created as a "vendor mall," has space for 12 booths and additional shelf space for smaller vendors. But the volunteer workers emphasize that this is no junk shop and the merchandise consists of repurposed, vintage and handcrafted works from regional artists and crafters as well as locally-produced honey, cane syrup, and soaps. "It's nice stuff," they say.

Ancestry: 2000

Report on Ancestry from the United States Census of 2000

“Ancestry is a broad concept that can mean different things to different people; it can be described alternately as where their ancestors are from, where they or their parents originated, or simply how they see themselves ethnically. Some people may have one distinct ancestry, while others are descendants of several ancestry groups, and still others may know only that their ancestors were from a



Map of the United States showing the ancestry with the largest population in each county



Key to the U.S. Ancestry Map

particular region of the world or may not know their ethnic origins at all.

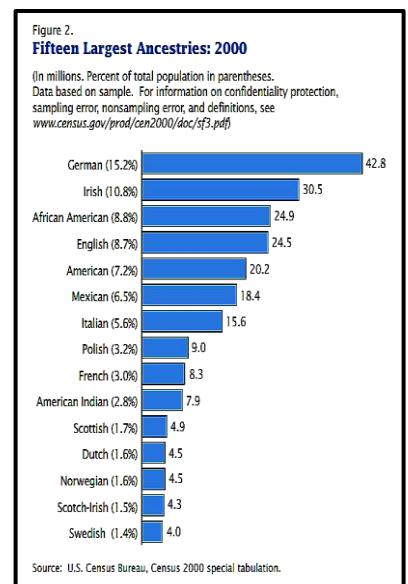
The Census Bureau defines ancestry as a person’s ethnic origin, heritage, descent, or “roots,” which may reflect their place of birth, place of birth of parents or ancestors, and ethnic identities that have evolved within the United States.

This report is part of a series that presents population and housing data collected by Census 2000, where 80 percent of respondents to the long form specified at least one ancestry. (About one-sixth of households received the long form.) It presents data on the most frequently reported ancestries and describes population distributions for the United States, including regions, states, counties, and selected cities.

U.S. Department of Commerce
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

This information is from a Census Bureau publication. The complete report with additional charts and more details about the census question concerning ancestry and the validity of the results can be found in the document which can be read and/or downloaded from:

<http://www.census.gov/prod/2004pubs/c2kbr-35.pdf>.



Fifteen Largest Ancestries in the United States as Reported in the 2000 Census



Civil War Sesquicentennial

Selected Highlights of March 1864

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

During March 1864, General Sherman finalised his plan to march on Atlanta.

March 1: Custis Lee, son of Robert E. Lee, turns back a force of 500 cavalry under Ulric Dahlgreen, 2 miles west of Richmond. General Judson Kilpatrick had called off a planned assault earlier in the day. The cavalry raid on Richmond went badly wrong from the beginning. Having ridden for 36 hours, both men and horses were exhausted. The Confederate defenders had known about the raid and had prepared accordingly. An experienced cavalry unit from Lee's Army of Northern Virginia was brought in to Richmond and chased the Unionist cavalry force out of the city. By the time the raid formally ended the Unionists had lost 340 men and 500 horses. It was a propaganda coup for the South and should have been a disaster for the North but the raid was sold as a success as it concentrated on the dilapidated state of the Confederate capital – as witnessed by those on the raid.

March 2: Fitzhugh Lee [CS] traps Ulric Dahlgreen's cavalry following the raid on Richmond, killing Dahlgreen and 109 of his men.

March 2: Grant was formally promoted to lieutenant general and assumed the title General-in-Chief of the Army of the United States.

March 9: Grant received his new command in a ceremony attended by the whole Cabinet. Many politicians expected him to work out of Washington. Therefore, there was much surprise when Grant announced that he was going to set up his command in the field with the Army of the Potomac. While a number of politicians in Washington had tried to get Lincoln to dismiss Meade, commander of the Army of the Potomac, Grant expressed his full confidence in his leadership.

March 15: Moving men and vessels up the Red River, the Union Army arrives at Alexandria, LA

March 16: Nathan Bedford Forrest begins a raid into West Tennessee and Kentucky

March 17: Grant, observing a request from Halleck, relieved the general of his command and appointed him chief-of-staff. Grant announced that the Union's military headquarters would be with the Army of the Potomac. Grant made the destruction of the Army of Northern Virginia his primary aim.

March 17: William Tecumseh Sherman, meeting with Grant in Nashville, is promoted to Military Division of the Mississippi commanding the Department of the Ohio, Department of the Tennessee, Department of the Cumberland and the Department of the Arkansas. Major General James McPherson is promoted to Sherman's old position, commander of the Army of the Tennessee

March 21: Abraham Lincoln signs legislation allowing Nevada and Colorado to become states even though they don't meet population requirements

March 24: Nathan Bedford Forrest seizes Union City Tennessee

March 27: Sherman, in Vicksburg, was making hard and fast plans for his campaign against Atlanta. These included calling in Union troops from elsewhere such as A J Smith's corps from Alexandria, Louisiana.

-- Official Flags of the CSA --

There were only three flag designs adopted, with later, minor variants made to those designs, that served as the official national flags of the Confederate States of America and used during its existence from 1861 to 1865.

The first official national flag of the Confederacy, often called the "**Stars and Bars**", was flown from March 4, 1861 to May 1, 1863.

The second official national flag was used between May 1, 1863 and March 4, 1865. It is also known as "the Stainless Banner" because of the pure white field.

The third national flag (also called "the Blood Stained Banner") was adopted March 4, 1865. The red vertical bar was added because some felt that the pure white field of the Second National flag could be mistaken as a flag of truce when hanging limp in no wind.

In addition to the national flags, a wide variety of flags and banners were flown by Southerners during the War. Most famously, the "Bonnie Blue Flag" was used as an unofficial flag during the early months of 1861.



First National Flag
("Stars and Bars")



Second National Flag
("The Stainless Banner")



Third National Flag
("Blood Stained Banner")



The Bonnie Blue Flag

Obituaries

by Jim Young

Two of the most valuable references for a genealogist are census reports and obituaries. Many rank an obituary, when available, as the better reference because it was usually written at or near the time of death, the survivors are available to provide information, and it contains more information than the census.

It would be great if all obituaries would contain the full name of the deceased, the spouse(s), the survivors, the date and place of birth, the date and place and manner of death, and the parents of the deceased, as well as useful information about the deceased's occupation and interests. This was often the case in obituaries written for weekly newspapers in the rural areas, however, this is rarely the case with more modern ones. Still, finding the obituary of someone we are researching is like finding a gold nugget in a pile of gravel. If one can be found it is usually in the form of a newspaper clipping; or, in some cases now, as an item on a website (either as a scanned image or in text form.) Unfortunately, the websites that contain most of the obituaries are usually subscription sites.

Obituary is from the Latin *obit*, meaning death. The word obituary has been used to refer to published death notices since the 18th century. Although brief announcements of deaths were published in America as early as the 16th century, it took another 300 years for the longer, more-detailed accounts to appear in the press. Obits have historically been penned about people like soldiers, public servants, celebrities and adventurers because, according to historians, the audience hangs with such interest on the details of their lives and, unfortunately, their deaths.

Over the years, obituary style has reflected the public frame of mind. Accounts of deaths of frontier men and women emphasized value of life; those of Civil War soldiers were often sentimental and religious. For a brief period, during the turn of the 19th century, obits were even written in verse.

Beginning in the 1880s, a trend called death journalism inhabited newspaper obits in England and the United States. During this time, obituaries focused on the graphic and often morbid details of the person's demise. The New York Times piece on the death of Theodore Roosevelt, for example, leads with an elaborate description of the blood clot that "detached itself from a vein and entered the lungs."

During the 20th century, obituary writing was reinvigorated by the rise of the "common man" obit, which recognized ordinary people as well as the aristocracy.

The Internet enabled two other experiments: multi-media tributes and obit blogs. One of the most famous multi-media pieces was a video-obit posted by *The New York Times* in 2007. The opening featured an appearance by a newly-deceased subject himself, Art Buchwald. In the first frame, the 81-year-old humorist addressed viewers with a giant grin and said, "Hi, I'm Art Buchwald, and I just died."

Before the mid-nineteenth century, information about deaths usually came randomly from estate records, from gravestones and Bible records, from town and church

registers, and from newspapers. With the first of these, the record was created to facilitate the transfer of property to the heirs; for the second, to memorialize a family member; and for the last two, to record the passage of a town's citizen or a church's member.

Unusual obituaries can be found throughout the decades but they seem to be appearing more often now. For example, an obituary which was placed in the Biloxi, MS, Sun Herald, said that: *"Harry Weathersby Stamps, ladies' man, foodie, natty dresser, and accomplished traveler, died on Saturday, March 9, 2013. He despised phonies, his 1969 Volvo (which he also loved), know-it-all Yankees, Southerners who used the words 'veranda' and 'porte cochere' to put on airs, eating grape leaves, Law and Order (all franchises), cats, and Martha Stewart. In reverse order. He particularly hated Daylight Saving Time, which he referred to as 'The Devil's Time.' It is not lost on his family that he died the very day that he would have had to spring his clock forward. This can only be viewed as his final protest. He would ask that anyone reading this write to their local Congressman to ask to repeal "*

In a 2012 obituary in a Colorado newspaper, it is reported that *"A Celebration of the life of Michael 'Flathead' Blanchard will be held on April 14th, 3 pm, 8160 Rosemary St, Commerce City. Weary of reading obituaries noting someone's courageous battle with death, Mike wanted it known that he died as a result of being stubborn, refusing to follow doctors' orders and raising hell for more than six decades. He enjoyed booze, guns, cars and younger women until the day he died."* The obituary goes on to tell when he was born, who his parents and his survivors were, his love of music, and that he was a Republican and a member of the NRA. The obituary concludes by saying *"So many of his childhood friends that weren't killed in Vietnam went on to become criminals, prostitutes and/or Democrats. He asks that you stop by and re-tell the stories he can no longer tell. As the Celebration will contain Adult material we respectfully ask that no children under 18 attend."*

A widely-circulated obituary from last fall is even more unusual. It's been called the "World's Worst Mother" and was actually written by two of her surviving children: *"Marianne Theresa Johnson-Reddick born Jan 4, 1935 and died alone on Sept. 30, 2013. She is survived by 6 of her 8 children whom she spent her lifetime torturing in every way possible. While she neglected and abused her small children, she refused to allow anyone else to care or show compassion towards them. When they became adults she stalked and tortured anyone they dared to love. Everyone she met, adult or child was tortured by her cruelty and exposure to violence, criminal activity, vulgarity, and hatred of the gentle or kind human spirit. On behalf of her children whom she so abrasively exposed to her evil and violent life, we celebrate her passing from this earth and hope she lives in the afterlife reliving each gesture of violence, cruelty, and shame that she delivered on her children. Her surviving children will now live the rest of their lives with the peace of knowing their nightmare finally has some form of closure. Most of us have found peace in helping those who have been exposed to child abuse and hope this message of her final passing can revive our message that abusing children is unforgiveable [sic], shameless, and should not be tolerated in a "humane society". Our greatest wish now, is to stimulate a national movement that mandates a purposeful and dedicated war against child abuse in the United States of America."*

Obituaries are also used to shame other family members, as this one from Memphis does. *"On June 3, 2005 at 10:45 pm. in Memphis, Tennessee, Dorothy Gibson Cully, 86, died peace-fully, while in the loving care of her two favorite children, Barbara and David. All of her breath leaked out. At the time of her death, Dot was visiting her daughter, Carol in Memphis. Carol and her husband, Ron, who were away from*

home attending a "very important conference" at a posh Florida resort, rushed home 10 days later after learning of the death. Dot graduated from Eastern High School at 15, worked in Baltimore full time from 1934 to 1979, beginning as a factory worker at Cross & Blackwell and retiring after 30 years as property manager and controller for a Baltimore conglomerate, Housing Engineering Company, all while raising four children, two of who are fairly normal. Opinions about the details of this obit are not welcome, since Mom would have liked it this way."

My favorite, though is "Frederic Arthur (Fred) Clark, who had tired of reading obituaries noting other's courageous battles with this or that disease, wanted it known that he lost his battle as a result of an automobile accident on June 18, 2006. True to Fred's personal style, his final hours were spent joking with medical personnel while he whimpered, cussed, begged for narcotics and bargained with God to look over his wife and kids. He loved his family. His heart beat faster when his wife of 37 years Alice Rennie Clark entered the room and saddened a little when she left. His legacy was the good works performed by his sons, Frederic Arthur Clark III and Andrew Douglas Clark MD, PhD., along with Andy's wife, Sara Morgan Clark. Fred's back straightened and chest puffed out when he heard the Star Spangled Banner and his eyes teared when he heard Amazing Grace. He wouldn't abide self important tight *censored*. Always an interested observer of politics, particularly what the process does to its participants, he was amused by politician's outrage when we lie to them and amazed at what the voters would tolerate. His final wishes were "throw the bums out and don't elect lawyers" (though it seems to make little difference). During his life he excelled at mediocrity. He loved to hear and tell jokes, especially short ones due to his limited attention span. He had a life-long love affair with bacon, butter, cigars and bourbon. You always knew what Fred was thinking much to the dismay of his friends and family. His sons said of Fred, "he was often wrong, but never in doubt". When his family was asked what they remembered about Fred, they fondly recalled how Fred never peed in the shower – on purpose. He died at MCV Hospital and sadly was deprived of his final wish which was to be run over by a beer truck on the way to the liquor store to buy booze for a double date to include his wife, Rush Limbaugh and Ann Coulter to crash an ACLU cocktail party. In lieu of flowers, Fred asks that you make a sizable purchase at your local ABC store or Virginia winery (please, nothing French – the *censored*) and get rip roaring drunk at home with someone you love or hope to make love to. Word of caution though, don't go out in public to drink because of the alcohol related laws our elected officials have passed due to their inexplicable terror at the sight of a MADD lobbyist and overwhelming compulsion to meddle in our lives. No funeral or service is planned. However, a party will be held to celebrate Fred's life. Fred's ashes will be fired from his favorite cannon at a private party on the Great Wicomico River where he had a home for 25 years. Additionally, all of Fred's friends will be asked to gather in a phone booth, to be designated in the future, to have a drink and wonder, "Fred who?"

A Note About This Article:

As the Chairman of the Vardaman History Project (VHP), a task to write a history of the small north-central Mississippi town where I grew up, I have been working recently on a section of the VHP web site honoring those who are 'Gone but Not Forgotten' which includes obituaries of Vardaman people from all walks of life. If you are interested, you can see this section at:

<http://vardaman-history-project.us/obit-intro.html>

I have read hundreds of Vardaman obituaries and have, so far, put over 200 of them on the website. This is a bitter-sweet effort. The information in this article was inspired by that research.

Jim Young

Birth, Death, and Age Calculations

Tombstones are a source of much of the data we genealogists gather in our research. Usually the dates of birth and death are shown, but sometimes only the death date and the person's age (given in years, months, and days) are provided. Determining the birth date then becomes more difficult than it first appears because not all months and not all years are the same length. For older ancestors there may also be the problem of which calendar to use (Julian or Gregorian). Too, the ages calculated and engraved on the tombstone may have used a simple method that assumed that all months have 30 days, and that was the most common method used in the past.

There are several ways to calculate the date of birth given the date of death (month, day, year) and the age (years, months, and days), and these may give different results. Fortunately, there are many websites now available that will do the calculations for you. When you need to perform the calculation, go to a website that does the calculation in these different ways and see what the results are. If one gives you a birthdate which is unreasonable, such as February 31, discard it and examine the other results.

To find these websites, Google "date of birth from date of death and age". Here are some of the many sites that Google found:

<http://www.progenealogists.com/birthfromdeath.htm>
<http://freepages.family.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~fgrs/brown/agecalc.html>
<http://longislandgenealogy.com/birth.html>



2014 Florida State Genealogical Society Annual Conference

The three-day conference will be held at the Hilton University of Florida Conference Center in Gainesville, Florida on 28 – 30 March 2014. Reserve your room now to get the special hotel rates!

Online Conference Registration and complete details concerning the special hotel rates and the lectures that you can select are available at the FSGS web site.

Lisa Louise Cooke, the Keynote Speaker is the owner of Genealogy Gems, a genealogy and family history multi-media company. She is Producer and Host of the Genealogy Gems Podcast, the popular online genealogy audio show available at www.GenealogyGems.com, in iTunes, and through the Genealogy Gems app, and free toolbar.

Plus, 19 other speakers for the breakout sessions!

For complete details and to download the conference brochure, go to:

<http://flsgs.org/aem.php?eid=3>

Events, Groups, and Sites of GSOC Interest

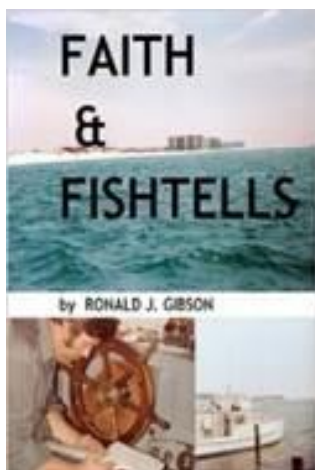
Spring Seminar with Dick Eastman Sat., March 22, 2014, Panama City, Florida Presented by Bay Co. Genealogical Society



Richard "Dick" Eastman is an internationally known lecturer and author of Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter which is read by more than 75,000 genealogists all over the world.

PreRegister **Before March 15th**: Members \$40.00 and Non-members \$45.00. After March 15th and at the door: \$50.00 (lunch not guaranteed unless pre-registered). For more information, go to the BCGS web site at: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flbcgs/index.html>

Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida Friday, March 14th, 12:00 pm Free Lunchtime Lecture



Ronald Gibson, author of "Faith & Fishtells", will talk about the cultural history of Destin, FL, the hardworking families, events, and one family's immigration from Canada to Northwest Florida in 1924, during a free lecture at the *Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida*, Friday, March 14 at 12:00 p.m.

Bring a sandwich and take

your lunch break with *History Sandwiched-In*, an informal lunchtime education program. SPACE IS LIMITED, please call to reserve a seat. (850) 678-2615, 115 Westview Ave., Valparaiso, FL.



Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida Craft Vendors Wanted for the 38th Annual Saturday in the Park Festival to be held on April 26, 2014

The *Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida* seeks Art/Craft/Antique Vendors for the **38th Saturday in the Park Heritage Festival**. Craft Vendors must produce quality, hand-crafted, original items only.

Contact the Museum for an application. To register, go to <http://www.heritage-museum.org> or call (850) 678-2615.

WEST FLORIDA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY Sat., March 1, 2014, 10:00 AM, at the West Florida Genealogy Library 5740 N. 9th Ave, Pensacola, FL

Topic: Understanding Your Y-DNA 101

At the March 1 West Florida Genealogical Society meeting, Bert Outlaw will present information about Y-DNA test results, what they mean, and how to use them in your research. The focus will be more on application and less on theory and biology.

Outlaw is currently serving as President of WFGS. He was born and raised in South Alabama and spent 20 years in the military. He has been a teacher and a flight instructor.

The business meeting and program will begin at 10:00. Refreshments will be available at 9:45 am. Members and guests are welcome! Contact: 850-494-7373

GIVENS FAMILY REUNION

Descendants of: **Robert Givens (1810-aft 1860)**
and **Sarah Rebecca Stewart (Allen) (1812-aft 1860)**

DATE: Saturday, March 15, 2014
TIME: 9:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M.
PLACE: Warriors Hall
201 Stillwell Boulevard
Crestview, Florida

For further information, you may contact
Foye Gramley at 850-892-7069 or 850-685-9966
or send an email to fbgram@yahoo.com;
or contact Margaret Harris at 850-533-6710
or send her an email at margmarieh@cox.net.

Walton County Heritage Association History Fair, Saturday, March 8, 2014, 9 AM – 3 PM

The Walton County Heritage Association will once again host the History Fair portion of Antiques Day. As in previous years, Antiques Day will be a three-prong event with the History Fair, the Wearing 'o the Green Antique Car Show sponsored by the Chautauqua Cruisers, and tractor pull competitions sponsored by the Walton County Fair Association. There will also be displays of antique farm equipment and tractors behind the fairgrounds building. Walton County Genealogy Society President Wayne Sconiers is taking table reservations for the History Fair portion of the event. Write to WayneSconiers@embargmail.com to reserve your six or eight foot table or complete the application

As always, there is no fee for a display at the History Fair unless you will be selling items. Call Wayne at 850-859-2207 for more information.

Walton County Fairgrounds, 790 Highway 83 North, DeFuniak Springs

GSOC Donates Large-Screen TV to the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida

"Thank you!"



The Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida would like to thank Museum Member, Jim Young and the Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County (GSOC) for donating a 47" color TV to the Museum.

When Jim Young and the GSOC heard the Museum's television had stopped working, they quickly came to the rescue with the donation.

The television will be used for presentations during public programs, events, and organization meetings.

Thank you!!



In appreciation of the support provided to the GSOC by the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Jim Young, President of the GSOC, presented this large-screen TV to Gina Marina, Heritage Museum Manager, on February 19th on behalf of the Society.

As those who attended the February 8th meeting of the GSOC at the Museum know, the TV that has been used in the past apparently gave up the ghost and our speaker at the meeting had to improvise the visual part of her presentation.

The Society is pleased that it was able to facilitate the donation of this larger TV which will be used for future GSOC meetings as well as the Heritage Museum's public programs, events, and for meetings of other organizations which meet at the Museum

GSOC INFORMATION

Officers for 2014

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

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

(Elected, Appointed, and Ex Officio positions)

Addresses

P.O. Box 1175, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-1175
Web Site: <http://www.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 2013 issue, Volume XXXII, Issue 102, was published and distributed in December 2013.

The Web Site

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

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.

98 Years Ago in Okaloosa County:

Good Roads Meet Held At Crestview Enthusiastic Gathering of Citizens Hear Address by W. M. Herrider of Pensacola

"The following is taken from Saturday's *Pensacola Journal* and tells of the good roads meeting which was held in *The Okaloosa News* office at Crestview, Thursday night of last week.

Crestview, Feb. 18, 1916—W. M. Herrider, Secretary of the West Florida Highway Association, was here from Pensacola and made a most interesting talk last night to an enthusiastic crowd of Crestview progressive citizens on the importance of good roads.

Mr. Herrider laid special stress on the importance of completing the "Old Spanish Trail" through Okaloosa County. He said in part that Okaloosa, the baby county of the state, was to be congratulated on the fact that she now has completed and ready for use thirteen miles of as good hard surfaced roads as are to be found anywhere in West Florida, there remaining only eleven miles more of road to be built in this county before the "Old Spanish Trail" highway will be completed through the county, which is far ahead of any other county in West Florida, save it be Walton."

When Mr. Herrider was through speaking the editor of the *Okaloosa News* made a short talk, wherein he stated "he felt sure that the remaining eleven miles of unfinished road would be finished by the latter part of the ensuing summer."

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



The March GSOC meeting will be held on Saturday, March 8, 2014, at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida at 10 AM.

The speaker will be Ms. Dotty Burdick, Regent, Choctaw-hatchee Bay Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the America Revolution (DAR). She will discuss "Using the DAR Database for Genealogy Research."

GSOC membership dues for 2014 are due and must be paid on or before the March meeting in order for your Newsletters and Journal to be sent.

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

HONOR THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE

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

