

THE GSOC NEWSLETTER



THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF
OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MARCH 6, 2015

Next GSOC Meeting

Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida

March 14, 2015, 10:00 AM

Elisa Mitchiner, historian, researcher, and creator of The [Niceville Florida Online History Center](#) will be the guest speaker for our March meeting. She will discuss the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp that was built at Niceville.

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

January GSOC Meeting Minutes

Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida

February 14, 2015

Pat Pruett, Recording Secretary

President Jim Young opened the meeting at 10:00 AM by welcoming members and visitors to enjoy cake and coffee and socializing in celebration of the 39th birthday of our GSOC. Jim provided the beautiful and delicious cake.

At 10:15 AM, Pres. Young called the formal meeting to order and spoke of how the charter members played such a role in 1976 in laying the ground work for all our presidents and officers. He acknowledged two past presidents who were present, Margaret Harris and Beverly Gross.

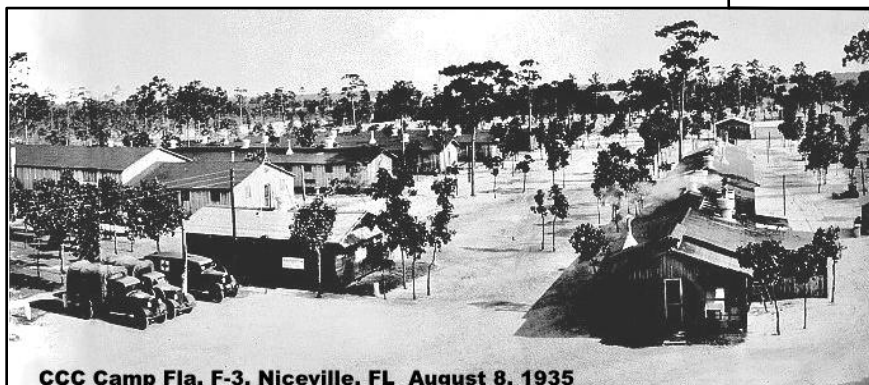
Pres. Young said it is time to renew our membership to the Heritage Museum, in the amount of \$250.00. We have been holding our meetings here for a number of years. He asked for a motion to do so. Motion was made by Val Moreland and seconded by Glenda Manis. The motion was passed unanimously.

2nd Vice Pres. Charlene Grafton reminded everyone to sign in and take a ticket for the door prize. She is taking the 2015 membership dues today and has name tags for the new and paid up members.

Treasurer Bob Basch reported that we have a bank balance of \$1953.73. Pres. Young suggested we consider sponsoring a membership in Ancestry.com at one of the Libraries. Several people mentioned that the cost has become prohibitive and even the Valparaiso Library no longer has a membership, so the subject was dropped. Bob passed the "Blue Box" and explained that the Blue Box donations were to help finance our yearly journal and to buy genealogy books for any of the local libraries who might make a request.

1st Vice President-Programs Del Lessard, listed a few of the upcoming programs for us. Our March speaker will be Elisa Mitchiner, local historian and an expert on the Boggy Bayou area. She will talk about the CCC camp which was located in Niceville. Our June program will be a trip to the Milton public library, where Dr. Brian Rucker will discuss the history of Santa Rosa County. Then a show of hands was taken for the Dutch Treat Lunch following the meeting. Thirteen people will be going to the Boathouse for lunch.

In the interest of time, Pres. Jim said that the other officers and committee reports would not be requested. He then turned the meeting over to Del for our program.



CCC Camp Fla. F-3, Niceville, FL August 8, 1935

natural resources in rural lands owned by federal, state and local governments.

The Niceville camp was one of the first in the nation; and the CCC and it are both commemorating their 82nd 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.

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Del welcomed back as our speaker, Libbi Crowe, who we all enjoyed so much during her presentation here last February. Ms. Crowe spoke to us today on subjects covered in her latest published book "Genealogy Online". After covering a large variety of computer sources, she said "she had to admit that Wiki Trees is presently her favorite online source of information". Her talk generated quite a few questions from her audience.

Pres. Young thanked our speaker and a ticket was drawn for the door prize, which was a GSOC T-shirt. The meeting was closed at 11:15 AM.

FEATURED WEBSITE FOR MARCH

NICEVILLE, FLORIDA ONLINE HISTORY CENTER

<http://boggyflorida.com/Niceville/>

Reviewed by Jim Young

This outstanding web site was researched and compiled by Elisa Mitchiner (rbst2u@yahoo.com) for Niceville's 100th anniversary and was placed online in November 2010 for use in documenting local history through about 1940.

Mrs. Mitchiner has done a superb job in researching and creating this web site. She has gleaned this information from a wide variety of sources which she references throughout the site.

She traces Niceville's roots in the various counties which have contained it. Boggy Bayou was originally in Escambia County when the Florida Territory had only two counties; it became part of Walton County when that county was established in 1824. Boggy became Niceville, and Niceville was part of Walton County for five years until Okaloosa County was formed in 1915.

Choctawhatchee Bay had originally been called Santa Rosa Bay and was sometimes called by both names. The name of the creek at the head of Boggy Bayou was known as Boggy Creek then Juniper Creek and is now known as Turkey Creek.

This website is richly illustrated with photographs, such as this one of the first graduating class at Niceville High



School, and contains links to historic maps of the area.

Although the main thrust of the site is Niceville and its surrounding area, there is a very significant amount of material that is of

interest to those researching the history of other parts this area and the families and people who lived here.

I highly recommend this website and congratulate the author/webmaster for her fine work.

Ancestry.com

Comments by the GSOC Newsletter Editor



Although it is based in Provo, Utah, **Ancestry.com** is not owned by nor is it a part of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Ancestry.com Inc., formerly The Generations Network, is a privately held Internet company. It is the largest for-profit genealogy company in the world and it operates a network of genealogical and historical record websites focused on the United States and nine foreign countries, develops and markets genealogical software, and offers a wide array of genealogical related services.

In addition to its flagship site, Ancestry.com operates Archives.com, Fold3.com, ProGenealogists, 1000-memories.com, Newspapers.com, Genealogy.com, MyFamily.com, and Rootsweb.com. Family Tree Maker software developed and marketed by the company is advertised as "the #1 selling family history software".

In September 2013, Ancestry.com announced its acquisition of Find a Grave. A month later, the company announced it had purchased the family history records of South African genealogy website Ancestry24 which ceased operating in February 2013.

Since October 2012 Ancestry.com has been owned by a private equity group consisting of Permira Advisers LLP, Spectrum Equity, and by members of Ancestry.com's own management team (including the CEO Time Sullivan and the CFO Howard Hochhauser).

Ancestry.com has invested a very significant amount of money in developing its collections of information. It is not surprising that it has moved some data which was previously available free of charge back behind a "pay wall", and it is likely that other data may be treated similarly.

Disclaimer: Ancestry.com operates Rootsweb.com which provides free website hosting for non-profit genealogical and historical societies. The GSOC web site, along with hundreds of others, is hosted by Rootsweb.com.

Telephone Number Correction

The phone number for Margaret Harris, GSOC Genealogist, was listed incorrectly in the February 2015 Newsletter. The correct number is 850-533-6710

The Quonset Hut

In 1940, convinced that war was coming, the U.S. Navy began a program of building bases on far-flung Pacific island using civilian contractors. When the United States entered the war, the use of civilian labor was stopped since international law wouldn't allow civilians to resist enemy military attack. Instead, the Navy's Bureau of Yards and Docks requested the authority to activate, organize, and man a unique organization to support the Navy and Marines in remote locations and defend themselves if attacked — the Naval Construction Battalions, CBs. This was approved in January 1942. Within three months, CB personnel were officially named Seabees by the Navy Department.

The Navy was keenly aware that it would need a way to quickly house people and protect materiel at the far-flung bases. The building needed to be inexpensive, lightweight, and portable so it could be shipped anywhere and put up quickly using hand tools. The British had developed a light prefab structure called a Nissen Hut during WW-I. In early 1941, the US Military had looked at the Nissen hut, but felt the design could be improved.

At that time a new Navy base was nearing completion at Quonset Point, Rhode Island. Two construction companies, George A. Fuller and Company and Merritt-Chapman had been hired to build the base. In March 1941 the Military asked the Fuller Company to design and produce a portable hut to US specification, and to do it within two months!

The Fuller Company adapted the British design using corrugated steel and semi-circular steel arched ribs. The Anderson Sheet Metal Company of Providence, RI solved the technical problem of bending the corrugated sheets into a usable form. These were attached with nuts and bolts. The two ends were covered with plywood which had doors and windows. Major improvements over the Nissen Hut were an interior Masonite (pressed wood) lining, insulation, and a one-inch tongue-in-groove plywood floor on a raised metal framework.

A production facility was quickly set up not far from the Davisville Naval Base. There were concerns about patent issues with Great Britain if they used the name Nissen Hut. So, since the area was known as Quonset Point, the new design was called a Quonset Hut. The first hut was produced within 60 days of contract award. In fact, production began while the design was still being perfected.

The first design was semi-circular, 16 feet wide by 36 feet long and constructed out of heavy 1-inch thick steel "T" shaped steel and angle iron arches and covered in corrugated metal. It took a crew of 8 a day to erect one. In June of 1941 the Navy made its first shipment of these Quonset Huts overseas. There was concern that since the curve line of the sidewalls began at the floor, there was a loss of effective width of the hut. A second version was the same size but included a 4 feet high vertical sidewall (knee wall).

Although several thousand of these first huts were produced, they were awkward to crate and heavy to ship. Engineers soon found a faster, cheaper way to assemble huts using a welded steel strip 2 by 3 5/8 inches - actually two lightweight channels welded back to back - with a wavy center groove that held special nails with lead seals.



The newer design was so simple to erect that anyone who could hammer a nail could set it up. A crew of 6 experienced men could build a hut in a single day. Production of the original design was halted sometime in 1942. Thereafter all huts used the new strip design and all production moved to Great Lakes Steel Corporation factories in the mid-west.

The Quonset Hut soon evolved into a third design to reduce shipping space and tonnage. The third design incorporated lighter, curved corrugated, galvanized sheets for covering. The arch-rib again became semi-circular with a 4-foot knee wall. The new hut was larger, 20 feet by 48 feet and lighter, using 3 1/2 tons of steel instead of 4 tons.

Later there was a fourth design. The Navy eliminated the knee wall and returned to a full semi-circular design, 20 by 48 feet in size when it was realized that at this dimension no space was actually lost along the outer edge of the building. Huts were designed with and without dormer window. The fifth evolution of the hut returned to the full semi-circular design and size (20 by 48 feet) but used flat corrugated siding mounted horizontally but retained the curved plates for the roof ridge. This arrangement reduced the need for special manufacturing of curved corrugated siding panels. Dormer windows were replaced by either translucent corrugated panels or flat steel framed windows.

Toward the end of 1943, 4-foot overhangs were added to the Quonset Hut to prevent driving rains and sunlight from entering the hut. These huts were 20 by 56 feet. In 1945, the overhang was eliminated from huts destined for temperate locations.

As finally developed, the Quonset Hut required less shipping space than did tents with wood floors and frames, when equal numbers of men were to be accommodated.

The flexible open interior space of a Quonset Hut allowed it to be used for hundreds of applications including barracks, offices, medical and dental offices, isolation wards, bakeries, chapels, theaters, latrines – you name it. As the necessity arose for adapting the huts to a new use, the details were worked out and checked by actually erecting units at the Davisville Base. In all, 86 approved interior layout plans were prepared. In many cases it was necessary to develop special interior equipment, such as special ovens, to fit the Quonset Hut form. The largest wartime assemblage of huts was said to have been a 54,000-square-foot warehouse on Guam called the "Multiple Mae West."



To meet the growing demand, a number of other companies produced variations of the Quonset Hut for the Military during the Second World War: the Pacific Hut Company was formed to produce an all-wood hut for Arctic use; Butler Manufacturing made a squat hut with U-shaped arch ribs; Jamesway Manufacturing made a hut with wooden ribs and insulated fabric covering; Armco International made heavy-weight arched bunkers to store ammunition; and Cowan and Company made semicircular warehouses for the Air Corp.



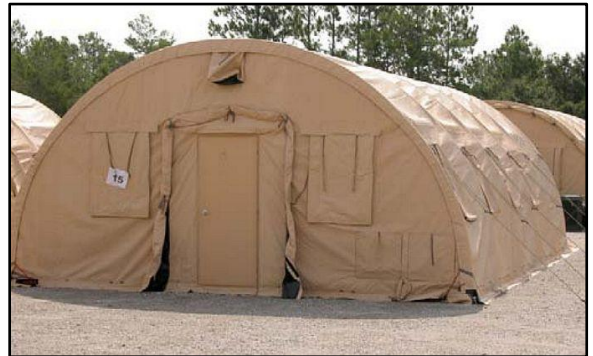
When the war ended, Quonset Huts were too good a resource to throw away. So the military sold them to

civilians for about a thousand dollars each. They made serviceable single-family homes. Universities made them into student housing and returning veterans occupied Quonset huts by choice. Robert Winton even wrote a play about them titled *Tents of Tin*.

Many remain standing throughout the United States. Besides those that remain in use as outbuildings, they are often seen at military museums and other places featuring World War II memorabilia. Some are still in active use at United States military bases; for example, Camps Red Cloud and Casey near the Korean DMZ and Pohakuloa Training Area on the big island of Hawaii.

Many were also used around the United States for temporary postwar housing, such as Rodger Young Village in Los Angeles, CA, Columbia Records Studio B in Nashville was also called "The Quonset Hut", and Michigan State University's Quonset Village in East Lansing, Michigan.

Once in a while, a really good design surfaces -- robust, simple, and enduring. The DC-3, the Jeep, and the Quonset hut are all examples of good design. Many are still standing throughout the United States, primarily as commercial buildings.



The shape of the Quonset Hut is still a great design. The USAF Small Shelter System (above) is essentially a Quonset Hut built with modern materials. It is lightweight, air transportable, and can be erected in one and a half hours by six people. It, and a companion Medium Shelter System, were developed in the early 2000s at Eglin AFB and is widely used all over the world.

Another change from the WWII shelter situation is the wide-spread use of environmental control units with the shelters.



This photo is of the Field Deployable Environmental Control Unit which was also developed at Eglin AFB in the early 2000s and has made deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan just a little more bearable by providing many of our military folks with air conditioned quarters.

Wikipedia & Jim Young

Okaloosa Centennial Laurel Hill, Florida, and The Struggle for Incorporation

Taken from *A Journal of Northwest Florida*, Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County, GSOC Volume XIV, Number 51, Winter 1990 (Author not named). Reprinted in the GSOC Newsletter for August 2012

The name "Old California" was the name used for Laurel Hill until about 1900. The new name was derived from a large laurel tree used as a common hitching post for horses, oxen and mules in the center of town. Continuous use of the tree eventually killed it.

In 1887, the first post office was opened after relocating from Oak Grove. In that same year the Yellow River Railroad was incorporated, and a logging railroad was put under construction and was finished in 1894, when regular passenger and freight service was inaugurated.

The People's Bank of Laurel Hill opened for business on Oct. 18, 1907, with capital stock of \$20,000 and \$20,000 in share deposits. W.E. Mathis-Pres., A. E. Campbell-V.P., John T. Mathis-cashier with Allen Campbell, Enoch Henderson, W. P. Clary, Wm. E. Mathis and A. E. Campbell-directors. By 1911 the Bank had assets of \$104,311.65 shown in a statement in the Laurel Hill News, Vol 3-Jan. 10, 1912 issue.

In 1891, the first school was opened, and under the supervision of Henry Steele the patrons build a one-room log school house east of the town site about three quarters of a mile from out of town. The first teacher was Miss Dora White. She taught three months for a very low



salary and boarded among the patrons. After 5 years, a two-room section house was used until a two-room school house was built and two teachers carried on the work through the grammar grades only. Miss Adele Williamson and Mr. Tom King were the teachers.

In the Sept. 13, 1907, issue of the newspaper it was stated that Laurel Hill High School opened last Monday with 84 pupils and that the faculty has been employed for eight months. Prof. R. E. Turner was Principal; Miss Maggie Cobb was First Assistant and Miss Willie Belle McDonaIs was Second Assistant. "It is believed that had it been known definitely that school would open, there would have been at least 100 enrolled the first day. However, it is an awful busy time of the year with the farmers. A good many of their children being kept out of school on account of having to have them to pick cotton".

The above statements about the school system in the beginning days of Laurel Hill were found in early

newspapers found in the Special Collections of the UWF Library.

The town was incorporated in 1905 and Earnest Campbell served as the first mayor. The Laurel Hill Gazette was the newspaper first published there.

The incorporation of Laurel Hill as a town, although finally approved, did not go smoothly, as the following letter to Florida's Governor Broward from Eric von Axelson indicates.

**Laurel Hill, Fla.
June 14th, 1905**

**Hon. N. B. Broward,
Governor State of Florida,
Tallahassee, Fla.**

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 10th inst. at hand and I thank you for the opportunity to lay the following facts before you in regard to House bill No. 500, or the incorporation of Laurel Hill.

About the first days in May the citizens of Laurel Hill were called to a mass meeting for the purpose of considering the incorporation of Laurel Hill. After discussing the matter fully, a resolution was passed, without a dissenting vote, asking the legislature to have the town incorporated.

A few days after this meeting a few persons, who as far as I know never have done a thing for the advancement of the town, got a petition against the incorporation. On that list are a number persons who do not live or own property in the corporation.

In order to strengthen our cause we then got all them that were interested in the incorporation to sign a petition to this effect. There are 51 qualified voters at Laurel Hill. Of these we have 37, or more than a two third majority, 3 of the persons on our petition had signed the other petition, but by letter to our representative they withdrew their names from that petition. It is claimed that one person on our list is a resident of Santa Rosa County, namely Mr. J. D. Cobb. The fact is that Mr. Cobb has been a resident of that county but he is and was a qualified voter in last year's primary and election, and did vote at Laurel Hill at that time.

I drew up the acts of incorporation, which were accepted at above stated mass meeting. I went personally to Tallahassee to see our representative and Hon. John Neel, our senator. The resolution, petition and acts of incorporation were given to them also a number of letters from none resident property owners not voters here.

As to property owners I wish to state that I am the largest individual property holder, having over 100 acres inside the corporation. W. B. Wright Company of Pensacola, which firm I represent here owns more than half of the lots in town. Of them that have signed the petition for incorporation, J. F. Merrill owns 60 acres, S. G. French, Sr. 40 acres, or I may say that the people in favor of the incorporation own about 5/6 of the property, and those against only 1/6.

Mr. Governor, I am deeply interested in Laurel Hill. Nine years ago I came here to take charge of the landed property of the W. B. Wright Co., Laurel Hill was not on the map. Its only

communication with the outside world was over a log train. The one store in the place belonged to the company also all the shanties. We had one mail a week. The postmasters compensation for the first quarter was the magnificent sum of \$4.16. The first thing I undertook was to establish a weekly paper here. I had the company sell out their store to private parties. The town was laid out in lots and sold on reasonable terms. Today there is a daily passenger train to Pensacola. We have a daily mail, the postmaster makes his living entirely from this office. We have nine stores. We have churches. A good school which we expect to make a high school next year. But the incorporation is needed as without it our town will stand where it is now. With the incorporation we will get a bank and we have other prospects for the town's progress.

In regard to the objection that our worthy representative made to you I will state that he did this at the instigation of Mr. Peaden, representative of Santa Rosa county. The leader of the opposition. Mr. Hart is part owner in a store and owns about 30 acres of land in the incorporation.

I enclose you a list of the qualified voters. The names underlined are of those who took part in the meeting June 7th. for the nomination of officers, five of these belong to the opposition, but they took part in the meeting and voted.

Now these are facts and I hope that when you have fully looked into these matters you will see your way clear to sign the bill.

It is a question of, if the majority shall rule or the minority. It is a question of progress or lethargy.

Now Mr. Governor the bill is in your hands, you have the power to make this one of the best little towns in West Florida or to kill it.

I am under great obligations to you for your kindness to hear me and I beg you to excuse my lengthy letter.

I remain, dear sir

Your truly
(Eric von Axelson)

Qualified voters in corporate limits of the town of Laurel Hill, Section 5, Tp 5 n., R. 22 W.

Atwell, John.
Clary, J. L.
Cobb, O.
Chestnut, Jim
Campbell, Ernest
Barlow, Joe
Finlayson, D. T.
Fountain, John
Fountain, W.
Gordon, M. A.
Givens, J. W.
Howe I I, J. S.
Hemphries, Jim.
Jones, C.
Laird, Jim.
Merrill, J. F.
Martin. W. F.
Richbourg, J. F.
Richbourg, J. L.
Richbourg, Jeff
Stokes, H. M.
Sanders, J. E.
von Axelson, Eric
Whitehurst, T.
Cobb, J. D.
Gavin, Allen

Clary, W. P.
Craig, J. N.
Chestnut, W. J.
Campbell, A. D.
Crawford, Geo.
Francis, Henry
French, Jr., S. G.
Fountain, R. R.
Fountain, Allen
Givens, Henry
Garrett, W. J.
Hart, R. J.
Jones, Allen
Jones, Wm.
Labors, C. A.
Martin, J. M.
Moore, Dan.
Richbourg, C.
Richbourg, Allen
Richbourg, Wm.
Strickland, Ed.
Tucker, B.
Williamson, O. H.
Whittington, John
Hugely,

51 votes

[The above is] A copy of the original letter found in the Special Collection in the UWF Library.

The Dallas Peaden House

The Dallas Peaden House, built in 1895, is one of Okaloosa County's oldest and finest architectural examples of its time.



Jackson Peaden homesteaded the family property and built a home just south of the Oak Grove settlement in 1885. Oak Grove was located on the upper course of the Yellow River where Scottish settlers had arrived by the early 1820s. They were described as industrious farmers who occupied choice agricultural lands with cotton and corn as their principle crops.

According to Jackson Peaden's obituary in the Old Walton Lodge #54 minutes, he was born in 1868 and died in 1932. He was married to Nela Hart of Falco, Alabama, and was a member of the state legislature from Santa Rosa County and also a member of the Board of Commissioners of Santa Rosa County before the creation of Okaloosa County.

Peaden's three sons, Dallas, Bartlet, and Jack all built homes within a short distance of their father and the spot soon became known as Peadentown.

Lumber used in construction of the Dallas Peaden house was shipped to Milligan by rail from the Bagdad Lumber Company at a cost of \$12 per 1,000 board-feet. Dallas Peaden then loaded the lumber on a two-mule wagon and traveled 12 miles north along the Yellow River to his home site.

The Dallas Peaden House is a two story, wood frame stgructure. It's current owner (as of 2004) purchased the house from the estate of the late Mabel Peaden. Mabel Peaden, daughter of Dallas, was born in the house in 1901 and provided oral history about the house before her death in 1995.

The Peaden brothers dabbled in sheep herding, logging, and farming. Their sheep herd reached 8,000 plus head at its height according to Mabel. She fondly recalled how she and her sister rode horseback tending the flock with six other hands .

By Ann Spann, Crestview, FL; published in *The Heritage of Okaloosa County, Florida*, Volume I, 2004.



Civil War Sesquicentennial

Selected Highlights of March 1865

<http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk>

The war's end is inevitable and near, however the Confederates manage to win temporary victories.

Lincoln begins his second term with hints of his approach to post-war relations with the southern states.

March 2, 1865: Battle of Waynesborough, George Armstrong Custer [US] defeats Jubal Early [CS]

March 2, 1865: Robert E. Lee sends a message to Ulysses S. Grant asking for a conference to "iron out differences" between the North and the South.

March 3, 1865: Freedman's Bureau established

March 3, 1865: Abraham Lincoln issues instructions on surrender discussions. He gives Grant wide-ranging powers on military matters, but reserves political matters for himself

March 4, 1865: Lincoln outlines his second term talking directly to the Confederate people "...with malice toward none; with charity for all..." Andrew Johnson, replacing Henry Hamlin as Vice-president gives a rambling, drunk speech. He had been given too much whiskey as medicine by a doctor.

March 4, 1865: "Parson" Brownlow is elected the first post-war governor of Tennessee

March 8, 1865 - March 10, 1865: Battle of Kinston, North Carolina

March 10, 1865: Now near Fayetteville, North Carolina, the major impediment to Sherman's Army march north was rain.

March 11, 1865: Sherman captures Fayetteville, North Carolina

March 13, 1865: Confederacy allows the induction of "negro soldiers." The measure did not state that blacks who fought for the Confederacy would be free, although that was apparently the understanding

March 16, 1865: Battle of Averasborough (Taylor's Hole). William Hardee tries to halt the federal advance near this small town. Slocum easily turned his flank.

March 19, 1865 - March 21, 1865: Battle of Bentonville. William Hardee, D. H. Hill and A. P. Stewart combine to

attack Slocum's wing on the federal advance. In spite of initial gains they are repulsed. Sherman reinforces Slocum on the second day and Slocum nearly enveloped the Confederate forces on the third day.

March 22, 1865: Major General James Wilson [US] begins a "raid" in Selma, Alabama

March 23, 1865: Abraham Lincoln leaves Washington for Ulysses S. Grant's headquarters in City Point, Virginia

March 25, 1865: Battle of Fort Stedman. Confederates break Union line at Petersburg. General John B. Gordon captured Fort Stedman, a Union outpost on the line around besieged Petersburg, eventually punching a hole 3/4 of mile wide. Confederate units then made a desperate attempt to hit the federal supply base at City Point. With overwhelming force the federal troops turned back the advance, recaptured the fort and retook the lines.

March 27, 1865: Battle of Spanish Fort, Alabama.

Because the bluffs at Spanish Bluff commanded one of the key water approaches to Mobile, the Confederates built massive fortifications and batteries there during the Civil War. In order to take Mobile, the Federals would first have to take Spanish Fort.

As Canby's column closed in, Confederate troops withdrew into their fortifications and prepared for siege. With a force of only a couple of thousand men, they defended the Spanish Fort for 12 days against a Union army 15 times the size of their own.



**Civil War
Earthworks today
at Spanish Fort**

March 27, 1865: Lincoln held a council of war with Ulysses S. Grant, William Tecumseh Sherman, and David Porter on the River Queen at City Point

March 30, 1865: As Ulysses S. Grant extends his lines east of Richmond, Phil Sheridan's cavalry, along with some infantry support, come in contact with the Confederate right flank at Dinwiddie Court House.

March 31, 1865: Battle of Dinwiddie Court House. In a tactical victory for the Confederates, George Pickett [CS] turns back Phil Sheridan cavalry and elements of the Fifth Corps.

Events, Groups, and Sites of GSOC Interest

Martha Rogers 1931 - 2015



Martha Rogers, age 83, of Laurel Hill, Fla., passed away Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2015. She was a member of Hopewell United Methodist Church where she served as Treasurer and Historian and she taught at Northwood Elementary for 43 years.

She loved genealogy and was very active in the Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County. She served on the committee which produced the three *Cemeteries of Okaloosa*

County, Florida volumes, wrote numerous articles for the *Journal of Northwest Florida*, and was President of the Society in 1994-1995. She was also active in the Retired Teachers Association and served in the Naval Reserves.

Martha was preceded in death by her parents, Reese and Azalia Woolley; and husband, Morris Rogers.

She is survived by her son, Morris "Hugh" Rogers, Jr.; daughters, Janet Twitty, and husband, Richard of Laurel Hill, Anita Heiser, and husband, Gary, of Tallahassee, and Karen Wooten, and husband, Chris of Laurel Hill; brothers, Reese Woolley, Sr., and wife, Carolyn, of Clanton, and Randy Woolley, and wife, Jane, of Chattanooga; sisters, Pat Medley, and husband, Ray, of Crestview, and Phyllis Holcombe, and husband, Ken, of Huntsville; eight grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

The funeral for Mrs. Rogers was held Saturday, Feb. 28, 2015 and she was buried in Almarante Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Retired Educators or a favorite charity.

It's time to renew GSOC Annual Dues for 2015. Dues are \$24 for an individual and \$35 for an individual and spouse at the same address.

If you haven't done so already, please bring your check or cash and complete a renewal form when you come to the March meeting or mail your check and any changes in your address, phone, or surnames being researched to GSOC, P.O. Box 1175, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-1175.

Field Trip for the June GSOC Meeting

We're planning a field trip to the Milton public library. The trip will accomplish two goals: history professor Dr. Brian Rucker, a 7th-generation Santa Rosan, will give us a presentation on the history of Santa Rosa County leading up to the birthing of Okaloosa County 100 years ago; and the Milton library has a really good genealogy section that GSOC members should know about.

"Okaloosa: The Pioneer Period"

March 13, 12 Noon



Celebrating the county's centennial all year long, the *Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida* presents "Okaloosa: The Pioneer Period".

Guest Speaker Dr. Brian Rucker, of Pensacola State College, will focus on the first American settlers and settlements in what is now Okaloosa County between 1821-1865, before Okaloosa became a county.

Bring a sandwich and take your lunch break at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida for *History Sandwiched-In*, a free lunch-time education program.

This event is free and open to the public. SPACE IS LIMITED. Please call to reserve a seat. 850-678-2615



Contact: 850-678-2615, info@heritage-museum.org

GSOC INFORMATION

Officers for 2015

President, James Young
1st Vice President (Programs), Del Lessard
2nd Vice President (Membership), Charlene Grafton
Treasurer, Bob Basch,
Recording Secretary, Pat Pruett
Corresponding Secretary, Carl Laws
Immediate Past President, Donna Elliott
Journal Editor, TBD; Historian, TBD
Genealogist, Margaret Harris
Publicity Chairperson, Val Moreland
Webmaster & Newsletter Editor, Jim Young

Addresses

P.O. Box 1175, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-1175
Email: gsocokaloosa@yahoo.com
Newsletter Editor: youngjmy@cox.net

Meetings and Membership

Regular meetings of the GSOC are held at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, 115 Westview Avenue, Valparaiso, FL, at 10 AM on the second Saturday of each month. There is no admission charge and all are welcome. The meetings are usually followed by an optional Dutch treat lunch at a nearby restaurant.

Annual membership dues are \$24 for an individual and \$35 for an individual and spouse at the same address. If you would like to become a member, want to renew your membership, or want to update your membership record, please go to the GSOC web site and get one of the appropriate forms.

The Newsletter

The GSOC Newsletter is published on or before the first Friday of each month. Suggestions for articles are welcome. The editor, Jim Young, can be contacted by phone at 850 862-8642 or by email at youngjmy@cox.net. Letters to the editor are welcome and may be published.

The Journal

The GSOC Journal, *A Journal of Northwest Florida*, is published once each year. The 2014 issue, was published and distributed in September 2014.

The Web Site

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~flocgs>

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

The GSOC Publications Disk

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

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

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

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

Funeral Records of Okaloosa County: Records from McLaughlin Funeral Home, Crestview, FL, from 1927 - 1984. Over 11,000 entries. Includes the names of the deceased and, when given, the names of parents. Deceased are listed alphabetically, parents names are indexed.

Santa Rosa County Marriages, 1869-1906

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

Walton County Marriages, 1895-1915

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

Nostalgia

A house with bath, kitchen, deep well and pump, 10 acres of land, fenced in, and on a paved road. Only \$4000!

Or, even better, a large house with gas, electricity, and water, a barn, pecan trees, and 32 acres of land. Only \$6500!

Okaloosa News-Journal
Crestview, Florida
March 3, 1955

5 Miles Out

Very nice 2 bedroom home, with separate dining space, nice heating unit with gas system, nice bath and kitchen, deep well, new pump, and 10 acres land, all fenced in on paved road. Only \$4000, one half cash, balance terms. A whale of a buy!

Near Blackman!

32 acres, top land, large 2 bedroom home completely equipped with gas, electricity, water, with small barn, pecan trees, fenced with some pine. \$6,500.00, one half cash. A country boy will appreciate this!

MARION S. PARRISH

351 N. Pearl St.

Phone 7626

Registered Real Estate Broker



The March GSOC meeting will be on Saturday, March 14, 2015, at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida at 10 AM.

The speaker will be genealogist and writer Elisa Mitchiner, local historian and the author and webmaster of the Niceville, Florida Online History Center. She will discuss the CCC camp that was located in Niceville during the Great Depression.

GSOC membership dues for 2015 are now due.

"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

