



Next GSOC Meeting March 12, 2016 10:00 a.m.

Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida

The March GSOC program will be presented by Margaret Harris, GSOC Genealogist, Genealogy teacher, and former GSOC President. Her topic will be:

"Is It Soup Yet?"

Introducing the Genealogical Proof System

"Proving" your genealogy will help you to build accurate profiles of your ancestors. Every great detective looks for evidence that will stand up in court. Genealogists look for clues and original documents that will stand up to the test of time!



If you are confused about the definition of Primary Evidence, secondary evidence, etc., be sure to attend this presentation. Question-Answer Session will follow the presentation; and Margaret writes,

"Yes, there will be a handout!"

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GSOC Meeting Minutes February 13th, 2016

Valparaiso Senior Center
by Kathleen Sheperd, Recording Secretary

Today, we celebrated our 40th birthday of the founding of the GSOC. We met at the Valparaiso Senior Citizen Center, as our normal meeting place in the Heritage Museum was being used for another function.

The meeting was called to order by President Sue Basch, who welcomed the Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County (GSOC) members, visitors, and our guest speaker, Ms Janice Cronan, to the meeting. There were three parts to the meeting: to hold our monthly business meeting, to celebrate the anniversary with cake, cookies, fruit and drinks, and to hear our guest speaker.

Sue said she would have old scrap books of the Genealogical Society available for display at the March

meeting. She recalled the 2001 newspaper article about the beginning of the GSOC history and read the list of officers at that time. One of those officers was our own Margaret Harris who is still a member today. Margaret was the GSOC president in 2001.

BUSINESS:

As there was no door prize available, the meeting commenced with the approval of the January minutes. The minutes were accepted and approved as published.

Sue asked if anyone attended the Computer Tech program at Northwest Florida State College (held 30 Jan). No one at the meeting attended to report about it.

Lunch: There was a brief discussion about lunch and the group voted to go to the Boathouse Landing in Valparaiso.

REPORTS:

President Sue Basch:

1. What do you think we need to do to be effective for the next 5, 10, or 15 years? What kinds of information do you need? Consider activities other than our meetings, workshops, and day trips. Please bring your suggestions to the GSOC leadership team or you may forward them to Sue at baschville@cox.net.

2. GSOC needs people to take on some small tasks, such as historian, a camera person, and a committee and editor for the journal as well as writers for the journal. Discussion: Kathie Sheperd recommended combining some of the small tasks such as historian with the recording secretary. Margaret Harris suggested scanning the scrapbooks and many documents we have. Janice Cronan, our visitor, suggested contacting the Genealogy Library in Pensacola to find out if we could use their large scanners to scan our scrapbooks to preserve them. As of this writing, this is an open action item (OPR: Janice Cronan and follow up by Val Moreland).

1st VP Charlene Grafton:

A few changes were made to the monthly program line up, such as our program today. We are at a different site in order to host the anniversary celebration but our guest speaker topic changed because this venue does not have the required audio visual support normally required for our meetings. Future guest speaker programs are:

12 March: Margaret Harris, "Is it Soup? Subtitle: What You Need to Know About the Genealogical Proof Standard."

9 April: Margaret Chatraw of Youth Services and Genealogy, Santa Rosa County (MargaretC@santarosa.fl.gov), "Extra, Extra, Read All About It" (Newspapers in Genealogy Research)

Charlene added: "For those of you who have Civil War ancestors, please be making notes for our upcoming program on civil war ancestry. You might wish to look at books associated with your ancestor's battles or similar items of interest for discussion."

2nd VP Jon Sheperd:

Reminded attendees to sign the attendance log for the meeting. Membership dues are still being collected: \$24/person or \$35/family. He asked members to please fill out and turn in the membership information sheet by the March meeting. He also reminded members to turn in their nametags after each meeting.

Treasurer Phil Hoge:

Phil reported that \$788 was collected; \$236 from membership, \$52 from the blue box donations (goes to journals for the library). The GSOC checking account balance is \$2126.17.

Recording Secretary Kathie Sheperd: No comment at that time.

Corresponding Secretary Val Moreland:

1. Val took all the Journals to the Fort Walton Beach (FWB) Library. She ensured the library made them available on the genealogy area shelves (genealogy information is available in one of the side rooms). Of special note is the journal about William Lundy because he has been in the local paper lately (it's now ascertained that Lundy made a successful fraudulent pension claim for military service (he never served)).

2. Val suggested getting a Heritage Book of Okaloosa County for the library with our funds (No vote taken at this time.)

3. The Valparaiso Library reports that the genealogical section is being under-utilized and they are considering reducing these books to make room for other collections.

Discussion about Library Information:

Charlene Grafton: the Destin Library offers Ancestry.com
Val Moreland: The FWB Library has a reference librarian (Katie Bowman) who might be able to help people with genealogy reference inquiries.

Charlene volunteered to write a letter to the library cooperative requesting greater support in obtaining Ancestry.com and to request more assistance in obtaining genealogy research items. This idea was approved by unanimous vote.

Hank Klein mentioned the cost of a library edition of Ancestry.com is about \$3,000 and libraries usually have constrained budgets.

Margaret Harris: The FWB Family History Library at 339 Lake Drive (behind Beal Cemetery) has programs which are free to the public: Ancestry, Finding My Past, Fold 3 and Newspaper websites. Hours: Thursday 10:00 to 4:00, Saturday 10:00 to 1:00.

Sue Basch will talk to the Val-P librarian (David) about whether they will be eliminating some of their genealogy

materials and will try to convince him to maintain their books/materials. She encourages everyone to use these libraries.

Publicity Chairperson Val Moreland: Val routinely sends publicity to all the local newspapers. However, not all of them incorporate the information she sends.

Genealogist Margaret Harris: One of our visitors today, Ann Moore had previously contacted GSOC about finding her Native American roots. Margaret will provide information to Ann to help her trace her Native American ancestry.

REFRESHMENT/SOCIAL BREAK

Following the anniversary celebration/social break, Charlene Grafton introduced our guest speaker, Ms Janice Cronan.



Janice gave an informative talk titled: "Proving Our Pedigree to join Lineage Societies" and began by describing how her genealogical research helped her honor and preserve the legacy of her ancestors. Her original purpose was purely to learn, document and preserve these ancestor's lives, not to prove lineage for society membership. However, she learned about these lineage societies and highly recommends them to other genealogists.

Note: Janice had excellent handouts to accompany her presentation. The following is a summary of those handouts.

What is a lineage society?

Most lineage, heritage, and patriotic societies were created to honor a specific heritage or event. They can be lumped into broad categories such as Military (American Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Civil War); Pioneers and Settlements (first families); Prestigious Connections (Descendants from presidents or rulers); or ethnic/religious affiliations (countries or origin or customs).

Joining lineage societies always requires proof documentation that supports your ancestor's service (or birth connection) into such a society. For instance, to join the Daughters of the American Revolution membership, you must be able to prove direct descent from a person who aided in achieving American independence during the period between 19 April 1775 and 26 November 1783 and the applicant must be a woman of 18 years or older. (Note: there is also a Sons of American Revolution).

Membership in lineage societies honors and preserves the legacy of our ancestors! Other benefits include socializing

with others who have similar interests, participating in the society's charitable endeavors, and supporting the society's libraries and museums.

Some available societies in Florida: Florida Pioneers (settled prior to 3 March 1845), First Families of Bay County FL (prior to 24 April 1913), Sons of Confederate Veterans, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Janice also passed around two large 3 ring binders which detailed her research into two lineage societies for an ancestor. Each book was extremely well documented. There were tabs for maps of the applicable time period, property papers and/or tax rolls, military service records, affidavits, personal letters, requests for widow's pensions and approval of the pensions, as well as a biographical sketch of the individual. Each book listed the direct lineage to the ancestor and this lineage included census



records, will or probate records with descendant's names, etc. These books provided a fascinating audit trail and chronicled how the individual provided the service to prove inclusion into the lineage society.

In conclusion, Janice emphasized the importance of supporting lineage societies. They offer repositories for the history of your ancestors and how they supported or improved the history of the United States. These societies keep our ancestor's contributions alive for future generations of historians and genealogists.

The meeting concluded with a reminder of the next meeting time and place: 9 March at the Valparaiso Heritage Museum (10:00 start).

ATTENDANCE:

Members:

Sue Basch	JR Richburg
Charlene Grafton	Marv Cochrane
Jon Sheperd	Mike Kleypas
Kathie Sheperd	Donna Elliott
Keith Latimer	Phil Hoge
Hilma Jenus	Frances Hoge
Jim Young	Del Lessard
Pat Walker	Margaret Harris
Don Hicks	Val Moreland
Sue Hicks	

Visitors:

Ann Moore	Yvonne Payne
Tom Sajwaj	Hank Klein

Okaloosa County Post Offices

Almirante (1828-1867)
 Austinville (1855-1867)
 Baker (1912-Date)
 Berryport (1922-1924)
 Bethel (1883-1909)
 Blackman (1884-1926)
 Boggy (1893-1910)
 Bolton (1907-1931)
 Brick (1909-1916)
 Bryant (1897-1901)
 Camp Walton (1907-1932)
 Campton (1892-1908)
 Chaffin (1882-1889)
 Cobb (1906-1912)
 Corbett (1909-1912)
 Cowan (1904-1905)
 Crestview (1883-Date)
 Deerland (1899-1918)
 Destin (1896-Date)
 Dixon (1888-1894)
 Dorcas (1892-1918)
 Eglin Air Force Base (1958-Date)
 Eglin Field Br. (1941-1949)
 Floroso (1924-1943)
 Fort Walton (1932-1953)
 Fort Walton Beach (1953-Date)
 Franklin (1908-1915)
 Galliver (1911-1938)
 Garden City (1910-1919)
 Garniers (1906-1937)
 Gattis (1907-1911)
 Harris (1902-1918)
 Haseman (1918-1919)
 Hester (1898/1912)
 Holt (1883-Date)
 Horsehead (1888-1890)
 Howell (1897/1918)
 Laurel Hill (1896-Date)
 Mary Esther (1871-Date)
 Metts (1908-1917)
 Milligan (1889/DPO)
 Milligan Rur. Sta. (?-Date)
 Miramar Beach Sta. (?-Date)
 New Valparaiso (1921-1925)
 Newell (1897-1916)
 Niceville (1910-1919)
 Niceville (1925-Date)
 Oak Grove (1878/1916)
 Okaloosa Island (1959-1960)
 Otahite (1880-1914)
 Pineaway (1890-1896)
 Red Rock (1907-1925)
 Rock Creek (1912-1919)
 Shady Hill (1916-1916)
 Shalimar (1943-Date)
 Svea (1897/1910)
 Valparaiso (1925-1937)
 Valparaiso (1947-Date)
 Valparaiso (1937-1947)
 Violet (1886-1887)
 Wardville (1855/1867)
 Wright (1911-1916)

Source: <http://www.postalhistory.com/>

The Benefits of Hands-On Research

by Mary Ellen Wexler

There are many online resources to use in researching our family history, but particularly at the beginning of the process, “do it yourself” (DIY) is the best way to go. You may be surprised at how much you already know and, how small clues that family members give will snowball as you continue your search.

The first step is always to interview as many family members as possible. If you can get away with it, tape the conversations. Along with notes taken, you can refer to tapes when putting together pieces of the puzzle you find later.



Starting with immediate family members, you will want birth dates and places, as well as the same for marriages, and deaths (if applicable). Then ask about their grandparents. This background information shows you where to take your research and helps you determine how in-depth your search should be in any area.

Trying to get information from relatives sometimes requires a good bit of creative thinking. Having your subject bring out a photo album or scrapbook, is a great way to start. You might bring a camera or portable scanner to capture important pieces. As you go through photos, you can ask who the person is, what they are doing, where and when it was taken. Sometimes people have forgotten who is in an unlabeled photo. However, I have often had someone say something like, “I don’t know who

it is, but it was taken at Suzie’s wedding in 1904.” Years later, I might find it was a relative for whom I had long been searching. The tiny hint that they were family and in a specific area (or at a certain event), at a specific time, would marry two seemingly unconnected bits of information. So, don’t be afraid to make note of random items.

Scrapbooks contain wonderful gems such as graduation, wedding, birth, and death announcements. Sign-in books for weddings and funerals can give you lots of information, but, you may need another source to verify a relationship, particularly in regard to females. A little sleuthing may tell you the entry “M/M Fox,” confirms your suspicion that a census record for Robert and Ellen Fox, actually refers to Ellen Smith, female relative you lost track of.

Once you have interviewed nearby family members, you may wish to write others, enclosing a Family Group sheet for them to fill out **and** a stamped self-addressed envelope. Don’t be too disappointed if they don’t respond, people are busy and often don’t.

Check all the census records you can find. Indices are good, as far as they go. But, actually reading at least two pages before and after those on which your primary surnames are listed, may reward you with entries of other family members and/or friends. Be sure to note friends and neighbors of your earliest relatives as you may be able to trace them backwards easier than you can your own ancestors. If you know from where they came, you may be able to pick up information on your line. Also, neighbors often intermarry, so compare records. If you find a Smith family next to your Joneses, look at the next census (10 years later). You may find 8 year-old Mary missing from the Jones family, but on the next page you see James Smith, 20 and wife Mary, 18. The original Smith family is still next door to your Jones, but there is a son, James, missing. From this you may surmise the two youngsters have married and are living near their parents. Look for a marriage record to confirm it.

Checking cemetery and death records may be your next step. While books compiled for this purpose are great, nothing beats actually going to a cemetery. Most books don't lay out information in the manner in which graves are actually arranged. In going to a cemetery you may be able to see not only who is buried in a family plot, but also who is buried around them and how close they are.



Ellzey Cemetery and Chapel, Calhoun County, MS

In some cases, married children and grandchildren will be buried in the family plot, but if you read names in a compilation, you do not know the relationship nor would you even be able to guess at it. Again, inspiration may come from conversations you had with relatives. You may find someone buried near great grandad and think, "I have heard that name before. Now where?" After reviewing notes or tapes, you may find they were friends in a distant city, 50 years prior. Follow-up may show they migrated together and their sons and daughters married. (A fact that others may have missed, and one you had not thought of previously.)

Something grandma said about high school friends may make you recognize a name connected with your family. Other researchers may not have that information nor your insight.

Another good reason for DIY: people in courthouses and libraries can be very helpful. Most have lived in the area all their lives and know local families. They are also well acquainted with the holdings and like to answer questions posed by a truly interested patron.

Often, asking about surnames, will prompt information you would not find by yourself. At libraries, be sure to ask if there are vertical files and whether you may see them. (These are files usually kept in filing cabinets and contain material, usually unbound, collected by staff or donated by patrons.) Ask if you may bring your camera or portable scanner, too. I always ask about items I wish to see and often have been offered a chance to view items not on public shelves -- things kept in basements, or not quite ready to go on display. It doesn't always work, but it never hurts to ask. I have even been referred to a local researcher, who turned out to be distantly related.

Unfortunately, records have been stolen by unscrupulous researchers and doors can be closed to honest folk. Please be as conscientious as possible. I always offer a small donation if appropriate. These folks work hard trying to keep documents preserved and available to the public.

Many libraries, courthouses, and archives have online catalogues, or at least some sort of listing as to types of items they house. If you can, look at their websites before you visit, so you have an idea of what you should be looking for. Check with "Friends of the Library," for special projects they may have done or sponsored. One Indiana Librarian told mom and me that they and a Genealogy organization had republished an "Atlas" from 1884, by Beers. "Atlas" books



were produced in many northern counties and were like a Gazetteer, filled with history, personal sketches, and reproduced paintings of rural homesteads, done by itinerate artists. It also contained land plats, with owners' names on them. A great resource, we might otherwise have missed! They had one copy left for sale and we bought it.

Now for the fun part! Actually traveling to these places can be some of the most fun you have ever had. Take a friend or loved one! Make a vacation of it! Some of my fondest memories of my mother are days spent in some dusty courthouse, finding treasures about our family or discovering the "Uncle Russian," mom had heard of was really "Rushin Crawford," her great uncle. We found a record of his marriage while looking for other marriages. Picnicking under blossoming cherry trees in Macon, GA, taking her picture next to a monument to my 2nd great grandmother who was "the first white child born in the territory," watching her face light up as she read Civil War letters written to this same woman – those are moments I might have missed, in addition to facts garnered on our trips. My mom and I used to find some very funny facts as we did research. She delighted in bringing these obscure, hilarious items, to my attention. Sometimes we would share them with a patron or librarian, brightening the day for everyone.

Also, the friends I made on my travels, are treasures as well. Some of my best friends are librarians! I found a fourth cousin who was visiting a cemetery at the same time as I, and we became good friends, sharing information. She showed me some of her treasured letters from about 1900 and 2 turned out to have been written by my great aunts. I now have copies of these wonderful heirlooms.

One other treat: imagine standing on your ancestor's property, or sitting in the church he attended! Even if the property is no longer owned by your family, you may feel much closer to your forbears.



Moss Hill Methodist Church, Washington County, Florida

So, get out there, if you can. Search in the areas where your ancestors lived. If you can't, **then**, get online and employ your knowledge and intuition there! Look for actual records, rather than depending on someone else's research. They may have made a poor conclusion, or read something incorrectly. A wonderful resource, is FamilySearch.org with its searchable documents.

I found an instance where a researcher posted incorrect information; he concluded two families in town were related. They were listed in the same census and the person put two and two together and came up with five. I knew from family members there were actually two families from different backgrounds, coming into town many years apart, from different countries. I was able to find corroborating records to back this up.

Conversely, you may run into an opposite problem – trying to convince cousins they actually **are** related! I found 5 families on my mom's side who were related and lived within 30 miles of one another. All knew there were other families of the same surname, nearby, but said they were not related, except for two families. They had grown up knowing they were cousins, but didn't think they were related to the others. In the late 1800s, there were rifts in the family and travel was difficult between their homes. So after a few generations, they forgot they were related. It was fun to reunite them.

Good hunting! It is such fun looking for our forbears!



GSOC member Mary Ellen Wexler has worked on her Edge, Cutts, Harvey, and Gearheart family lines for more than 40 years and has spent countless hours interviewing relatives, pouring through libraries and museums, and documenting events from filmed or photocopied items at Family History Centers and internet sources. She has contributed the results of her research to GSOC Journals, Newsletters, and to many other historical and genealogical organizations.

Passenger Train Service to Crestview

Then and Now

Back in 1883, if you were traveling across the Florida



Panhandle by train you'd have made a brief stop at a little makeshift train depot operating out of a single box car which sat at the crest of the hill among the woodlands between the Yellow and Shoal Rivers. This was the future site of Crestview, then called Crest View Station. Back then, there was little else in the area but the tall pines and the nearby towns of Baker and Milligan.

In 1890, the Pensacola & Atlantic (P&A) Railroad built an official wood frame depot building with waiting areas and freight room at the same location, but the area remained almost completely undeveloped for the next two decades.

The P&A was incorporated by an act of the Florida Legislature in March 1881, to run from Pensacola to the Apalachicola River near Chattahoochee, a distance of about 160 miles. No railroad had ever been built across the sparsely populated panhandle of Florida, which left Pensacola isolated from the rest of the state.

In May 1881, the L&N obtained control of the P&A by purchasing the majority of its capital stock and all of its bonds. After the L&N took control, construction proceeded rapidly and was completed in 22 months. By April 1882, 2,278 men were engaged in grading, cutting cross-ties, piling and bridging, and laying track.

In May, a locomotive, rolling stock, and rails were shipped by barge across Pensacola Bay and up the Blackwater River to Milton, about 20 miles north of Pensacola, to enable construction to proceed eastward from there. Similar supplies and equipment were also landed by barge on the east bank of the Choctawhatchee River near present-day Caryville, and at Sampson's Landing on the west bank of the Apalachicola just below Chattahoochee.

Delays were caused by outbreaks of swamp fever all along the line, causing many men to fall ill; no medical help was available in the very thinly settled section between Milton and Marianna. Nevertheless, despite all the difficulties of working in such an isolated region, with no repair shops and a largely inexperienced work crew, construction proceeded at a rapid pace. Wooden depots were built at Milton and Marianna, the only towns of any size in the

Panhandle at that time; in other localities along the route, boxcars parked on sidings served as temporary depots.

By February 1883, the line was completed to the Apalachicola River and a bridge was completed over the river in April. Until the bridge was completed, for several weeks passengers were ferried across the Apalachicola by boat. In 1891 the P&A was absorbed into the L&N, operating thereafter as the P&A Division of the latter.

In 1926, J. D. Smith of Thomasville, Georgia, hired out at age 19 as a foreman on the crew building westward from Marianna wrote:

After reaching a point where Cottdale is now situated, we passed the place where civilization existed. . . . From that point on westward the railroad did not go near a single house until it reached Milton. . . . It was amusing to see the people coming from distant shacks to see the construction going on. The majority of these people had no conception of what a train looked like. ... In clearing the way for the railroad in this section, I became convinced that the railroad would never get expenses for the operation of its trains. I saw no encouragement here for development. The country was attractive only for its game and fish. In cutting the right-of-way through swamps we would cut timber down on deer sometimes. The principal industry was running logs down the rivers to go to Pensacola.

Running through this region of plentiful timber, the P&A used wood burning locomotives until well after 1900, when the rest of the L&N system had long since converted to coal-burners.

Both passenger and freight trains were used on the line from the beginning. There were local trains as well as the Atlantic Express (heading eastward) and the Gulf Express (heading westward). The average speed between Pensacola and River Junction was about 26 mph eastbound and 32 mph westbound. The journey took about six hours from one end of the line to the other.

In 1894, sawmill operator W. B. Wright opened the 26-mile Yellow River Railroad between Crestview and Florala, Alabama. It ran from Crestview on through Auburn, Campton, and Laurel Hill before reaching Florala. The L&N supplied the line with freight cars, and in 1906, purchased the operation.

The building of a railroad through the cypress swamps and dense pine forests of the Panhandle was a boon to the economy of Pensacola, which had a fine deepwater harbor (the largest in Florida), but no direct railroad link to Atlantic ports and East Coast cities before 1883. According to the official historian of the Louisville and Nashville, "much of the credit for the subsequent development of this section of Florida is due to the L&N. . . . a number of sawmills were built and turpentine began to be shipped in large quantities." Once the railroad had connected the area to the eastern parts of the nation and made possible the large-scale shipping of crops such as cotton as well as lumber and naval stores, a number of lumber companies

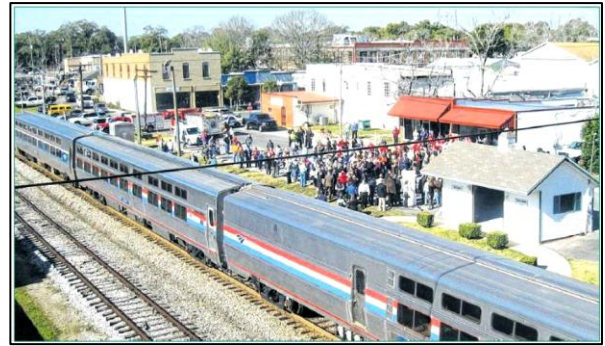
arose to exploit the region's timber, some of them building short-line railroads to connect with the P&A Division.

The line greatly facilitated trade and travel into and out of the region, and directly spurred the establishment and growth of numerous towns along the route, including Crestview, DeFuniak Springs, Bonifay, Chipley, and Cottondale.

Passenger service peaked in the 1920s with six trains per day passing along this route. In the buildup and during World War II, passenger service was essentially in support of the war effort. After the war, the New Orleans – Florida Limited provided service until 1949 when the Gulf Wind (New Orleans to Jacksonville) was established. This was discontinued in 1971 when Amtrak was formed.

The lack of passenger rail service lasted 22 years until Amtrak began operating the Sunset Limited in 1993. This service ran only a few times per week and Crestview was a “whistle stop” an hour or so after midnight. It was discontinued when Hurricane Katrina temporarily disrupted the tracks near Pensacola and was not resumed when the tracks were repaired.

On February 19, 2016, Amtrak sent a passenger train through the old Sunset Limited route to explore the feasibility of resuming passenger service. The train was met with crowds at stops along the way who hoped that their presence and enthusiasm might help influence Amtrak to resume service. At Crestview, the welcoming committee included the local high school band.



Crestview, Florida, February 19, 2016 (NW FL Daily News)

The Heritage of Okaloosa County, Florida

This history, published in two volumes, is an essential reference for anyone who is researching the County for genealogical or historical purposes. The books are approximately 12¼ inches by 9¼ inches, and are beautifully bound. Volume I contains 388 pages with historical photos on the inside of the front cover and front flyleaf and with a large detailed map of the County on the last flyleaf and the inside of the rear cover. Volume II contains 284 pages with historical photos on the inside of the covers and on the flyleaves.

The books were created by the Heritage Book Committee. Several of the Committee members are current members of the GSOC. The books were published by the Committee and the Heritage Publishing Consultants, Inc., Clanton, AL. Volume I (ISBN 1-891647-71-7) is © 2004 and Volume II (ISBN 978-0-9798537-3-5) is © 2008. The books are available at most of the County libraries and museums. Copies of both volumes were seen recently for purchase at the Baker Block Museum.

The first 120 pages of Volume I contain county history, and detailed information concerning government, religious, educational, community, settlers, and civic and fraternal organizations. The remainder of the book contains family and individual histories and recollections, most with photographs. The first 109 or so pages of Volume II contain additional historical information and the remainder of the volume contains additional family histories and recollections.

Even though I am not a native of Okaloosa County, I found these books to be extremely interesting. The histories are detailed and the family and personal histories are wonderful. Many of the family names have become familiar to me in the names of communities, buildings, and parks. Some of them are of GSOC members, past and present. Many of the stories brought a lump to my throat, such as Maggie's Story in Volume I.

Maggie's Story begins: ***January 25th, 1894, was probably a typical Northwest Florida winter day, clear and cold, except that Annie Gary Cobb lay dying. She had given birth prematurely earlier in the week to her sixth child, a girl she had named Maggie. Annie and her husband James Bartlett Cobb were trying to keep Maggie warm and alive by keeping her in a shoebox very close to the wood stove. By the end of the day, Annie was dead leaving Susie, Pearl, Valerie, Welter, Dallas, and Maggie without a mother and Bartlett a widower. Annie was only 26 and Bartlett was 34. ... Submitted by her granddaughter, Margaret Talbot Hatfield***



Maggie Cobb Adams (1894-1969), Florida Pioneer

Even if you are not conducting research, I recommend these books to anyone who lives in or has any connection to Okaloosa County, and offer my thanks to the members of the Heritage Committee for their professional and enduring work and congratulate them for a job well done!

Review by Jim Young

Events, Groups, and Sites of GSOC Interest

GSOC INFORMATION

Officers for 2016

President, Sue Basch
1st Vice President (Programs), Charlene Grafton
2nd Vice President (Membership), Jon Sheperd
Treasurer, Phil Hoge
Recording Secretary, Kathie Sheperd
Corresponding Secretary, Val Moreland
Immediate Past President, James Young
Journal Editor, TBD; Historian, TBD
Genealogist, Margaret Harris
Publicity Chairperson, Val Moreland
Webmaster & Newsletter Editor, Jim Young

Addresses

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Email: gsocokaloosa@yahoo.com
Newsletter Editor: youngjmy@cox.net

Meetings and Membership

Regular meetings of the GSOC are usually 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 download the membership form.

The Newsletter

The GSOC Newsletter is usually 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 2015 issue, was published and distributed in October 2015.

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.



March 11, 2016
12:00 noon
115 Westview Ave. Valparaiso, FL

Valparaiso, FL – Celebrating Archaeology Month, the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida will feature “Shipwrecks of the Blackwater River” presented by Nicole Grinnan from the Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN) on Friday, March 11 at 12:00 Noon.

The Blackwater River flows through the pine forests and fertile uplands of Okaloosa and Santa Rosa Counties. Historically, commerce along the river included shipyards, brick kilns, and lumber mills. This lecture will describe vessels including lumber schooners, steam tugs and snapper smacks that used the river to transport their supplies and products.

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

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

West Florida Genealogical Society
Saturday, March 5, 2016, 10:00 AM
West Florida Genealogy Library, 5740 N. 9th Ave,
Pensacola, FL

Topic: The West Florida Genealogy and Family History Library by Bill Nelson, Manager of the West Florida Genealogy Library

Bill Nelson will give us an “up close and personal” look at the library and its collections. This is a perfect time for you to find out what’s there, ask questions about the resources, and then stay to USE them.

PLEASE NOTE: PARK IN THE LOT TO THE REAR OF THE BUILDING AND ENTER THROUGH THE BACK DOOR. The library is an “Early Voting” location and our usual meeting room is used for that.

Members and guests are welcome to attend. **NO REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED THIS MONTH!** Business Meeting and Program begin at 10:00.

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



The March GSOC meeting will be presented by Margaret Harris, GSOC Genealogist, teacher of Genealogy, and former GSOC President. Her topic will be **"Is It Soup Yet? Introducing the Genealogical Proof System"**

This meeting will be held at our usual location, the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida.

"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

