



# THE GSOC NEWSLETTER

## THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

**MARCH 18, 2019**

**Saturday, March 23th, at 10:30 am.**

**Presentation:**

***"What Are You Going to Do with All Your Stuff?"***

**By Thomas Sajwaj**



*"We spend the large majority, if not all, of our genealogy time collecting material. Records, Documents, Photos, Family Trees. You name it. We're chasing it. and we've accumulated drawers, binders, boxes, shelves, books, envelopes, and even laundry baskets full of genealogy stuff, to say nothing about all the facts we've learned that we carry around in our heads.*

*What are we going to do with all this stuff? We are all going to croak sooner or later. What'll happen to our genealogy stuff? Will it go into a trash can? Or, be put in a large black plastic bag and buried in some closet to await a family archaeologist to unearth in a couple or three decades?"*

Thomas Sajwaj is a retired psychologist with about 20 years of experience in genealogy. He also teaches genealogy classes for the Center for Lifelong Learning.

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### **March Newsletter President's Corner**

*What a great Birthday party we had at the February meeting! There was so much energy in the room I was blown away!*

*March roared in like a Lion with the final week of CLL classes and the Family History Fair. Congratulations to Betsey Plantholt who won the one-year membership to GSOC!*

*We have committed to having someone available to help with patron questions and help the library with the Genealogy Section. While many libraries are downsizing their Genealogy Sections, FWB has given us access to more shelf space. The support we get from the FWB library is amazing and it's time we paid them back by being available to help their patrons (and our members or prospective members) with their research.*

*We are setting up a schedule for volunteers at the FWB library on Wednesdays from 1-4. If several of us, choose an hour or two for one Wednesday a month it will spread the responsibility and give many of us dedicated research time as well. Which Wednesday and time can you volunteer?*

*The Day of DNA details were released, and registrations are coming in. It promises to be a fun-filled day of learning about Genetic Genealogy! Kristina Clever and John Marshall will be the speakers. I MIGHT have a surprise closing speaker, as well! We will need volunteers to help with checking in participants, passing out lunches and cleanup. If you can volunteer for one of these areas, please contact me ([cindybarber2@gmail.com](mailto:cindybarber2@gmail.com)).*

**Cindy Barber**

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### NORTHWEST FLORIDA FAMILY HISTORY FAIR

We want to Thank Everyone that helped at our booth at the FHF. Thanks to Jon and Kathie for the use of their table and tablecloth and to Donna, Kathie, Ed and Tom for staffing the booth throughout the day. We had 28 people register for our drawing for an annual membership and had many inquiries about our "Day of DNA" program scheduled in April. There were many excellent speakers including GSOC members John Marshall, Cindy Barber, Margaret Harris, Hilma Jenus, and Jon Shephard. ***Congratulations to Betsey Plantholt who won the one-year membership to GSOC!***

***"Thanks to everyone that participate"***

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### SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Do you use Heritage Quest through the Fort Walton Beach Library? The Library is facing budget cuts this year and would like to know how important access to Heritage Quest is to our members. Please email Cindy or come to the March meeting to discuss this issue.

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### Genealogical Resource Quick Sheet

Following President Cindy Barber's project suggestions at the February meeting, a committee has been formed to compile and publish a brochure designed to help researchers locate the many and varied records available in Okaloosa County. The present committee consists of Donna Elliott, Beverly Gross, and Kathy Sheperd; however, there is definitely a need for anyone who would like to participate in this very worthwhile project. We could use your inputs as we will be exploring some of the "not so obvious" sources of local information. For more information, please contact Donna Elliott at 850-585-1739, or [deliott66@cox.net](mailto:deliott66@cox.net). Submitted by Donna Elliott, Quick Sheet Chairman.

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### February's meeting was GSOC 43<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary

Past GSOC Presidents present at that meeting were:

- Marsha Cox (1989, 1990, 1991)
- Margaret Harris (1998, 1999, 2003, 2004)
- Beverly Gross (2007, 2008, 2009)
- Donna Elliott (2012, 2013)
- Jim Young (2014, 2015,
  - Sue Basch (2016)
- Jonathan Sheperd (2017, 2018)

Note: Chuck Licari (2005, 2006) passed away the week before the February meeting

### SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

*GSOC will NOT be having a April meeting at Fort Walton Library. Instead, we are hosting an all-day seminar on DNA Testing in Crestview. Kristina Clever and John Marshall will be our speakers. Come learn about DNA Testing and what to do with your results. Seating is limited, so register soon!*



**Genealogical Society Of  
Okaloosa County Presents**

# Day of DNA



**27 April, 2019  
10:30 AM - 3:30 PM**

**Guest Speakers:**  
**Kristina Clever of  
Clever Genetic Ancestry  
and  
John Marshall  
GSOC's favorite DNA speaker**



**DNA Boot Camp  
I Have My Results - Now What?  
DNA Case files  
Widening the Net - Who Should You Test?**

***MYSTERY Final Presentation - what could  
it be???***



**GSOC members: \$25  
Non-Members: \$30**

**Registration is Required**

**Visit our website or email:  
GSOCGSIG@gmail.com**

**Robert L. Sikes Public Library  
1445 Commerce Dr  
Crestview, Florida**

**Visit our web site for more information and registration form:  
<http://www.rootweb.ancestry.com/~flocgs>**



*Have You Ever Wondered*

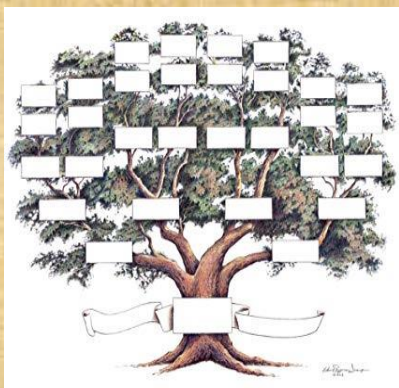
*If YOU Have A Revolutionary War Patriot in Your Direct Line?*

**Choctawhatchee Bay Chapter NSDAR Genealogy Research Meet-Up Day**

**DATE: APRIL 6, 2019 TIME: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

**LOCATION: Fort Walton Beach Public Library Meeting Room**

**Please RSVP via Face Book Events or via email by April 5th: [mccooeys@bellsouth.net](mailto:mccooeys@bellsouth.net)**



If you have, this Genealogy Research Meet-up Day may be just for you! The Choctawhatchee Bay Chapter (CBC) Daughters of the American Revolution is partnering with the Fort Walton Beach Library to host a Genealogy Research Meet-up day for ladies who are 18 years old and older. If you have ever had an interest in your family history or an interest in DAR please join us for this event. We would love to help you find your Revolutionary War Patriot. We ask that you bring your first 3 generations of ancestors so that we have a starting point. You may also download a worksheet from our CBC public webpage. Please visit our webpage at: [cbcdar.com](http://cbcdar.com) for more information about this event and about our active and amazing chapter! We hope to see you there!

## **Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County (GSOC) Meeting Minutes 23 February 2019**

**Call to order:** 10:24 am

**Approval of Dec. Minutes:** Sue moved the minutes be approved and Jerry seconded – they were approved.

**Approval of Jan. Minutes:** Sue moved the minutes be approved and Jerry seconded – they were approved.

**Finance Report – Phil:** Bank Balance: \$1653.80 with blue box balance of \$594.64.

**Membership Report – Jerry:** 80% of the members have renewed. He has received many this morning.

**Genealogy Report – Margaret:** Feb 27 – RootsTech.org – educational conference from Salt Lake. Some of it is online. After the conference has ended, they will post videos. Some of the videos will be free. Last year's presentations are online. Margaret has sent out a reminder blog. Margaret received an obituary request. The person had an incorrect death date. Margaret was able to correct the date. But couldn't find the obituary.

**Family History Fair Status –** March 9 at the LDS church in Fort Walton Beach. Jon, Cindy, Hilma and Margaret are presenting.

**Center for Life Long Learning (CLL) –** Only two weeks remaining.

**Activities – Cindy:** Books from Valparaiso Library - Valparaiso decided to downsize their genealogy area. David (librarian) is keeping Florida and several other states. We had the first choice of other books. Mike and Cindy made the short notice trip to pull books. We pulled 3 bins and they are being in processed by the Fort Walton Beach library. We need to thank Ed Crosby, Mike, Kay Hamilton (Valparaiso Commissioner) and Tricia Gould for helping us keep these books in Okaloosa County.



Presentation to Okaloosa County Public Library Cooperative - Mike and Cindy were asked to attend the meeting. We gave a short presentation on GSOC, gave the attendees Cindy's contact information and a flyer to take with them. We asked for their ideas on how to reach the rest of the county. We received a positive response.

Oral History assistance request - referred to Dr. Jamin Wells at UWF for Fred Pryor

**Other reports:** Jon wants to continue to have lunches. Some people have an interest in going to lunch after the meeting. Options: pick a place ahead of time or ad hoc after the meeting. Consensus was to pick the restaurant ahead of time. It will be announced during the meeting.

**State of the Society** – Cindy's Presentation attached:

- Journal – historically full of historical information. Hard to publish records that aren't already published. Cost is about \$600 to print. Do we continue to put it out in the form it is today? Many organizations have gone digital. Need ideas for topics. We need members to give us ideas. Topic should be picked in the next few months'
- Support Libraries – Need volunteers to assist in the Genealogy section at least one day a week. The library is open 10-6. Can do research while you are there! Will start with Wednesday 11am-6pm. Cindy passed out her contact information for people to contact her if they are interested in helping.
- Day of DNA, Crestview – April is DNA month. Cindy needs a committee to decide what programs we will have and when to have it (Saturday or Tuesday). It was agreed Saturday will be better. No lunch at the library, either break for lunch or provide box lunches for a cost. Val, Sue, Margaret and others will send an email to Cindy that they will be on the committee. We can sell tickets on Event Bright to control the size of the event. Need flyers for the Family History Fair and CLL (before it ends).
- State of Genealogy Societies – Societies are expected to be experts in the area. Projects are necessary. We are not experts in the area. We can direct people to what records are available. Project ideas were as follows. We agreed to start with the Quick Sheet. Barbara, and others agreed to help. At the next meeting we will decide what our project will be.
  - Create a quick sheet on county records
  - Bible Photography day. This would create a unique record set for the library here
  - First Families of Okaloosa County
  - Who do you think you are?
  - Cemetery Cleanup
  - Update our Cemetery Books
  - GPS entries for our cemeteries
  - Transcription/indexing project of a unique record set in the local area
  - Old churches
- Live Webinars are an option for our meetings.

**Newsletter** – Ed made sure that everyone received the email. Visitors will receive the newsletter for 3 months to try to encourage them to return.

**Scrapbooks** – Val: The scrapbooks are here for everyone to see. They have been copied and created a digital copy.

**Meeting adjourned:** 11:33pm

**PARTY! SUE BROUGHT A TREE MADE FROM CUPCAKES**

## Events and Information of GSOC Interest

### Officers for 2019

President, Cindy Barber  
 1st Vice President (Programs), Mike Kleypas  
 2nd Vice President (Membership), Jerry Rush  
 Treasurer, Phil Hoge  
 Recording Secretary, Barbara Bethea  
 Corresponding Secretary, Val Moreland

### Appointees:

Immediate Past President, Jon Sheperd  
 Journal Editor, Cindy Barber  
 Genealogist, Margaret Harris  
 Publicity Chairperson, Val Moreland  
 Newsletter Editor, Edward Crosby  
 Webmaster, Jim Young

### Addresses

P.O. Box 1175, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-1175  
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 GENIE Section: [EditorGSOCFLnews@gmail.com](mailto:EditorGSOCFLnews@gmail.com)  
 Genealogy Special interest Group: [GSOCSGSIG@gmail.com](mailto:GSOCSGSIG@gmail.com)

### Membership

Annual membership dues are \$24 for individual and \$35 for individual and spouse at same address. You can obtain a membership form from our web site or use the copy included in this newsletter.

### The Newsletter

The GSOC Newsletter is now published on or before the third weekend of each month. Suggestions for articles are welcome. The editor, Edward Crosby, can be contacted by phone at (850) 678-5423 or by email at [edcrosby@valp.net](mailto:edcrosby@valp.net). Letters to the editor are welcome and may be published.

The GSOC Journal, *A Journal of Northwest Florida*, is published once each year. The 2018 issue was published and distributed in September 2018 and has been mailed to all GSOC members. The theme of the 2018 issue is the "Why did I come here". If you are a member and didn't receive your copy, please contact us.

**NOTICE: Web Site has been restored:**  
<http://www.rootweb.ancestry.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.

### GSOC on Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/okaloosagsoc>

The address to the official page of the Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County is shown above; or you can go to your Facebook account and search for **Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County**. This page provides the latest information about our future meetings and other news that is important to members or prospective members. There is also a Facebook **group**. It is useful for exchanging information about your research and getting help with questions you may have about the Society or resources available to you. You can find it by going to your Facebook account and searching for **Friends of the GSOC**

### The GSOC Books

The five GSOC cemetery, marriage, and funeral books are all out of print, but are now available on the GSOC web site for reading on line and for downloading as searchable PDF files, at no charge. **Please note that all these GSOC books are copyrighted by The Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County and may be only used for personal use. Reproduction is prohibited without the permission of the GSOC.** Go to the web site, scroll down and click on the **GSOC Books** link, click on the name of the book to access, and read it on line. Save it to your computer to download it. Because of the size of these books, it may take them a few minutes to display (depending on the speed of your internet connection.)

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## GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF OKALOOSA COUNTY

**Web Site has been restored: [www.rootweb.com/~flocgs](http://www.rootweb.com/~flocgs) E-mail: [gsocokaloosa@yahoo.com](mailto:gsocokaloosa@yahoo.com)**

I hereby apply for membership or the renewal of my membership in the Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County

### ANNUAL DUES (Membership Year 1 Jan-31 Dec)

Individual \$24.00 Family \$35.00 (For Individual & spouse at the same address)

Please PRINT or TYPE all information:

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Telephone (Home/Cell): \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Can information be shared with other members? Name: Yes/No, Address: Yes/No, Phone: Yes/No, Email: Yes/No*

Your level of experience: Beginner \_\_\_ Intermediate \_\_\_ Advanced \_\_\_ Family Genealogist \_\_\_ Professional \_\_\_

### Please indicate areas of GSOC in which you would like to serve or contribute:

Newsletter Editor \_\_\_ Write Newsletter Articles \_\_\_ Webmaster \_\_\_ Journal Editor \_\_\_ Journal Staff Member \_\_\_ Write Articles for Journal \_\_\_ Serve on Short-term Committee \_\_\_ Nomination Committee \_\_\_ Organize Field Trips \_\_\_ Christmas Party Organizer \_\_\_ Give Genealogy Presentation \_\_\_ Workshop Leader \_\_\_ Workshop Volunteer \_\_\_ Special Event Organizer \_\_\_ Special Event Volunteer \_\_\_ Librarian \_\_\_ Publicity \_\_\_ CD Sales \_\_\_

### Research: Name of families and states you are researching

Surname	State or Area

Surname	State or Area

**PEASE MAIL FORM (ALONG WITH CHECK) TO THE GSOC P.O. ADDRESS ABOVE (OR BRING FORM AND CHECK TO NEXT SOCIETY MEETING)**





Our next meeting will on Saturday,  
March 23th, at 10:30 am.

*Featuring:*

***“What Are You Going to Do with All Your Stuff?”***  
*Presented by Thomas Sajwaj*

Fort Walton Beach Library  
185 Miracle Strip Parkway SE,  
Fort Walton Beach, Florida 32548

*“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