



# The GSOC Newsletter

The Genealogical Society of  
Okaloosa County, Florida

March 17, 2021

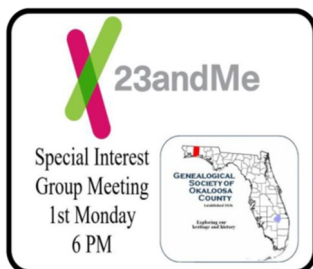


At our February meeting, Jodie Biles gave a wonderful presentation on the challenges African Americans face in researching their family history, how to reconnect with their past, where to look and who to talk to.

**Don't miss our upcoming meetings—more great information for genealogists of every skill level!**

**Saturday, March 27**— “Create a Book—Honor Your Ancestors for Posterity!” (More Info on Page 2)

**Saturday, April 24** — “How to Get the Most from Your atDNA Results” (More info on Page 3)



The Monthly DNA Special Interest Group meetings have been discontinued. If you have a specific question or concern, Immediate Past President Cindy Barber has graciously offered to assist.

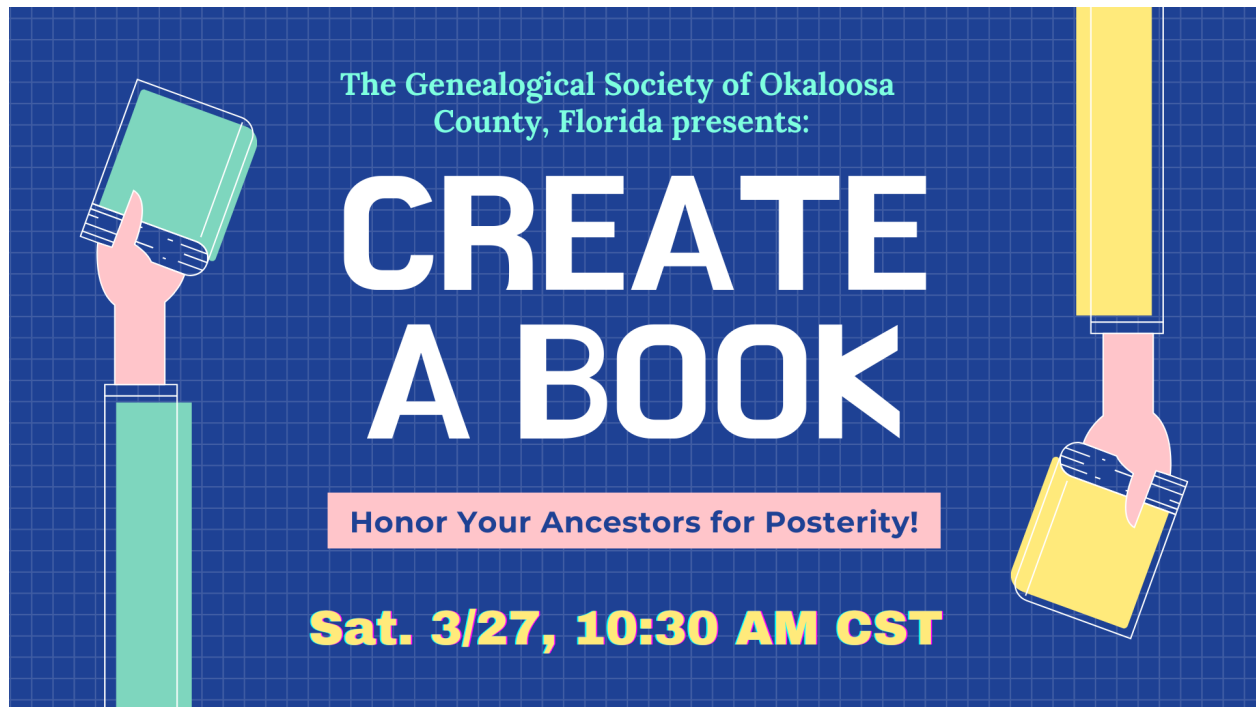
**GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF OKALOOSA COUNTY**

**P. O. Box 1175, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-1175**

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

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# March GSOC Meeting



**Program Details:** The program will discuss the options wannabe book writers have, from DIY (scrapbooking, murals (a book on a wall) or self-publishing with a print template), to hiring photo and design help, to commissioning a company that specializes in producing heirloom-quality family books. She will share what she learned as she worked with the client's family, and with a book designer to preserve the family's letters, diaries, documents, and scrapbook entries for posterity. The program is aimed at Genealogists of all levels, who are looking for best practices for writing and sharing one's family story.

**Speaker Bio:** Since 2011, Janeen Bjork has combined 30 years of experience as a television researcher and presenter, editor and educator, with her love of family history, teaching Genealogy, Newspaper and DNA classes, mostly in New England and New York. When a nonagenarian Genealogy student asked in 2018, "Do you have any ideas for Christmas presents?" she began an unexpected, challenging, and heartfelt, year-long adventure. The result was a 182-page family history book that memorialized the lives and legacies of 11 family members who lived together in a house in a small town in Nebraska, in the first half of the 20th century. Her second book project [which was given to the client's family for Christmas 2020] is a book of family travel photos, album entries and newspaper clippings from 1912-1913. Her third book, a book of the client's family lines and photos, has begun with the scanning and organization of almost 300 family photos.

# April GSOC Meeting



The graphic has a purple-to-blue gradient background with a stylized DNA double helix in red and blue. On the left is a portrait of Kristina Gow Clever, a woman with glasses and a patterned top. To the right of the portrait is the text 'Getting the Most from your atDNA Results' with a bullet point. Below this is a horizontal line and the name 'KRISTINA GOW CLEVER'. At the bottom, in white text, is 'SATURDAY, APRIL 24 - 10:30 AM VIA ZOOM'.

- Getting the Most from your atDNA Results

KRISTINA GOW CLEVER

**SATURDAY, APRIL 24 - 10:30 AM VIA ZOOM**

**Program Details:** DNA has become an important piece of evidence to supplement our document research. Join us as Kristina explains the benefits of using DNA, provides ideas to keep those cousin lists organized, and introduces some must-have tools to help it all make sense.

**Speaker Bio:** Kristina Gow Clever is a Professional Genealogist in Eufaula, Alabama, and founder of Clever Genetic Ancestry. She has been researching her family for over 30 years and has been using genetic evidence to help people discover their biological roots for nearly 10 years. She received the Boston University Certificate in Genealogical Research, participated in the ProGen Study Group, and has completed several advanced courses at genealogy institutes. She is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists and has applied for certification with the Board for Certification of Genealogists. Kristina also serves as President of the West Florida Genealogical Society in Pensacola.

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<http://www.rootsweb.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)

**Dues have been suspended for 2021 because of the pandemic.**

Please PRINT or TYPE all information:

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Telephone (Home/Cell): \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Can your information be shared with other members?*

Name: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Address: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Phone: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Email: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Please circle your level of experience: Beginner Intermediate Advanced Family Genealogist Professional

Please indicate areas of GSOC in which you can 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 \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Research:** Names of families and states you are researching. If no change so indicate.  
If family membership- use left column for husband's family and right column for wife's.

Surname	State or Area


Surname	State or Area

PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM ALONG WITH YOUR CHECK TO THE GSOC POST OFFICE ADDRESS ABOVE  
(OR BRING THE FORM AND YOUR CHECK TO THE NEXT MEETING OF THE SOCIETY)

# Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County

## Zoom Meeting Minutes

<b>GSOC Meeting:</b>	2021_02_27
<b>Call to Order:</b>	10:35 am
<b>Attendees:</b>	12 - Barbara Bethea, Jodie Biles, Eppi Azzaretto, Sue Basch, Jim Young, Margaret Harris, Val Moreland, Lorrie Canfijn, Cindy Barber, Donna Elliot, Liz Mangum, and Tasha McClain
<b>Membership Report: (Jodie Biles)</b>	61 members
<b>Programs Report: (Jodie Biles)</b>	<p>The March program is "You Should Write a Book: Writing your Family Story" by Janeen Bjork.</p> <p>April program: Kristina Clever, President of the West Florida Genealogy Society "Getting the Most From Your atDNA Results".</p> <p>Working on May program for a geographical location.</p>
<b>Recording Secretary: (Barbara Bethea)</b>	Approval of January 2021 Minutes – Donna moved we approve the minutes as written in the newsletter and Val seconded. All approved.
<b>Corresponding Secretary: (Donna Elliot)</b>	Nothing to report.
<b>Treasurer: (Phil Hoge by Barbara)</b>	<p>State of the GSOC account from board meeting:</p> <p>Treasury \$1037.41</p> <p>Blue Box \$ 884.82</p> <p>Total \$1922.23</p> <p>Phil has submitted our taxes.</p>
<b>Newsletter: (Eppi Azaretto)</b>	Nothing to report.
<b>Website: (Jim Young)</b>	Nothing to report.
<b>Sig Reports:</b>	<p>23&amp;Me - Jodie - 1st Monday 6pm</p> <p>Is open to anyone that would like to attend.</p> <p>Family Tree Maker - Cindy- 1st Wednesday 6pm</p> <p>Next month entering sources. Also will answer questions.</p> <p>Cindy has been invited to speak at another meeting. Family Search - Margaret - 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday 6:00pm</p>
<b>Presenter:</b>	Jodie Biles gave a wonderful presentation on the challenges African Americans face researching their family history, how to reconnect with their past, where to look and who to talk to.

<b>Questions Asked:</b>	Questions were asked of Jodie.
<b>Meeting Adjourned:</b>	11:31 am
	

## IN MEMORIAM

We just learned of the passing of one of our long-time GSOC members, Jerry Rush.

Below is the obituary that was printed in the Northwest Florida Daily News on Wednesday, March 17, 2021

### *Gerald Alden Rush*

Gerald Alden Rush, 80, died March 10, 2021, at his home in Shalimar, FL.

Mr. Rush was born February 7, 1941 in Stewartsville, NJ to Alden & Dorothy Rush. He served as an intelligence analyst in the United States Air Force for 20 years during which time he completed one tour of duty in Vietnam. While stationed in Hawaii, he met the love of his life, Mary, in 1969. They were married the following year.



In 1993 Mr. Rush accepted a position with the Special Operations Command and they moved to Shalimar, FL. In 1996 he co-founded the Poquito Bayou Community Association with his wife and was a pillar in the community for 25 years. In 2010 he began volunteering his time at the USO. He continued serving there until he became too ill a year ago.

He and his late wife were deeply loved by friends and family. He is survived by his sons Jon Quist, James Quist, and Andrew Rush; his daughters-in-law Debbie Quist and Noella Quist, grandchildren Brianne Quist, Dane Quist, Noelle Quist, Jacob Rush and Trevor Nazzaro; and great grandchild Briella Nazzaro.

Viewing will be at 10:30 AM on Saturday, March 20, 2021 followed by a service at 11:30 AM at Emerald Coast Funeral Home, 161 Racetrack Road, NW, Fort Walton Beach, FL. Expressions of love and sympathy may be placed and viewed at [www.emeraldcoastfuneralhome.com](http://www.emeraldcoastfuneralhome.com).