

THE GSOC NEWSLETTER

The Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County, Florida

May 4, 2012

GSOC Calendar

May 12, 2012

The May 12th program will be presented by Tony Mennillo, Arturo Studios, and will be held at the Heritage Museum. Mr. Mennillo's recent book, *Salty Memories Along the Coastal Highway*, contains historical stories of Destin and the Emerald Coast and features 492 vintage photographs. The book, which showcases the photos of Tony's father Arturo, brings us back to a simpler time when we were captains of our own destiny, a time before highways and condos, a time when the fisherman rather than the tourist was king.



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GSOC Meeting Minutes April 14, 2012

The Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County met for a regular monthly meeting at the Heritage Museum in Valparaiso, Florida on Saturday, 14 April 2012.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by President, Donna Elliott. A welcome was given to the membership along with five guests. The minutes of the March meeting were approved. A motion to approve was made by Bob Basch with a second by Ken Elliott.

Mrs. Elliott announced that each Wednesday morning a history class is held at the Valparaiso Library with David Weatherford as instructor. The Public is invited to attend.

Ken Elliott, Vice-President, responsible for securing programs for each monthly meeting reported that programs have been scheduled for most of the months through this year. The program for May will be "More Destin History" with the author, Tony Mennillo as the speaker.

Members were asked to assist the Society at "Saturday In The Park" for the 21st April at the park across the street from the Heritage Museum. The Society will have brochures and information to distribute to visitors in the park.

Membership Chairman, Sue Basch, gave a report on the number of memberships in the Society and an update of life members and dues paying members.

Treasurer, Bob Basch reported on the finances of the Society and passed the "Blue Box" to collect donations for the purpose of purchasing books for the local libraries.

Newsletter Editor, Jim Young reported he had transcribed the recently available 1940 census for Valparaiso and New Valparaiso and will print the list in the next issue of the Newsletter. He noted that a long time member of the Society, Mr. Walter Ruckel, Jr., was on the list as a teenager in the home of his father, Charles Ruckel. Mr. Ruckel was in attendance for this meeting also.

Pat Pruitt, Publicity Chairman was absent and Mrs. Elliott reported on publicity in the local newspaper to remind the public of the monthly meeting.

It was announced that Margaret Harris, a member of the Society and a registered genealogist is available for assistance in researching genealogy for the membership; however, due to the illness of Mr. Harris, Margaret is unable to attend the Society meetings at this time.

It was announced of the upcoming Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference to be held in Birmingham this summer. This Conference is held annually and this is the nearest to our area it has been in several years. Anyone interested in attending, 29 August - 1 September can view a brochure available or go on line to <http://www.fgs.org/2012conference/index.php>

Hilma Jenus reported she had placed all genealogical society publications received by the GSOC in the Library at Fort Walton Beach.

Following the business session, Ken Elliott, Program Chairman announced that the program for the day would be a "Show and Tell" by the membership. He invited anyone who had brought something to show to come forward. Nine members and three guests presented their items and gave a short explanation of each item.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 AM.

Mary Ellen Ahlstrom, Recording Secretary

**In Memory of
Charles Walter "Walt" Ruckel, Jr.
1927 - 2012**



Charles Walter "Walt" Ruckel Jr., 85, of Niceville, Florida, died peacefully on Saturday, April 21, 2012, surrounded by his family.

He was born on Jan. 1, 1927, in Pensacola, Fla., to Charles Walter Ruckel and Marion Plew Ruckel of

Valparaiso, Fla. He attended local elementary and high schools, completing his last three years of high school at Baylor School in Chattanooga, Tenn., where he graduated in 1944. In 1944-45, he attended Davidson College in Davidson, N.C., and North Georgia College in Dahlonega, Ga., as a member of the U.S. Army Specialized Training Reserve Program.



Walt served in the U.S. Army Air Corp as an airplane mechanic from 1945-47 at Keesler Field, Miss., and Hickam Field, Hawaii, being honorably discharged as a corporal. He graduated from Soule' Business College in New Orleans in 1948. In 1974, he graduated from Okaloosa-Walton Junior College in Niceville. On Feb. 2, 1948, he began working as a bookkeeper and teller in the bank founded by his grandfather, James E. Plew, Valparaiso State Bank in Valparaiso (later Valparaiso Bank & Trust, then Vanguard Bank & Trust). He was

made Assistant Vice President in January 1950 and President in 1951, following the death of his father. He served as Chairman of the Board until December 2004, when he was granted Board Member Emeritus. He was a graduate of the School of Banking of the South at Louisiana State University.

He worked in the real estate development business for 56 years under the name Ruckel Properties, Inc., which began on June 17, 1955, and has been actively developing real estate for homes and businesses in the Niceville, Valparaiso and Fort Walton Beach areas. His most recent real estate developments were Hawk's Landing residential community, Swift Creek residential community, Heritage Gardens Cemetery and Heritage Gardens Funeral Home.

He was a member of the Niceville-Valparaiso Rotary Club since its chartering in 1948 and served as its president in 1954-55. He was elected "Man of the Year" for southern Okaloosa County by the Rotary Club in 1957 and again in 1970. He was active in local civic affairs, including the Boy Scouts, Chamber of Commerce and United Way, all for which he was past president. He was also active in the Florida Bankers Association. He was Chairman of the Air

Force Armament Museum Foundation and was Campaign Chairman of the successful funds drive that raised

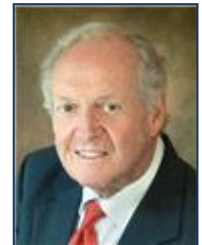
\$1,200,000 for the building of the museum on Eglin Air Force Base property in 1985. He was a lieutenant colonel in the Civil Air Patrol (Florida Wing Staff).



Walt was a member of the Krewe of Bowlegs (and a past Captain Billy Bowlegs), Fort Walton Yacht Club, Bluewater Bay Sailing Club, Rocky Bayou Country Club and the First

Presbyterian Church of Niceville. His activities included swimming, sailing, canoeing, camping, hunting, horseback riding, photography, reading, genealogy, and flying aircraft. He held a commercial pilot's license with single engine land qualification, sea, glider, instrument ratings and instructor ratings. He had a passion for travel, visiting places across the USA, Central America, Australia and most of Europe.

He is survived by eight children, Charles Walter Ruckel III (Molly), Stephen Walter Ruckel (Rhonda), James Plew Ruckel, Gregory Meaut Ruckel (Rose), Martin Tille Ruckel (Phyllis), Marion Ruckel Skalicky (Andre), Sharon Joyce Ruckel and Philip Bond Ruckel; and 12 grandchildren, John Charles Ruckel, Sean Michael Ruckel (Lena), Kristin Ruckel Dickson (Oakley), Kathleen Noel Ruckel, Wava Ruckel Adams (Darren), Howard Madison Ruckel, Marysa Ruckel Kirby (Scott), Matthew Stephen Ruckel (Kirsty), James Plew Ruckel Jr., Kaitlan Christy Ruckel, Jenna Marguerite Skalicky, and Sofia Elizabeth Skalicky; and 15 great-grandchildren, Shelby Elizabeth Ruckel, Hannah Kate Dickson, Brayden Brian Adams, Matthew Owen Dickson, Oliver Martin Adams, Noah Logan Dickson, Benjamin Matthew Ruckel, Mathias Doyle Ruckel, Vance Timothy Kirby, Maddie Grace Dickson, Gabriel Stephen Ruckel, Jonas Hammer Ruckel, Samuel Aaron Ruckel, Matthew Campbell Ruckel and Waylon Parker Ruckel.



Funeral services were held on Thursday, April 26, at the First Presbyterian Church of Niceville. Interment followed at the Heritage Gardens Cemetery. Heritage Gardens Funeral Home of Niceville was in charge of the funeral arrangements.

Mr. Ruckel was a Life Member and a faithful supporter of the GSOC. In addition to the accomplishments mentioned above, he was noted for his genealogical research and his interest in history.

Walt remained active in many of his interests up until his death, including participation in the annual Saturday In The Park festival in Valparaiso on April 21st, 2012.

Obituary from the Northwest Florida Daily News, April 24, 2012
Photographs were on the paper's web site as a slide show



Civil War Sesquicentennial

Selected Highlights of May 1862

<http://blueandgraytrail.com>

May 1 Infantry under Benjamin Butler [US] begin entering the city of New Orleans

May 9 General David Hunter [US] frees the slaves in South Carolina, Georgia and Florida

May 9 Confederates withdraw from Norfolk, destroying the base as they leave

May 10 Federal mortar boats, shelling Fort Pillow, are attacked by a makeshift Confederate fleet. The U. S. responds in force, with ironclads. Although the 8 Confederate boats manage to sink 2 ironclads (the Cincinnati and Mound City) the battle of Plum Run Bend or Plum Point ended when the Rebels withdrew to Fort Pillow

May 10 Confederates destroy Naval Base at Pensacola

May 11 Confederate soldiers scuttle the C.S.S. Virginia near Norfolk

May 15 Benjamin Butler issues Order Number 28, directing his troops to treat any woman who insults them as they would a woman "plying her advocacy (a prostitute)." It was this order that led to his title, the Beast of New Orleans



Before Butler's Order

After Butler's Order
Harper's Weekly

May 19 Lincoln rescinds David Hunter's emancipation of the slaves in his department and uses the opportunity to call for a gradual emancipation

May 20 Lincoln signs the Homestead Act, giving citizens 21 years or older the right to buy 160 acres of land in the West

May 25 Halleck arrives outside of Corinth, Miss. It has taken him 26 days to march 20 miles, virtually unopposed

May 30 Confederates evacuate Corinth

John Tyler's Long Lineage

John Tyler, president of the United States from 1841 to 1845, served as the nation's chief executive after the death of William Henry Harrison. An interesting fact recently reported by Fox News is that two of John Tyler's grandchildren are still alive.

President Tyler's son Lyon Tyler, one of 15 children, was born when President Tyler was 63. Lyon Tyler had a son Lyon Tyler, Jr., born in 1924, and another son Harrison Tyler, born in 1928. Lyon Tyler was in his 70s when these sons were born. Both Lyon, Jr., and Harrison are still living, 167 years after their grandfather left office.

When I Die

by Katie Merritt, Niceville, Florida

When I die, put my family tree book in my casket. I want to take it with me. When I find Grandmother Rebecca Tunnell White, I will ask her who her parents were and was she born in Green County, Tennessee or Sullivan County, Missouri, and why did she die so young and leave three small boys and a baby girl? What year? I know she was in the 1880 census in Kansas but Grandpa White was a widower in the 1885 state census.

And now for my great great grandfather: Were you the Stacy Reeves who married Sarah Dicks, or were you the Stacy Reeves who married Sarah Lawrence; the parents of my great grandmother Mariah Reeves Snider. Her death certificate stated her father was Stacy Reeves and her mother was Sarah. Now how am I supposed to know? You both were married in Mason County, Kentucky and both moved to Putnam County, Indiana in 1833 and both died there. Okay, which one?

Now for great great grandfather Andrew Garret Wendt. How come you deserted from Denmark and Napoleon's army dressed like a woman and sneaked aboard a boat for America? Why did you change your name from Banquin to Wendt when you got here? Was it easier to spell or were you hiding from something? How come your sons were both deserters from the Civil War? Like father like sons? How come?

And now for Dutton Lane II -- what was your wife's maiden name? Mary is all I have. Where were you married? In Maryland or Pennsylvania? You are one of my many mysteries in the long line of Lanes. Did your father, Samuel, stay in Maryland or did he come to Tennessee with you and your brothers. Also did you marry Nancy Thompson in Green County or was that your son, Dutton, Jr. He married twice.

So many questions unanswered. So many years of searching. Will they all be answered when I cross over? I'll come back and let you know.

From Issue 53, Summer 1991, *A Journal of Northwest Florida*, published by the GSOC

1940 Census, Okaloosa County Florida

Valparaiso & New Valparaiso

Heads of Households*

Transcribed by Jim Young

Sheet Number, Household Visited, Last Name, First Name,
Age, Where Born, Occupation (if provided)

ED 46-17

1A 1 Howell, Mattie 61 Florida
1A 2 Howell, Charlie 52 Florida Fishing
1A 3 Minger, Wilson 22 Florida Manager Cafe
1A 4 Chason, Bennie 25 Florida Laborer WPA Road Constr
1A 5 Craig, Douglas 27 Michigan Forester Forest Service
1A 6 Davis, Fred 43 Florida
1A 7 Brown, Henry 56 Alabama Laborer WPA Street Constr
1A 8 Spence, Wallace 37 Florida Mgr & Owner Fish House
1A 9 Rooks, James 59 Florida Janitor Niceville School
1B 10 Atwell, Andrew 31 Florida Truck Driver Fish Co
1B 11 Howell, Earnest 43 Florida Mgr Grocery Store
1B 12 Spoon, Joe 33 Florida Truck Driver paper wood
1B 13 Barlow, Dan 62 Alabama Laborer WPA Road Constr
1B 14 Phelps, Leonard 45 Georgia Officer oused-ation State
1B 15 Goodwin, George 62 South Carolina
2A 16 Psyspieus, Luwfert(?) 30 Florida Laborer Sawmill
2A 17 Grace, Raymond 24 Florida Laborer Sawmill
2A 18 Davis, Ralph 24 Florida Truck Driver Golf Course
2A 19 Neal, Doual 24 Florida Police City
2A 20 McCullough, Harold 29 Florida
2A 21 Hudson, Bryan 21 Alabama Fishing

ED 46-28

1A 1 Junger, Henry 27 Minnesota Printer Valp Dev Co
1A 2 Agerton, Ollie 27 Alabama Truck Driver Golf Course
1A 3 May, Lucinda 70 Kentucky
1A 4 Thomas, Leon 28 Alabama Carpenter Valp Dev Co
1A 5 Mitchell, Floyd 28 Alabama Owner & Mgr Ford Motor Co
1A 6 Carroll, Louis 39 Arkansas Soldier US Air Corps
1A 7 Adolph, Weekly 44 Florida Laborer WPA Street Constr
1A 8 Lee, Frank 28 Tennessee Mechanic US Air Corps
1A 9 Rhodes, Norval 30 Alabama Staff Sgt US Air Corps
1A 10 Menzel, Maxmillian 51 New York Printer Valp News
1A 11 Reynolds, Harry 38 Illinois Owner & Mgr Grocery Store
1A 12 Morrow, Barnard 59 California Editor Valp News
1A 13 Bushnell, Elvis 19 Florida Printer Newspaper
1B 14 Meadows, Stanley 24 Mississippi Supply Sgt US Air Corps
1B 15 Wallis, George 46 Wisconsin Realtor Valp Dev Co
1B 16 _uitt, James 46 South Carolina Commanding Officer CCC
1B 17 McClellan, Eleanor 60 Georgia
1B 18 Lofstein, Charles 62 Chicago
1B 19 Lewis, Addie 37 Alabama Teacher Niceville
1B 20 Meigs, William 68 Florida
1B 21 Evans, Jimmie 27 Alabama Soldier Eglin Field
1B 22 Nelson, M.H. 37 Alabama Mechanic Boyd Boat Wks
1B 23 Wilson, Olga 30 Texas Butler Private House
1B 24 Peters, Byadee(?) 48 Georgia
1B 25 Hoffs, Fred 38 Georgia Soldier Eglin Field
2A 26 Meigs, Clifford 40 Florida Filling Sta Owner/Mgr
2A 27 Walter, Luther 60 Kentucky Lawyer
2A 28 Woodmansee, Mary 57 Illinois Postmaster
2A 29 Welker, George 78 New York
2A 30 Wilcox, Katharine 79 Wisconsin
2A 31 Gaspard, George 38 Minnesota Master Sgt US Air Corps
2A 32 McLaren, Samuel 33 Arkansas Mechanic Eglin Field
2A 33 Ruckel, Charles 43 Illinois
2A -- Marion 41 Illinois
2A -- C. Walter, Jr. 13 Florida
2A 34 Plew, Nettie 75 Illinois

2A 35 Engelke, Helen 34 Germany Housekeeper Private House
2A 36 Mayer, Loraine 81 Pennsylvania
2A 37 Lear, Clarence 43 Illinois
2A 38 Fitch, Raymond 48 Illinois
2A 39 Allison, Robert 42 South Carolina Principal Niceville Sch
2B 40 Chavis, Will 47 South Carolina Laborer WPA Street Const
2B 41 Williams, Dora 39 Alabama Cook Private House
2B 42 Edwards, Nolan 40 Alabama Painter Private Work
2B 43 Freeman, Clotilde 74 Ohio Retired
2B 44 Partridge, Ernest 69 Vermont Pastor Valparaiso Church
2B 45 Miller, Melvin 72 New York Asst Postmaster Valparaiso
2B 46 Marthis, Blanche 56 New York Superv Housekeeping
2B 47 Wedge, Carrie 68 Vermont

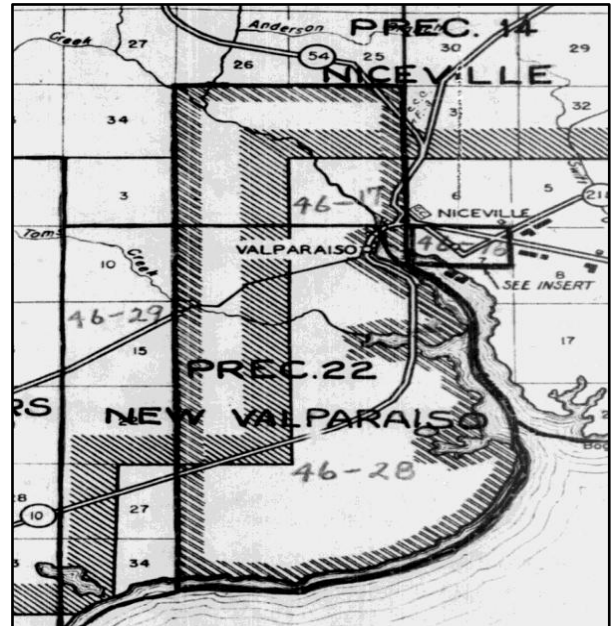
ED 46-29

1A 1 Willingham, Barry 42 Alabama Laborer WPA Road Const
1A 2 Partin, Lorena 57 Alabama
1A 3 McCormick, William 66 Alabama
1A 4 Houston, Steven 25 Florida
1A 5 Allen, Ben 50 Florida
1A 6 Gardner, Henry 43 Alabama Soldier Eglin Field
1A 7 Wilson, Hubert 29 Alabama Bookkeeper Spence Fish Co
1A 8 Manning, C.F. 49 Alabama Mgr & Owner Manny's Place
1A 9 Spence, Walter 37 Florida Mgr & Owner Spence Fish Co
2A 10 McCurley, James 35 Alabama Painter Private Work
2A 11 McCurley, Ephrom 30 Florida Laborer WPA Forest Proj
2A 12 Davis, Jeff 67 Florida
2A 13 Hart, Alton 22 South Carolina Laborer Dairy Co
2A Barnes, Nell 27 Florida Teacher Public School
2A Rigby, Nancy 23 Florida Teacher Public School
2A Jernigan, Louise 23 Florida Teacher Public School
2A 14 Hern, Sam 45 Alabama Laborer WPA Street Constr
2A 15 Howell, Sherman 36 Florida Salesman Grocery Store
2A 16 Burch, Gilbert 33 New York Magazine Writer

ED 46-17: Election Precinct 14 Niceville, Valparaiso City (Part)

ED 46-28: Election Precinct 22 New Valparaiso, Valparaiso City (Part)

ED 46-29: Election Precinct 22 New Valparaiso outside Valparaiso City



Transcribed from the 1940 Census Images Released on April 2, 2012

*This listing is of only the heads of households except for ED 46-28, Household 33 (Ruckel) and ED 46-29, Household 13 (Hart) where all residents of those households are listed

throughout his life. He survived two consecutive bouts of pneumonia and a heart attack in his 80's). He told of their prison housekeeping chores and how they passed the time wrestling, foot-racing, gambling, story-telling and fighting. Whenever a new man arrived the first questions were about news from home and the next were whether the man could run, wrestle, etc. Grandpa was a proficient a wrestler. His son, my uncle, reported that when he was 13 or 14 he offered to take his dad on. Before he knew what was happening the son was on his back in spite of the fact that the dad was well past 80. Grandpa was five feet and ten inches tall and never weighed over 150 pounds.

While in prison with plenty of time to kill, my grandfather and his childhood friend, Jim Bonds, wrote a letter to President Lincoln stating that they were country boys who would like to get out of prison. Some weeks later they were called to the camp commander's office who told them he would release them if they would take an oath of allegiance to the United States. Their response was: "We have already taken an oath of allegiance to the Confederate States of American and we are men too small to support two countries at the same time". Consequently, they were returned to their quarters where they remained until the end of the war. However, Grandpa would eventually take his oath of allegiance to the United States at Fort Delaware on July 11, 1865. My mother told the story that earlier a wealthy woman who visited the prison had offered to send Grandpa to one of the best universities if he would take the oath, but he declined.



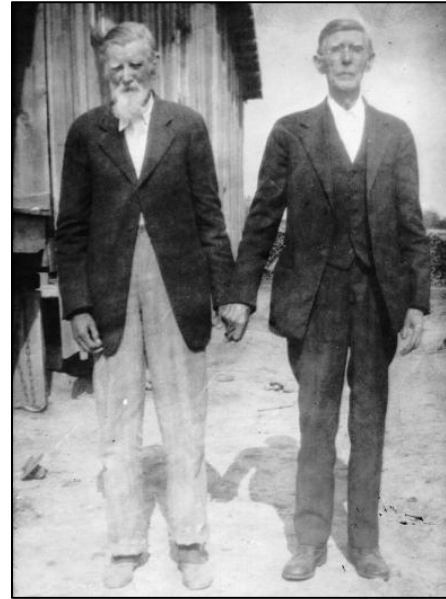
William Rufus (Ruf) Burris and second wife Myrtilla Elizabeth Rankin, perhaps on their wedding day.

After 23 months of captivity he returned home to a bleak and discouraging future of hardship and political persecution. My uncle stated that Grandpa never admitted the Confederate Army was defeated. On numerous occasions he stated: "When they came two to our one, we whipped them every time, but when they came three, four, and five to our one, they just over-

powered us." He agreed, however, that it was best that the nation remained intact and that slavery was wrong.

Even so, he remained faithful to the Confederacy and attended Confederate conventions when he could.

Ruf married his first wife, Harriet Newell Combs, on January 3, 1867, and lived with her for 40 years before she died on October 20, 1907. They had no children. He took his second wife, Myrtilla Elizabeth Euphrasia Rankin Porter on December 5, 1909. He was 67 and she was 34. Their first child was born March 11, 1911, when he was 69 and they named him Waitus Rankin Burris in honor of Ruf's only brother to have lived to adulthood. Hattie Eugenia Burris, my mother, followed on March 31, 1913. Grandpa lived until 17 May 1935 (age 92 years and 6 months) to see both children married and to know that I was on the way.



William Rufus Burris and his brother Waitus V. Burris

My uncle wrote that his father was honest to the core and expected everyone else to be honest. He taught his children morality and Godliness by both precept and example. He was a popular storyteller and young people were attracted to him and his stories. They were amused by his jokes. He was considered a good old-time fiddler, playing and singing popular songs of the day, the war, and hymns. His son and stepson had a new suit tailored for him and he chose a powered blue which he called Confederate grey. Each Sunday he donned his suit and inspected himself in the mirror. Although he did not have much formal schooling he subscribed to the daily Memphis, Tennessee, *Commercial Appeal* and read music well. In his later years he sang a lot including Confederate war songs often on the porch at night or even in bed. He was buried in his Confederate grey suit. The family has perpetuated the W. R. Burris line, now to the fifth generation.

Malcolm Flanagan is a past president of the GSOC

PUTTING YOUR ANCESTOR'S LIFE ON A TIMELINE

by ESTHER ELEY JONES

My fourth great-grandfather, BENJAMIN HODGE, was born in South Carolina in 1752. He died 28 January 1837 in Richland County, South Carolina. What happened between those two dates is the real life story of BENJAMIN HODGE. In my search to fill in the blanks on my family tree, I sometimes forget that the final sum of a life is much more than when a person was born and died. It is the life story of all those events in a life. In order to see a snapshot of those events, I created a research time line of BENJAMIN HODGE. The research timeline is an effective research tool to organize all information acquired from an ancestor's documents, census listings, wills, pensions, historical events, and any important events of an ancestor's life. The research timeline highlights the major events in an ancestor's life, as well as, the smallest events. The research timeline gives you a picture of your ancestor's life. It serves to help organize an ancestor's life in chronological order, down to the smallest detail from birth and ending with death. All of those events make up BENJAMIN HODGE's life story. The purpose of my timeline for BENJAMIN HODGE was to analyze the information to see where I was in my research of his life story and to see if there were gaps, overlapping events, or conflicting data in my research.

Few ancestors left daily journals or records of their activities and the events with which they were associated. Yet we try to reconstruct their lives as accurately as possible with reliable sources and historical events of the time. The use of the timeline will usually display events surrounding an ancestor's life in his time and geographic area. It will provide a detailed summary of a person's life in the context of life's everyday events.

BENJAMIN HODGE's daughter, LIDIA, married JORDAN LEE, my third great grandfather. JORDAN was born in Richland County, South Carolina in 1780. Timelines help the researchers understand how two families merged into one and how they came to be in the same place. The timeline can help prove or disprove family stories, identify migration patterns, and help understand how major and minor historical events influenced our ancestors' lives.

Family historians are accustomed to using charts and forms to organize their research. Pedigree charts, family group sheets, and descendant charts are standard tools of a genealogist. Most of us are familiar with those tools; however, timelines are vital tools in helping genealogists see gaps in events of an ancestor's life, overlapping events, or conflicting data. When creating your timeline, you will add important dates from your ancestors' lives, along with historic events such as wars, natural disasters, and epidemics. Look for local events of importance to add to your timeline. You will add personal information such as children's names, birth dates, marriages and names of their spouses, deaths if any preceded your ancestor. Include census listings, when and where your ancestor witnessed legal documents, bought land, and any pension information. A timeline can show you, at a glance, which

major event may have influenced your ancestors' life or reason for their life choices.

When genealogists have researched all these obvious sources for information, such as vital records, census records, land records, wills, pensions, national and state archives, creating a timeline can be a valuable tool. Analysis of the research data in the timeline of my ancestor BENJAMIN HODGE helped me identify gaps in my research and conflicting data. The analysis also led to questions, creative thinking, and gave me hints for further research into the life of BENJAMIN HODGE.

By placing your family records against a backdrop of a life event and world events in a timeline, you can tell amazing family stories in a powerful visual way. Once you have finished using your timeline for research, you have a handy tool available for writing a narrative or biography. Make sure your notes are short and clearly written or stated. The research timeline makes it easy for organizing your ancestors' information into life stories and incorporating the historical events for a more creative, and interesting narrative rather than just a reconstruction of dry facts.

Originally published in *GENIE*, Vol. 45 #4, Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association, Inc., Shreveport, LA. Reprinted in *Kinfolks*, Southwest Louisiana Genealogical Society, Inc., Volume 36 No. 1 - March 2012. Used with permission.

Thomas Reece Blue Timeline Private, 15th MA Volunteer Infantry		
When	What	Where
11 Jun 1842	Birth	Marble, MA
12 Apr 1861	Attack on Ft Sumter SC	
18 Jun 1861	Marries Sallie Ryder	Marble, MA
12 Jul 1861	15 MA Vol Inf Rgt formed	Worcester, MA
31 Jul 1861	Tom enlists	Worcester, MA
21 Oct 1861	Attack on Balls Bluff	Loudon Co. VA
21 Oct 1861	Captured by CSA	Richmond, VA
15 Dec 1861	Sent to CSA Prison	Salisbury, NC
12 Jun 1862	Paroled to Union troops	Maryland
16 Sep 1862	Rejoined unit	Washington DC
13 Dec 1862	Participated in battle	Fredericksburg, VA
May 1863	Chancellorsville campaign	
6 Jul 1863	Engaged, wounded	Gettysburg, PA
16 Jul 1863	Hospitalized	Gettysburg, PA
20 Aug 1863	Furloughed	Baltimore, MD
6 Aug 1864	Discharged	
9 Apr 1865	Gen. Lee surrenders	
1870	Lived in Iowa	Des Moines, IA
9 Sep 1873	pension increase	Chicago, IL
1880	Lived in Kansas	Atchison, KS
27 Jun 1890	pension increase	Leavenworth, KS
18 Jul 1895	Admitted to DVS Home	Topeka, KS
16 May 1898	Died, buried	Clarksville, TN

Simple timeline (fictitious person)

Events, Groups, and Sites of GSOC Interest

May 18

Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso FL

Free Lunch-time Lecture, 12 PM

Leonard Destin Voyage - Tony Mennillo, Author of
Salty Memories Along the Coastal Highway

Call (850) 678-2615 to reserve a seat

www.heritage-museum.org/wp/

May 31 - June 2

Fort Walton Beach - Billy Bowlegs Pirate Festival

This family-friendly event includes a torchlight parade through town, fireworks, live entertainment, food, arts & crafts, games, and childrens' entertainment

www.billybowlegsfestival.com or 850 244-8191

June 9

Destin History and Fishing Museum, Destin FL

Annual Old Fashioned Fish Fry, Saturday, June 9, 2012, in the Destin Community Center on Stahlman Avenue from 11 AM to 2 PM. Tickets are \$13 in advance and \$15 the day of the event and are available at the Museum. Menu includes local fried fish, hush puppies, cole slaw, baked beans, beverage & good time! Cooked by an "ole Destin native", Lloyd Taylor. Live music provided and raffles for door prizes available. Contact the Museum at 850-837-6611 or email Kathy Marler Blue for more information.

kathydestinhistory@gmail.com

June 14-16

Destin History and Fishing Museum, Destin FL

Swordfish Shootout

Benefitting Museum

<http://www.destinhistoryandfishingmuseum.org>

June 15

Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso FL

Free Lunch-time Lecture, 12 PM

Bucky's Adventures from Valparaiso to Pensacola,
Marjorie Cox Gray, author *Bucky's Adventures*, with
special guest, illustrator, Marlin Griffin

Call (850) 678-2615 to reserve a seat

www.heritage-museum.org/wp/

July 14

Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso FL

Guided Tour with historic exhibits and Wine and Food
Tasting. Saturday, July 14, 7 PM. Live Entertainment,
Silent Auction, Raffles, 50/50, Local Restaurants.

Advanced ticket sales Only \$30 each

www.heritage-museum.org/wp/

July 20

Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso FL

Free Lunch-time Lecture, 12 PM

The Civil War: Straight's Brigade Raid,

Jim K. Baughman and Nelson O. Ottenhausen

Call (850) 678-2615 to reserve a seat

www.heritage-museum.org/wp/

August 18

Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso FL

Free Lunch-time Lecture, *Air Raid Nights and Radio Days*,
Don Schroeder, Author, 12 PM

Call (850) 678-2615 to reserve a seat

www.heritage-museum.org/wp/

August 25

Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso FL

Annual Yard Sale. Saturday, August 25, at 7 am.

www.heritage-museum.org/wp/

October 13

Laurel Hill FL Hobo Festival

Begun in 1992, the Laurel Hill Hobo Festival is an annual event scheduled for the second Saturday in October.

www.laurelhillnow.com/hobo_festival.htm

November 3

Baker Block Museum, Baker FL



Annual Heritage Festival

<http://bakerblockmuseum.org/clouds/inthecLOUDS/index-a.html>

November 8, 9, & 10

Florida State Genealogical Society 2012 Conference

"The Best of Times: Family History + Technology!"

Mark your calendars. Details will be announced later.

www.flsgs.org

November 10

Rocky Bayou State Park, Niceville FL

Annual Fall Pioneer Day

The GSOC will participate in this event by having a booth at the park instead of the usual meeting.

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flocgs/

December 8

Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County

Annual Holiday Party and Installation of Officers

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flocgs/

December 8

Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso FL

Yule of Yesteryear Holiday Celebration & Victorian Tea

www.heritage-museum.org/wp/

STATE-WIDE EVENTS

More Florida genealogy events are on the Florida State Genealogical Society website at www.flsgs.org/events.php

GSOC INFORMATION

Officers for 2012

President, Donna Elliott
 1st Vice President (Programs), Ken Elliott
 2nd Vice President (Membership), Sue Basch
 2nd Vice President (Membership) Asst, Carol Lessard
 Treasurer, Bob Basch,
 Recording Secretary, Mary Ellen Ahlstrom
 Corresponding Secretary, Jim Young
 Immediate Past President, Malcolm Flanagan
 Journal Editor, Beverly Gross
 Historian, Sue Basch
 Genealogist, Margaret Harris
 Publicity Chairperson, Pat Pruett
 Webmaster & Newsletter Editor, Jim Young

(Elected, Appointed, and Ex Officio positions)

Addresses

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

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

Email: gsocokaloosa@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor: youngjmy@cox.net

Meetings and Membership

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

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

The Newsletter

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

The Journal

The GSOC Journal, *A Journal of Northwest Florida*, is published once each year. The 2011 issue, Volume XXXII, Issue 100, was published and distributed in November 2011.

The Web Site

The GSOC web site is hosted by Rootsweb at:

<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 symbol on the left is the QR code for the address of the GSOC web site. Scanning this symbol with properly equipped mobile devices will connect that device to the GSOC website.

Meeting Location



Arrow indicates the door to the room used for GSOC meetings at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida

GSOC Publications

Volume I (out of print), Cemeteries of Okaloosa County, Florida 24 cemeteries east of the Yellow River & north of the Shoal River	Out of print but available on CD, see below
Volume II (out of print), Cemeteries of Okaloosa County, Florida 26 cemeteries north and east of the Yellow River	Out of print but available on CD, see below
Volume III Cemeteries of Okaloosa County, Florida 11 cemeteries south of the Shoal River	\$5.00 plus \$3.00 postage
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.	\$5.00 plus \$3.00 postage
Santa Rosa County Marriages 1869-1906 Over 7,000 names with every-name index, 123 pages.	\$5.00 plus \$3.00 postage
Walton County Marriages (out of print), 1895-1915 Over 10,000 names with every-name index, 165 pages.	Out of print but available on CD, see below
The GSOC Publications Disk This compact disk (CD) contains all of the books listed above: <i>Cemeteries of Okaloosa County, Volumes I, II, and III; Funeral Records of Okaloosa County; Santa Rosa County Marriages 1869-1906; and Walton County Marriages 1885-1915</i>	\$15.00 plus \$2.00 postage

Please send your order information with your check to
GSOC, P.O. Box 1175, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-1175
 and mark your envelope "Book Sales"



The next GSOC meeting will be on May 12, 2012, at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida at 10 A.M.

The program will be presented by Tony Mennillo, Arturo Studios. Mr. Mennillo's recent book, *Salty Memories Along the Coastal Highway*, contains historical stories of Destin and the Emerald Coast and features 492 vintage photographs made by his father Arturo. These bring us back to a simpler time when we were captains of our own destiny, a time before highways and condos, a time when the fisherman rather than the tourist was king.

"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

