

# THE GSOC NEWSLETTER

The Genealogical Society of  
Okaloosa County, Florida

May 1, 2014

## Next GSOC Meeting

May 10, 2014

The speaker for our May meeting will be Bruce Rova who will present the program, *Who's That Lady?*



This program will address a problem that genealogical researchers often encounter: identifying maiden surnames, parents, and other information for women in family trees when we only know a married surname.

Mr. Rova will discuss good strategies and resources that can help in this process and will share practical examples of a myriad of means he has used successfully in his research – reviewing both finding direct sources and, especially, gathering and using clues from *indirect* sources to reveal new information and resolve such problems.

Mr. Rova is a past president of the West Florida Genealogical Society. He describes the WFGS in a television interview which can be seen at:  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1dnB7f-F\\_Tw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1dnB7f-F_Tw)

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## GSOC Meeting Minutes for April

April 12, 2014

Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida  
Pat Pruett, Recording Secretary

President Jim Young called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM and welcomed members and guests. Three guests were introduced and gave us a bit of information about their genealogy interests. Jim also welcomed our two new members who have joined since our March meeting.

Bob Basch passed around the "Blue Box" after explaining the purpose of the collection is to purchase genealogy

books for our local public libraries, as well as helping to finance publication of our yearly Journal.

Del Lessard passed out tickets for a door prize of a genealogy book, which was won by Bob Sutherland.

Jim explained that the minutes of our meetings are published in our monthly newsletter and then approved by the membership at the following general meeting. He then asked for a motion to approve the minutes as printed in the April newsletter. A motion was made by Bob Sutherland and seconded by Del Lessard and then approved by the members unanimously.

### Officers' Reports:

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President-Programs – Del Lessard gave a report of the programs and speakers he has arranged for the rest of this year, including Margaret Harris who was our speaker today.

- April 12: Margaret Harris, Using social media in genealogical research
- May 10: Bruce Rova, "Who's that Lady?"
- June 14: Don Allgood, A guide to Okaloosa County records
- July 12: Amy Raley, The Federal Road, immigration routes of the old Southwest.
- Aug 9: Bert Blackmon, Military records
- Sept 13: Show & Tell, Three to four GSOC members discuss their own genealogical "finds"
- Oct 11: Geo. & M. Legge, Using LDS's Family Search website
- Nov 8: Nicole Bucchino, "Tombstone Tales, Cemeteries, Symbols and Stories"
- Dec 13: Annual GSOC Christmas Luncheon

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President-Membership – Sue Basch – not present. Bob said that Sue has received two new applications for membership since our March meeting. New membership lists were passed out today.

Treasurer – Bob Basch reported a checkbook balance of \$2346.19 plus another \$100.00 to deposit. He said we now have a net gain and are in very good shape with money available to produce our 2014 Journal.

Recording Secretary – Pat Pruett – nothing to report.  
Corresponding Secretary – Carl Laws – not present.

### Committee Reports:

Publicity – Val Moreland commented that a few emails have been returned. Corrections were made. She, also, said that she has submitted pictures to the papers and they have not been printed so far.

Genealogist - Margaret Harris – nothing to report.

#### Library Representatives Reports:

Fort Walton Beach – Hilma Jenus- nothing to report. Carl Laws has several Journals for her for the Fort Walton Library.

Valparaiso - Jim said that Charlene Grafton has volunteered to be the new representative to the Val/P Library.

Journal: Jim complimented Malcolm Flanagan on his work as Editor of the 2013 Journal. He then explained the discussion from this morning's officers' meeting where it was agreed upon to organize a Steering committee for the 2014 Journal. Jim then sent around a signup sheet for those who wish to participate in the organizational meeting.

Newsletter/Website: Jim discussed the newsletter content concerning the Gold Star Mothers of World War II. A couple of people said they had not received the newsletter so he corrected our new membership list of e-mail addresses.

Old Business – None  
New Business – None

Announcements of Upcoming Events – President Jim announced the following four events to take place locally that might be of interest to genealogists.

Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida's annual "Saturday in the Park" to be held on 26 April. Jim passed around a signup sheet for those who will be willing to man our GSOC booth that day.

A Family History Workshop is to be held at the Destin Library on 15 April.

A genealogy and family history workshop by Marc Strickland to be held on 17 April at the Family History Center, Ft. Walton Bch. (850-855-0319)

City of Ft. Walton Beach Heritage Park and Cultural Center, Indian Temple Mound, will host a lecture on the Doolittle Raiders on 18 April.

(Further details concerning these events may be viewed on the GSOC website.)

Other: Jim turned the meeting over to Del, who made the plans for those who will be attending the Dutch Treat lunch today. Thirteen people plan to attend lunch at the Hog Heaven restaurant.

Program: Del introduced Margaret Harris as our speaker today. Margaret has taught genealogy classes for many years and is an accomplished genealogist and a wealth of information that she so willingly shares. Her program is on the subject of "Social Networking for Genealogy" and will be followed by a question and answer period.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM.

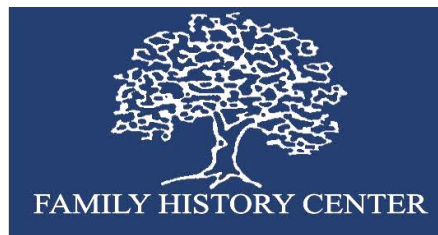
## **Why is the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints so interested in genealogy?**

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (whose members have been nicknamed "Mormons") has some 15 million members in over 160 nations worldwide. Over 140 of its temples have been built in North, South, and Central America, Europe, Asia, Africa, and on numerous islands.

The LDS Church holds that deceased persons who have not accepted, or had the opportunity to accept, the gospel of Christ in this life will have such opportunity in the afterlife. The belief is that as all must follow Jesus Christ, they must also receive all the ordinances that a living person is expected to receive, including baptism. For this reason, members of the LDS Church are encouraged to research their genealogy to identify deceased persons who are candidates for performing temple ordinances, including baptism by proxy.

The Church does a great deal to aid family history work, not only for its members but also to help others with family history work, even when it has no connection to redemption for the dead.

The Family History Library of the LDS Church has the world's largest collection of genealogical information with records of more than 2 billion names in data bases, 2.4 million rolls of microfilm, and 278,000 books. There are more than 3,400 Family History Centers (branches) in 88 countries.

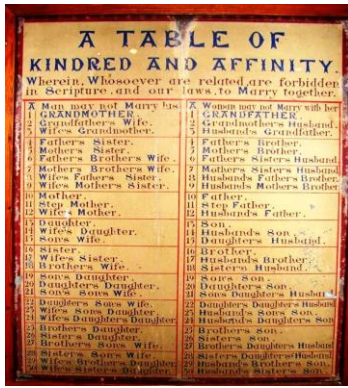


The Family History Centers provide access to most of the microfilms and microfiche in the Family History Library. Everyone is welcome to come to the centers and use the resources. They are staffed and operated by local church members who help to orient the patrons and instruct them in using the computers and databases. Classes are often given to instruct people in how to conduct research. The local Family History Center is located at 339 Lake Drive, Fort Walton Beach.

The Church operates a website, Family Search, which gives special hints for people searching in various nations and among various ethnic groups. There is also free software for downloading and links to other family history websites. The site offers access to over 150 million names.

The Church also sponsors events to encourage interest in family history research and to help those interested. Church members volunteer to index names from old records, even when indexing has no relation to the Church's work for the dead. For example, Latter-day Saints logged thousands of hours indexing the records for the Ellis Island project. Such efforts make once-inaccessible records accessible worldwide for anyone interested.

## Marital Prohibitions



The Roman Catholic Church and Eastern Orthodox Church have a long history of various marital prohibitions. The Book of Common Prayer of the Church of England has published since 1662 a *Table of Kindred and Affinity* prohibiting certain marital relationships between relatives, and these provisions were

subsequently enacted in statute law in England among other countries.

### A TABLE OF KINDRED AND AFFINITY WHEREIN WHOSOEVER ARE RELATED ARE FORBIDDEN IN SCRIPTURE AND OUR LAWS TO MARRY TOGETHER

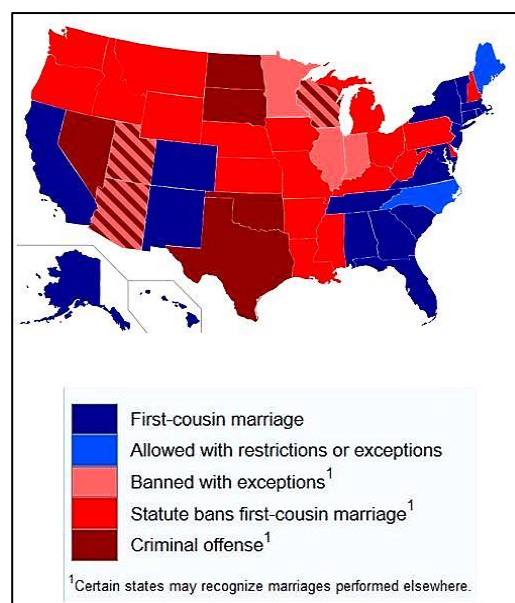
A Man may not marry his:	A Woman may not marry her:
1 Grandmother	1 Grandfather
2 Grandfather's Wife	2 Grandmother's Husband
3 Wife's Grandmother	3 Husband's Grandfather
4 Father's Sister	4 Father's Brother
5 Mother's Sister	5 Mother's Brother
6 Father's Brother's Wife	6 Father's Sister's Husband
7 Mother's Brother's Wife	7 Mother's Sister's Husband
8 Wife's Father's Sister	8 Husband's Father's Brother
9 Wife's Mother's Sister	9 Husband's Mother's Brother
10 Mother	10 Father
11 Stepmother	11 Stepfather
12 Wife's Mother	12 Husband's Father
13 Daughter	13 Son
14 Wife's Daughter	14 Husband's Son
15 Son's Wife	15 Daughter's Husband
16 Sister	16 Brother
17 Wife's Sister	17 Husband's Brother
18 Brother's Wife	18 Sister's Husband
19 Son's Daughter	19 Son's Son
20 Daughter's Daughter	20 Daughter's Son
21 Son's Son's Wife	21 Son's Daughter's Husband
22 Daughter's Son's Wife	22 Daughter's Daughter's Husband
23 Wife's Son's Daughter	23 Husband's Son's Son
24 Wife's Daughter's Daughter	24 Husband's Daughter's Son
25 Brother's Daughter	25 Brother's Son
26 Sister's Daughter	26 Sister's Son
27 Brother's Son's Wife	27 Brother's Daughter's Husband
28 Sister's Son's Wife	28 Sister's Daughter's Husband
29 Wife's Brother's Daughter	29 Husband's Brother's Son
30 Wife's Sister's Daughter	30 Husband's Sister's Son

## Cousin Marriages

Cousin marriage is the marriage between people who share at least one grandparent. The attitude towards such marriages varies considerably across cultures and legal jurisdictions. It may be considered ideal and actively encouraged, or uncommon but still legal, or considered as incest and legally prohibited.

Marriages between first and second cousins account for over 10% of marriages worldwide. They are particularly common in the Middle East, where in some nations they account for over half of all marriages. In many cultures, only certain specific types of cousin marriages are permitted, while others are prohibited. In western culture, they have been legal in most jurisdictions through most of history and were considered socially acceptable until the first half of the 20th century; indeed, they were the norm in royal families, with Queen Victoria & Albert and William & Mary being two of numerous examples. (The Table of Kindred and Affinity does not prohibit such marriages.)

However, such marriages became stigmatized in parts of the Western World. In 1846 Massachusetts Governor George Briggs appointed a commission to study "idiots" in



the state, and this implicated cousin marriage as responsible for idiocy. Within the next two decades numerous reports, e.g., one from the Kentucky Deaf and Dumb Asylum, appeared with similar conclusions: that cousin

marriage sometimes resulted in deafness, blindness, and idiocy. Perhaps most important was the report of physician Samuel Merrifield Bemiss for the American Medical Association, which concluded "that multiplication of the same blood by in-and-in marrying does incontestably lead in the aggregate to the physical and mental depravation of the offspring". Despite being contradicted by other studies like those of George Dawin and Alan Huth in England and Robert Newman in New York, the report's conclusions were widely accepted.

These developments led to 13 states and territories passing cousin marriage prohibitions by the 1880s. The map above shows the status of first-cousin marriages in the United States today.

-Wikipedia-





## Civil War Sesquicentennial

### Selected Highlights of May 1864

<http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/may-1864-civil-war.htm>

**May 1864 saw the start of Sherman's attempt to capture the vital city of Atlanta. The Army of the Potomac was also ordered by Grant to follow and pursue the army of Robert E Lee wherever it went.**

May 1<sup>st</sup>: General Sherman started his advance on the Army of the Tennessee.

May 2<sup>nd</sup>: The first skirmishes between Sherman's troops and the Army of the Tennessee occurred.

President Davis also told the Confederate government that there was no hope of any form of recognition of the Confederacy by foreign governments.

May 4<sup>th</sup>: The Army of the Potomac, numbering 122,000 men, crossed the River Rapidan in pursuit of Lee's army. Lee had 66,000 men under his command. General Sherman's men prepared for their march on Atlanta. He had 98,000 men under his command.

May 5<sup>th</sup>: Grant and Lee's troops engage en masse for the first time in this campaign. Fighting in the 'Wilderness', Lee's troops had the advantage because the terrain was covered in scrub oak, stunted pines and sweet gum. All this made concealment easy and made Grant's task far more difficult despite a 2 to 1 superiority in terms of troop numbers.

May 6<sup>th</sup>: The Battle of the Wilderness continued. Neither side could claim victory at the end but in terms of casualties the Union could afford to lose more men than the South. The North lost 2236 dead, 12,037 wounded and 3383 missing. The Confederates lost 7,500 men in total.

May 8<sup>th</sup>: Sherman continued his march on Atlanta with little, at present, to stop him.

May 9<sup>th</sup>: Well-placed and well-dug trenches ensured that the Confederate force opposing Grant was difficult to move and there was a temporary halt to major attacks between Lee and Grant with the Union engaged in a series of reconnaissance raids as opposed to anything more.

May 11<sup>th</sup>: Six miles from Richmond, J E B ('Jeb') Stuart was killed in a skirmish. The South had lost one of its most talented commanders.

May 12<sup>th</sup>: The North's attack against Lee's army started at 04.30. Their initial assault was a success but a Confederate counter-attack ensured that the North was unable to capitalise on this. The fighting in an area known as 'Bloody Angle' – part of the South's entrenchments – was some of the bloodiest of the war.

May 13<sup>th</sup>: The fighting for 'Bloody Angle' near Spotsylvania ended at 04.00. The North had lost 6,800 men, the South 5,000. Once again, the Army of the Potomac could afford the losses while the South could not. Grant continued his aggressive approach of looking for Lee's army

Sherman encountered determined opposition at Resaca. Here the South had built extensive entrenchments and they proved a major obstacle for Sherman and his army.

May 16<sup>th</sup>: The North suffered a major defeat at Drewry's Bluff and lost 25% of their manpower during the battle – 4160 men killed and wounded out of 18,000. The blame was later directed at the lacklustre leadership of General Butler.

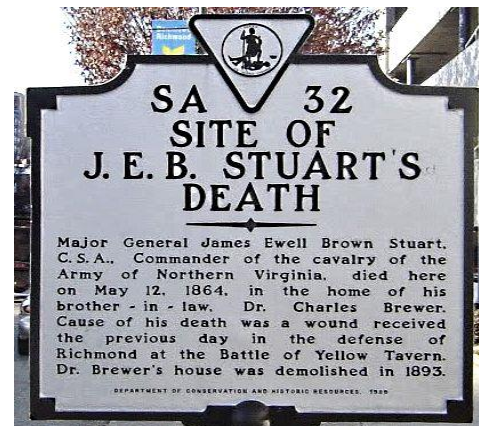
May 19<sup>th</sup>: Buoyed by his successes, Lee turned to the Confederates II Corps and ordered an attack on Union lines. This led to heavy fighting between both armies but neither one gained an advantage. By the end of the day the fighting around Spotsylvania had come to an end. The Army of the Potomac had lost 17,500 men. Combined with the loss of men at the Battle of the Wilderness, Grant had lost 33,000 men out of 122,000 in just one month – 27% of the Army of the Potomac's total. However, Grant still had an army nearly 90,000 strong. There are no accurate figures for Lee's losses for the same period but they were undoubtedly high. While the Union could sustain their losses, however unpalatable the figure, the South could not.

May 20<sup>th</sup>: Sherman continued his advance to Atlanta.

May 24<sup>th</sup>: One of the consequences of Sherman's advance was that he had extended supply lines. On this day a raid by Confederate cavalry on his lines led to the destruction of large quantities of supplies. There was not a great deal Sherman could do about this, as he wanted to continue with his advance to Atlanta and the Confederates were skilled at quick cavalry attacks.

May 28<sup>th</sup>: The Army of Northern Virginia moved towards Cold Harbor. By doing this Lee had placed his army between Grant and Richmond.

May 31<sup>st</sup>: Sherman's advance on Atlanta was stalled by Confederate troops commanded by J E Johnston. Their tactics, while never going to defeat Sherman, were sufficient to slow down his army to, on average, just one mile a day.



# My Inheritance

By Charlene Grafton

In 1953, my mother passed away, leaving me an inheritance. It wasn't money that she left to me, nor property, nor possessions. My inheritance was her mission to confirm, once and for all, that we were eligible members of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). Gathering information led me on paths I did not know I would tread, meeting people I didn't know existed, and writing another book that I had not envisioned.

My mother, Mary Thomas Huckabay, nee Hutchison, passed away without knowing if she was indeed eligible for DAR membership. She related to me sorrowfully, her great great grandfather did not qualify. This left an ongoing urge to do something about this at some point in my life. It seemed important to her that her ancestor, James Wood Rutherford, resided during the American Revolution at Frederick County, Virginia. Then, as the war ensued, Pvt. Rutherford served three months and later became a Lieutenant at the storming of Stony Point and the siege of Yorktown in the American Revolution.

When I was a toddler, my mother worked as a Secretary at the state Capitol in Oklahoma City. Many years later, at the request of my sister to help in the care of our mother, I left Miami moving to Las Vegas, Nevada. I was more than qualified to manage her care since I had been a health care professional all of my working life. In the three years of 1991 to 1994 of my quality time with her, I learned a great deal more about my mother's early life in Texas and some of the tales of family stories.

My mother knew a lot about plants and animals but I do not recall ever of her participating in those types of activities outside, as her family were farmers in a rural community. As the months went by and as she saw how active both my sister and I were in walking, running, golf and tennis, she began to add to her earlier life stories including being an All American Basketball player at Paris Jr. College. In the last year of her life she also told me she could throw a javelin, do a long jump and pole vault while at college in Texas. After her death, I wrote several short stories about her, incorporating them into *A Family Memoir*. My father, Oscar R. Huckabay, in his short time in college boasted of playing baseball as a shortstop. One item for discussion which always came up at family gatherings with my brothers and sister was; where did our athletic genes come from? Was it our mother or our father?

I believe in the written word and I am also a prolific writer of real events as I started my collegiate career as journalism major at Oklahoma City University. After a semester, I changed course and graduated as a registered nurse from Mercy Hospital, an affiliate of Oklahoma University. Shortly thereafter I was called to duty during the Korean War serving in San Antonio, Denver and Japan in the Army Nurse Corps. As time passed in my working career whether in health and wellness, sports or operating room or emergency room, or mental and physical rehabilitation, computers became the 'in thing' in the 80s. After taking several types of computer classes nothing seemed to fit for me except the writing and saving of word documents. My oldest daughter, Beth, was a whiz at the internet and attempted to have me surf the net as there was so much stuff out there. But looking around at the screen just did nothing or seemed to be a fit. But, an opportunity existed when I took a weekend class at UNLV, *The Internet for the Healthcare Professional*. I learned how

to research in a lot of disease areas leading to the writing of this particular story.

In 2006, I became not only a genealogy enthusiast but a DAR member as a remembrance for my mother. With the result of DAR recognition, the ultimate result was, I needed to know even more about my family health history as well as the DAR membership. As a health care consultant, I knew Personalized Health Care was coming to the USA's medical establishment which led me up the path to personal accomplishments in safety medicine.

Unfortunately, due to a needed antibiotic with a subsequent severe adverse reaction, I struggled with Stevens Johnson Syndrome, a life-threatening allergic reaction disease requiring hospitalization for the internal and external burns associated with this and a month later a deep vein thrombosis from the blistered portions on my legs. I researched at length from this disease episode and worked many days and nights in the field of molecular biology (passing the required test at 100%) and became a participant, along with Dr. George Church at Harvard Medical School, in the Personal Genome Project (PGP) to help others learn about genetics, genealogy and disease traits.

As a public speaker/educator in the SE USA, at libraries, genealogy societies, museums, Rotary Clubs, Communities for a Lifetime and other associations, I was following advances in medical treatments and comparing them with European/white, Native American/red, African/black and Asian/yellow genetic answers for chronic disease traits. After signing up with the National Geographic Project, an international project with the leading researcher, Dr. Spencer Wells at Stanford University in 2009, I learned my ancestors came from Africa, up into the Middle East, Europe and into Britain, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. I followed this with my mind and eyes wide-open seeing the PBS show, *The Journey of Man*.

Gene testing became important to me as I was learning how malignant transformation can occur with a breakdown or mutation in my genes. I not only have a history of twelve cutaneous (skin) Squamous Cell Carcinoma (SCC), but I also had an SSC groin node too, and three months later another SCC node to be removed. The pathologist did not tell me he also sent the specimen to the Genzyme Corporation for further testing as they were not sure where the SCC cells came from. Ten months later from Medicare/Genzyme, I found the reasons for the SCC but other inheritable disease risks as well in the groin node. If I had only known about the specimen being sent for testing, I would have made a much better decision about my treatment recommended by the oncologists, not my surgeon; full pelvic radiation and chemotherapy which caused a reoccurrences in the SJS and the ongoing discomfort associated with internal and external burns. I was a victim of lack of communication from many sources in the medical chain of professionals and insurance companies, locally and nationally.

Coupled with my friendship with the Valparaiso Librarian who happens to be a history professor, I began to learn about haplotypes and phenotypes, Neanderthals, Denisovans, and new resources from our government and why people needed to know about their own history of ancestry, both male and female. "*What's In Your Genes? Human Threads Linking Genetics and Genealogy*", my 7th non-fiction book explains this entire story in great length.

With this story of exploring ancestry for the medical aspects in American healthcare, I have taken my participation from the PGP to the next level, and telling my true health history and adversity and what to do about it for all to see and read. Nothing was left out. Of course my next step was to find out my other disease risks for my family and children so they too, could be more prepared for personalized medicine. The careful matching of your biology to your medical care is known as personalized medicine. It's already being used by health care providers nationwide according to my resources. My physicians now pay a lot more attention to me about my health care than ever and this gives me a more relaxed relationship with them especially when I show results from my gene tests plus ask them about their progress in the use of Electronic Medical Records.

Through the results of my ancestral gene testing from saliva, I confirmed from my mother's ancestor's lives with a history of farming in Britain, Scotland and Ireland and later the USA, from Massachusetts, Virginia, the Carolinas, Georgia and Texas, which require physical hardships and long hours (endurance). According to the Nature Neuroscience magazine in January 2013, studies show DNA markings may transfer from learned physical experiences biologically and may inherit from your ancestors through their epigenetic environmental experiences and have an overall effect on later generations from male sperm.

I confirmed my ancestral heritage by researching and found my great great grandfather Elijah W. Collins was born while George Washington was still President. He was a soldier in the Blackhawk War of 1836/37, and he fought with his brother-in-law Robert Murphy, and Wm. Clark, Daniel Boone and Abraham Lincoln. He moved from Illinois, then to Tennessee and afterward to the Cherokee nation in Alabama. Following he served in the Sabine Volunteers as a Captain for Texas independence at San Jacinto. He was a well to do farmer all his life and died in 1840 in Tennessee. His great grandfather was John Collins, who initiated and became the founding father of Collinsville, Alabama.

My great great grandfather Wm. C. Clark, born 1790 in Virginia, began residence in Texas in the second 500 family of Stephen F. Austin's Mexican Land Grant contract. He served in the Texas War of Independence, 1836-38 with an Honorable Discharge with service in the San Jacinto battle under Capt. Elijah W. Collins. He received three land grants in Texas but sold a part of one of them and he has been acknowledged as one of the founders of Montgomery County, Tx. and then, settling in Lamar County. He is buried on the Horace F. Clark (great grandfather) property known as the Gus Hutchison Place (my grandfather), near Tigertown, Texas, in Lamar County. Horace's property was earned by participation in the Texas War as a Texas Ranger. By connecting the dots using their names, I found the Collins, Hutchisons, Clarks, and Alexanders (my son-in-law's family) all served in the early Texas wars of independence and all moving to Lamar County and became farmers. Of these four ancestors mentioned above, the records show they were from Scotland and Ireland. As I reviewed the rosters of military services of these patriots, what I found amazing was that these patriots married many of the children's families with children and settled mainly in Lamar County, Texas (The towns of Honey Grove, Paris, Petty and Tigertown).

I wish I could have told my mother that not only was James W. Rutherford eligible for DAR but to my amazement through genealogy research, my family history noted the Collins, Hardy, Huckabay, Hutchison, and

Meador family lines also revealed eligibility for DAR membership. Several years ago, my younger daughter, Mary Catherine, drove me to Lamar County and we walked and talked the grounds and researched the places where my ancestors lived and were buried.

My other ancestors were mainly doctors on my father's side. My grandfather, Charles R. Huckabay, delivered all of my siblings and me along with practicing medicine in the Arkansas, Texas and Oklahoma, the Ark-La-Tex, on a horse and buggy. From researching with our National Library of Medicine, I learned he attended a medical conference in Paris, France in 1892 and from the Vienna physicians learned the first attempts to use muscle and IV medicine to treat patients for their pain and suffering. His great great grandfather, John Huckabay, came to the US from England in the late 1600s. Phillip (Rs) Huckabay, was born 17 Jan 1762, Halifax County, NC, serving as a fifer and a scout in the ARW. My great grandfather, Phillip Tom Huckabay was in the Alabama Militia as a Pvt. and served in Pensacola, Ft. Barrancas and Camp Milton in the Civil War, and then he was captured and released. What a patriotic history that my searches uncovered for me and my family of five children.

My five children are like me (good eye-hand coordination) and go for the gold in endurance sports. I am a retired tennis professional of national and international fame but also a writer about disabilities, chronic disease, neurosciences and handedness. So, after reviewing some of my revealed information from gene testing with physical traits information, I was more than amused (smiling all day long) that I have the CT Genotype of Muscle Performance that "many world-class sprinters and some endurance athletes have." I must have this epigenetic marker and passed it on to some of my children.

As I traveled many of our states and foreign countries in my health and sports careers, I ruefully became confounded when many of these places I had lived in or visited had once been the tracks of my family of ancestors. What a difference that would have made to me intrinsically if I had only known: Omaha Beach on the shores of France, Morocco, Spain, Algiers, Germany, Austria, Italy, and in America, Houston, San Antonio (the Alamo), Memphis, Macon, Shreveport, Alexandria, Ft. Barrancas, Camp Milton, Kennesaw Mountain in Atlanta and many others.

I can see that in the future I will be following up more closely with my physicians on the results of my gene testing with variations, risks and be more comfortable knowing that I have left a better health legacy for my family than the one I was left with. So I heartily recommend for you to take a look at your family genealogy and then see the urgency to find out about your ancestry. Even the National Institute of Health and the Mayo Clinic in one of their 2013 studies believe that 70% of nurses have been identified as key professionals in the process of collecting family history information and constructing and using family pedigrees in clinical practice. I am an advocate for every family having a designated Family Historian with the addition of becoming a Family Health Historian in 2014. Now isn't it time to take your DAR information and begin to gather your health history and then on to your DNA testing? Now let's get started; because you need to know from where your ancestors came from.

**Charlene Grafton is a GSOC member. She has spoken to the Society several times and has given numerous talks to other societies and organizations all over our area.**

# Events, Groups, and Sites of GSOC Interest

## 2014 GSOC Programs

Date, Speaker, Topic

**January 11**, Hank Klein, *Publishing and Enjoying Your Genealogical Research*

**February 8**, Libbi Crowe, *Murder, Mayhem & Many Mrs's*, the story of Col. Guy Wyman, Navarre founder, as revealed by online records.

**March 8**, Dorothy Burdick, Using the DAR database for genealogy research

**April 12**, Margaret Harris, Using social media in genealogical research

## Future

**May 10**, Bruce Rova, *Who's that Lady?*, finding female ancestors

**June 14**, Don Allgood, A guide to Okaloosa County records

**July 12**, Amy Raley, *The Federal Road*, immigration routes of the old Southwest.

**August 9**, Bert Blackmon, Military records

**September 13**, Show & Tell, three or four GSOC members discuss their own genealogical "finds"

**October 11**, George and M. Legge, Using the LDS Family Search website

**November 8**, Nicole Bucchino, *Tombstone Tales: Cemeteries, Symbols & Stories*

**December 13**, Annual GSOC Christmas Luncheon, location to be determined

**There's a fine line between a packrat and a serious family historian. –Anon–**

The GSOC thanks the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida for the prime location provided for us at the Saturday in the Park festival on April 26<sup>th</sup> and for the loan of a table and a canopy. We also thank GSOC members Bob and Sue Basch, Carl Laws, Donna Elliott, Beverly Gross, Val Moreland, Margaret Harris, Pat Pruett, and Malcolm Flanagan for manning our booth throughout the day.

*Jim Young*

## Coming Presentations at The Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida



**Howard Hill talks about "The POW Experience"**  
**Friday, May 9, 12:00 pm**  
at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida.



Retired United States Air Force Colonel Howard Hill will share about his life and his POW experience. Bring a sandwich and take your lunch break at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida

for *History Sandwiched-In*, an informal lunchtime education program. This lecture is free and open to the public. SPACE IS LIMITED. Please call to reserve a seat. (850) 678-2615

**"Mother's Day Victorian Tea"**  
at the *Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida*,  
**Saturday, MAY 10**  
**at 2:00 PM**

Men, women and children are invited to honor their Mothers in a unique and special way. Enjoy light refreshments, a variety of teas and a fun history program with tea etiquette and traditions associated with "Tea Time".

Tickets: \$18 per person, Museum Members: \$15. SPACE IS LIMITED.

Reservations required.

Call: 850-678-2615 (MC/Visa)



Become a NEW Family Member (\$50 level) and receive (1) tea reservation FREE.



## THE WATER TANK

By DAVE HOVEY

It was along about August 1967. I had finished removing the old riveted town water tank on the hill across from the school and carried it home for a corn crib. The new water tank had just been filled for the first time. 100,000 gallons of water, plus fluoride and chlorine. The pump had run all day and night to fill it up.

The call came about 5:30 AM. It was Mr. Spearman McRee, the Mayor. He and the electrician had been up most of the night. The tank automatic shut off was not working and water was running down the hill behind the 7-11 Service Station and the owners, Henry Morris Lambert and R.T. Laster were both upset. The only way to stop it was to shut down the pump.

Mr. Spearman said, "We need you to climb up and look inside at the float, pulley, and cable. The trouble is up on top."

I headed down to town and went up the tank to see what was wrong. Sure enough, the float had risen too far and the cable was out of the pulley. When I got back down I made my report. The electrician said as soon as we put back the cable and lowered the float stop all would be O.K. Then he left to go to his home over in the next county.



I told Mr. Spearman I would go get a long extension ladder and some rope to put up inside once the water was all drained.

He thought about it a few minutes and said, "No, that won't do. It costs too much money to waste all that treated water. Here's what I want you to do. Come back tonight, after dark, with your flashlight and pliers. Make sure nobody else knows about this. Climb up and take off your clothes and swim over and fix the pulley and then come down and turn the pump back on to test it."

It was a night with no moon, inside of the tank it was pretty scary, cold water too! As I paddled across with the flashlight in my mouth, I was thinking "Please, Lord, don't let everybody flush at the same time."

I fixed the float and paddled back, it seemed like a mile across that thing to the manhole. I stood out on the top rail and air dried for awhile, then went down and switched on the pump. It ran for some time and stopped, just right.

When I went to town to settle up the next day, Mr. Spearman said, "Good job! But don't ever let on how we fixed the overflow."

I think it's probably been long enough now that most of the odd flavor should be gone.

These two articles were originally published in The Oxford SO & SO (Southern Owned & Southern Operated), 1739 University Ave., Oxford, MS 38655

## THE COUNTRY STORE

by BETTYE GALLOWAY

Anyone who grew up in the rural South prior to World War I knows that every small community had a name. Most of them had a gristmill, a saw- mill, some of them even had a post office, a school, and a doctor, but without a doubt all of them had a store which was the hub of the community.

The store in my community sat at the intersection of the crossroads, a narrow frame building with a packed dirt porch held up by cedar posts bare of bark, but with stubs on the posts where limbs had been cut with a handsaw. The porch had never been floored, but the dirt had been packed hard by years of traffic by work shoes. The porch was the heart of the community, the place where farmers gathered to meet and greet, to discuss the weather and politics, to discuss the state of the crops in the field, to trade knives, play dominoes and checkers with soft drink caps on a handdrawn grid on a cardboard box. It didn't matter that no purchases were made, or needed, the men simply needed to "go to the store." The porch was furnished with nail kegs, one for the boards for the checkers and domino games, and the others for seats for the players. In one corner of the porch was the gasoline tank with its glass upper tank holding and measuring the gasoline as the handle pumped the desired sale. On a porch post beside the gas tank was a flat board for use when a tube had to be patched - usually with a "hot patch" which required a roughening of the damaged area. With the patch, material in a tiny flat pan was lit, allowed to get hot, and then applied to the tube to seal the hole.

Ah, but the inside of the store was a treasure trove! Always dark and gloomy because no electricity was available, there were delightful items everywhere. On one side of the aisle, the shelves held canned goods in a very limited supply because locals grew and preserved all their needed fruits and vegetables. But tea and coffee were staples that had to be purchased, and the counter always held a round block of cheese along with, wonder of wonders, jars of stick candy and packs of gum. The shelves on the other side of the aisle were dedicated to pots and pans and the other household goods as well as work shoes and denim pants and shirts.

A corner in the rear of the store was partitioned into a small floored interior room completely lined with a metal screen to provide a barrier to mice where flour, meal, sugar and animal feed were kept. The center part of the rear held a wood heater in a box filled with sand which heated the store in winter, and where checkers and domino games were held after the crops were gathered.

Unlike modern day grocery stores, customers did not help themselves to anything. The store clerk retrieved the requested items, carried them to the cash register, took the payment, or in some cases entered them, item by item, into a ledger and had the customer sign the page for future payment. Also in the front beside the door stood a massive red box which held icy cold NEHI Peach Sodas and Grapettes which I was allowed if I had been exceptionally good!

A way of life was lost when country stores were replaced by Krogers and Walmarts. I learned a lot about life under the porch of a country store, including pumping gas, slicing cheese, and other similar things which formed the basis for my future. Checkers, anyone?



# GSOC INFORMATION

## Officers for 2014

President, James Young  
1st Vice President (Programs), Del Lessard  
2nd Vice President (Membership), Sue Basch  
Treasurer, Bob Basch,  
Recording Secretary, Pat Pruett  
Corresponding Secretary, Carl Laws  
Immediate Past President, Donna Elliott

Journal Editor, TBD; Historian, TBD  
Genealogist, Margaret Harris  
Publicity Chairperson, Val Moreland  
Webmaster & Newsletter Editor, Jim Young

(Elected, Appointed, and Ex Officio positions)

## Addresses

P.O. Box 1175, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-1175  
Web Site: <http://www.rootswest.com/~flocgs>  
Email: [gsocokaloosa@yahoo.com](mailto:gsocokaloosa@yahoo.com)  
Newsletter Editor: [youngjim@cox.net](mailto:youngjim@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 [youngjim@cox.net](mailto:youngjim@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 2013 issue, Volume XXXII, Issue 102, was published and distributed in December 2013.

## The Web Site

The GSOC web site is hosted by Rootswest at:  
<http://www.rootswest.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.

## The GSOC Publications Disk

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

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

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

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

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

**Santa Rosa County Marriages, 1869-1906**

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

**Walton County Marriages, 1895-1915**

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

## Nostalgia

### 106 Years Ago in Okaloosa County:

THE PENSACOLA JOURNAL, SUNDAY MORNING, MAY 30, 1909.

## EXCURSIONS

WEDNESDAYS AND THURSDAYS

## U. S. MAIL LAUNCH

Pensacola,  
Mary Esther  
and Boggy  
Mail Line.

# RUTH

Passenger  
and Freight  
Service.

James Jerauld, Capt.

## SPECIAL RATES

Pensacola to Boggy.....	75c	Boggy Bayou to Pensacola.....	75c
Pensacola to Harris.....	75c	Boggy Bayou to Destin.....	15c
Pensacola to Mary Esther.....	50c	Boggy Bayou to Camp Walton.....	15c
Pensacola to Camp Walton.....	50c	Boggy Bayou to Mary Esther and	
Pensacola to Destin.....	85c	Harris.....	25c

## SCHEDULE

### GOING

Leaves landing Monday, Wednesday  
and Friday at 7:30 a. m., making regu-  
lar stops at Harris, Mary Esther, Camp  
Walton, Destin, Boggy.

### RETURNING

Leaves Boggy on Tuesday, Thurs-  
day and Saturday at 5:00 a. m., arriv-  
ing in Pensacola at 1:30 p. m.

WE feel sure these prices will attract attention and make business for every passenger boat on the sound. Let's get busy and give people a chance to see what a beautiful sheet of water Santa Rosa Sound is. If Capt. Jim Jerauld don't give you satisfaction you are hard to please. We solicit your patronage and desire your business. We hope these special prices will be an inducement for the ladies living on the Sound, Choctawhatchee Bay and the adjoining Bayous to do their shopping in this city and at the same time give the people of Pensacola a chance for an outing at a very low figure.

FOR OTHER RATES OR INFORMATION APPLY TO

## D. M. WITHERILL,

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Created by Elisa Mitchiner ([boggyhistory@yahoo.com](mailto:boggyhistory@yahoo.com))



The May GSOC meeting will be held on Saturday, May 10, at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida at 10 AM.

The speaker will be Mr. Bruce Rova who will present the program, ***Who's That Lady?***

*"Whatever you know, whatever you learn – Pass it On!"*

***HONOR THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE***

**Genealogical Society of  
Okaloosa County (GSOC)**  
P.O. Box 1175  
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-1175

