

THE GSOC NEWSLETTER

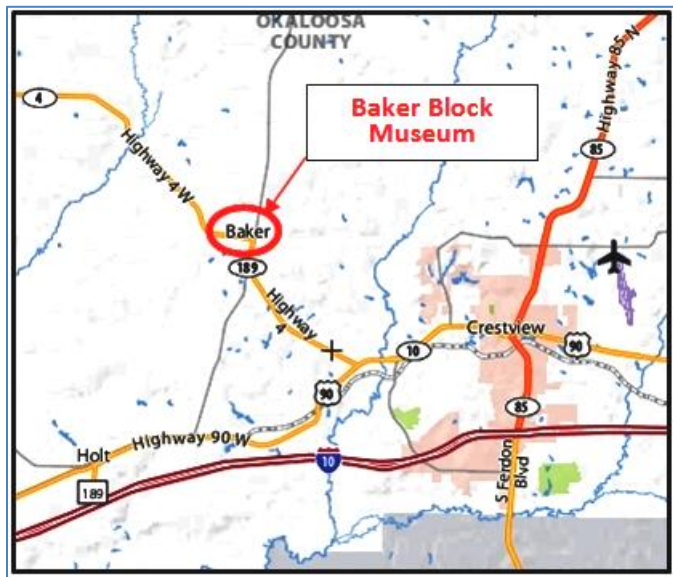


THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF
OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MAY 1, 2015

Next GSOC Meeting
Baker Block Museum, Baker, Florida
May 9, 2015, 10:00 AM

The May GSOC meeting will be at the Baker Block Museum in Baker, FL, at the intersection of highways 4 and 189.



For our May 9th meeting, the museum director, Ann Spann, has agreed to open the museum for GSOC members and guests from 10 a.m. till noon. She will give a short introduction to their genealogy resources which include access to ancestry.com; and then allow GSOC members and guests to do research of their own.

After the meeting we will have an optional Dutch-treat lunch at the Gator Cafe in Baker.

A carpool from Niceville is planned.

For more information about the Baker Block museum, please click [here](#) to see the article in the April 2015 GSOC Newsletter.

In this issue:	
Memorial Day	2
Crestview City Clerk Nixes DST in 1956	3
The Black Skillet	4
Cast Iron Cookware	4
Civil War Events, May 1865	5
Capture of President Jefferson Davis	5
Civil War Descendants	6
Events of GSOC Interest	8
GSOC Information	9
Nostalgia, <i>The End of the Rainbow</i>	9

April GSOC Meeting Minutes **Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida**

April 11, 2015

Pat Pruett, Recording Secretary

President Jim Young called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM and welcomed 27 members and two guests.

Pres. Young reminded everyone that the minutes of the March meeting were printed in the April Newsletter and asked for a motion that the minutes be approved as printed. Motion was so made by Bob Sutherland and seconded by Bob Basch. Vote was taken and motion passed.

Pres. Young said the newsletter was distributed by e-mail to members in March and asked for any questions or comments. Several comments of praise were extended to Jim for his "good work".

Jim said that the GSOC Journal for 2015 will be published in the fall with the theme of "Okaloosa County Centennial". Articles on early families will be needed. A kickoff meeting will tentatively be scheduled for May. Volunteers are needed to write articles. Please talk to Charlene Grafton.

Saturday in the Park, 25 April, is the annual Heritage Museum project. GSOC has reserved a space to pass out literature and to talk to people about our organization. We need GSOC members to volunteer to staff the table. Bob Basch has pamphlets to pass out and Charlene Grafton has a project list for kids to do for their family history. Still need a cover for our table area.

Officers reports – Pres. Young called upon the officers for their monthly reports:

1st. Vice Pres. Del Lessard gave an update on our May and June field trips. In May we will carpool to the Baker Block Museum. We will have access to Ancestry.com there. We will leave from the Heritage Museum at 9:00 AM.

In June, we will carpool to the Milton Library. Again, we'll leave from the Museum at 9:00 AM. Del and Carole have several Journals and other literature available here today that may be of interest to those present.

The Dutch Treat lunch today will be at the Boathouse Landing restaurant – 8 people indicated that they would attend.

2nd. Vice Pres. Charlene Grafton requested members check their membership cards for her signature to insure that

(Continued on Page 8)

Memorial Day

There seems to be a growing tendency to confuse Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Memorial Day is a day of remembering the men and women who died while serving, while Veterans Day celebrates the service of all U.S. military veterans, living and dead.

Officially, **Memorial Day** is a federal holiday in the United States for remembering the men and women who died while serving in the country's armed forces. The holiday, which is observed every year on the last Monday of May, was formerly known as **Decoration Day** and originated after the Civil War to commemorate the Union and Confederate soldiers who died in the war. By the 20th century, Memorial Day had been extended to honor all Americans who died while in the military service. It typically marks the start of the summer vacation season, while Labor Day marks its end.

Annual Decoration Days for particular cemeteries are still held on a Sunday in late spring or early summer in many rural areas of the American South. In cases involving a family graveyard where remote ancestors as well as those who were deceased more recently are buried, this may take on the character of an extended family reunion to which some people travel hundreds of miles. People gather on the designated day and put flowers on graves and renew contacts with relatives and others. There



often is a religious service and a picnic-like "dinner on the ground," a pot-luck meal in which people originally spread the dishes out on sheets or tablecloths on the grass. It is believed that this practice began before the American Civil War and thus may reflect the real origin of the "memorial day" idea.

On May 5, 1868, in his capacity as commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), the veterans' organization for Union Civil War veterans, General John A. Logan issued a proclamation calling for "Decoration Day" to be observed annually and nationwide. It was observed nationally for the first time that year on Saturday May 30; the date was chosen because it was not the anniversary of any particular battle and was also an optimal date for flowers to be in bloom. Evidence exists that shows General Logan had adopted and adapted for the North the annual Confederate Memorial Day custom that had been in practice in the South since 1866. The U.S. National Park Service attributes the beginning of that to the ladies of Columbus, Georgia.

On April 25, 1866, women in Columbus, Mississippi laid flowers on the graves of both the Union and Confederate dead in the city's cemetery. The early Confederate Memorial Day celebrations were simple, somber occasions for veterans and their families to honor the



dead and tend to local cemeteries. By 1890, there was a shift from the emphasis on honoring specific soldiers to a public commemoration of the lost Confederate cause. Changes in the ceremony's hymns and speeches reflect an evolution of the ritual into a symbol of cultural renewal and conservatism in the South.

Memorial events were held in 183 cemeteries in 27 states in 1868, and 336 in 1869. The

northern states quickly adopted the holiday. Michigan made "Decoration Day" an official state holiday in 1871 and by 1890, every northern state had followed suit. Memorial Day speeches became an occasion for veterans, politicians, and ministers to commemorate the War and, at first, to rehash the "atrocities" of the enemy. They mixed religion and celebratory nationalism and provided a means for the people to make sense of their history in terms of sacrifice for a better nation. People of all religious beliefs joined together and the point was often made that the German and Irish soldiers had become true Americans in the "baptism of blood" on the battlefield.

Today, cities in the North and the South alike claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day in 1866. Both Macon and Columbus, Ga., claim the title, as well as Richmond, Va. The village of Boalsburg, Pa., claims it began there two years earlier. A stone in a Carbondale, Ill., cemetery carries the statement that the first Decoration Day ceremony took place there on April 29, 1866. Carbondale was the wartime home of Gen. Logan. Approximately 25 places have been named in connection with the origin of Memorial Day, many of them in the South where most of the war dead were buried. However, in 1966, Congress and President Lyndon Johnson declared Waterloo, N.Y., as the "birthplace" of Memorial Day. There was a ceremony there on May 5, 1866 which honored local veterans who had fought in the Civil War. Businesses closed and residents flew flags at half-staff. Supporters of Waterloo's claim say earlier observances in other places were either informal, not community-wide or one-time events.

It was not until after World War I that the day was



expanded to honor those who have died in all American wars. The preferred name for the holiday gradually changed from "Decoration Day" to "Memorial Day", which was first used in 1882. It did not become more common until after World War II, and was not declared the official name by Federal law until 1967.

On June 28, 1968, the Congress passed an act which moved four holidays, including Memorial Day, from their traditional dates to a specified Monday in order to create a convenient three-day weekend. The change moved Memorial Day from its traditional May 30 date to the last Monday in May. After some initial confusion and unwillingness to comply, all 50 states adopted Congress' change of date within a few years.

On Memorial Day, protocol requires that the flag of the United States be raised briskly to the top of the staff and then solemnly lowered to the half-staff position, where it remains only until noon. It is then raised to full-staff for the remainder of the day.

Many Southern states also have days for honoring the Confederate dead. Mississippi celebrates Confederate Memorial Day on the last Monday of April, Alabama on the fourth Monday of April, and Georgia and Florida on April 26. North and South Carolina observe it on May 10, Louisiana on June 3 and Tennessee calls that date Confederate Decoration Day. Texas celebrates Confederate Heroes Day January 19 and Virginia calls the last Monday in May Confederate Memorial Day.

Gen. Logan's order in 1868 called for the GAR posts to decorate graves "with the choicest flowers of springtime". He urged: "We should guard their graves with sacred vigilance. ... Let pleasant paths invite the coming and going of reverent visitors and fond mourners. Let no neglect, no ravages of time, testify to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten as a people the cost of a free and undivided republic."

Wikipedia and Google Images

Okaloosa County Centennial Series

Crestview City Clerk Refuses to Accept Daylight Saving Time

May 1957

During World War II, President Franklin Roosevelt instituted year-round Daylight Saving Time (DST), called "War Time," from February 9, 1942 to September 30, 1945. From 1945 to 1966, there was no federal law regarding Daylight Saving Time, so states and localities were free to choose whether or not to observe Daylight Saving Time and could choose when it began and ended.

In 1957, DST observance in Okaloosa County was chaotic. The entire southern part of the county was planning to turn their clocks ahead one hour at 2 am on Sunday, May 12th. This included Eglin AFB, Niceville, Valparaiso, Shalimar, Fort Walton Beach, and the surrounding areas. The county commission had not decided whether or not the unincorporated northern areas of the county would follow suit.

The Crestview city council was scheduled to meet to decide whether or not the city would cooperate with Eglin AFB and the southern part of the county. Petitions both for and against the change were being circulated and were expected to be presented at the meeting. The large number of Eglin AFB personnel living in or near Crestview, particularly the civil service employees, was largely in favor of having the same time as Eglin.

Many residents felt the petitions would have little effect on the decision and were convinced that the majority of the council would conform to the thinking of City Clerk Leron Rice, the chief opponent of the change. Although daylight saving time had been officially adopted by Crestview in 1956, it was never actually used on a citywide basis since Rice refused to change the city hall clocks.

Instead of meeting at their usual hour in the evening, the Crestview council called a secret meeting earlier that afternoon thus thwarting the 100 or so folks who planned to attend. At this secret meeting, the council voted to not adopt daylight saving time. The secrecy and the vote itself caused a city-wide uproar. To calm questions of irregularity, the council decided to meet the following week for another vote. At this follow-up meeting, there was a tie vote which again resulted in Crestview not adopting DST.

The following day, the county commission met and voted to make DST the official time for all of Okaloosa County. The Crestview Lions and Kiwanis Clubs also met and decided that all their members would adopt DST. A list of all the merchants and prominent citizens using DST was published in the local paper.

So even though Crestview never officially adopted it in 1957, DST became the city's de facto time.

THE BLACK SKILLET by BETTYE H. GALLOWAY

Used here by permission

A few days ago I drove past the First Baptist Church of Oxford - the same church



where I was married sixty years ago on January 7, 1955. Dr. James Sutherland was the new minister, and I think we were the first wedding in his new church. He was as nervous as I

was - so nervous, in fact, that he began the service with, "Dearly Beloved, we are gathered here today to witness the baptism ..." He didn't realize what he had said and never corrected his statement, and I have always wondered if we really were married all these years! One of our best friends was the Methodist minister, and we started going to, and later joined, the Methodist Church, so we didn't continue at the Baptist Church. I liked to tell my friends that I switched from laundry to dry cleaning, but that's another story.

In those days, in the 1950s, the niceties were important in our daily lives. "Yes, ma'am", "thank you", and standing up straight were important. Hats were taken off indoors, and white was not worn after Labor Day. When company came to eat, the table was set with white tablecloths, good china, crystal, and silver.

Needless to say, my friends and relatives were very generous and our wedding gifts were fantastic and consisted primarily of china, crystal and silver which were displayed openly as was the tradition at that time. One delightful lady in the community (who at the time taught home economics in one of the county schools) made a point to visit my home bringing a lovingly wrapped gift. She explained that she wanted to personally deliver the gift because it had a message that needed to be delivered in person. She asked that her gift be given priority in the placement of the displayed gifts, and she asked me to make that promise. I did.

When I opened the gift before she left, I tried to smile and say all the appropriate thank-you words as I had been taught. She watched as I rearranged the display table to make room for her gift as she had requested. Then I stood back and viewed the fine china, crystal, silver and other pretty gifts that surrounded my new gift she had brought -- an ugly black iron skillet!



And, as I had promised, the skillet remained in the place of honor until the wedding. She had told me when she presented the gift to me that I would "turn up my nose NOW but would thank her later!"

And she was so wise and so right!

The first thing I used in my new kitchen when we returned from our honeymoon was the black skillet to prepare my new husband's request for fried chicken. For many years I used the china, crystal, and silver, but as living became more and more informal, those were parked in the china cabinet and were brought out periodically just to wash and polish them and return them to storage. The complete set of china was given to my granddaughter when she was married, and I have plans to use the crystal and silver as other gifts. But not the black skillet! No, I'd never part with the black skillet. It has a special place in the cabinet beside my stove, and it is my prized possession. Ms. Forrest Johnson was a wise lady who knew valuable things when she saw them, and I thank her for making my kitchen chores so pleasant for many years.

Bettye Galloway was born, reared, and educated in Oxford, Lafayette County, Mississippi. She has now retired from Mississippi state service (primarily the University of Mississippi) and as executive vice president of a drug testing laboratory. Mrs. Galloway can be reached at bhg568667@gmail.com.

For more of her writings, see "A Christmas I Will Never Forget", <http://usads.ms11.net/galloway2.html>

and "The Last of His Kind"
<http://usads.ms11.net/galloway.html>

Bare cast iron vessels have been used for cooking for hundreds of years. Before the introduction of the kitchen stove in the middle of the 19th century, meals were cooked in the hearth or fireplace and cooking pots and pans were designed for use in the hearth. This meant that all cooking vessels had to be designed to be suspended on, or in, a fireplace. Cast iron pots were made to nestle in the coals or with handles to allow them to be hung over a fire, or with legs so that they could stand up in the fireplace. A commonly used cast iron cooking pan called a spider had a handle and three legs used to stand up in the coals and ashes of the fire.



Cooking pots and pans with legless, flat bottoms were designed when cooking stoves became popular; this period of the late 19th century saw the introduction of the flat cast iron skillet. Cast iron cookware was especially popular among homemakers and housekeepers during the first half of the 20th century. Most American households had at least one cast iron cooking pan. Cast iron fell out of favor in the 1960s and 1970s, as Teflon coated aluminum non-stick cookware was introduced and quickly became the item of choice in many kitchens. However, the durability and reliability of cast iron as a cooking tool has ensured its survival, and cast iron cookware is still recommended by most cooks and chefs as an essential part of any kitchen. Cast iron cookware, particularly skillets, are a prized heirloom in many families.

Wikipedia



Civil War Sesquicentennial

Selected Highlights of May 1865

<http://blueandgraytrail.com/year/186505>

May 4 General Richard Taylor [CS] surrenders the remaining troops in Alabama and Mississippi

May 10 President Jefferson Davis is captured near Irwinville, GA

May 10 President Johnson declares armed resistance at an end

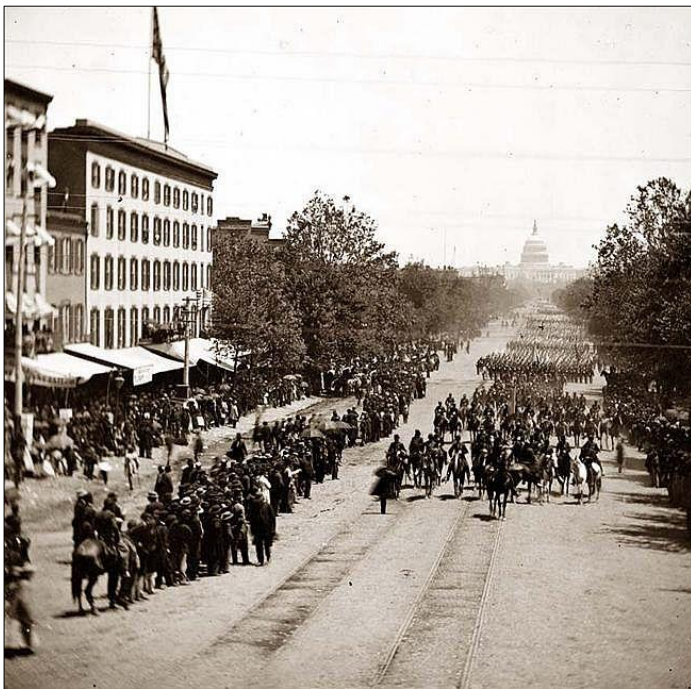
May 11 Confederate Vice President Alexander Stephens is arrested at Liberty Hall, his estate in Crawfordville, GA

May 12-13 The last significant fighting of the Civil War takes place at the Palmito Ranch along the Rio Grande between Col. Theodore Barrett and John S. "RIP" Ford

May 12 Eight conspirators in the Lincoln assassination plead not guilty to the military court holding the trial

May 14 President Johnson issues a conditional amnesty to all persons engaged in the late Rebellion

May 19 Jefferson Davis imprisoned at Fort Monroe



May 23-24 Grand Review of the Union Armies

May 29 Andrew Johnson grants a Presidential pardon to those who directly or indirectly aided the Southern war effort. He restored property rights to the South with the exception of slaves. Unlike Lincoln's declaration in December, 1863, Johnson creates an exception for property owners whose holdings total \$20,000 dollars or more.

PRESIDENT JEFFERSON DAVIS, CSA

Capture and Post War Status

Jefferson Davis was devastated by the fall of the Confederacy. Refusing to admit defeat, he hoped to flee to a sympathetic foreign nation such as Britain or France, and was weighing the merits of forming a government in exile when he was arrested by a detachment of the 4th Michigan Cavalry near Irwinville, Georgia. It was reported that Davis put his wife's overcoat over his shoulders while fleeing. This led to the persistent rumor that he attempted to flee in women's clothes, inspiring caricatures that portrayed him as such. Over 40 years later,

an article in the *Washington Herald* claimed that Mrs. Davis' heavy shawl had been placed on him to protect him from the "chilly atmosphere of the early hour of the morning" by Davis' valet.



He was transported to Fort Monroe in Virginia where he was held for two years as a military prisoner. Soldiers watched him 24/7 to ensure he didn't try to escape, that he ate, and didn't try to commit suicide. The country debated how to handle the most famous war criminal from the Civil War. At first, President Johnson wanted to prosecute Davis as a co-conspirator in the assassination of President Lincoln. However, as the trial for the true assassination



conspirators wound down in late June 1865, it became clear that Jefferson Davis had no direct connection to the parties.

Within a year, Davis was moved to much better quarters and his wife was even allowed to move to Fort Monroe to be near him. According to the Virginia

Foundation of Humanities, Davis respected the way he was being treated by the government. He was afforded certain privileges, like visitors, exercise, and time with his wife, that they didn't necessarily have to give him.

On May 13, 1867, he was released into civilian custody on \$100,000 bail. The editor of the *New York Tribune*, Horace Greeley, abolitionist Gerrit Smith, and several other prominent Northerners paid that bail.

Smith said that his reasoning for doing this was: "My first reason for signing the Bond was that Mr. Davis was entitled either to his trial or to his liberty. That the prisoner should have a speedy trial is a general proposition, which no one combats. There may have been sufficient reasons for unusual delay in trying Mr. Davis: – hardly, however, for a delay of two years."

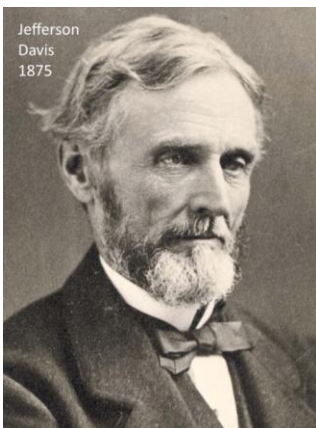
President Andrew Johnson's own impeachment trial delayed any motions even further. Additionally, there were several issues that the prosecution (the US government) ran into charging Davis with treason. For one, the defendant (Davis) demanded a trial which forced the government to figure out the correct way to prove the unconstitutionality of secession. Needless to say, this was a tough task and the government asked for more time to gather their argument.

Finally in December 1868, a year and half after he was released on bail, preliminary motions were held for Davis on the charges of treason against the United States for organizing and arming the 1864 military invasions of Maryland and the District of Columbia.

The defense immediately called for a dismissal of the charges. They said that since Davis would already be punished by the Fourteenth Amendment, he could not be further prosecuted under the double jeopardy provision.

The Fourteenth Amendment had only been passed in July of that year and dealt with a lot of issues in regards to Reconstruction, but in section three it read,

No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, or elector of President and Vice President, or hold any office, civil or military, under the United States... shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof.

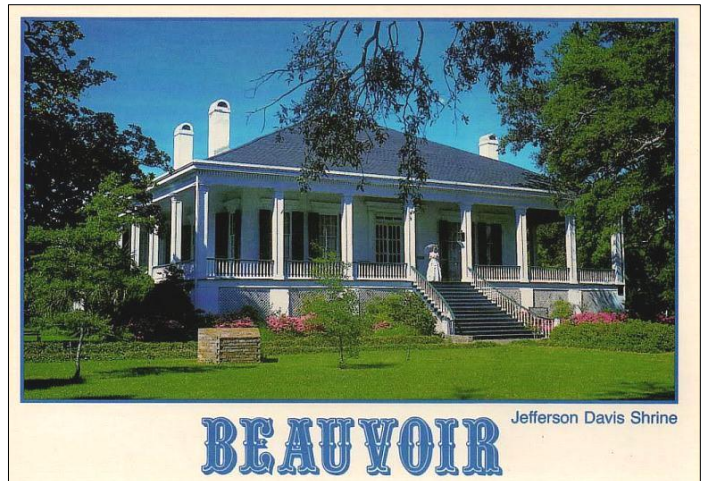


The case went to the Supreme Court, but it was never tried. For fear that the Supreme Court would rule in favor of the defense and make the US government look incompetent, President Johnson issued a pardon on Christmas Day, 1868 to all persons who participated in the "rebellion." Jefferson Davis was no longer a wanted man.

Davis and his family traveled

to Europe for a time after his release. Upon returning, he took up residence in Tennessee. He kept to himself and didn't comment publicly about Reconstruction.

He moved to an estate called Beauvoir near Biloxi, Mississippi. In fact, the state of Mississippi tried to make him a US Senator, only for him to be denied due the previously discussed Fourteenth Amendment. As his quiet retirement continued, he completed a two-volume book in 1881 about his wartime experiences called [*The Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government*](#).



In 1888, his reputation as a Confederate hero restored, he said this to an audience of supporters in Mississippi, "... lay aside all rancor, all bitter sectional feeling, and make your places in the ranks of those who will bring about a consummation devoutly to be wished—a reunited country."

On December 6, 1889, Jefferson Davis passed away in New Orleans, Louisiana. He was buried there for four years until 1893, when he was relocated to Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond, Virginia.

<http://www.todayifoundout.com/index.php/2014/07/ever-happened-confederate-president-jefferson-davis/>, Wikipedia, other Internet sources

Civil War Notables Descendants Deal With Their Legacy

An estimated two of every three Americans have an ancestor who lived through the Civil War. It helps explain why so many people — re-enactors, treasure hunters, genealogists, collectors, hobbyists, preservationists, tourists, battlefield rats — feel so connected to a war that ended 150 years ago.

"It's our war. All the blood fell on our soil," says **Lloyd Garrison**, 79, great-great-grandson of the abolitionist **William Lloyd Garrison**. He says the war even has a contagious, old-time glamour.

Bertram Hayes-Davis, the great-great-grandson of Confederate President **Jefferson Davis**, agrees.

"Americans are fascinated by the individuals who fought. They want to know more about what these people did, who they were and what they went through."

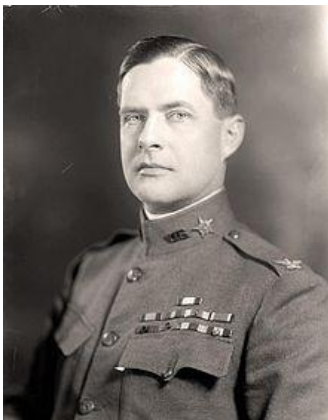
Today, descendants such as Garrison and Hayes-Davis underscore our link to a struggle that shaped the nation as much as the arrival of the Mayflower or the victory at Yorktown.

The Civil War ended slavery, strengthened the federal republic and allowed settlement of the West; it pioneered an industrial style of "total war," which included mass production of weapons and the systematic destruction of Southern agriculture; it killed about 620,000 combatants — nearly as many Americans as all the other wars the country has fought combined.

In 2011, it was estimated that about 100 children of Union and Confederate veterans were then still alive. Roughly 18 million Americans, one in 17, have an ancestor who fought in Blue or Gray, *Ancestry.com* says. Among these, a few have the kind of forebears who stand on pedestals and hang over fireplaces. Although Abraham Lincoln's last direct descendant died in 1985, other famous lines and names from the war live on.

Robert E. Lee V is athletic director and football coach at Potomac School outside Washington. His father, Robert E. Lee IV, is a retired distillery executive whose accent hints at the city where he was raised — New York. **Robert E. Lee VI** is in grade school.

J.E.B. Stuart IV, a retired Army colonel and great-great-grandson of Lee's cavalry general, lives in Richmond, Va., where his son **J.E.B. V** is an orthopedic surgeon. **J.E.B. Stuart VI** is a sophomore in college.



Left: Ulysses S. Grant III as a Colonel. He was later to become a Major General.

Ulysses S. Grant V, the general's last surviving great-grandson, died in March 2011 at age 90. He is survived by his son, **Ulysses S. Grant VI**.

Confederate Gen. **Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson's** great-great-grandson, **Henry Shaffner**, 75, is a

professional songwriter who married the daughter of a Lincoln buff and has lived for the past half-century in Philadelphia.

Pauline Johnson, 83, says she didn't even learn she was the great-grandniece of Underground Railroad conductor **Harriet Tubman** until she was 25. Johnson says she's mystified why her parents never told her about the Tubman connection; she learned from her aunt. She treasures her one tangible link to Tubman: a black dress with white lace sleeves and collar she found in a closet in

her parents' house after they died. It had a label with Tubman's name on it.

Alice Mecoy, wasn't told she was **John Brown's** great-great-granddaughter until she was 16; her parents were embarrassed by the anti-slavery zealot who in 1859 attacked the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry in what is now West Virginia.

When **Dred Scott Madison II** was a boy, few outside his family realized the kid called "Scott" was descended from **Dred Scott** the man whose 1857 Supreme Court case strengthened slavery's legal underpinnings and set the stage for the war. That anonymity is gone, says Madison, 52, an air-traffic controller who was embarrassed the other day when a college president fawned over him when they were introduced. His son, **Dred Scott Madison III** is now 26.

At a reunion in Mississippi 35 years ago, the descendants of **Jefferson Davis** formed a family association and elected a president, **Bertram Hayes-Davis**. He had at least one qualification others lacked: his hyphenated surname, created by an act of the Mississippi Legislature on Feb 21, 1890, to preserve the name of the president of the Confederacy. **Jefferson Davis had six children, but only his daughter Margaret married (to a man named Hayes) and had children.**

In his ancestor, Hayes-Davis (left) found his calling: to show that Davis' life was about more than slavery.



Because Davis led the Confederacy, he says, "everything else about him was obliterated" — West Point graduate, successful planter, member of the U.S. House and Senate, wounded Mexican War veteran, early advocate of the transcontinental railroad and secretary of War (1853-1857).

Over the past three decades, Hayes-Davis has made more than 1,000 speeches and appearances, many at the kind of functions where Dixie is sung, the Confederate flag is flown and the Confederate "Lost Cause" is mourned.

When he sought support for observations of Davis' 200th birthday in 2008, he was rebuffed by dozens of museums and organizations. Even Mississippi, where Davis lived, declined to establish a bicentennial commission.

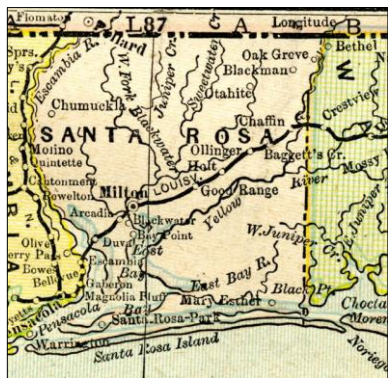
Hayes-Davis has a son and a daughter, and he hopes the family name will continue, because even though Davis has hundreds of great-great-grandchildren, "it means more when one of the descendants has the name."

Based on a 2011 article by Rick Hampson in *USA TODAY*

Events, Groups, and Sites of GSOC Interest

Field Trip for the June GSOC Meeting

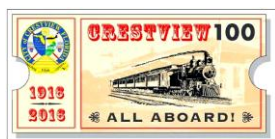
The GSOC meeting on June 13th will be a visit to the **Milton, FL, public library**. Milton is the county seat of Santa Rosa County and the eastern part of that county was taken in 1915 to form the western part of Okaloosa county.



History professor Dr. Brian Rucker, a 7th-generation Santa Rosan, will give us a presentation on the history of Santa Rosa County leading up to the birthing of Okaloosa County 100 years ago. The Milton library has a really good genealogy section in-

cluding on-line access to Ancestry.com and other digital resources that will be available to us.

THE CRESTVIEW CENTENNIAL 1916 - 2016



According to the *Crestview News Bulletin*, the Crestview Centennial Celebration Committee is now planning for events throughout 2016 to celebrate the founding of the city and this logo is being

considered to recognize the city's founding as a railroad town. The incorporation meeting for Crestview was held on April 11, 1916 under an oak tree at the Congregational Church.

Visit Our GSOC Website

Google "**Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County**" or go directly to www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flocgs/

You'll find information about GSOC membership, the next GSOC program, copies of meeting minutes and newsletters for the past five years or so, and Okaloosa County historical information and vintage photos. The members-only section contains supplemental material provided by some recent speakers as well as copies of *The Journal of Northwest Florida*, our premier annual publication.

To access the members-only section, scroll down the home page until you find this button and click on it (or click on it here if you are viewing this newsletter on line.) That will take you to a log-in screen where you can enter your member password to reach the members area. If you don't know the password, you can get it from the webmaster at the next GSOC meeting or by emailing youngjmy@cox.net.

MEMBERS

West Florida Genealogical Society
5740 N. 9th Ave, Pensacola, FL
Saturday, May 2, 2015, 10 AM

My Genealogy DO-Over - A Year of Learning from Research Mistakes

Speaker: Thomas MacEntee (via internet blog)

We will follow along as Mr. MacEntee leads us through the process of "starting over" with our genealogy research using what we know now about better ways to research, better methods to document our findings, and better sources to use.

Members and guests are welcome, refreshments available at 9:45.

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

Minutes of the April 11th Meeting (Cont.)

they are current cards. She said that she has removed names of those who have not paid their 2015 dues and has sent out, by e-mail, the updated membership list. We now have 14 Life members, 37 Individual members and 27 Family memberships. Charlene is available at cgrafton2@cox.net.

Treasurer Bob Basch said that we are doing very well and have a checkbook balance of \$2132.49. He then explained the purpose of the Blue Box and passed it around for donations.

Recording Secretary Pat Pruett had nothing to report.

Corresponding secretary Carl Laws said he has available literature from other organizations and after today's meeting, it will be taken to the FWB library.

Pres. Young mentioned that the FWB library is in the process of setting up a different location for our research literature since they are converting the current History and Genealogy Room into a meeting room.

Publicity Chairman Val Moreland had no report. Pres. Young congratulated her on a job well done.

Pres. Young asked for any announcements and there being none, turned the meeting over to 1st Vice Pres. Del Lessard for our program.

Del introduced Ms. Margaret Chatraw, Library Coordinator, Genealogy Services, Santa Rosa County Library System.

Ms. Chatraw's vivacious personality and enthusiasm for her subject made for an outstanding presentation on City Directories in Genealogy Research. Her presentation was a thorough, information-filled hour. She turned this research source from a mere "name lookup" into an in depth research tool. She is one of our most informative speakers when it comes to this type of research.

Pres. Young closed the meeting at 11:45 AM.

GSOC INFORMATION

Officers for 2015

President, James Young
1st Vice President (Programs), Del Lessard
2nd Vice President (Membership), Charlene Grafton
Treasurer, Bob Basch,
Recording Secretary, Pat Pruett; Asst. Frances Hoge
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

Addresses

P.O. Box 1175, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-1175
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 2014 issue, was published and distributed in September 2014.

The Web Site

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

The site is updated frequently and contains information about future GSOC meetings, minutes of past meetings, copies of the newsletters, articles and items of genealogical and historical interest, and much more.

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, parents 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: The Ideal Spot for a Home

James Plew's Valparaiso Realty Company used just about every means available to publicize their development in northwest Florida that they initially called New Valparaiso.

The End of the Rainbow is a 38-page pamphlet produced by the company, illustrated with many beautiful photos and flowery language, to entice folks to visit and buy property.

The End of the Rainbow

The Ideal Spot for a Home

IN Northwest Florida, just fifty-five miles from Pensacola, on Valparaiso Bay, an arm of Choctawhatchee Bay, lies the lovely city of Valparaiso—a gem of glowing green on the Bay's clear, blue waters—the chosen spot for a home. As Mr. Plew's letter says, it solves the problem. Here in the land of flowers, in the soothing shade of the pine trees—Here where the superb magnolia proudly bears its creamy blossoms—where wistaria and oleander grow in colorful profusion—where roses are riotous—where the dainty fragrance of the jasmine fills the air—Here will we build our home. Away from the rush and roar of the city—away from strife and care—far from the frozen winters, the stifling summers of the north—Here will we live in joyous freedom, under our own "vine and fig tree!"



The May GSOC meeting will be on Saturday, May 9, 2015, at the Baker Block Museum, Baker, Florida at 10 AM.

The museum is being opened especially for GSOC members and guests. In addition to displays ranging from authentic log cabins to small household items, the museum has an outstanding reference and genealogical library. The museum Director will welcome us and introduce us to the resources available there.

"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

