

# THE GSOC NEWSLETTER

THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA  
MAY 19, 2017

**GSOC Program  
for May 27th**  
Fort Walton Beach Library  
10:30 am



The program for our May Meeting will be a **Show, Share, and Tell Program**.

Participating in this activity will be Ken Elliott who will wear his ancestor's military uniform. He will also tell a capsule history of his ancestor.

Jon and Kathie Sheperd will display a special quilt (ancestral relic!) and some of the Genealogy Charts/Posters they've created.

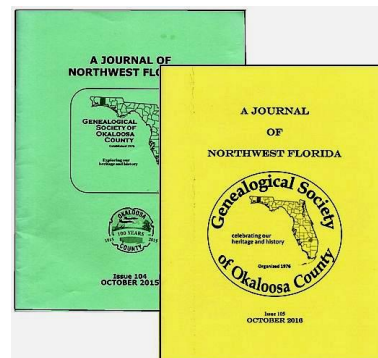
Vernessa Thompson promises a Florida-Alabama Early Family History Presentation.

Marian Roberts will also have a unique quilt to display and Val Moreland will bring her ancestor's CSA Medal.

We still have a couple of openings in the program so if you want to share something about your family history (that others will find informative, funny, or helpful), please contact Margaret Harris via e-mail or phone: [margaret.harris@gmail.com](mailto:margaret.harris@gmail.com) or 850-533-6710.

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## 2017 Journal News

We are off to a great start on the 2017 Journal! Thank you all who have stepped up and volunteered to write or edit.

This year's topic is Education. The GSOC Executive Board started us off with some great story ideas but we did not stop there! The Okaloosa County School Superintendent blasted an email out and several of the staff have offered their knowledge and expertise to help us.

Please contact me and I will put you in touch with the school contacts. We also have lots of topic ideas who need an 'owner'.

We have found some excellent sources in out-of-print books in the library in Fort Walton and will be checking the other nearby libraries for other ideas. We have found some folks who were raised here from the 1950's and will have their memories of the boom years that Eglin brought to the area.

Even if you know nothing of this area, this is an ideal time to help our Society. Just a few paragraphs may help that researcher who now lives far away find a clue. Wouldn't you like someone in your 'Brick Wall' area to write a paragraph that would help you?

Why are out of print books and first-hand accounts ideal for our Journal? You cannot Google them. So we may be providing information that our readers cannot find anywhere else!

So sharpen those keyboards and let's get our articles drafted! In order to have the Journal ready for release in October, I'll need your articles by **July 15th**.

If you have any questions or would like to submit an article, you may always contact me at

[cindybarber2@gmail.com](mailto:cindybarber2@gmail.com).

*Cindy B*

# Conversations in a Graveyard



## Pastor used cell phone for graveyard connections

By Rev. Chip Hale

In life, the moment arrives when the children must become the parents.

My sister and I accepted the responsibility for our aging father and mother. As his only son, I took charge of caring for Dad in his last few years. We laughed together much more than we cried.

After my father's death, my sister and I sat down with our mother to have "the talk." My mother had recently fallen trying to get up the steps to her home, hitting her head and breaking her pelvis. The incident had been frightening for all of us.

With her health and safety in mind, we broached the subject, saying something like, "Mother, after your fall, and as you get older, we think it is time for you to move into a retirement community in Birmingham, near your daughter." My sister and I spent virtually the whole conversation trying to formulate just the right words to convince Mother that the move was in her best interests. The negotiations got difficult since Mother felt uncertain about how to begin a new life in Birmingham after living in Mobile for many years. I told Mother I would do whatever she asked, if she would make the move. She finally acquiesced.

Just before her move, Mother asked me to take her to Dad's grave. Of course, I readily agreed, and at the graveyard she asked me to kneel beside her as she said her goodbyes and prayed. Just after her "amen," Mother asked if I would promise to call her from Dad's graveside on my cell phone, every week or so, in her exile city of Birmingham, so that she could talk to him. Riddled with guilt and wanting to make her happy, I agreed.

As clergy, I continued to officiate at many funerals at this same graveyard. Families tend to linger after these services, and clergy usually leave before they do. After my final condolences on many of these occasions, I began to make a hasty detour by my father's grave to make the phone call to Mother so that she could talk to him. Each time, I was carefully instructed to hold the phone over the grave, and not to eavesdrop as she talked to Dad about her life. Unfortunately for me, my father's grave is very close to the graveyard's main entrance. Families would leave after their final goodbyes and pass where I was standing, observing me leaning over the grave, cell phone in hand, trying to look nonchalant. Their horror and disbelief is burned into my memory.

In spite of my promise to Mother, it became impossible not to eavesdrop. I was privy to her rather one-sided conversations with Dad. Many of their phone calls were reminiscent of their past. She often included hilarious stories from her life at the retirement village. Sometimes I had to stifle a laugh; sometimes I had to choke back tears. The conversations were poignant and beautiful.

Invariably, she told him about my sister and her family, and she included stories about my life with my wife and children. In essence, she kept my father informed about everything that occurred to her. Bless her heart, she was especially long-winded when the weather was below 30 degrees or above 90. For six years, this favor to my mother was what I deemed "Conversations with the Dead."

As Mother experienced several health crises and became increasingly frail, her worries about her impending death caused her understandable anxiety. One Saturday, a week before she died, I was doing a funeral at the graveyard in Mobile. Before I left, I called and said, "Mother, would you like to talk to Dad?" I had tears in my eyes, suspecting that this would be their last conversation in this way. I knelt over my father's grave and held the cell phone down to where I supposed his head would be. Then I turned on the speaker phone so that I could hear her words. She said, "Charles, I think I am at the end of my life." There was a long pause, as her emotions overwhelmed her, as did mine. She continued: "Charles, if you are in heaven, tell Jesus to come get me." She paused again, and then, with trepidation, added: "If you are not in heaven, don't mention my name to anyone." In my preacher's suit, I fell to the ground laughing.

God gave us the great privilege of expressing our faith by loving best our families. How precious those memories are to me now.

*The Rev. Chip Hale is the senior pastor of Ashland Place United Methodist Church in Mobile, Ala. He plans to retire in late June 2017.*

# HISTORY AND GENEALOGY

By Susan Scouras

**A** family tree need not be ink on paper made from dead wood: it should be green and vital, ever growing with new branches, each with its own stories. Knowledge of the times in which your ancestors lived is not only fascinating and enriching, but can provide helpful clues to tracing your ancestors and understanding why they may have lived as they did.

Most of us have at least a vague idea of why our ancestors immigrated to the colonies in the 18th century, or to the United States in the 19th and 20th centuries. Reading a little history of the area in the world from which your ancestors came may tell you exactly why they left there in hopes of a better life. Once settled in America, why did great-grandpa haul the family all over West Virginia in the late 19th century? If you study the history of the counties he lived in through those decades, coupled with his occupation as listed in a census or other document, you may discover that he was moving for work, either in logging or in mining.

You may have learned from family stories that your ancestor was a glass blower from Belgium who came in the 1870's, but you can't find him in the records of the county where your family has lived for a couple of generations. You can't find him in a census Soundex. Where would you start looking for him? A West Virginia history book will direct you toward Wheeling and Ohio County, where the glass industry was thriving in the 1870's and attracting significant numbers of immigrants who were skilled glassworkers. From the opposite viewpoint, you are stuck on an ancestor who turns up in Wheeling in the 1790's. Where did he come from? Maybe there are two other families with different surnames, but whose children have the same first names as in your line. Are they related? Check out Revolutionary War service records. If your ancestor served, where did his unit originate and where did he actually serve? Many who ended up in Wheeling would have come from the Potomac watershed. Most men in the unit would have been related by blood or by marriage because they would have come from the same community. During this time period many of these other relatives will turn up with your ancestor in Wheeling, while others will be found in Louisville, KY or in extreme western Virginia on their way to Tennessee. Knowing the migration patterns is very important, from colonial times up through the early 20th century.

**Take a fresh look at what you know about your family. Read all the odd bits of paper tucked in with the family photographs and documents. Re-read the documents with an open mind for clues that you didn't pick up the first time. Check out the background in those family portraits, not just the faces. Look beyond the dry words of deeds and wonder what the exchange of land meant in the lives of the people involved. To use a current catchphrase, "think out of the box" of modern American**

**life, and try to imagine the world in which your ancestor lived. What can you learn about them beyond dates and names?**

In my own family, I was able to piece together a wonderful view of extended family life in a hollow in eastern Kentucky. The patriarch of this branch gave each of his sons a section of his land, thus keeping them all close. Newlyweds were offered a small cabin near the big homeplace as their first home. The cabin was known as "The Weaning Pen" and was the birthplace of firstborn children to several couples who lived there, with "Little Granny" nearby to help. Although most of the men gave their occupations as carpenter or builder, and were known to have built many houses, commercial establishments and government buildings, a study of a boxful of receipts turned up many barge tickets and bills of sale showing they were also farmers. Every year they shipped wheat and corn on the river to the mills, and received bags of flour and meal for their own use. Blacksmith's receipts for repairs to plows and other farm implements, as well as photographs of harnessed mules, provide further evidence of farming. One adult son did not list an occupation for the census, and always resided in his parents' household. I found this very curious in a hard-working family. Also, this was the only one of the "boys" about whom I had never heard any stories. I knew he was well regarded in the family, and that one of his nephews was named for him. I asked my grandfather about his uncle, and learned that the young man had been injured in a slate fall while picking coal in the small mine on family property. He had lived another fifteen years, but never fully recovered from his injuries. I not only learned the story of this family member, I learned another way in which this clan maintained their self-sufficiency: they mined their own "kitchen coal" and did not need to purchase fuel for heating and cooking.

Keeping in mind your unanswered questions about your family line, consider the questions your descendants may ask about you. Think about the 2000 census short form used this year. Seventy-two years from now will your descendants learn as much about you from census records as you have been able to learn about your ancestors from the censuses of 1880 through 1920? Write down the reasons behind family moves and occupation changes in the 20th century to encourage understanding of your generation. Tell how your family was affected by major events and trends in the past century: wars, the Great Depression, the post - World War II economic boom and increasing urbanization of America, the mechanization of the coal industry, increased educational opportunities, the move of women into the workplace, etc.

**Susan Scouras is the Archives and History Librarian at the West Virginia Division of Culture in Charleston. This article is reprinted with permission.**



# Shortage of Salt: A Major Problem for the Confederacy

## How Florida's Gulf Coast Helped to Solve It

The Union naval blockade of the South severely limited the Confederacy's overseas trade. While swift moving blockade runners managed to evade Union warships throughout the war, these vessels could not possibly bring in enough goods to make up for the loss of trade. This loss was especially glaring for one crucial commodity: salt. Although there were large salt mines in Virginia, cheap foreign-produced salt had been the South's major source of the mineral before the war.

Within months of the war's outbreak, the Confederacy faced a salt crisis as its armies, which required massive supplies of salted pork, and citizens quickly used up stocks of the vital preservative. The South soon turned to Florida to make up its deficit. Florida's long coastline made it ideal for salt production. The process involved boiling kettles of seawater and refining the salt though a process of repeated dipping, pouring and drying.

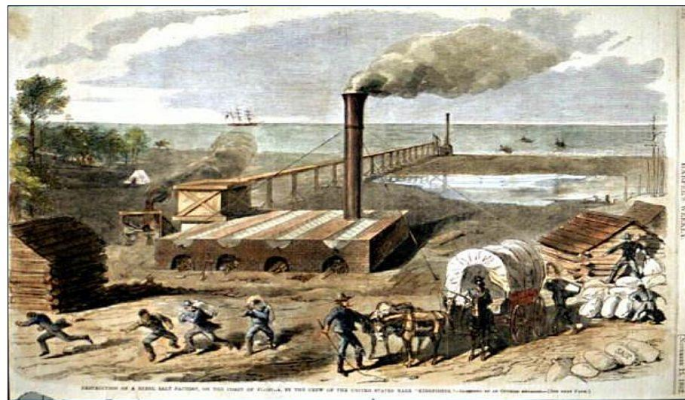
While salt-making occurred on both the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, most of the salt works were on the Gulf from Tampa Bay north through the Florida Panhandle, with the biggest concentration along the St. Andrews Bay in Washington County and St. Joseph's Bay in Gulf County (Calhoun County before 1925). These bays were ideal for salt-making, containing all the resources needed for production: salt marshes, pine forests for firewood, and relative seclusion, which made it difficult for Union raiding parties to approach undetected. Salt works ranged from a few kettles to makeshift factories fired by steamboat boilers.

Along with the many Floridians engaged in the work, Alabamians and Georgians poured in to make salt. Their states also established government-owned works to supply their citizens with salt at reduced prices—the price in Atlanta, for example, was sometimes as high as \$140 a sack—to compensate for rampant speculation in the trade. Florida Governor John Milton denounced the “vile spirit of speculation and extortion.” He removed from sale public lands in the most lucrative salt-making areas, where speculators were buying up land to sell at exorbitant prices, and proposed a tax in-kind on in-state manufactured salt to provide for poor families. The Confederate government tried to limit speculation by establishing its own works at St. Andrews Bay, where large state-run factories produced salt for the Confederate Army.

The United States considered anyone engaged in the salt trade in the South to be an active Rebel. In 1862, the U.S.

Navy began operations against salt works in Florida. The Union created two operational commands for the blockade of Florida's coast: the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron, which also covered the coasts of Georgia and South Carolina, and the East Gulf Blockading Squadron, which covered the Gulf from Key West to a line just east of Pensacola. Union gunboats shelled salt-making plants and landed raiding parties to destroy the works and supplies of salt.

In November 1861, James Boyd, an engineer aboard the Union gunboat U.S.S. **Albatross**, wrote to his wife about some of the St. Andrews Bay raids in which he participated. A portion of Boyd's letter, which can be found in the Louis James Boyd Papers at the State Library and Archives of Florida, is quoted (except for paragraphs and periods, without editing) below:



**Destruction of a Salt Factory on the Florida Coast**  
State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory

“Well we left Pensacola on the 14th of this month, for this place [St. Andrews Bay], we arrived here on the 16th. The object of

this Expedition was to destroy Salt-Pans, which the Rebels have to make Salt in. Since we have been laying here we have fit out some four or five Small Boat Expeditions, which has proven very successful. We have destroyed more Salt-Pans than all the other Expeditions put together. The Salt-Pans that I speak of are generally Situated in Small Creeks and Swamps. We cannot get to them in the Steamer [the Albatross], therefore we have to go in small Boats.

The manner in which those Expeditions are arranged are that we would leave the ships about four o'clock in the morning, and proceed up the Bay until we would discover Smoke, for that is the only way that those pans can be found by a stranger. As soon as we would get near enough we would then fire at them with a Small Cannon we have and such Skidaddeling you never seen in your life. They would leave everything behind them. We went in Several of there camps and found there Breakfast cooked and on the Table ready for eating, which our boys would soon demolish, after rowing So early in the Morning. We would then set about breaking up their pans and works. . . .”

Boyd's account is typical of the irregular war waged on Florida's coast. Despite their frequency, the salt raids were never enough to stop Confederate salt production in Florida. Historian Robert Taylor called it “Florida's most important contribution to the Confederate economy.”

<http://www.floridamemory.com/blog/2012/07/25/needs-more-salt/>

## THE WORLD WAR II K-RATION

The K-ration was an individual daily combat food ration which was introduced by the United States Army during World War II. It was originally intended as an individually packaged daily ration for issue to airborne troops, tank corps, motorcycle couriers, and other mobile forces for short durations.

The K-ration provided three courses: breakfast, lunch ("dinner") and supper. The K-ration was the Army's answer to the demand for an individual, easy-to-carry ration that could be used in assault and combat operations. It was noted for compactness and superior packaging and was acknowledged as the ration that provided the greatest variety of nutritionally balanced components within the smallest space.

The three-meal combination contained such common units as pemmican biscuits and gum. In addition, the breakfast unit furnished malted milk tablets, canned veal loaf, soluble coffee, and sugar; the dinner package had dextrose tablets, canned



ham spread, and bouillon cubes; and for the supper unit there were the D bar chocolate, sausage, lemon powder, and sugar. The Army quickly noted the success of the new ration with the paratroops and in 1942 the item was adopted for all-service use as Field Ration, Type K.

Many changes were effected in the components and packaging of the K-ration during the seven revisions of the ration before the final World War II specification was published. During

that period the variety of biscuits was increased, newer and more acceptable meat products were introduced, malted milk tablets and D bars gave way to a variety of confections, additional beverage components were provided in improved packages,



and cigarettes, matches, salt tablets, toilet paper and spoons were ultimately included as accessory items.

The cartons containing the individual meals also were subject to many changes. The first cartons were coated both inside and out with a thermoplastic compound. Later they were wax-coated on the outside only, wrapped in waxed paper, then coated with a commercial product specified not to melt at 135 degrees nor crack, chip or become separated at minus 20 degrees below zero.

As finally specified, the breakfast packet contained a canned meat product, biscuits, a compressed cereal bar, soluble coffee, a fruit bar, gum, sugar tablets, four cigarettes, water purification tablets, a can



opener, toilet paper, and a wooden spoon. The dinner carton had a canned cheese product, biscuits, a candy bar, gum, a variety of beverage powders, granulated sugar, salt tablets, cigarettes, and matches, a can opener and spoon.

**The instantaneous success of the ration with attendant popular publicity was a source of amazement to the developers.**

The supper packet included a canned meat product, biscuits, bouillon powder, confections and gum, soluble coffee, granulated sugar, cigarettes, can opener, and spoon. The biscuits, beverages, sugar, fruit bar, confections, gum, and spoon were packaged in a laminated cellophane bag while the canned meat and cheese product were put in a chipboard sleeve-type box. The two units were assembled and sealed in a waxed carton enclosed in the non-waxed outer carton labeled with the



**A GI of the United States 76th Infantry Division dines on K-rations outside a German pillbox.**

K-ration design and color. Twelve complete rations were packed in a fiberboard box which was overpacked in a nailed wood box for overseas shipment.

The first million K-rations were ordered in May 1942 and were followed by increasing millions. In 1944, the peak year of production, more than 105 million rations were procured.

Toward the end of the war, the usefulness of the K-ration was coming to an end as a result of the emergence of a superior C-ration.

**Source: Quartermaster Corps  
History of Rations**

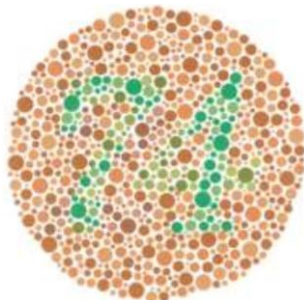


# Color Blindness and Genealogy

One of the causes of color blindness is genetics. Color blindness can be inherited and inherited color blindness can be congenital (from birth), or it can begin in childhood or adulthood. Depending on the mutation, it can remain the same throughout a person's lifetime or it can be progressive. Red-green deficiency is the most common type of color blindness, followed by blue-yellow.

Approximately one in 12 males of Northern European descent is born with some degree of red-green color deficiency. Most females possess genes that counteract the deficiency, so less than one percent of females of Northern European descent have this type of color deficiency. In other populations, the prevalence of red-green color deficiency is lower. Blue-yellow color deficiency is inherited by fewer than one in 10,000 people worldwide.

Color blindness occurs when there is a problem with the color-sensing pigments in certain nerve cells (cones), within the eye. The cones are found in the light-sensitive layer of tissue that lines the back of the eye. Even if just one pigment is missing, you may have trouble telling the difference between certain colors or shades. Symptoms include not only an inability to identify colors, but also trouble seeing the difference between shades and brightness.



**Example of an Ishihara color test plate. The numeral "74" should be clearly visible to viewers with normal color vision.**

Color blindness affects a significant number of people, although exact proportions vary among groups. In Australia, for example, it occurs in about 8 percent of

males and only about 0.4 percent of females. Isolated communities with a restricted gene pool sometimes produce high proportions of color blindness, including the less usual types. Examples include rural Finland, Hungary, and some of the Scottish islands. In the United States, about 7 percent of the male population – or about 10.5 million men – and 0.4 percent of the female population either cannot distinguish red from green, or see red and green differently from how others do. It has been found that more than 95 percent of all variations in human color vision involve the red and green receptors in male eyes. It is very rare for males or females to be "blind" to the blue end of the spectrum.

**Other causes of color blindness include disease, medications, chemicals, and aging. Although there is no direct treatment for color blindness, specially designed glasses and contact lenses can often help. Many people, especially those with mild color blindness, are able to adjust without much difficulty.**

Sources: NIH, Mayo Clinic, and Wikipedia

## All Creatures Great and Small Remembering Charles Hasty

by Patricia Hasty Eby

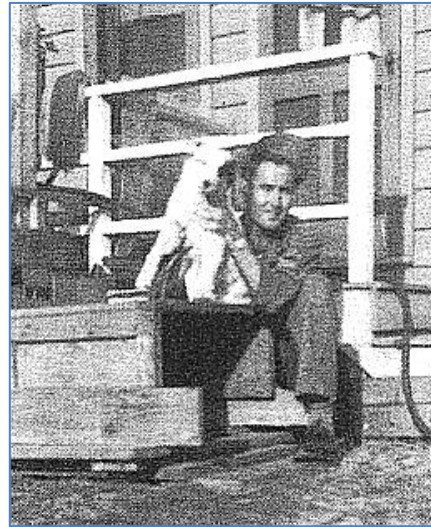
*Heritage of Okaloosa County, FL, Vol. II*

My father, Charles Hasty, loved animals and he passed on his love to all of his children and grandchildren. He was a gentle man and when it came to the animal kingdom there was no creature that he did not worry over.

Having been raised on a farm, he respected animals and reminded us often, that "they can't tell you what they need, it is our job to watch over them and see what they need." And watch over them he did. My earliest memories include a steady stream of household pets, dogs, cats, turtles, fish, ducks, chicks, and birds, all of

which he loved as much as we did.

**Charles Hasty and Lassie, 1946**



There was never a stray animal dropped at the elementary school down the street from our house that none of us kids didn't trudge home with. Daddy kept an endless supply of old woolen blankets out in his shed and we housed and

nursed many a stray back to health there, much to our mother's exasperation.

Years later, when I was a college student and working nights at a restaurant on the beach, I drove home well after midnight and saw an old dog that had been hit by a car out on I-10. I raced to my then boyfriend's house and awoke him to see if he would help me drive out and rescue that dog. He must have thought that I was nuts and sleepily told me that it was too late and that he wasn't the Humane Society. I drove home in tears.

Reluctant to wake my parents, I crept up to my father's side of the bed and in the dark whispered that I needed him. He roused a little and I told him that I needed his help with a wounded dog. Without one word of protest or waking my Mom., he swung his legs over the side of the bed and into his trousers. All he did say was, "Where is he, Sug?" And off we went to get that old dog.

Thanks Dad for a lifetime of wonderful memories and an abiding love for all creatures great and small.

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# Events and Information of GSOC Interest

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## GSOC INFORMATION

### Officers for 2017

President, Jon Sheperd  
1st Vice President (Programs), Margaret Harris  
2nd Vice President (Membership), Jerry Rush  
Treasurer, Phil Hoge  
Recording Secretary, Kathie Sheperd  
Corresponding Secretary, Val Moreland

Immediate Past President, Sue Basch  
Journal Editor, TBD  
Genealogist, Margaret Harris  
Publicity Chairperson, Val Moreland  
Newsletter Editor, Jim Young  
Associate Newsletter Editor, Ed Crosby  
Webmaster, Jim Young

### Addresses

P.O. Box 1175, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-1175  
Email: [gsocokaloosa@yahoo.com](mailto:gsocokaloosa@yahoo.com)  
Newsletter Editor: [youngjmy@cox.net](mailto:youngjmy@cox.net)

### Membership

Annual membership dues are \$24 for an individual and \$35 for an individual and spouse at the same address.

You can obtain a revised membership form from our web site or use the copy that is included in this newsletter.

### The Journal

The GSOC Journal, *A Journal of Northwest Florida*, is published once each year. **The 2016 issue, was published and distributed in October 2016 and has been mailed to all GSOC members.** The theme of the 2016 issue is the Vietnam War. If you are a member and didn't receive your copy, please contact us.

### 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.

### GSOC on Facebook

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

The shortcut address to the official **page** of the Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County is shown above; or you can go to your Facebook account and search for

**Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County.** This page will provide the latest information about our future meetings and other news that is important to members or prospective members.

There is also a Facebook **group**. It is useful for exchanging information about your research and getting help with questions you may have about the Society or resources available to you. You can find it by going to your Facebook account and searching for **Friends of the GSOC**.

### The GSOC Books

The five GSOC cemetery, marriage, and funeral books are all out of print, but are now available on the GSOC web site for reading on line and for downloading as searchable PDF files at no charge.

**Please note that all these GSOC books are copyrighted by The Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County and may be only used for personal use. Reproduction is prohibited without the permission of the GSOC.** Go to the web site, scroll down and click on the **GSOC Books** link, click on the name of the book to access, and read it on line. Save it to your computer to download it.

Because of the size of these books, it may take them a few minutes to display (depending on the speed of your internet connection.)

### The Newsletter

The GSOC Newsletter is published on or before the third 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](mailto:youngjmy@cox.net). Letters to the editor are welcome and may be published.

### Exchange Journals and Newsletters

**We send copies of our Journals and Newsletters to other genealogical and historical societies. In turn, they send us copies of their publications. We file these in the new Genealogy Section of the Fort Walton Beach Library where they are available for anyone to read.**

**The GSOC Corresponding Secretary has provided the following list of the newest additions:**

***American Spirit Magazine***, Daughters of the American Revolution

**MINUTES OF  
THE APRIL 22, 2017  
GSOC MEETING  
Fort Walton Beach Library**

President Jon Sheperd welcomed members, visitors, and guest speakers Kathryn Palmer and Miriam Spalding, to the April meeting of the GSOC. We are especially happy to have our new visitors with us.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Minutes:** The minutes from the March GSOC meeting were posted in the April GSOC Newsletter. As there were no suggested changes, the minutes were approved by acclamation.

**Afghan:** At the March meeting Keith Latimer drew the winning ticket for the afghan raffle. The raffle raised \$130 which will go toward some of our expenses. Thanks again to Cissy Larson who donated the afghan and to those that bought tickets.

**Workshop and Seminar:** Jerry Rush and Margaret Harris are heading up a genealogy seminar at the Bob Hope Village, on May 18th at 3:00 pm in their Ballroom. They also want to do some one-on-one with residents after the presentation so they need some volunteers for that. Please talk to one of them if you can help. Having a lap top would be a benefit.

**Fieldtrips:** We will have a field trip to the UWF library on July 8th where Mr. Dean Debolt will introduce us to the library's holdings. The library has an excellent local heritage collection. We plan to travel by carpool and caravan. There will be more information to follow.

**Christmas Party in December Update:** We were looking for a volunteer to locate a place in FWB area and coordinate a menu for the GSOC party (30-40 people). After the meeting Cindy Barber suggested the Fort Walton Beach Yacht club. The Board decided to reserve it for Dec 16th. More information including menu options to follow. Many thanks to Cindy for taking the time to do this.

**Heritage Quest presentation at Eglin AFB Library:** Margaret Harris gave a wonderful presentation called "Heritage Quest, Genealogical Resource You Can Use from your Home" at the Eglin AFB digital library on Apr 12th. Thanks to Margaret!

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Door Prize:** Val Mooreland donated a jar of her homemade jam and our guest, Vanessa Thompson, won the door prize!

**Lunch at local restaurant:** Dutch treat. Today's lunch was at Fusion Bistro at 9 Eglin Parkway. Thanks to those that responded to the email which allows us to contact the

restaurant ahead of time so they can better serve us. We had a suggestion for Two Trees restaurant in FWB. Although it is farther away, we will add it to the lunch list of options.

**DNA Testing Sale:** Val already sent an email on this but if you have been waiting to do a DNA test because prices are too high, now may be the time to take advantage of current and upcoming sales by the major DNA testing companies. See the Blog of noted Genetic Genealogist CeCe Moore. Her blog describes the various DNA testing companies. Note: Sale dates vary.

<http://www.yourgeneticgenealogist.com/2017/04/dna-day-sales-2017.html>

**Journal:** As most of you know, Cindy Barber agreed to be our 2017 Journal editor. Cindy came forward to speak to her Power Point presentation about this effort. The GSOC Board decided to make the theme for this year's Journal: *Education in Okaloosa County*. To facilitate that effort, Cindy introduced several article ideas, and asked for volunteers to help research and write the articles. She is also open to other suggestions.

We all know that the success of GSOC is member involvement. We have a great Journal theme this year and almost every member in this room could easily write an article for the Journal. So please talk or email Cindy and let her know how you can help. Thanks.

#### **REPORTS:**

**1st VP and Genealogist Margaret Harris:** Our May 27th meeting will be a "show and tell" type forum. Margaret passed up a sign up list for those interested in participating. Margaret also is donating two of her (personal collection) books to the GSOC. One is a published funeral home book and the other is titled *Beginning Genealogy* by Fran Roberts. They will be available for review once we install the storage cabinet in the meeting room.

**2nd VP Jerry Rush:** Jon reported that Jerry is on vacation. Hopefully all previous members have paid up. For visitors here who would like to join, the dues are \$24 for a single membership, and \$35 for family. Membership renewal forms are on the table by door.

**Treasurer Phil Hoge:** Jon reported that Phil was unable to attend due to out of town guests. Our current balance is \$2,474.90.

**Recording Secretary Kathie Sheperd:** Nothing sufficient to report.

**Corresponding Secretary Val Mooreland:** She has genealogy society journals from other counties for review.

**Newsletter, Jim Young:** The new newsletter editor will take over in July.



## GUEST SPEAKERS:

Margaret introduced our guest speakers today, Miriam Spalding and Kathryn Palmer, from the Florida State Archives in Tallahassee. Miriam is the Reference Coordinator and Kathryn is the Archives Historian. Both gave the following presentation:

What is the difference between a public library and the archives? Answer: The library has published material and the archives has unpublished material. Most archives have materials not available anywhere else and they have valuable manuscript collections.

The Florida Archives (Tallahassee) are open Mon-Fri from 9:00 to 4:30. There is an adjacent parking garage and parking is free with a token from the Florida Archives. The Florida Archives are on the 2nd floor and visitors may look at original materials/documents. There are rules similar to the National Archives in Washington DC: No laptops, no purses, no food, no bags, and no pens are permitted. (They have storage lockers for these items,) Hand held scanners and cameras (no flash), notebooks and pencils are accepted. Available records include state census records from 1935 & 1945, also most of the 1855 census. Alachua county 1875 census records are available. They have a genealogical book collection of approximately 1200-1300 books, a large system of Family Histories, cemetery records, local histories, marriage records, deed records and family files arranged by surname.

The oldest item in the Florida Archives is a 1588 map by Sir Francis Drake. Most records are 19th and 20th century materials and they have a large book collection from the southeastern US because of their interest in migration history. (Note: They don't have birth and death records; the Office of Vital Statistics in Jacksonville has those items.) Their other holdings include county marriage, probate, land, deeds, and tax records. These are on microfilm, but if you bring a flash drive, you can save those records versus paying \$.25/photocopy. They have limited slave records; for those with African American ancestry, it would be better to look at probate records, deed & property records, and county records. There are election records: registration & returns records from 1845 and 1867. The 1867 records are the first records where slaves could vote. They have church records and histories, a 1-million photograph collection and 200 thousand photos in the Florida Memory program (to view, go to [floridamemory.com](http://floridamemory.com)). Florida Memory is a state library and state archives digitized series of collections. There are manuscripts, and 50,000 cubic feet of materials of family,

organizations and businesses, old diaries, and governor's papers.

African American resources are: slave receipts and mortgages, share cropper contracts, Freedman Bureau records, Freedman Bureau bank records, and census slave schedules from 1850 and 1860.



Military service records are from various wars such as the American Revolution (their records are copies from the National Archives – NARA), Seminole wars, Mexican American war, Spanish American War, WWI, Militia/National Guard

service. There are land records, county records, state and federal land grants, Spanish land grants prior to statehood (with maps). The latter is primarily for land in eastern Florida. There are maps and letter testimonies. A lot of these are in the Florida Memory database and are searchable by name. They have plat maps and tract books where people would receive a land grant from the state. They manage state homestead files which are also searchable on line by name. Other records include property and occupation records such as index of county officers, tax rolls, State Supreme Court records where opinions are issued, local histories, auto registrations, professional business licenses and state hospital records (used for insurance claims).

At the end of the presentation, the ladies offered advice how to preserve family papers for the future. First of all, don't laminate papers or use magnetic photo albums. Don't do anything to the paper/photo that you cannot reverse. Keep papers at a constant temperature; storage at 65 degrees is best. Maintain photos and papers in a dark stable place with low humidity. Avoid exposure to light, water, leaky pipes, mold and pests. Place photos in acid free or Mylar sleeves for preservation.

At the conclusion of the talk, Jon thanked Kathryn and Miriam for a great presentation and for sharing their information about the Florida State Archives. Their holdings are very worthy of a road trip from Okaloosa County!

## CLOSING:

Jon thanked everyone for coming, especially the visitors. The next meeting will be held at the Library on May 27th at 10:30 am when we will have our "Show, Share, or Tell" program.

**Kathie Sheperd, Recording Secretary  
Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County**



Our May 27th 2017, meeting  
will begin at 10:30 am

The program will be  
***Show, Share, and Tell***  
Presented our very own selves!

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

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

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

