

THE GSOC NEWSLETTER

THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF
OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

NOVEMBER 1, 2012

Next GSOC Meeting

November 10, 2012

Our program for November will consist of a presentation by Jan Taylor and a short discussion by Margaret Harris.

Mr. Taylor's topic will be "Connecting Vital Records".

Mrs. Harris, our GSOC genealogist, will be talking about WikiTree.com, a free online site that gives the user the ultimate say about who and what will be able to see his genealogical information. Mrs. Harris says that she will endeavor to explain the concept of a wiki on the Internet and how it works. Collaboration is the key word of this era of family history. Many web sites offer that option but WikiTree does it as a non-commercial, volunteer operation.



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GSOC Meeting Minutes October 13, 2012

Mary Ellen Ahlstrom, Recording Secretary

The Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County met for the regular monthly meeting on 13 October at the Heritage Museum in Valparaiso.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Vice President, Ken Elliott, in the absence of the President. He welcomed sixteen members and seven guests.

As Program Chairman, Mr. Elliott reported on upcoming speakers for future meetings. The program for November will be on the website "WikiTree" given by genealogists Margaret Harris.

Beverly Gross introduced Ginny Wimmers, Education Director of the Heritage Museum.

Mr. Elliott called for approval of the minutes of the September meeting as printed in the Newsletter. Bob Basch made a motion to approve the minutes and the motion was seconded by Beverly Gross. Motion passed.

Sue Basch, membership chairman reported on the status of the Society's membership.

Bob Basch, Treasurer, reported the balance in the GSOC treasury as \$2,518.97 with one outstanding bill in the amount of \$8.48. He also passed around the "Blue Box" for donations to purchase books for local libraries on the topic of genealogy.

Beverly Gross reported on the progress of the Journal which is nearing completion.

Mr. Elliott reported on the Bay County Genealogical Society seminar that will be held on 20 October in Panama City. The seminar will from 9:00-3:30.

It was announced that Donna Elliott, President of the GSOC will be a guest speaker for the retired teachers group on 5 November. Also announced, there will be an officers meeting at 9:00 AM on 10 November prior to the regular society meeting. Martha Trau announced the plans for the December meeting to be held at Coach & Four in Crestview, FL.

The nominations for the slate of officers to be elected was announced. Beverly Gross made a motion to accept the slate as submitted and the motion was seconded by Martha Trau. The slate was elected. The installation of the officers will be conducted during the December meeting.

A number was chosen by guest Nancy Welhart for the winner of the door prize. The fortunate winner was Hilma Jenus. The prize was a tote bag with the 1940 census logo which was donated by Beverly Gross.

Mr. Elliott asked for suggestions for a place for the usual "Dutch" lunch.

With the business session completed, Mr. Elliott introduced Beverly Gross as speaker for the program which covered numerous suggestions on genealogical research.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:48 AM.

One generation passes away, and
another generation comes, but the
earth abides forever.

Ecclesiastes 1:4

The Crestview High School Band

By James L. Connor, Crestview, Florida

Originally Published in *The Heritage of Okaloosa County, Florida*, Vol. 1, 2004

In the early part of 1938, several key citizens of the sleepy little town of Crestview decided that it was "time for some culture" so they set about getting a band. A committee composed of School Board member, H. Claude Garrett, Dr. E.A. Fleming, W.E. Duggan, Tom Fountain, Cortez Campbell, Mallory Barrow, and George W. Barrow enticed the assistant band director at DeFuniak Springs, Mr. Romulus Thompson, to accept the directorship of a band that existed only in the pipe dreams of a small group of civic visionaries. So in the spring of 1938, Romulus Thompson came to Crestview to organize a school band in a town still reeling from the late stages of the Great Depression and to work with a school district completely without resources other than the ingenuity of the towns people and eager students who wanted to "make music".

What the Band Committee couldn't know is they picked the perfect man for the job of building a great band where there shouldn't be one. Romulus Hunter Thompson, a native of Water Valley, Kentucky, dropped out of high school to play his saxophone and violin in dance bands that played dance halls and hotels in the Tampa and Miami area in the 1920's. After a short stint with the Tampa Symphony orchestra, Romulus returned to high school when his family moved DeFuniak Springs. At Walton H.S., Romulus was an athlete playing football and baseball while finding time to organize and perform in a dance band.

After graduating from Walton H.S. in 1927, Romulus tried a stint as an insurance salesman before marrying Rachel Cawthon of DeFuniak Springs in 1929. Music kept its pull on Romulus and he became the assistant to the band director at Walton H.S. During the depression Mr. Thompson was hired to teach music at other schools in Walton County. Then Crestview called.

Arriving in Crestview in 1938, the new band director put out a call for "students interested in learning how to play band instruments". Before the new members showed up to the first practice, a way to pay for the instruments and music had to be found. The Band Committee and the people of the city did not desert him.

The School District of Okaloosa County was perpetually short of funding and on many paydays the teachers were paid in script or promissory notes to be redeemed when the School Board had the funds. The local businesses honored these notes for the teachers who did their

shopping with them. Romulus and the committee members made the rounds to all of the stores asking that the promissory notes be signed over to the band. In a show of civic support, they all donated the notes assuring, if Romulus Thompson could teach, Crestview would have a band.

Throughout the spring and early summer of 1938, Romulus took an eager group of Crestview students and laid the foundation of what was to become one of the finest high school band programs in Florida. Teaching each student individually, the newly formed Okaloosa School Band soon was able to play simple songs and marches. The people of Crestview must have been astounded when only after a few weeks the band debuted in its first public performance on June 4, 1938, a parade down Main Street followed by a concert on the Courthouse lawn.

As football season approached in the fall, everyone was excited about the aspects of having the band perform a field show at the halftime of the Bulldogs football games. Everyone except the band director. Director Thompson was dismayed when shown the local football field locally known as "Sandspur Field". The name was well given as it was a sand bed full of "stickers" totally unsuitable for a marching band. Games were played in the afternoon as there were no lights on the field and no real seating for the spectators or band. Romulus once again turned to the community for the solution.

After getting a very skeptical principal and football coach to agree to give the band half of the gate if the band could get a real lighted field and stands built, Romulus formed what had to be the first Band Booster Organization in Okaloosa County. Several members of the city, including Claude Garrett, put up the money for field lighting. Mr. Bill Duggan donated lumber from his sawmill for the stands and the trucks to haul it to the field, a farmer donated grass to sod the field, the Baker FFA and several band parents laid the sod and built the stands. Thus, in the fall of 1938, the first night football game in Okaloosa County was played in a newly lighted Sandspur Field in front of 600 spectators who each paid \$1.00 to see the game, sit in the new stands, and watch the first halftime show by any band in Okaloosa County. True to their word, the principal and coach handed over half of the gate receipts to the band and according to Romulus Thompson, "we never had any trouble with money after that."

Romulus Thompson and Crestview were a perfect fit. Adored by his students, the charismatic young director saw his band quickly grow to over fifty members far exceeding all expectations. The band also went from homemade uniforms to a beautiful factory-made red and white West Point cadet style uniform. Many of the musicians blossomed under Mr. Thompson's instruction giving the director the confidence to enter them in their



Romulus Thompson

first District Band Festival in the Spring of 1939 in DeFuniak Springs. Playing in class "C", a class higher than they should have been in, the band won the highest rating possible of "first division" in their very first year. This incredible feat was eclipsed the next year in 1940 at the same District Band Festival in DeFuniak Springs.

Still a class "D" band, Mr. Thompson took an incredible risk and entered the band in the highest level, class "A". Stating that he believed the remarkable talent and hard work ethic of the Crestview students would offset their inexperience, the band competed against the larger and much more experienced Pensacola band. The Crestview band put on a sterling performance and received another "First Division" rating. This astounding performance had one negative aspect. The fame of the Crestview High School Band and its incredible young bandmaster, gained the attention of many throughout the state including the administration of the Leon County School District in Tallahassee. Taking advantage of his relatively small salary, Romulus Thompson was hired to start and organize the Leon H.S. Band in Tallahassee. His charge from the Leon County School Board was "just give us a band like Crestview's". Thus after only two years, Crestview's band, through firmly established, was without a leader.

It was a great start to what would become one of the nation's finest programs. Early on, excellence became a trademark of the band dressed in red. Many of the earliest members progressed to become outstanding soloists and competed at the state level. Dale Fleming (cornet), Helen Barrow (twirling), and Carl Garrett (tuba) participated at the state contest. Carl was such an outstanding player he went to Stetson University on a music scholarship and later performed with the famous U.S. Navy Band and the Navy Jazz Band.

Several directors followed Mr. Thompson, none staying more than a few years. Most notable was Mrs. Mayo Ferdon, the only woman director of the Crestview H.S. Band. The decades of the 40's and 50's saw the following directors lead the band: Tom Maddox (1940-41); Charles Engel (1941-42), Mrs. Mayo Ferdon (1942-46), Henry J. Fastoff (1946-48), Russ Auckerman (1948-50), John P.

Kendrick (1950-51), Dean Mann (1951-55), Gene Sturchio (1955-56), Ervin Hamme (1956-58).

In the fall of 1958, a star fell on Crestview. Mr. Louis Lindsay, a recent graduate of Troy State University, found his way to the Hub City and started laying the foundation for the greatest "show band" in Florida. For the next nineteen years, Crestview had a love affair with one of the greatest directors ever to grace the concert stage or practice field. Mr. Lindsay took the Crestview H. S. Band to the greatest heights in the band profession and worked tirelessly every day to push the program even farther.

Under Lou's leadership, the Crestview High School Band developed a unique style that excited football crowds everywhere and his concert bands set the standard for what could be achieved at a small school with hard work and dedication. The state of Florida wasn't big enough for what was going on with the band so the citizens of Crestview worked hard along with the band members to send the Crestview Band to perform at the 1964 World's Fair in New York City.

The band continued to grow and trips to Washington, D.C., the Peach Bowl, New Orleans, and the Blue-Gray game in Montgomery only advanced their reputation. A penchant for flawless performances and standing ovations eventually brought about the band's nickname that remains to this day, "The Big Red Machine". Mr. Lindsay was also a leader in his profession and was named president of the Florida Bandmasters Association. Whether a football game halftime; symphonic band concert, or a jazz band performance, Lou Lindsay always had the band ready and always put on a show. Lou Lindsay gave the Crestview High School Band the stability it needed and the dedication the students deserved.

When Mr. Lindsay put down his baton for the last time in 1977, it turned out that following a legend was going to be tough. The band suffered through some turmoil as the cycle of short-term directors started again. Bob Stump was named director and stayed only for a short while leaving in the fall of 1978. An interim director, Bob Lee, was hired along with a director that stayed only one day. Finally the right man for the job showed up and the next great chapter of the "Big Red Machine" began.

Mr. David Cadle, a West Virginia native and Marshall University graduate, came to Crestview in December of 1978 after having been a band director in several schools in West Virginia. Dave quickly warmed up to the sunshine and the people of his new city. After a couple of years of "getting his feet under him", Mr. Cadle oversaw the greatest growth spurt in the history of Crestview and the Crestview H.S. Band. Stable once again under a director

who was "here to stay", the band saw unprecedented growth that outstripped even the large increase in the high school.

Marching a solid 250 members, the Crestview High School "Big Red Machine" of today is one of the largest bands in the country and is one of the premier band programs anywhere. The largest school organization in Okaloosa County also boasts the largest booster organization. The band is known internationally and frequently appears across the country. Under Mr. Cadle's leadership, the band has performed at the Peach Bowl in Atlanta, the Cotton Bowl in Dallas, marched in the Kentucky Derby Parade in Louisville, performed at the Philadelphia Thanksgiving Day Parade, competed in the Fiesta Bowl Band contest and marched in the nationally televised Fiesta Bowl Parade in Phoenix Arizona. In 2000, the band accepted the special invitation of the Mayor of Chicago to lead the Chicago Christmas Parade.

Now in their sixty third year of service to the City of Crestview, the "Big Red Machine" consists not only of the very visible and powerful marching band, but also has a complete music program made up of a symphonic band, a concert band, two jazz bands, and a winter guard program. The symphonic and concert bands consistently receive the highest ratings at district and state contest and the jazz bands are always a favorite at many activities throughout the year. The winter guard has received international acclaim by being a perennial finalist in the Winter Guard International World Championships in cities such as Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Dayton, Ohio, and Phoenix,

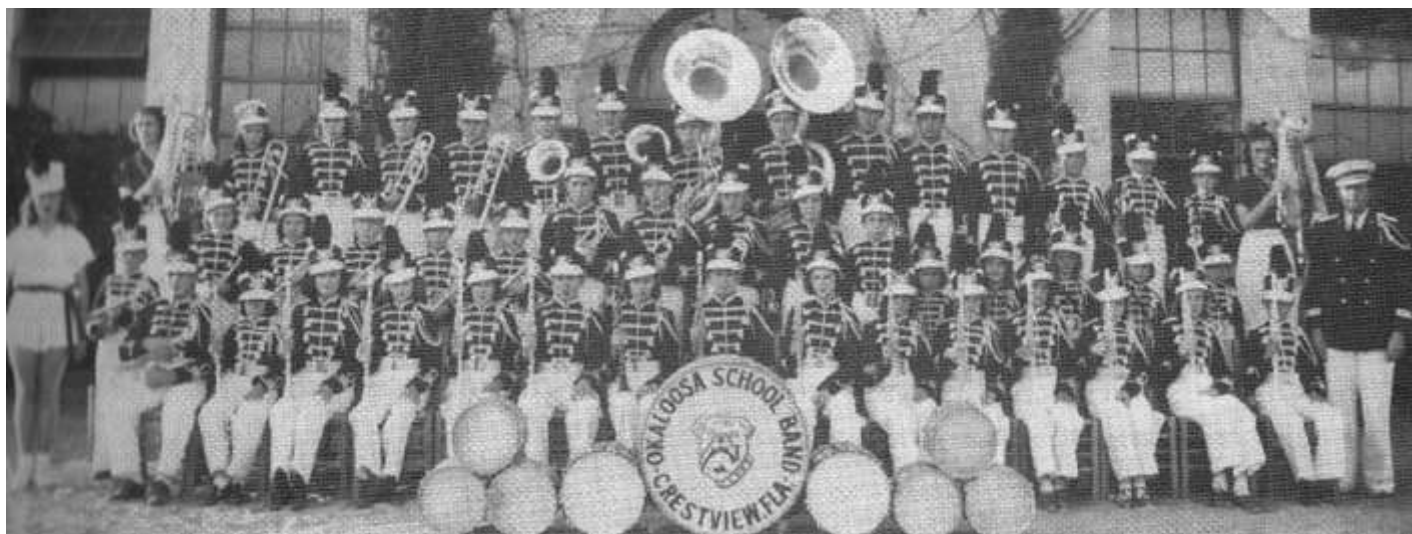
Arizona. Many band students participate annually in the FBA District Solo and Ensemble Festival and several students earn memberships in the very prestigious "All State" Concert and Symphonic bands.

A great deal is owed to the small group of far sighted individuals whose attempt to bring a little culture to Crestview turned into the enduring pride of a small town in Northwest Florida.

Members of the 1938 Okaloosa School Band as shown in the photo accompanying this article are: Front row, sitting (left to right): Lamar Garrett, Ruth Luker, Faye Riva Berman, Jean Massey, Jeanette Fountain, John Tisdale, Muriel Outlaw, J. L. Youmans, Majorie Hughes, Nellie Barrow, Betty Steele, Virginia Carr, Sara Angela Ferndon, Betty Hughes, Jackey Stuckey.

Second row: Bill Dougan, Earnestine Mapoles, Hazel Luker, Roy Whidden, M. F. Cox, Hayes Hart, Jr. (Mack) McLaughlin, Ferris Youmen, Shelley Mathews, Nellie Hope Fleming, Julian Sampsell, Bobbie Sikes, Olive Osburn, Helen Barrow, Annette Fountain, Claudia Garrett.

Third Row: Ann Hagood, Corrine Davis, Sybil Barrow, Maurice McLaughlin, George Barrow, Mancel Smith, Harry Phelps, Sidney Sapp, Carl Garrett, Earl Campbell, Alma Wilson, Mack Keith, Billy Campbell, Dale Fleming, William Tisdale, Margaret Bowers. Director: Romulas H. Thompson, Drum Majorette: Josephine Tisdale.



1938 Okaloosa School Band, Crestview High School - Charter Members

HOW DEFUNIAK SPRINGS ACQUIRED ITS NAME

Elizabeth Garner ANDREWS, Muscle Shoals, AL

Originally Published in the Natchez Trace Traveler, Vol. 14, NO.1, Feb 1994, pp 17-18;

Reprinted in A Journal of Northwest Florida, Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County, Volume XIX, Winter 1995

My romance with Frederick DE FUNIAK started the minute I read his naturalization paper. Entering the United States at the beginning of the Civil War, being a civil engineer, and traveling to the South in four short years had all the indications of a railroad man.

Being a four-generation railroad person, my curiosity compelled me to pull my old railroad maps to see if I could trace his journey south. I expected no more than the satisfaction of finding a probable route. Glancing over an old Louisville & Nashville rail map, my eyes fell on a small town in the panhandle of Florida, DeFuniak Springs. With DE FUNIAK being an unusual name in this area, could this possibly be the same person for whom DeFuniak Springs was named? After making several calls to DeFuniak Springs, I was given the name, Harold GILLIS, a "sort of" unofficial town historian. I told Mr. GILLIS about the genealogy course I was taking and about the naturalization paper I had found. You can imagine the euphoria I felt when Mr. GILLIS told me the town had been named for a L&N Railway official, Frederick DE FUNIAK who was a French nobleman. He said there was a newspaper article published about twenty years ago that I would enjoy reading and he would put a copy in the mail the next day. Information in the article was furnished by Colonel William Q. DE FUNIAK, a grandson, of Santa Cruse, California. Recently [1991] I talked to Frederick DE FUNIAK III, a great-grandson, in San Jose, California. He told me his father, who had done the research on Frederick DE FUNIAK, died several years ago. Colonel William Q. DE FUNIAK was a lawyer, a teacher of law and an author. The family had donated the original marriage certificate and the original declaration of intention, filed 7 June 1871 to the DeFuniak - Walton Public Library.

Naming of DeFuniak Springs

by Anna Reardon, Staff Writer, *DeFuniak Springs Herald-Breeze*, 28 December 1972, Page 1, Abstracted by EGA

Frederick DE FUNIAK's grandparents fled from France during the French Revolution, taking with them their twelve-year-old son, Alfred. When Alfred grew to manhood he married a young lady from Trieste, Austria. Born to this couple was a son, Albert, a daughter, and, on August 15, 1839, a son Frederick.

When the elder Count DE FUNIAK died, his title descended to Albert and Frederick became a baron under the European traditions of nobility. However, Albert later renounced his Christian religion and all rights pertaining to his title. He was assassinated about 1875. At the time of his death, the title "Count" descended to Frederick DEFUNIAK.

Frederick DE FUNIAK apparently spent his boyhood in Rome and other parts of Italy and studied civil and mechanical engineering at the Austrian School for Engineers in Vienna, later graduating from the Polytechnic

High School in August, 1857. Upon graduating, he spent two years in Egypt where he was an assistant engineer on the Alexandria and Cairo Railroad. In 1859, he returned to Italy.

He left Rome in May, 1862 for the United States, staying several months in New York City, learning the language. The DE FUNIAK family history indicates that he had been offered a commission in the Union Army which he declined. He is said to have been placed under surveillance by Secret Service agents. He fled his hotel under cover of darkness and went to Tennessee where he joined the Confederate Army. He carried letters of introduction to Generals DIX and BEUREGARD.

While serving as an engineering officer on the staff of General Richard TAYLOR in West Tennessee, Frederick DE FUNIAK was wounded. He was dropped off at the plantation of Captain Richard BROWNING at Hernando, Mississippi, where he was nursed back to health by Miss Olivia BROWNING. In story book fashion, he and Olivia BROWNING were married after the war.

After the end of the Civil War, Frederick DE FUNIAK became a civil engineer for several southern railroads, most importantly the Louisville and Nashville Railway; where he was promoted to Chief Engineer and General Manager.

About 1880 the L&N decided to build the Pensacola and Atlantic division through the wilderness of northwest Florida. A construction camp was built at an open pond where a railway station was to be built later. Officials of the L&N agreed that this would be an ideal resort location. It is not clear whether Frederick DE FUNIAK ever visited the area, but the story goes that he and several other officials met at the exclusive Pendmen's Club in Louisville, flipped a coin or rolled some dice to decide who would have the honor of having the new town named for him. Frederick DE FUNIAK won, so that is how the town acquired its name.

Captain DE FUNIAK was a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, a corresponding member of the Austrian Society of Architects and Engineers and a member of the Roman Catholic Church. He was fluent in English, French, Italian, Turkish and Greek languages. He is described as a "fair" portrait painter, fond of scientific investigation and above all, a mathematician of unusual excellence.

His personality is described with such terms as politeness, lack of ostentation, somewhat retiring, genial in company, a wonderful organizer and manager. He is said to have been one of the leading engineers in the United States and that he commanded a high degree of respect both professionally and socially.



Civil War Sesquicentennial

Selected Highlights of November 1862

<http://blueandgraytrail.com>

November 2 Naval assault on Ft. McAllister

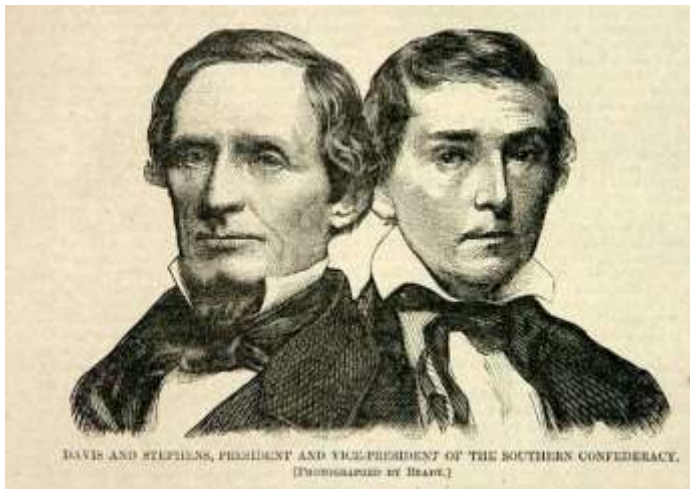
November 2 Ulysses S. Grant begins the First Vicksburg campaign

November 4 Moving south, east of the Mississippi, Ulysses S. Grant enters La Grange and Grand Junction.

November 4 For the first time since the party was founded, Republicans lose seats in Congress.

November 5 Lincoln orders McClellan to be relieved of command because he did not pursue Lee following the Confederate loss at Antietam

November 6 Jefferson Davis and Alexander Stephens are elected President and Vice-President, respectively, of the Confederate States of America

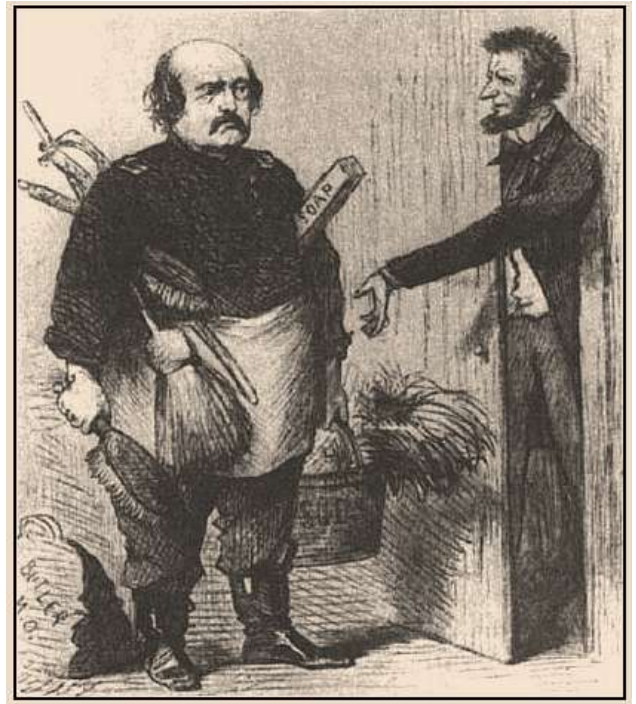


November 6 Confederates James Longstreet and Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson are promoted to Lieutenant General

November 7 Ambrose E. Burnside assumes command of the Army of the Potomac, relieving George B. McClellan

November 7 Braxton Bragg reorganizes the Department of Mississippi, creating two corps, one under William Hardee and one under Leonidas Polk

November 8 Benjamin Butler [US] is relieved of duty in New Orleans because of his total disregard of the civilian population. Nathaniel Banks is chosen to replace him. Butler closes all breweries and distilleries to retaliate against civilians



A Cartoon in Harper's Weekly commented on the role of Abraham Lincoln in the sacking of Benjamin Butler

November 14 Ambrose Burnside reorganises the Army of the Potomac command structure into three Grand Divisions with the Right Grand Division under Major Edwin Vose Sumner, Central Grand Division under Joe Hooker and the Left Grand Division under William B. Franklin

November 15 Confederate Secretary of War George Randolph resigns over President Jefferson Davis's control of the War Department

November 17 Burnside's Right Grand Division, under the command of Edwin Vose Sumner arrives north of the Rappahannock River at Fredericksburg.

November 19 Naval assault on Ft. McAllister

November 20 The Army of Mississippi is renamed The Army of Tennessee

November 21 James Seddon becomes Confederate Secretary of War

November 24 Joseph E. Johnston [CS] assumes command of a reorganized Department of the West with two armies under him, Bragg's Army of Tennessee and Pemberton's Army of Mississippi

November 28 Battle of Cane Hill, Battle of Boston Mountains [Arkansas], James Blunt [US] defeats John Marmaduke [CS]

November 29 John Magruder assumes command of Confederate forces in Texas

Heritage Publishing's Christmas Sale

(Prices good while supplies last or through December 31, 2012)

\$15.00 Each

Calhoun, AL – \$15
Dallas, AL – \$15
Etowah, AL – \$15
Houston, AL – \$15
Lowndes, AL – \$15
Monroe, AL – \$15
Perry, AL – \$15
Russell, AL – \$15
Sumter, AL – \$15
Washington, AL – \$15
Terry Co., TX – \$15

\$20.00 Each

Bullock, AL – \$20
Butler, AL – \$20
Pickens, AL – \$20

\$25.00 Each

Colbert, AL – \$25
Tuscaloosa, AL – \$25
Jackson, FL – \$25

\$30.00 Each

Autauga, AL – \$30
Cullman, AL – Vol.-II – \$30
Elmore, AL – \$30
Lee, AL – \$30
Bay, FL – Vol. I – \$30
Bay, FL – Vol. II – \$30
Escambia, FL – Vol. I – \$30
Escambia, FL – Vol.-II – \$30
Santa Rosa, FL – Vol.-II – \$30

\$35.00 Each

Mobile, AL – \$35
Coffee, AL – \$35

\$40.00 Each

Blount, AL – \$40
Choctaw, AL – \$40
Clark, AL – \$40
Cullman, AL – Vol.-I – \$40
DeKalb, AL – Vol.-II – \$40
Jackson, AL – \$40
St. Clair, AL – \$40
Walker, AL – \$40
Winston, AL – Vol.-II – \$40
Holmes, FL – \$40

\$50.00 Each

Tallapoosa Co., AL – \$50
Hill Co., Texas – Vol. II – \$50

We also have the Heritage of Washington Co., FL for \$60

S&H is \$6.00 for the first book and \$3.00 for each additional book to the same address. Alabama customers add 4% sales tax and Kentucky residents add 6% sales tax.

Mail checks to HPC, 29 Skidmore Lane, Poca WV 25159
Telephone 1-800-568-1611 to order by credit card.

History Sandwiched-In



Historic Schooner Governor Stone

Free Lunchtime Lecture
FRIDAY, November 16, 12:00 PM

at the *Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida*
115 Westview Avenue, Valparaiso



Senior Captain Hamilton, Director of the Friends of the Governor Stone, Inc., will talk about the Schooner Governor Stone, a national historic landmark registered antique vessel built in 1877, and its contribution to the historic Gulf Coast communities, during a free lunchtime lecture "Historic Schooner Governor Stone".

Bring a sandwich and take your lunch break at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida for History Sandwiched-In, an informal lunchtime education program, Friday, Nov. 16 at 12PM.

This lecture is free and open to the public. Space is limited. Please call to reserve a seat. (850) 678-2615

Events, Groups, and Sites of GSOC Interest

Saturday, November 3
Baker Block Museum, Baker FL
Annual Heritage Festival



Demonstrations that reflect the history/culture of our area – whittling, farm machines, butter churning, soap making, shucking corn, quilting, wood products. . .

Vendors with items that reflect local products – honey, jams/jellies, flour sack creations, fire wood, syrup, gourd products, crochet, knitting, pecans. . .

Saturday, November 3 **Smolenyak Seminar Cancelled!**

The West Florida Genealogical Society regrets that Megan Smolenyak has cancelled her appearance in Pensacola on Nov. 3 due to the fact that she is in the Philadelphia area and in the path of the storm, "Sandy." All those who have already registered will be refunded or their checks returned. You will be contacted, soon.

In lieu of the cancelled seminar, Betty Sparks will present a hands-on workshop on Identifying Old Photos, covering Hair Styles, Bonnets, Civil War, Photos 1840-1929 and different types of photos, such as cards, etc. She will bring five wonderful books she got from suggestions of one of our recent speakers, Cheryl Nugent. Bring your own photos to be identified. Treasurer Maurice Johnson will be available to give refunds for the cancelled seminar.

Sat., Nov. 3, 2012; 10:00 AM; Asbury Place,
 5725 North 9th Ave, Pensacola, FL
 Cynthia Dean 850-432-7072, cgdean@bellsouth.net

Thursday - Saturday, November 8, 9, & 10 **Florida State Genealogical Society 2012 Conference**

The 2012 FSGS Annual Conference, "The Best of Times: Genealogy + Technology" will be held at the Hilton Deerfield/Boca Raton in Deerfield Beach, Florida. The Hilton is located between Ft. Lauderdale and Palm Beach next to the Deerfield Country Club and an 18-hole executive golf course just off I-95.

www.flsgs.org

Friday, November 16, 12:00 PM
Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso FL
 History Sandwiched-In: Historic Governor Stone
www.heritage-museum.org/

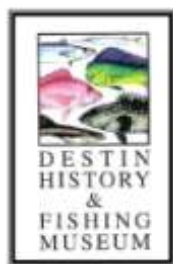
Saturday, December 8
Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County
 Annual Holiday Party and Installation of Officers
www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flocgs/

Saturday, December 8, 10 am to 4 pm
Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso FL
 Bring the family and enjoy **Yule of Yesteryear**, a family-fun holiday celebration. The Museum will have free admission all day with traditional craft demonstrations, ornament making for children and pictures with Santa. Enjoy shopping for unique gifts and affordable stocking stuffers in the Museum's Gift Shop and from local craft vendors while the Spirit of Christmas fills the air with music from local choirs and musicians. Pre-register to participate in the Museum's **Holiday Victorian Tea** at 1:30 p.m. Enjoy teatime and refreshments during this delightful education program while learning about Victorian costume, etiquette, and holiday traditions. (Fee: \$12; Museum Members \$10)



www.heritage-museum.org/

Sunday, December 9, Afternoon & Evening **The Destin History and Fishing Museum, Destin FL**



The Destin History and Fishing Museum will be hosting the **26th Holiday on the Harbor Destin Boat Parade Sunday, December 9, 2012**. Festivities will be held that afternoon all along the Harbor and the Lighted Boat Parade and judging will start at 6 P.M. upstairs at Harry T's Restaurant. Boats will start lining up in the Harbor between 5 and 5:30 PM. Mark your calendar and plan to add this event to your holiday activities. The parade can be viewed from docks and restaurants west of Grand Harbor Condominiums on Destin Harbor. A fireworks show donated by HarborWalk Village will light up the sky at the end of the boat parade.

Saturday, January 12, 2013
Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County
 First meeting in 2013, monthly meeting for January.
www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flocgs/

GSOC INFORMATION

Officers for 2012

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

(Elected, Appointed, and Ex Officio positions)

Addresses

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

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

Email: gsocokaloosa@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor: youngjmy@cox.net

Meetings and Membership

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

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

The Newsletter

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

The Journal

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

The Web Site

The GSOC web site is hosted by Rootsweb at:

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

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



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

Meeting Location



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

GSOC Publications

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| Volume I (out of print), Cemeteries of Okaloosa County, Florida 24 cemeteries east of the Yellow River & north of the Shoal River | Out of print but available on CD, see below |
| Volume II (out of print), Cemeteries of Okaloosa County, Florida 26 cemeteries north and east of the Yellow River | Out of print but available on CD, see below |
| Volume III Cemeteries of Okaloosa County, Florida 11 cemeteries south of the Shoal River | \$5.00 plus \$3.00 postage |
| Funeral Records of Okaloosa County Records from McLaughlin Funeral Home, Crestview, FL, from 1927 - 1984. Over 11,000 entries. Includes the names of the deceased and, when given, the names of parents. Deceased are listed alphabetically, parents names are indexed. | \$5.00 plus \$3.00 postage |
| Santa Rosa County Marriages 1869-1906 Over 7,000 names with every-name index, 123 pages. | \$5.00 plus \$3.00 postage |
| Walton County Marriages (out of print), 1895-1915 Over 10,000 names with every-name index, 165 pages. | Out of print but available on CD, see below |
| The GSOC Publications Disk This compact disk (CD) contains searchable PDF files containing the books listed above: <i>Cemeteries of Okaloosa County, Volumes I, II, and III; Funeral Records of Okaloosa County; Santa Rosa County Marriages 1869-1906; and Walton County Marriages 1885-1915</i> | \$15.00 plus \$2.00 postage |

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



The November GSOC meeting will be on Saturday, November 10, 2012, at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida at 10 A.M.

The program will be presented by Jan Taylor and Margaret Harris. Mr. Taylor's topic will be "Connecting Vital Records". Mrs. Harris, our GSOC genealogist, will be talking about WikiTree.com, a free online collaborative web site.

"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

