

THE GSOC NEWSLETTER



THE GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY OF OKALOOSA
COUNTY, FLORIDA

NOVEMBER 1, 2013

November GSOC Meeting

November 9, 2013

The November GSOC meeting will be not be held in order that GSOC members can attend the West Florida Genealogical Society Fall Seminar in Pensacola. The guest speaker for the seminar will be Megan Smolenyak, nationally known genealogist, speaker, and popular author.

Pre-registration and on-site registration is \$40.00 with a continental breakfast included. Lunch is not included.

8:00-8:50 Check In/Registration, Coffee, Donuts, etc.
8:50-9:00 Welcome and Introduction

9:00-11:30 Morning Program

11:30-12:45 Lunch (You're on your own)
12:45 4:00 Afternoon Program

Seminar Topics:

Right Annie, Wrong Annie
Trace Your Roots with DNA

Find That Obituary! Online Newspaper Research
Honoring Our Ancestors
Q&A Session, Book Signing

From Interstate 110, exit at Airport Blvd. Travel east on Airport Blvd. Turn Left (north) onto College Parkway. The 5th little driveway to the right will take you into the auditorium parking lot. There will be WFGS signs to guide you.

Theodore B.D. Bennett Auditorium
Booker T. Washington High School
6000 College Pkwy., Pensacola, FL, 32504
REGISTRATION: 8 am - 9 am SEMINAR: 9 am - 4 pm

For more information, visit the WFGS web site:

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flwfgs/>

Click on 2013 Calendar. Scroll down to Nov. 9 for speaker's topics, map & directions and registration form.

In this issue:

Free Document Shredding for Individuals	2
100 Years of Methodism in Niceville	3
<i>Silas Gibson, Pioneer of the Wright Community</i>	5
Selected Civil War Events for November 1863	6
Events, Groups, and Sites of GSOC Interest	7
Highlights of the BCGS Fall Seminar	8
<i>Eli Whitney – Caused and Won a War?</i>	9
GSOC Information	10

GSOC Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2013

Submitted by Pat Pruett, Recording Secretary

President Donna Elliott opened the meeting at 10:00 am and welcomed members and seven guests.

Approval of Minutes - Bev Gross made a motion to accept the minutes of the August and September meetings of the GSOC as published on our website. Keith Latimer seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Officers Reports

1st VP/Program –Ken Elliott said "we have lots of field trips this year" and that we garnered three new members from our field trip to the Baker Block Museum in Sept. Our Nov. 9th meeting will be a field trip to the Booker T. Washington High School in Pensacola for the West Florida Genealogical Society Seminar by Megan Smolenyak, who is a nationally recognized genealogy speaker. She will give four presentations during the 9:00 am to 4:00 pm day. You may pre-register on line. Fee for the day is \$40.00. Anyone who wishes to carpool, please meet under the sign at the Palm Plaza, John Sims Highway, Niceville. We will leave at 7:00 am. Registration there is at 8:00 am and the program starts at 9:00. The Dec. meeting will be a luncheon and the installation of new officers for 2014. January guest speaker will be Hank Kline.

2nd VP/Membership – Sue Basch not present. Donna said those who wish to sign up today, the membership for the next two months of 2013 will be free. In January, the yearly fee will be \$24.00 for singles and \$35.00 for a couple.

Treasurer –Bob Basch not present. Donna reported a check book balance of \$2170.69 with no outstanding bills. She commented that our Journal will be published soon and that will be a rather large expense.

Recording Sec. – Pat Pruett – nothing to report

Corresponding Secretary/Newsletter/Website – Jim Young said we have not received any publications this month and that the Newsletter and Website would be discussed in the program which follows this meeting.

Committee Reports

Publicity – Pat Pruett said that we have been receiving calls about our meetings due to our notices in the local newspapers. Donna asked each of the visitors how they

hear of the meeting and most were in Margaret Harris's CLL genealogy classes.

Library Reports

Fort Walton – Hilma Jenus said no new publications are available to take there at this time.

Valparaiso – Beverly Gross had nothing to report
Crestview – Martha Trau – not present

Journal

Malcolm Flanagan - not present. Donna explained to our visitors that our Journal is an annual publication giving information about people and events in Okaloosa County over the years as our way of preserving our local history. This year's Journal is about WWII events concerning our area. Margaret mentioned that she has written one of the articles which reflects on events in her family, just past WWII. Marc Strickland said the DAR has a lady who is interviewing the WWII vets who are still living in this area.

Old Business

Donna read the proposed change to our GSOC by-laws that concerns the Election of Officers in Article VI, Section 1. The proposed change was amended slightly by Bev Gross. The proposed change now reads:
Section 1. Elections shall be held in November. Officers shall be installed at the Annual Meeting. In the event that there is not a meeting scheduled for November, elections will be held by computer ballot or other means. The person(s) receiving a simple majority of the votes cast will be elected. Ken Elliott made a motion to accept the change and it was seconded by Marc Strickland. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Beverly Gross, chairman of the Nominating Committee, which consists of Bev, Bob Basch and Jim Young, presented the slate of proposed officers: Pres. Jim Young, 1st VP Del Lessard, 2nd VP Sue Basch, Recording Sec., Pat Pruett, Corresponding Sec. Carl Laws, Treasurer, Bob Basch. Bev asked for nominations from the floor and receiving none, announced the above members as the official slate for the elections in November. Bev passed out the ballots and collected all those executed. Other votes by computer will be tabulated as they come in and all ballots will be presented to Sec. Pat Pruett by 6:00 pm on Saturday Nov. 9th. Donna thanked Bev and her committee and those persons willing to run for office. 14 December meeting/Christmas party and installation of officers. In the planning stage.

Announcements

Saturday, **Oct 19**, Bay County Genealogical Society Annual Seminar, 8:30-3:30, Bay County Library, cost \$20, includes lunch. Carpool to leave Niceville from Palm Plaza at 7:30 a.m.

Saturday, **Nov 2**, Baker Block Museum, annual Heritage Festival, 9:00- 4:00.

Saturday, **Nov 2**, Heritage Museum fundraiser, "Afternoon on the Bayou", 2:00-4:00 p.m., Compass Rose, contact Museum at 678-2615 for tickets. (Bev reminded us that the Museum always needs volunteers. Hilma added that the Gift Shop at the Museum will be glad to have craft articles donated.)

Saturday, **Nov 9**, West Florida Genealogical Society Seminar (Megan Smolenyak), 9:00-4:00, at Booker T Washington High School, cost \$40.

Saturday, **Nov 16**, Pioneer Day, 10:00-3:00, Rocky Bayou State Park.

Saturday, **Dec. 14**, Heritage Museum "Yule of Yesteryear", 10:00-4:00, Victorian Tea @2 p.m. Contact Museum for tickets.

Lunch Plans

Ten persons opted for a Dutch Treat lunch at Ed's restaurant following today's meeting.

Program

Jim Young presented an enlightening program and demonstrated how to enhance our family pictures with free downloadable programs or those already available on our computers. It was a pleasure to have Jim share his expertise with us. He makes it look so easy, just as he does with all the great info he presents to us in our monthly Newletters.

Recently Received Publications from Other Societies

Are available for review in
the History Room of the Fort Walton Beach Public Library.

Help Prevent Theft of your Identity

In 2012, Florida was the top state per capita for identity theft. One useful tool to help prevent theft of your identity is to securely shred any of your personal documents which reveal key information about you and your family.

Free document shredding for individuals will be available at the **Santa Rosa Mall in Mary Esther from 11 AM to 7 PM on November 15th**.

This event is sponsored by the Better Business Bureau, Gilmore Services, Cat Country 98.7 FM, and WEAR-TV3. In addition to shredding, resources will be provided on how to protect your identity.

The Niceville Methodist Church

1913-2013

From Thirty Members to Megachurch

1913-2013

Methodist preaching services were held as early as 1911, conducted by the Rev. C.A. Butrum, who was a pastor in Freeport; however, in late 1913 Rev. D.B. Sellars and Rev. K.K. Rushing formally organized a Methodist church in



Niceville. They begin with a week of services which were held in the Edge and Spence Mercantile Building on Bayshore Drive, later the site of Carr Hardware. During that

week of services, thirty-one people joined the Church and were baptized in Juniper Creek near the head of Boggy Bayou.

Those joining were: Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Nathey, Mrs. R. A. Burlison and Mrs. G. B. Anchors, Mrs. Addie Willingham, Mary Richardson, Della Rushing, Lucia Early, Sarah Howell, Mary Allen, Lucy Grantham, Mary Spence, Ida Ervin, Nettie Owens, Lola Erwin, Winford Spence, Mr. and Mrs. John Dashinger, Miss Lou Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Hudson, Miss Quinnie Nathey, Mrs. Alice Allen, D. S. Davis, J. S. Allen, Carrie Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. O. E. Fisher, Amanda Thomas and S. J. Ervin.

In November of 1913, The Methodist Conference met and decided to add Niceville to the churches which were served by Rev. C.F. Butrum. Because of his other church commitments, he preached at Niceville only the fourth Sunday of each month. During this time period, services were held in the High School, then located on the west side of Boggy Bayou. Later services were held in the Woodman of the World Hall, then located near the First Baptist Church.

In 1914 the Conference sent Rev. B.F. Brown and he was here from 1914 until 1915. In the early part of January 1915, a group of church members organized a Sunday School and appointed a Superintendent, Secretary and Treasurer, Pianist, and Sunday School teachers. Also, in the early part of 1915, Rev. Brown started the construction of a small church building, across the highway from Bay Trailer Court on the north side of Mill Creek. Even though the framing was erected, the building was never completed because more room was needed to accommodate the growing membership. The members decided to move from Woodman Hall to the school house, located on Highway 20 in the area of the present Edgewood Subdivision. Services continued in this school house for several years, conducted by several different pastors.

In 1921, Rev. B.F. Brown returned to Niceville and supervised the construction and completion of a church.

On Mother's Day 1926, while Rev. Grant Gafford was the pastor, the church was destroyed by fire. While the rebuilding of the church took place, the congregation met in the Baptist Church. As the new church was in the final stages of construction in 1927, Pastor Gafford was reassigned and he held his last service on the site of the new building using blocks, timber, and other construction material for pews.

In 1945 when Rev. Spivey was pastor, preaching was still held on every fourth Sunday. Carol Britlinger, Rev. Burleigh Law, and Laymen R. R. Roush volunteered to fill the pulpit the remaining Sundays. Roush and Brintlinger were with the Air Force at Eglin AFB, and Law in Civil Service at Eglin AFB. Mr. Roush became the pianist.

On August 26, 1945, the church was officially named Niceville Methodist Church. At that time, the building committee was J. M. Reynolds, G. B. Anchors, Miss. Mattie



Moore, and Miss Lula Jane Edge. The officials of the church were J. M. Reynolds, Mrs. T. J. Peaden, Mrs. Charles Parrish as

Sunday School Superintendent, and Miss Corinne Howell (Mrs. Lester Early) as Secretary and Treasurer.

The first parsonage was built in 1947. In 1949, an expansion of church facilities included an educational building with Sunday School rooms, social hall, bathrooms, and a small kitchen. Regular church pews and pulpit furniture were purchased in the 1950-1954 period. The debt on the Educational Building was paid off in 1954.

In 1956, Pastor A.C. Britt was assigned. Brother Britt, as he was called, was a highly-loved minister and was said to be a real "go-getter." He even typed the church bulletins himself. In addition, he encouraged the congregation to build a new sanctuary and became heavily involved in the construction. With donated labor and materials, estimated at \$28,000.00, plus \$47,000.00 in cash, the sanctuary was completed and the first service was held May 21, 1961. Serving on the building committee during this period were Chairman Walker Spence, L. H. Childs, Watson Hodge, Jerry Reynolds, M. G. Moore, Joe Marler, W. G. Ransom, W. T. Walker and Treasurer, Mrs. Corinne Early. The Official Board recommended and voted to have Homecoming every third Sunday in May and to ask Rev. Britt to preach the sermon each Homecoming as long as

he was physically able to do so. Pastor Britt left Niceville in 1961. Rev. William J. Hughes came to our church in June of 1962 and was the first pastor to have a full-time secretary.

1963-1983

In 1963 as the church celebrated its 50th anniversary, plans for expansion continued. Bonds were sold to finance a new centrally heated and cooled building containing 18 classrooms, a fellowship hall, and restrooms. In June 1965, the building was ready for occupancy. In June of the same year, the old sanctuary was torn down, rubbish cleared away, and a parking area paved.

In 1965, the church voted to change its name of the church from Niceville Methodist Church to First Methodist Church of Niceville. In 1966, the parsonage was completely remodeled.

In 1968, the name of the church was changed to First United Methodist Church. The word "United" coming from the union of The Evangelical United Brethren (EUB) Church and The Methodist Church which occurred that year.

In August of 1974, a new parsonage was completed. The lot for the parsonage was given by Mr. Pat Bryne, a friend of the church and the new parsonage was financed by the sale of church notes. John and Joy Macon served as treasurers for this building program and Jane Meigs, church lay leader, and Chairman of the Parsonage Committee. Because of the need for additional parking space and for a recreational area, the church bought and developed the property next to the old parsonage.

In 1979, under the leadership of the Rev. Douglas Newton, a new sanctuary was erected and consecrated. A new office complex, a chapel, Sunday School classrooms and a new kitchen, adjoining the large fellowship hall (which had been the sanctuary) were added.

1983 to 2002

Rev. Ed Chandler came to the church in 1983 bringing several innovative programs which strengthened the church and facilitated its growth. The sanctuary was expanded and a balcony added in 1991. A large family center, named the Chandler building was completed in 1995. In 1998 the renovation of the old educational building took place. This was completed in April of 1998, just before Rev. Chandler retired. He had been the senior pastor from 1983-1998 and became a Counselor to the church on his retirement.

In 1998, Rev. Rurel Ausley, Jr. was assigned to the church and has aggressively moved forward with in looking toward the future of the church as it continued to grow. A Contemporary Worship service at 9:40 AM was added in 2000 and has consistently had the largest average attendance for Sunday church services. The Sunday morning services included a traditional 8:15 service, a contemporary service at 9:40, and another traditional service at 11:00. A second Sunday School service was added to provide one at 9:40 and another at 11:00. Major property acquisitions have provided for future expansion and for improved youth activities.

Megachurch



A megachurch is defined as a church having an average Sunday attendance which places it in the top 1 percent of U.S. churches. By late 2002, The Niceville United Methodist Church had reached an average Sunday attendance of 1,435, placing it in the top 1 percent. Thus, the First United Methodist Church, Niceville, Florida, is now considered a megachurch.

From www.fumcniceville.org and *Boggy Bayou – Around Niceville and Valparaiso*, Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, 2005, Arcadia Publishing

Pastors of the Niceville FUMC

B. F. Brown	1915 - 1920
— Floyd	1921 - 1922
— Price	1923 - 1925
G. E. Gafford	1926 - 1927
J. W. Gibson	1928 - 1929
A. H. Vanlandingham	1930 - 1933
P. B. Dansby	1934 - 1937
— White	1938 - 1939
J. F. Wachob	1939 - 1940
H. F. Wesley	1940 - 1943
D. M. Spivey	1944 - 1945
A. D. Shoemaker	1945 - 1948
G. G. Vickers	1949 - 1951
Haywood L. Scott	1952 - 1953
A. M. Shirah	1954 - 1958
A. C. Britt	1959 - 1961
W. J. Hughes	1962 - 1963
Sam E. Hudgens	1963 - 1967
F. R. Herlong	1967 - 1969
John T. Parker	1969 - 1974

Douglas C. Newton 1974 - 1983

Associate Pastor:
W. Judd Stinson 1976

Jeff L. Spicer 1977 - 1979
Bryant C. Wilson 1982 - 1983

J. Edward Chandler 1983 - 1999

Associate Pastors:
Bryant C. Wilson 1983 - 1984
Randal Woodham 1984 - 1988
Rian P. Kegerreis 1988 - 1990
Paul E. B. 1992 - 1996
Davis W. Rhodes 1996 - 1999

Rurel R. Ausley, Jr. 1998 - Present

Associate Pastors:
Davis W. Rhodes 1999 - 2001
Jeffrey C. French 2001 - 2005
Kevin Kelly 2005 - 2010
Jeremy Smith 2010 -

Silas Gibson, a Pioneer of the Wright Community

The name of Silas Gibson is legend in the Wright Community.

Scarcely a spadefull of dirt exists in that area that has escaped his plow and shovel, or has not passed through his ownership at one time or another. Much of the area's soil was fertilized by the once huge herd of dairy cattle that sustained Silas and his family on the old homestead in the early years following his arrival in 1916.



A Japanese persimmon tree planted by Silas or one of his sturdy sons during those years was still on the property I purchased in the mid-1950's and dubbed "Cloverdale". We never learned to like the baseball sized, pinkish-orange fruit, but hearing of Mr. Si's passionate love for them, I once took him a pokeful of the beauties that had somehow escaped the birds' bills. Since he was not at home, I left them on the stoop of his trailer. Next morning, I found on my

porch, the goldarndest passel of the greenest, tastiest, organically grown turnip greens I have ever eaten before or since. Si had delivered them long before the sun arose.

Years later, we would still be trying to make the best use of this tree's produce and so would hand it over to Mrs. Norene Ivey of Shalimar, who used it to make her delicious persimmon bread.

Silas Gibson was a short man who stood tall among his neighbors. He did more in seven decades working with antiquated tools and machinery than most of us could do in a lifetime with today's trucks and bulldozers. A wagon drawn by four mules helped him to move the earth of those first roadbeds where we now have multi-laned highways. Though he never held public office, county commissioners for many years sought his advice on the feasibility of construction projects.

It was in Wright that he planted the first and largest pecan orchard south of the Shoal River. The trees were planted during the first year that he occupied a small part of Section 34 with his wife, Alma, and young infant, Ray. Nothing tastes better than a good pecan, cracked the old fashioned way. The Hill family would capitalize on that fact in the late fifties and early sixties by harvesting the pecans and selling them to earn Christmas money.

"Childhood Memories of the 1920-30's in Camp Walton" by Leonard Ray Gibson

I was born in July, 1916, 4 months after my family moved here from Western Canada. I grew up in the Camp Walton area, on a dairy farm in Wright. I experienced a wonderful childhood involved in so many activities it would take a book to describe them. To make it brief I will just hit the high spots!

The population at that time was less than 90 people and I knew most by name and occupation. There were no paved roads or streets in the 20's, very few automobiles so practically no traffic. Freight and passengers came by boat from Pensacola. The only road out was an old sand clay road via Niceville to Crestview, with a wooden bridge over Shoal River, and small log fireplaces [sic] over Swift Creek, Lightwood Knot Creek and Gap Creek.

There were no doctors, dentists, lawyers, medical facilities, public utilities, buses or service stations. You only traveled in your own car (and there were very few), your own horse and buggy, or by boat.

I started to school in a small one-room red schoolhouse, where uncle Willie Pryor taught all grades 1 through 12.



No indoor facilities, everything was outdoors, including the toilets. In 1927 a new Elementary School was built to accommodate all grades through the 8th, and the high school students were bused to Niceville High. I went to Niceville my first 3 years and played basketball. None of the Okaloosa County high schools had a football program, so my senior year I transferred to Pensacola High and lettered in football, basketball and track. I was selected to the Florida All-State High School Basketball Team and received an Athletic Scholarship to Auburn University, where I

lettered in basketball, track and cross country. I was a started for every game and captain of the 1940 basketball team.

As a child and growing up, I did enjoy swimming, riding horseback and playing basketball. We always had a goal attached to the side of the building where we could practice shooting baskets, and later we had our own private outdoor clay court. These were great training activities for me in my later athletic career.

In 1934, after Brooks Bridge had been constructed across the Sound to the island, and a paved highway built down to Destin, Tom Brooks had a development built on the beach to attract summer tourists. Mr. Brooks contracted with my father, Silas Gibson, to build 17 cottages, a pier out into the gulf, a 65-foot observation tower, a dance pavilion, boardwalk and a casino and curio shop. My older brother Jack and I took lifeguard certification tests and Jack was given the job. I was his assistant, but for the next 6 summers I was the only paid lifeguard on duty at Tower Beach.

The Silas Gibson information here was written by Wiley Benjamin Hill, Jr. (1913-2000) and edited and submitted by Margaret M. Harris. The Ray Gibson information was written by Leonard Ray Gibson, Savannah, GA.

Both articles are contained in *The Heritage of Okaloosa County*, Volume I, 2004, Okaloosa County Heritage Book Committee and Heritage Publishing Consultants, Inc.

Civil War Sesquicentennial

Selected Highlights of November 1863

<http://blueandgraytrail.com>

November 2 President Lincoln is invited to make a few remarks at the dedication of the National Cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

November 4 Braxton Bragg orders James Longstreet to Knoxville to operate against Ambrose Burnside. Longstreet is the last of the generals that complained to Jefferson Davis about Bragg.

November 7 Battle of Rappahanock Station, George Meade, re-armed and re-supplied, crosses the Rappahannock and begins advancing on the Army of Northern Virginia.

November 7 Fort Sumter again falls under heavy shelling. It will last until November 10.

November 8 Bragg appoints Major General John Breckinridge to command Harvey Hill's corps.

November 9 President Abraham Lincoln goes to a play, The Marble Heart. John Wilkes Booth stars.

November 11 Benjamin Butler [US] returns to active duty, commanding the Department of Virginia and North Carolina

November 12 Following a couple of quiet days, federal shelling of Fort Sumter resumes.

November 15 Moving east from the Mississippi, General William Tecumseh Sherman arrives in Stevenson, Alabama with four divisions. Sherman then confers with Grant in Chattanooga.

November 16 Battle of Campbell's Station, Knoxville, Ambrose Burnside [US] withdraws following an attack by James Longstreet [CS].

November 18 President Abraham Lincoln, William Seward and Frank Blair, along with diplomats, foreign visitors, a military guard and a Marine band leave Washington D. C. on a "special" 4-car train organized by the B&O


November 19 At the dedication of the National Cemetery in Gettysburg President Lincoln delivers a two-minute speech. Immediately following the speech he calls it a "flat failure." The speech is known today as the Gettysburg Address

November 20 Federals began heavy bombardment of Fort Sumter. It will continue, off and on, through December 4.

November 22 Completely unaware of the federal build-up in Chattanooga, Braxton Bragg detaches Buckner's Corps and orders him to join Longstreet in Knoxville.

THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

DELIVERED
BY
ABRAHAM
LINCOLN
NOV. 19 1863



AT THE
DEDICATION
SERVICES
ON THE
BATTLE FIELD

Fourscore and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. *** Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. *** We are met on a great battle-field of that war. *** We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. *** It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. *** But in a larger sense we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. *** The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember, what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. *** It is for us, the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us, that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion; *** that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that the government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth

November 24 Battle of Lookout Mountain, Joseph Hooker [US] engages forces under Carter Stevenson [CS] on the slopes of Lookout Mountain, Tennessee.

November 25 Battle of Missionary Ridge, Chattanooga, Three Union armies attacked the Army of Tennessee atop Missionary Ridge, east of downtown Chattanooga.

November 26 As proclaimed by President Lincoln, a Day of Thanksgiving is observed.

November 27 General John Hunt Morgan [CS] escapes from the Ohio State Penitentiary

November 28 In Dalton, Georgia, Braxton Bragg telegraphs his resignation to President Davis.

November 30 President Davis accepts Bragg's resignation and appoints William Hardee in temporary command of the Army of Tennessee.

Events, Groups, and Sites of GSOC Interest

Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida Saturday, November 2, 2013

Wine Tasting to benefit the Museum

Spend time with family and friends at the *Compass Rose – On the Bayou Wine Tasting*, Saturday, November 2, 2pm – 4pm. Enjoy Food, Wine, a Silent Auction and live Native American flute music from local musician Terri D. Proceeds to benefit the *Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida*. Tickets \$20, available at www.heritage-museum.org, 850-678-2615, Compass Rose or the Museum.

Location: Compass Rose, 303 Glen Avenue, Valparaiso (850) 389-2125. Cost: \$20; \$15 for Museum Members. Become a NEW Member for \$50 and get two tickets Free.


North Okaloosa Historical Association, Inc. - bakerblockmuseum.org

**Saturday
November 2, 2013**

Baker Heritage Festival

Baker Block Museum
Hwy 189 & SR 4
Baker, FL.

9am – 4pm



"If we don't preserve the history and culture of our families and community, who will?"

Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida Friday, November 8, 2013

115 Westview Ave., Valparaiso, FL 32580

Free lunchtime lecture

"The Real Truth about the Pilgrims", an in-depth look at the pilgrims before they came to America, will be presented by Beverly Gross during *History Sandwiched-In*.

Bring a sandwich and take your lunch break at this informal lunchtime education program. This lecture is free and open to the public. SPACE IS LIMITED. Please call to reserve a seat. (850) 678-2615

West Florida Genealogical Society November 9, 2013

The WFGS Fall Seminar

Washington High School Auditorium,
6000 College Parkway, Pensacola, FL

Speaker: Megan Smolenyak - Popular genealogist, speaker and author of six books. Pre-Registration: WFGS Members: \$35.00; Non-Members: \$40.00; On site Registration (8-9 AM): \$40.00. Continental Breakfast Included.

For more information, visit the WFGS web site:

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flwfgs/>

Click on 2013 Calendar. Scroll down to Nov. 9 for speaker's topics, map & directions and registration form.

Rocky Bayou State Park, Niceville, FL Saturday, November 16, 2013, 10 AM – 3 PM Pioneer Day

Park fees are waived and food will be available for purchase. Participate in activities such as making rag dolls and dipping candles; enjoy demonstrations such as campfire cooking and basket weaving. Listen to live dulcimer and flute music and the storyteller. See Civil War re-enactor groups at their campsites.

Location: Highway 20, just east of the Rocky Bayou Bridge. In case of rain it will be rescheduled to Sunday, Nov. 17, 2013 from 12 PM to 3 PM. No pets.

Crestview Public Library Saturday, November 16, 2013

American Indian Hunting Camp

NOTE DATE CHANGE FROM 11/2

Relive the past with Blue Heron (Wah-ka-chobee), a Seminole/Creek Indian. Farris Powell presents a unique historical impression of the Seminole warrior at the turn of the 19th century on Sat., Nov. 16th from 1-3 PM at the Crestview Public Library.

See history come to life in an authentic 1830's hunting camp in a program designed for children and adults. Bring blankets or lawn chairs and dress appropriately for the weather.

The library is at 1445 Commerce Drive behind the Post Office in north Crestview. In case of rain the program will be held under the Old Spanish Trail Park pavilion at the Stillwell Blvd and Industrial Dr. in north Crestview. Call 850.682.4432. Contact: Heather Nitzel, Youth Services Librarian hnitzel@okaloosa.lib.fl.us or Sandra Dreaden, Reference Librarian sdreaden@okaloosa.lib.fl.us

November 16, 2013, St. Simon's Episcopal Church What's In Your Genes?

St. Simon's Episcopal Church Women will host Charlene Grafton, retired Nurse Case Manager and author, on Saturday, Nov. 16 at 9 AM in the Parish Hall on Highway 98 in downtown Fort Walton Beach. She will share information from her 7th non-fiction book "What's in Your Genes?" and will explain the importance of your family health history with reasons for finding your ancestors by linking the human threads of your genes and your genetics. She will share information now available to individuals to research and learn about their genetic heritage. This will help prepare listeners for changes in the personal health care which will reshape our current medical system. A book signing will be available after the presentation. To register, please call St. Simon's office at 244-8621.

Highlights from the Bay County Genealogical Society Fall Seminar by Donna Elliott

Autosomal DNA and 23andMe by Jerry Merritt, West Florida Genealogical Society

Through an entertaining Power Point presentation Merritt explained the three different types of DNA testing – Y DNA (paternal line), Mitochondrial DNA (maternal line), and Autosomal DNA (all lines), and key genetic genealogy terms and concepts as a preparation for those planning to attend Megan Smolenyak's Seminar on Nov. 9. Some of the reasons for Autosomal DNA testing – (1) to solve a genealogy problem not more than 5 or 6 generations back, (2) if you are adopted and want to find your birth parents, (3) if you want to get a health report based on your DNA, (4) for future generations, or (5) to contact others who share DNA with you. Note: You need to also test living relatives (parents, aunts, and uncles) on both sides of the family. The greater the number of samples, the more meaningful the results.

Three companies currently offer \$99 testing: www.23andme.com, www.familytreedna.com, www.dna.ancestry.com. Each has detailed reports; however, results from each company can also be uploaded to www.gedmatch.com.

Some other helpful Genetic Genealogy web sites: <https://sites.google.com/site/wheatonsurname/beginners-guide-to-genetic-genealogy>
<http://www.dnaexplain.com/Publications/Publications.asp>

To view Jerry Merritt's PP presentation:
<http://pensacolalinks.com/autosome.ppt>

The Top Ten Breakthrough Technologies by Douglas Dunks, professional genealogist

Various websites and technologies available via a computer or smartphone to help the family history researcher were demonstrated. Some were not genealogy specific, but each had definite advantages. The following were the most useful:

- (1) Digital Libraries: Internet Archive, <http://archive.org>; Family Search, <https://booksfamilysearch.org>
- (2) Scanning: CamScanner, <https://www.camscanner.net>; ShoeBox, <http://shoobox.ancestry.com>
- (3) Notetaking: Evernote, <http://evernote.com>; RedNotebook, <http://rednotebook.sourceforge.net>
- (4) Data Storage: Dropbox, <http://www.dropbox.com>; Google Drive, <https://drive.google.com>; Copy, <http://www.copy.com>
- (5) Document Management: Doo, <https://doo.net/en/>. Connects and organizes all data stored in the Cloud!
- (6) Help: MakeUseOf, <http://makeuseof.com>. Free shortcuts, guides, and cheat sheets.

Timelines: How to Make Sense of all that Research! by Judy Bennett, long-time member of the Bay County Genealogical Society.

Using a personal case study as an example, Judy demonstrated the use of three tools – timelines, reports to recognize potential problems, and the research log to (1) make sense of all the research, (2) help organize an ancestor's life, (3) spot contradictory information, (4) see

gaps or holes where more research is needed, (5) break down brick walls, (6) help write a biography, and (7) work more efficiently!

She went through the steps and various documents or events used in constructing a timeline and gave suggestions for how and where to build a timeline. Some suggestions – tables in a word processor, spreadsheets like Excel, database programs such as Family Tree Maker, the Master Genealogist, or Roots Magic, and web-based services such as Ancestry.com. If your database program does not have a "problem report" feature, then it is important to take extra time to scan the timeline for conflicts, inconsistencies, and illogical data.

The research log should include: date of research; place of research, including city, county, and state; title, author, publisher, and page numbers; library and call numbers. It is also helpful to make comments if NO information was found, or if at a later date, the information was found not to be applicable to the person you are researching. It prevents a lot of backtracking and looking at the same resources multiple times.

Using Library Online Resources & Interlibrary Loans Darby Syrkin, librarian at Bay County Public Library

Although some of the information presented, i.e., process for obtaining genealogy-related material via an Interlibrary Loan was specific to the Northwest Regional Library System, the Okaloosa County Public Library Cooperative has a similar process and on-line request form. The following is the link to the ILL information: http://www.readokaloosa.org/ill_info.html.

It was suggested that for non-circulating genealogical materials needed from other libraries, that the request be as specific as possible, and include table of contents and indexes to pinpoint the pages needed. This will minimize copy and scan costs.

Web links to several online resources were provided: (1) Florida Electronic Library – provides access to electronic magazines, journals, newspapers, almanacs, encyclopedia, and books. <http://www.flelibrary.org/?> (2) Florida Memory Project – archival resources housed in the State Library and Archives. <http://www.floridamemory.com/>. (3) American Memory - gateway to the Library of Congress's resources of digitized American historical materials. <http://memory.loc.gov>. (4) Google Scholar - a web resource that allows users to search for journal articles, citations, theses, preprints and book availability on the web. <http://scholar.google.com>. (5) Princeton University Genealogy Guide – provides a connection to digital collections at a number of colleges and universities. <http://www.princetonlibrary.org/explore/online-resources/genealogy>.

There were four GSOC members in attendance. I think all will agree that the real "highlight" of the day was the delicious BBQ lunch and the generous snack items provided throughout the seminar!

Eli Whitney

Helped to cause the Civil War and helped the North to win it

Whitney is most famous for two innovations which later divided the United States in the mid-19th century: the cotton gin (short for 'engine') in 1793; and, later, his pioneering work with and advocacy of interchangeable parts.



In the South, the cotton gin revolutionized the way marketable cotton was produced and reinvigorated slavery. In the North the adoption of interchangeable parts revolutionized the manufacturing industry, and contributed

greatly to the North's victory in the Civil War.

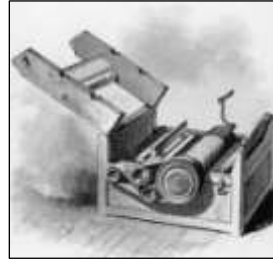
Before his invention of the cotton gin, slavery was dying in the South. The price of tobacco had plummeted, cotton was a troublesome crop – its fiber could only be separated from the sticky embedded seeds by hand, a grueling and exhausting process; and planters began to realize that it was too expensive to maintain slaves, compared to the value of what they could produce.

This changed dramatically, of course, with the advent of the cotton gin. Suddenly cotton became a lucrative crop and a major export for the South. However, because of this increased demand, many more slaves were needed to grow cotton and harvest the fields. Slave ownership became a fiery national issue and eventually led to the Civil War.

Because his stepmother opposed his wish to attend college, Whitney worked as a farm laborer and school teacher to save money. He entered Yale in the Class of 1789, and graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 1792. Whitney expected to study law but, finding himself short of funds, accepted an offer to go to South Carolina as a private tutor.

When he initially sailed for South Carolina, among his shipmates were the widow and family of Revolutionary hero, Gen. Nathanael Greene of Rhode Island. Mrs. Greene invited Whitney to visit her Georgia plantation, Mulberry Grove. Her plantation manager and husband-to-be was Phineas Miller, another Yale graduate, who would become Whitney's business partner. The Greene plantation raised some cotton, and after getting into a discussion with several plantation owners about the fact there was no economical method of separating

seeds from cotton fiber, Whitney recognized it could be done mechanically.



He spent the next few months building a prototype. The gin itself comprised a rotating drum with wire hooks or ratchet-like teeth that pulled cotton fibers between the teeth of a comb. The comb had teeth spaced too closely for seeds to pass through. A

second drum, rotating faster than the first and carrying brushes, served to dislodge the cotton fibers from the first. This was driven, along with the larger drum, by a belt-and-pulley arrangement typically having a four-to-one ratio. Cotton bolls were loaded into a hopper, which guided them to the face of the comb. After being pulled through by the toothed cylinder, the separated cotton fibers emerged at the left and the seeds collected to the right.

Whitney's design was almost immediately stolen and counterfeited a vast number of times. After years of patent litigation he received only a tiny fraction of the wealth to which he was entitled.

In 1798, Whitney launched a new venture: arms manufacturing. Once again he observed carefully, noting a war scare with France, and delivered something necessary and innovative: arms that he claimed he could produce more efficiently with the help of machines. His idea of machine-made, interchangeable parts was the beginning of what would



become known as the "American system" of mass production. Although other Americans would create this system in their industries, it was Whitney who popularized the idea and was instrumental in lobbying politicians to pass legislation to standardize arms production.

Wikipedia and other Internet Sources

GSOC INFORMATION

Officers for 2013

President, Donna Elliott (850 585-1739)
 1st VP (Programs), Ken Elliott (850 678-5452)
 2nd VP (Membership), Sue Basch (850 865-6637)
 2nd VP (Membership) Asst, Carol Lessard (850 678-4567)
 Treasurer, Bob Basch (850 897-3310)
 Recording Secretary, Pat Pruett (850 678-2023)
 Asst Recording Secretary, Frances Hoge
 Corresponding Secretary, Jim Young (850 862-8642)
Immediate Past President, Malcolm Flanagan
Journal Editor, Malcolm Flanagan (850 217-9455)
Historian, TBD
Genealogist, Margaret Harris (margmarieh@cox.net)
Publicity Chairperson, TBD
Webmaster & Newsletter Editor, Jim Young (850 862-8642)

(Elected, Appointed, and Ex Officio positions)

Addresses

P.O. Box 1175, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-1175
 Web Site: <http://www.rootswest.com/~flocgs>
 Email: gsocokaloosa@yahoo.com
 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 2012 issue, Volume XXXIV, Issue 101, was published and distributed in November 2012.

The Web Site

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

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



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

Meeting Location



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

GSOC Publications

Volume I (out of print), Cemeteries of Okaloosa County, Florida 24 cemeteries east of the Yellow River & north of the Shoal River and I-10	Out of print but available on CD, see below
Volume II (out of print), Cemeteries of Okaloosa County, Florida 26 cemeteries north and west 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 <u>searchable</u> PDF files containing the books listed above: 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	\$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 in conjunction with the West Florida Genealogical Society Annual Fall Seminar on Saturday, November 9th, at the Washington High School Auditorium in Pensacola. Details are on page 1 of this newsletter. Registration/check-in will begin at 8 AM and the seminar will begin at 8:50 AM.

"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

