

THE GSOC NEWSLETTER

The Genealogical Society of
Okaloosa County, Florida

November 1, 2014

Next GSOC Meeting

November 8, 2014



Our November 8th program will begin at 10 AM at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida. The speaker will be Nicole Grinnan from the Florida Public Archeology Network (FPAN) who will speak about "Tombstone Tales; Cemeteries, Symbols & Stories."

Ms. Grinnan graduated with a Master's degree in Historical Archaeology from the University of West Florida, as well as with a Bachelor's degree in Anthropology and a Bachelor's degree in History from the University of Central Florida. Before joining FPAN as the Northwest Regional Center's Public Archaeology Coordinator in 2012, Nicole worked as an intern with the NASA History Division, FPAN, and Biscayne National Park.

Her research interests include maritime archaeology and history, public interpretation of maritime cultural resources, and social history.

The November meeting will also include the election of GSOC officers for 2015.

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GSOC Christmas Party

December 13, 2014
Boathouse Landing, Valparaiso, FL
11:00 am

See Page 8 for more information including menu choices and prices.

GSOC Meeting Minutes for October October 11, 2014

Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida
Donna Elliott, Acting Recording Secretary

President Jim Young called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM and welcomed 26 members and guest speaker, Bert Blackmon. Other officers present were 1st VP Del Lessard, 2nd VP Sue Basch, Treasurer Bob Basch, and Corresponding Secretary Carl Laws.

President Young said that the minutes of the September meeting are in the October Newsletter and on the GSOC website. He then heard the motion to approve the minutes as printed. Charlene Grafton made the motion and Del Lessard seconded. The motion was approved.

Jim asked if everyone had received the October Newsletter that was sent out on October 1. He noted that the humorous article, "Poke Salad Bessie", was written by his nephew.

President Young then called for a report by Donna Elliott, Chairman of the Nominating Committee for the 2015 slate of officers. Donna thanked members, Beverly Gross and Val Moreland, for helping her put together the proposed slate. With the exception of Sue Basch, 2nd Vice President/Membership, Chairman Elliott reported that all of the current elected officers had agreed to continue in their positions for another year, and Charlene Grafton had agreed to accept the nomination for the 2nd VP position. The proposed slate of officers for 2015 are: **Jim Young, President; Del Lessard, 1st Vice President/Programs; Charlene Grafton, 2nd Vice President/Membership; Bob Basch, Treasurer; Pat Pruett, Recording Secretary; Carl Laws, Corresponding Secretary.** There were no nominations from the floor. Margaret Harris made a motion, seconded by Carol Lessard, that the proposed slate be accepted as presented. President Young announced that the election of officers would be held at the November meeting and the installation at the annual meeting in December.

Officers' Reports:

1st VP for Programs, Del Lessard, said that the November program would be given by a member of the UWF Archaeology department and would feature symbology and the dating of grave stones. Hank Klein will present the program at the January meeting based on his new book about the "founders of Destin".

Del asked for a show of hands by those planning to attend the "dutch treat" lunch following the meeting. Twelve people indicated they planned to go to lunch at Ruby Tuesday's. Del then asked guest, Bert Blackmon, to

choose two random numbers for the door prizes contributed by Val Moreland – fig preserves and a 1940 census t-shirt. Robin Stiles and Sue Basch were the door prize winners.

2nd VP for Membership, Sue Basch, reported that we had one new member sign up at the last meeting – Sue Donavin.

Treasurer, Bob Basch, passed the “Blue Box” for donations to purchase materials for the genealogy libraries and to support our journal.

Carl Laws, Corresponding Secretary, reported that there were quite a few journals from other societies on the table at the back of the room and invited everyone to look at them after the meeting.

Val Moreland, Publicity Chairman, said that the Northwest Florida Daily News had printed the announcement of this month’s meeting, but it did not appear in the Bay Beacon or Destin Log. She is also having problems getting society pictures published in the newspapers and has started eliminating the dates of the pictures.

Valparaiso Library Liaison, Charlene Grafton, reported that David Weatherford has completed re-arranging the genealogy collections and told her they had an adequate budget at this time for any books or publications, but they are not able to offer Ancestry.com to their patrons. It was noted that both the Family History Center and the Mary Esther Library provide free access to that website.

Margaret Harris, Genealogist, noted that Dean DeBolt, archivist at UWF Special Collections, is currently collecting brochures from various societies and organizations and suggested that the GSOC brochure be submitted for their collection.

Announcements:

President Jim Young reported that he had received a “thank you” letter from the Heritage Museum thanking the society for renewing their membership. He also stated

that VP Del Lessard had been working on plans for the December meeting and it has been decided that it will be held at The Boathouse Landing. Details will be forthcoming at the next meeting and in the newsletter.

Val Moreland reported that she is obtaining prices for GSOC shirts – both collared and T-shirts.

With no further business, the meeting was turned over to Program Chairman, Del Lessard, who introduced the guest speaker, Bert Blackmon, retired Army, retired history teacher, and reenactor for the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, who presented a very entertaining and informative program on how to research military records.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.

Recently Received Publications from other Societies

Carl Laws, Corresponding Secretary

The Mesquite Tree, Vol. 50, June 2014 No. 1
Montgomery Gen. Society Journal Vol. 21 No. 1 Jan - July 2014
Kinfolks Vol. 38 No. 3 September 2014
The Register, Vol. 112, No. 3, Summer 2014
Walking Back in Time, Vol. 25, No. 3, Sept. 2014
Pea River Trails, Vol. 39, No. 1, Summer 2014
Oklahoma Gen. Soc. Quarterly, Vol. 59, No. 3, Sept. 2014
Suwannee Valley Genealogy, Vol. 16, No. 3, Fall 2014
Butler Co. Hist & Gen Soc. Quarterly, Vol. 50, No. 4, Oct. 2014
Southern Echos, Vol. 36, No. 2, Oct. 2014
Genealogical Gazette, Vol. 32, No. 3, Aug. 2014
Buried Treasures, Vol. 46, No. 2, April-June 2014
Tennessee Ancestors, Vol. 29., No. 1, June 2013

GSOC Officer Nominations and Election for 2015

The following slate of nominees for GSOC officer positions for 2015 was presented by the Nominations Committee at the October 11th, 2014 meeting. There being no additional nominations “from the floor”, the members voted to accept the slate of nominees as presented.

Slate of Nominees

President, James Young
1st Vice President (Programs), Del Lessard
2nd Vice President (Membership), Charlene Grafton
Treasurer, Bob Basch,
Recording Secretary, Pat Pruett
Corresponding Secretary, Carl Laws

Voting for GSOC officers for 2015 will take place at the GSOC General Meeting on November 8, 2014, at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida at 10:00 am.

According to Article IV, Section 3, of the GSOC By-Laws, “A quorum at any meeting of the Society shall consist of (10) members, including two elected officers. Motions shall be carried by a simple majority vote, except where Bylaws provide otherwise.” Those elected will be installed at the December 13, 2014 meeting.

The Yellow Rose of Schoona

by M.D.L. Stephens (writing under the name "Rambler")

published in 1903 in the *Calhoun Monitor*, Pittsboro, Miss.

In the cold, dreary winter of 1852, just after the organization of Calhoun County, Mississippi, quite a number of citizens of Spring and Brushy Creeks were sitting in a rude log cabin by the roadside, where John McCord kept a store, lightly stocked with the necessities of life, discussing the new county and squirting tobacco on the old, rickety stove.

Bob Brown, the Postmaster, (for there had recently been established at this place a post office called Banner), came around and stood in the door. Snow and sleet were falling thick and fast and the cold north wind howled through the towering pines and drifted snow against the rude fences. All nature seemed at war--and the howling storm quelled the spirit of those pioneers, who were acquainted with trouble and knew danger and privations.

"The coldest day I ever felt," said Bob. "Everything outside is freezing."

While the men were buttoning up their coats, preparatory to breasting the storm enroute to their homes, Bob looked eastward along the road and saw a lone woman trudging through the snow storm, coming in the direction of the store. She soon appeared at the door and asked permission to warm at the fire. The gentlemen gallantly gave way and tendered her a seat near the stove.

"Bad weather to be out," remarked McCord, the merchant.

"Quite unpleasant," replied the woman in soft, sweet voice.

She was well and comfortably clad, and had in her hand a well filled grip. She was tall and well formed, with a handsome figure and soft, appealing eyes. Her hair was long, dark and wavy, and her skin was a soft yellow--not quite as dark as the Indian. Her features were animated and her countenance sparkled with every change of expression. her step, quick and elastic; voice, soft and musical; her language, pure and faultless English and her age about 22 years.

The men soon started for home through the drifting storm, and left McCord, Brown and Sid Brantley and the woman still clustered about the stove. The able, big-hearted Brantley asked the woman how it happened that she was caught out in the storm, and where she was going in all this bad weather.

After some hesitation, she answered in a low, musical voice, "I am part Indian and I am making my way to the Indian Nation, where my tribe, the Chickasaws, went in 1836. I was then a small girl living with my grandmother. My mother, a Chickasaw died when I was a baby. My father, a white man, went with the tribe. My grandmother, being very old, was left with me. After grandmother died, I was taken by a nice family of whites, who gave me a home, taught me the art of dressmaking

and educated me. But I could not forget my brothers and sisters in the Indian Nation and at last resolved at every hazard, to make my way to them. I have no money or friends that I can call upon for assistance, so I am trying to make my way afoot."

Her simple story touched Mr. Brantley's heart, and he cordially invited her to his nearby home. She, with some hesitation, accepted his generous invitation and accompanied him home, where she remained until the storm was over.

In conversation, on the way home, Brantley asked her name. She modestly answered, "Bombazelle McAllister". She was introduced to the family and assured that she could make her home with them until the weather settled. She was assigned a room with Brantley's oldest daughter.

The next day was still cold and blustery and the ladies were confined to their rooms. The stranger soon became familiar with the family. Miss Brantley had a nice new dress pattern she was preparing to make up. Bombazelle examined the goods with great care and suggested how it should be designed. Sissy was delighted. Bombazelle took her measure--a thing heretofore unknown in these wild woods--and she assisted in making the dress. The family was delighted with the attractive design and the gracious fit of the dress.

Hence, the news spread rapidly throughout the neighborhood that a marvelous designer and dressmaker was stopping at Sid Brantley's--and the blushing lassies in all the region gathered 'round to have Bombazelle cut and fashion their dresses. She moved from home to home as her services were requested, and at night, occupied rooms and beds with the young ladies of the community.



The snow storm had passed, but Bombazelle remained, kept busy cutting out and making dresses. She was well paid and was kindly received by every family. She was ready and willing to give the young ladies instructions in cutting materials and in dressmaking. She was a fine talker and a lovely girl, her color rather dark, but being part Indian, this was understood.

She soon became the Belle of Banner, and the boys called her "The Yellow Rose of Schoona", and she received the attention of all the nice young men in the neighborhood. John McCord fell desperately in love with Bombazelle, and after a spirited contest with the young swains about Banner, won her heart. McCord was, as the term was known in those far-off days, "well-off". He had a good house, servants and quite a number of Negro slaves. The couple was married at Brantley's home, Esquire John Hankins making the happy couple man and wife. There was quite a gathering at the wedding, and, as was the custom, all who wished, were privileged to kiss the bride, as did some of the girls and women present.

The springtime, in all its beauty, was rapidly approaching. The dogwoods were budding, the birds were all a-twitter and the geese were flying north to their faraway homes. Bombazelle was happy in the home of John McCord. She had a husband who was a leader in the young county and was loved and admired by everyone. She also had Old Sylvia, her trusted servant, and her flock of boys and girls, to attend to her every want. She kept a close eye on the servants, and they had to "toe the mark". She had her rooms well furnished, wore wonderful clothes, and kept everything about the place in "apple pie" order. Every servant jumped when she spoke, for she was a firm mistress, and ran the house with energy and ability.

McCord, too, was happy with his beautiful wife and his elegantly arranged home. The "Yellow Rose" was happy and excited because she was the leader in style and fashion in the whole county. She was constantly sought out and consulted about dresses and was a close friend to the young belles for miles around.

Spring opened in all its glory. The whippoorwills sang at evening, the sun smiled all day on the new fields, just wrested from the primeval forests, and the birds and animals made love in the swamps and endless forests. Late one afternoon, a fine looking gentleman was seen riding a splendid blooded horse into Banner. Mrs. McCord (Bombazelle) observed him--and, in consternation, made it convenient to disappear at once.

The traveler alighted and entered the saddle shop owned by J. Brown, and after passing the compliments of the season, inquired if there had been seen in that place a woman who had disappeared. He gave an accurate description of Mrs. McCord.

Bob hesitated, looked wise and gave an evasive answer.

Night was approaching, so the stranger asked if there was a house of entertainment in town. Brown directed him to Mr. Arnold's home, just west of town. He made his business known to Mr. Arnold, and said he had traced the woman to Banner--and that she was his Negro house servant and seamstress--and that she had run away from the family home at Aberdeen, Miss.

Arnold repeated to him the story of Bombazelle's appearance, her captivation of the community and her marriage to John McCord months before.

"That's my Negro," said the stranger, "she is almost white in appearance and is very smart."

It is hardly necessary to add that the people of Banner were stirred up and greatly excited by his revelation. The belles and beaux were crestfallen. The girls who had entertained and associated with Bombazelle were dumbfounded. The idea of having so cordially entertained this servant in their homes was humiliating. And the young men who had called upon Bombazelle and sought her hand were shocked beyond expression while the older men, who had so fondly kissed the yellow blushing bride, were punched in the ribs by their wives for having embraced the woman in their presence.

But the "Yellow Rose"! Where was she? McAllister (the stranger) could not find her anywhere. She had suddenly and mysteriously disappeared. McCord was wild and miserable. His happiness was swept away in the wrinkling of an eye. Dispirited and troubled, he stood about, wondering what to do! His wife, with his knowledge, had been secreted in a cabin on Schoona, there to await the issue. McCord was a good man, law-abiding and honest, yet he did not know but that McAllister was a fraud.

McAllister posted off to Hartford (the community now known as Oldtown, which was the county seat at that time), here he learned that the marriage certificate had been issued to John McCord and Bombazelle McAllister, and that it had been returned by Esq. Hankins. He at once instituted suit against John McCord and his securities, for marrying a Negro, contrary to the laws of the State of Mississippi.

McCord's friends were in close consultation all day, devising ways and means to extricate McCord from his dilemma.

Brantley, with a keen eye to business, also went to Hartford, and there met McAllister. Brantley, being always a friend for anyone in distress, had a long interview with McAllister, and induced him to suspend legal proceedings until he could see McCord, assuring him that it was a fraud practiced on McCord, and McCord truly believed that she was part Indian, but had never dreamed that she was a runaway slave--and that she would be found and returned to McAllister.

Old Sylvia was the happiest Negro in the county. She and her children clapped their hands at being relieved of such a hard head mistress.

Brantley returned to McAllister that afternoon, after having a long talk with McCord and Brown, entertained him that night and promised him that Bombazelle would be forthcoming in the morning.

So, in the morning, bright and early, "The yellow Rose of Schoona" fondly embraced Mr. McCord, bid him an affectionate farewell, and promptly reported to her master, and they departed for Aberdeen, their home.

The author of this story

M. D. L. Stephens led an eventful life, as physician, civilian and soldier through some stormy periods in southern history. For many years before the Civil War, Dr. Stephens practiced his profession, riding through the, then, almost trackless wilds and mingling with the old pioneers and quaint characters.

After he retired, Col. Stephens began writing stories for the Calhoun county weekly, *The Monitor*, under the nom-de-plume of "Rambler". His stories became quite popular with *Monitor* readers because he wrote the truth as he heard it and as he remembered the incidents.

Follow-up

According to *The Monitor Herald* when **Yellow Rose** was reprinted in 1972, Dr. W. A. Evans of Aberdeen, Miss. researched the story of Bombazelle McAllister in the 1940's. He reported that in the county courthouse records there he found advertisements by the man McAllister, giving notice that his slave, Bombazelle McAllister, had run away. After McAllister took her back to Aberdeen, he sold her at once, as she had given trouble before. The money paid for Bombazelle went into the building of a new McAllister home, located in the city of Aberdeen. Dr. Evans reported that no further evidence of Bombazelle existed locally after she was sold away from Aberdeen.

"Passing"

Runaway slaves who were able to "pass" into white society have been documented many times. One such article about "white" slaves includes the following:

With so many white slaves throughout the South, it is not surprising that curiosity would exist as to their ability to escape North and there pass into white society.

Such an inquiry was made by Frederick Law Olmsted, a reporter for the New York Times who traveled extensively throughout the slave states. During a visit to a plantation in the spring of 1854 he recorded a dialogue he had with two overseers.

One of them pointed out a slave while she was working in the field and said, "That one is pure white; you see her hair?" (It was straight and sandy.) ... It was not uncommon, he said to see slaves so white that they could not be easily distinguished from pure blooded whites...

"Now," said I, "if that girl should dress herself well, and run away, would she be suspected of being a slave? (I could see nothing myself by which to distinguish her, as she walked by, from an ordinary poor white girl.)"

"Oh, yes; you might not know her if she got to the North, but any of us would know her.

"How?" I said.

"By her language and manners."

"But if she had been brought up as [a] house servant?"

"Perhaps not in that case."

Quoted by Lawrence Tenzer in "The Forgotten Cause of the Civil War: A New Look at the Slavery Issue."



\$100 REWARD
WILL be given for the apprehension and delivery of my Servant Girl **HARRIET**. She is a light mulatto, 21 years of age, about 5 feet 4 inches high, of a thick and corpulent habit, having on her head a thick covering of black hair that curls naturally, but which can be easily combed straight. She speaks easily and fluently, and has an agreeable carriage and address. Being a good seamstress, she has been accustomed to dress well, has a variety of very fine clothes, made in the prevailing fashion, and will probably appear, if abroad, tricked out in gay and fashionable finery. As this girl absconded from the plantation of my son without any known cause or provocation, it is probable she designs to transport herself to the North.
The above reward, with all reasonable charges, will be given for apprehending her, or securing her in any prison or jail within the U. States.
All persons are hereby forewarned against harboring or entertaining her, or being in any way instrumental in her escape, under the most rigorous penalties of the law.
JAMES NORCOM.
Edenton, N. C. June 30

A Runaway Slave Advertisement

Images from Google Images

Milton Kornegay, Somewhere in Florida

Somewhere in Florida, Jan 2, 1940

Dearest Mother,

This afternoon I took off from Maxwell Field in a big bomber, a B-18 for Eglin Field, Florida. I had the best seat of all. I sat in the gunner's pit right in the nose with glass on all sides I had a fine view. Some of the boys were back in body of the ship and couldn't see a thing. We were about 1-1/2 hours flying over here and we had a fine trip.



When we got here they issued us bedding and assigned us to tents. There are three of us in a tent. Hicks, Red, and I. It is cold here and we have cranky little wood stoves for heat, but we get along. We have four blankets each and I think that's enough cover for us.

This place is pretty nice and it is easy to get a hop from here to Barksdale and the C.O. here is very nice about passes.

I believe I will like it here because there's some work to do. I have the job of cutting the wood for our tent. Red tends the stove and Hicks keeps the tent clean.

There are about 150 men here and we are about 25 miles from the nearest town and 60 miles from Pensacola.

There's plenty of work here and a good chance for a rating because they are building up the Field. We are well fed and I'll soon be getting the rest of my clothes.

I may get paid about the 10th and if I do I'll send you back the three dollars I borrowed. If I don't I'll send it to you when I do get it.

I'm glad I left Maxwell Field because I was stagnating and getting fat there. I weighed 240 when I left and I hope I can work it off and come down to about 210.

Write me soon as you can to the new address. Tell all the folks hello and be sure and tell Mrs. Callahan hello for me. I got Henry's letter.

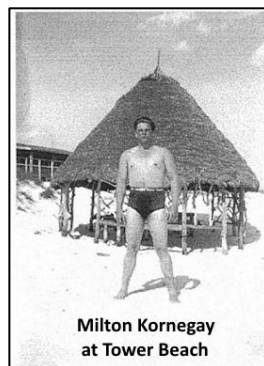
Your loving son, Milton

Eglin Field in early 1940: only three planes on the flight line and all the buildings were temporary. There were 110 enlisted men and 3 officers. Chickens were kept in a fenced-in yard. Wild pigs roamed at will and were frequently hit as soldiers followed the roads out through the woods to the gunnery ranges. Many learned how to butcher hogs just to have pork on the table.

Milton's letters to his mother over the next few years indicated that he liked his "someplace in Florida". He and his good friend, Hayes, each bought a motorcycle which made it a lot easier to court the pretty girls in all the surrounding towns. Their weekdays were filled with long hours on the Gunnery Range, but on weekends they enjoyed the beach. They spent a lot of time at Tower Beach. The thatched huts and pavilion at Tower Beach were in the area where the Radisson is now. The Valparaiso Inn was another popular gathering place.

By 1943, two years after WWII was declared, Eglin was booming and the towns surrounding Eglin were ill-equipped to handle the influx of soldiers and their brides. The little summer cottages along the Sound and Bayous

were filled year-round now. Everyone striving toward the same goal - Victory!



Milton Kornegay
at Tower Beach

Milton and his buddy, Joe Cletcher, had ventured as far away as Mobile, Alabama, on their motorcycles to visit young ladies they had met. Joe met and married his girl in Mobile and not long after that Milton began heading his motorcycle over to Daphne, Alabama, to visit his girl, Dorothy.

On July 22, 1943, Milton and Dorothy Sirmon were married in Daphne and moved into an apartment at Hotel Cedars in Mary Esther that same day. The rooms on both floors of Hotel Cedars on Santa Rosa Sound (site of Cedars Condos now) were filled with many couples who shared a common bath and kitchen. The Kornegays were very lucky to be in a three-room "apartment". These three rooms were inter-connected and a tiny room with basin and commode was tacked onto one end. Imagine Dorothy's shock when she realized she had to walk across the hotel yard to the communal bath to get a shower! And on her wedding night!

In spite of that, living on the Sound, she recalled later, was a wonderful experience. "We walked the beach and watched the dolphins play; and the tugboats made a comforting sound at night as they went down the waterway. We could walk across the road to squirrel hunt. One day the guys caught a raccoon on the drive home from work and they built a cage for it. They had a lot of fun with their pet, and then he disappeared. The story was that somebody decided to have raccoon stew. Who knows?"

Three of Dorothy and Milton's children were born at Eglin in the old hospital that looked like barracks. In 1944 when James Milton, their first child, was born, all of the new mothers were in a common ward, probably 20 of them lined up in a double row of beds. In 1950 Donald Francis, their second child, was born at the Eglin Hospital, attended by a civilian doctor. By the time their daughter Marian Elizabeth (McBryde) was born in 1951, the mothers had semi-private rooms. Their son, Dennis Michael was born in 1955 at the Philadelphia Naval Hospital, Pennsylvania, and their daughter Karen Marie (Lusk), was born in 1961 at the Hamilton AFB Hosp, California.

Milton Kornegay retired as a Chief Master Sergeant after serving his Country for over 30 years, fourteen of which were at Eglin. Over the years, the white sands of Northwest Florida kept calling to him and his family. They definitely had "sand in their shoes". So when Milton retired in 1970 they returned to the Playground area.

Milton Ernest Kornegay died on October 31, 1980 and is buried in the Barrancas National Cemetery. His monument is inscribed: CMSGT, US Air Force WORLD WAR II, KOREA, VIETNAM

Sources: Article in the Heritage of Okaloosa County, Florida, Volume I, by Dorothy Miller Sirmon Kornegay Frangioni, US Census of 1940, and Find-A-Grave



Civil War Sesquicentennial

Selected Highlights of November 1864

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

In November 1864 Lincoln won the election for President. In the South, such was the impact of Sherman that a call for the people in Georgia to rise up against him received minimal support. Towards the end of November the state capital, Milledgeville, was burned and looted by Sherman's men.

November 1st: Promised supplies had not arrived and promised repairs to railroads were not carried out – both of which seriously hindered Hood in his attempt to defeat Sherman in the South.

November 5th: Hood met General Beauregard at Tuscumbia to discuss their strategy against Union forces. Most senior officers under Hood wanted him to actively seek out Sherman while Hood himself wanted to launch an offensive north towards the Union.

November 7th: The Congress of the Confederate States of America met in Richmond. Jefferson Davis spoke in an optimistic manner underplaying the loss of Atlanta. Davis also publicly urged Hood to seek out Sherman and defeat his army. Hood had other ideas. He wanted to march into Kentucky and Tennessee to launch an attack on the Union forces based there so that Union troops would be sucked away from their armies opposing Lee in the Eastern Theatre to support their comrades in Tennessee/Kentucky.

November 8th: Lincoln won the Presidential election. He had feared a move towards the Democrats because of his belief that the war was becoming unpopular. In fact the Republicans increased their representation within both the House and the Senate. The election results indicated to Davis and the Confederate Congress that there would be no negotiated peace settlement.

November 9th: Sherman ordered the resumption of the Union advance into Georgia. He ordered General Thomas to defeat the army of Hood while he planned to advance north to assist Grant in his defeat of Lee. Grant was fighting 1,000 miles away so Sherman marched his men to Savannah to allow for a march up the eastern coastline. Bolstered with plenty of supplies acquired from Atlanta, Sherman was confident of

success. He also knew that the land his men were marching through was rich in supplies.

November 11th: Union troops in Atlanta and Rome destroyed anything that could be of use to the Confederacy before they left. In Atlanta all buildings except churches and a few houses were destroyed.

November 14th: Lincoln accepted the resignation of Major-General George McClellan – the man who had opposed him in the election. Lincoln promoted Sheridan to the rank of Major-General.

November 15th: The destruction of Atlanta was completed. The economic hub of Georgia was destroyed – this action by Sherman created much bitterness in the South.

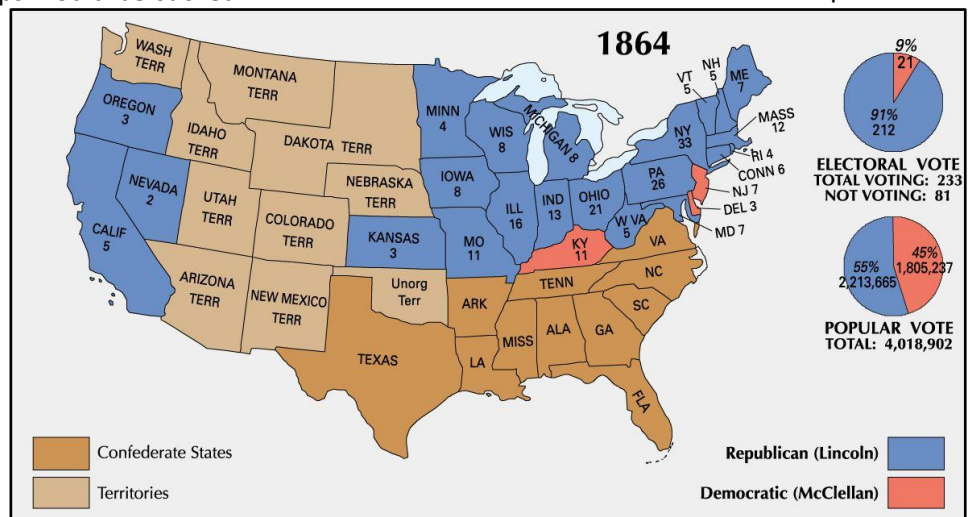
November 16th: Sherman's army of 60,000 men left Atlanta. The twenty days rations they carried came from the city and left the people there with little to eat or drink. Facing Sherman's large army was just 20,000 Confederate troops with few supplies.

November 19th: A call to arms in Georgia met with little response – it was as if the morale of the state had imploded after the treatment handed out to Atlanta.

November 20th: Confederate forces continued to harass Sherman's army as it advanced to Savannah – but to no success. Sherman's response was to order the destruction of even more property.

November 22nd: Sherman's army entered Georgia's state capital, Milledgeville. The city was burned and looted.

November 30th: Hood continued in his attempt to defeat



the Union force at Spring Hill, Tennessee. Both armies numbered 23,000 men. The North lost a total of 2,326 men but the battle cost Hood's army dearly – 6,252 men were lost, including six generals. The Union army, commanded by General Schofield, moved on to Nashville while Hood's men had to remain on the land in increasingly poor weather.

Events, Groups, and Sites of GSOC Interest

West Florida Genealogical Society WFGS ANNUAL FALL SEMINAR

November 1, 2014

Asbury Place, Cokesbury United Methodist Church,
5727 N. Ninth Avenue, Pensacola, FL 32504
9:00 AM - 3:30 PM, Speaker: Robert S. Davis

Robert Davis, the director of the Genealogy Program at Wallace State Community College in Hanceville, Alabama, has helped build one of the South's most extensive genealogical collections.

He will present five sessions during the day-long seminar: "Basic Stops, Use of Internet, Now & Tomorrow;" "Civil War Research, North" and "Civil War Research, South;" "Journey to the Bottom of the Barrel, Brick Walls;" and "People Finders in the Old South."

ON-SITE REGISTRATION (8 am - 9 am) is \$40.00 and a continental breakfast is included. Lunch is not included, but a map and listing of nearby restaurants will be provided.

Registration forms and more details are at:
<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flwfgs/>

PERSONAL GENEALOGY & FAMILY HISTORY WORKSHOP

Thursday, November 6th, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

The PG&FH Workshop meets the first Thursday of each month from 10 am - 12 pm in the Family History Center (FHC), Fort Walton Beach, FL.

Marc Strickland: "Although we are meeting during the opening hours of the FHC, we need to be aware that the computers cannot be reserved and that individual patrons have priority. That means our group cannot monopolize the FHC."

"Eglin & Vietnam" Exhibit Opening November 5, 2014, 11 am – 12 pm Northwest Florida State College, Learning Resource Center

This exhibit is from *The Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida*. At this opening, a local historian will explain the dramatic images in the exhibition and create an understanding of this unique time period in our history. All guests will have a chance to win a gift certificate to one of two Niceville-Valparaiso restaurants. Light refreshments will be served. This exhibit is installed and sponsored by Frank Berte', Destin Interactive, Inc. Location: The Learning Resource Center (LRC- 2nd floor), Northwest Florida State College, 100 College Blvd., Niceville, FL 32578. Admission is free.

Baker Block Museum's 10th Annual Baker Heritage Day November 1st, 9am – 3pm

Heritage Demonstrations, Vendors, Bluegrass and Gospel Music, Food by Smokehouse, Family Entertainment, Educational Exhibits!

The GSOC December Meeting December 13, 2014

The December 13th meeting of the GSOC will be our traditional Christmas party and will include the



installation of officers for 2015. This meeting will begin at 11:00 am at the Boathouse Landing, 124 John Sims Parkway, Valparaiso, FL 32580

Each of the three menu choices includes an entrée, a house salad, soda or tea, and hush puppies. The price includes the food and drink, tax, and a gratuity.

**8 oz. NY Strip Steak \$18.50
Grouper Parmesan \$18.50
Chicken Picatta \$14.50**

You will be asked later for your entrée choice so that the restaurant can properly plan for our visit.

We will also bring back the "What's that Name?" surname list tradition. **Please wear to the Christmas Party a list of the surnames you are searching. This used to be a tradition practiced at every GSOC Christmas Party. Back then, we used adding machine tape, but you can do it any way you want. We pinned the list to our lapel, collar, or in plain view somewhere near the shoulder.**

Here are some ideas:

- Use an index card and list both surnames and the places they lived.
- Or recycle an old Christmas card for your list!
- What about those construction paper rings that we used to make to go on the tree?
- Make a miniature pedigree chart?
- There are a jillion ideas on Pinterest.com for Christmas and for Family History Projects. Maybe looking at those will inspire you.

There will be a white elephant prize or gag gift for the most creative idea, most unusual idea, etc. This icebreaker activity to get people talking with others about their family lines and research.

GSOC INFORMATION

Officers for 2014

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

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

(Elected, Appointed, and Ex Officio positions)

Addresses

P.O. Box 1175, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-1175
Web Site: <http://www.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 2014 issue, Volume XXXVIII, was published and distributed in September 2014.

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.

The GSOC Publications Disk

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

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

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

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

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

Santa Rosa County Marriages, 1869-1906

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

Walton County Marriages, 1895-1915

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

Nostalgia

OFFICIAL BALLOT GENERAL ELECTION OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA NOVEMBER 6, 1956

ELECTORS

for President
and Vice-President

(Vote for Group)

Democratic

ADLAI E. STEVENSON

For President

ESTES KEFAUVER

For Vice-President

Republican

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (Rep)

For President

RICHARD M. NIXON

For Vice-President

Write In

Explore the new on-line source of digitized Crestview, Laurel Hill, Florala, and DeFuniak Springs newspapers.

The earliest issues are from 1914.

<http://flhiddentreasures.com/okaloosa/>



The November GSOC meeting will be held on Saturday, November 8, at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida at 10 AM.

The speaker will be Nicole Grinnan from the Florida Public Archeology Network (FPAN) who will speak about "Tombstone Tales; Cemeteries, Symbols & Stories."

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

HONOR THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE

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

You