

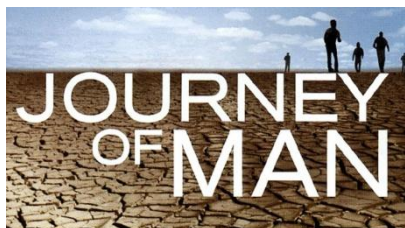
THE GSOC NEWSLETTER

THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA
NOVEMBER 4, 2016

Next GSOC Meeting
November 12, 2016 10:00 a.m.
Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida
Valparaiso, Florida

Journey of Man: A Genetic Odyssey

A Video Presentation Facilitated by Charlene Grafton



This is a fantastic documentary tracing the earliest human migration on this planet, as shown by our genetic roots. This informative film, full of surprising news, is based on the work of Spencer Wells, who is both an innovative scientist and enthusiastic host.

He and crew scour the world for indigenous people with deep roots in one place, asking for samples of DNA to test, in order to piece together our "big family" genetic tree. In Indiana Jones mode, Wells tacks down common ancestors and comes up with some surprising candidates which he interviews. The best parts are when he returns with DNA results and we see the diverse ways in which people and tribes react to the news of what science says about their arrival and relations. View this as adventure travel or as a painless way to begin your genetic literacy.

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Election of GSOC Officers for 2016

At the October GSOC meeting, Bob Basch, Chair of the GSOC Nominating Committee, reported that the Nominating Committee recommends the following members to be GSOC officers for 2017:

President – Jon Sheperd
1st Vice President (Programs) – Margaret Harris
2nd Vice President (Membership) – Jerry Rush
Recording Secretary – Kathie Sheperd*
Corresponding Secretary – Val Moreland*
Treasurer – Phil Hoge *
***(continuing from present year)**

The floor was then opened for any other nominations. There were none. It was announced, however, that members can still contact Sue Basch if they want to be nominated.

The election of officers will take place at the November meeting, and the installation of officers will be at the official Annual GSOC meeting in December in conjunction with the annual party.

BROTHER MARRIES SISTER

Aldershot, England – The marriage of a brother to his sister was disclosed at Aldershot police court when Archibald Cooper and Florence Cooper were committed for trial on a charge of giving false information when they went through the marriage ceremony.

It was stated that after their parents parted Florence Cooper, then eighteen months old, was brought up by her grandmother at Shanklin, while her brother who was two years older lived with other relatives. They met during the war and married in 1920. The defense was that the man and woman were unaware of their relationship, and it was admitted by witnesses for the prosecution that they did not know that they were brother and sister until trouble arose after their grandfather's death four months ago.

The case probably will be dropped.

Augusta Chronicle, Augusta, Georgia August 8, 1926

FindAGrave.com is a wonderful resource that has two major flaws. Amy Johnson Crow has written an excellent article about this. I urge you to read it on Page 2.

EDITOR



Cemeteries have a special place in the hearts of many genealogists, including me. FindAGrave has more than 154 million memorials on its site and is a valuable research tool. However, there are two key areas where FindAGrave could be made better — and *should* be made better. Anyone who makes a free FindAGrave account can add memorial pages. This allows people to add tombstones they come across in their cemetery explorations as well as adding memorials for any deceased individual.

What's good about this is that we now have a resource filled with information and photographs that we didn't have before. We also have a way to request photos of tombstones. (Even if you can't see it in person, there is something special about seeing your ancestor's tombstone.)

What's bad about this is that some people have turned it into a numbers game. They feel the need to have the most memorials and be the first to create a memorial (even before the family has an opportunity). This leads to incomplete memorials and family members feeling hurt.

My Recent Experience With FindAGrave. My father-in-law passed away suddenly a few months ago. He died late on a Friday night. The family met with the funeral director the next morning. The obituary would run in Monday's paper. Saturday evening when I got home, feeling beyond exhausted, I thought, "I should make his FindAGrave memorial before his obituary appears in the paper. Some stranger will surely read the paper and make it instead." Keep in mind that at that point, I had been a FindAGrave contributor for 7.5 years. I had also worked at Ancestry and was part of the social media team, so I saw a lot of comments about people who routinely add FindAGrave memorials by reading the obituaries in that day's newspaper. (Ancestry purchased FindAGrave back in 2013.)

Imagine my shock and dismay when I went to create my father-in-law's memorial and found that someone else — a complete stranger — had already done it. He had been gone less than 24 hours. The obituary had not appeared in the paper, yet somehow this stranger had created a memorial for him.

Needless to say, I fired off a message to that person, explained who I was, and asked that his memorial be transferred to me. To the person's credit, it was transferred to me right away.

Out of curiosity, I pushed a bit further. "So, how did you come to create his memorial? His obituary hasn't even been published yet." The answer astonished me.

"There is another findagrave member who posts memorials and she only writes that the information is in the paper and states the day it is in the paper and no other info. After a week or more it is no longer available online. So I try to beat her to it and post it first so I can

enter all the facts. Silly, no? Funeral homes in town post obits on line right after the plans are set for the funeral and that is why. Glad I could transfer it to you." I was flabbergasted.

Here I was a longtime FindAGrave contributor and someone well-versed in how quickly some people create memorials, and even I was too slow. A total stranger created his memorial less than 24 hours after he died. In the grand scheme of things, this isn't the worst thing that could happen. But when you're in grief, seeing something like that really raises your blood pressure.

This experience leads me to two suggestions on how FindAGrave can be made better.

Suggestion 1: Set a Time for the Family. Grieving family members shouldn't have to rush to create their loved one's memorial on FindAGrave. Call me crazy, but my first thought after learning my father-in-law died wasn't "I need to get on FindAGrave." I thought I was doing well to think of it before the obituary was in the newspaper. I suggest that in the process of creating a memorial if the death occurred in the last 30 days, there is a box that the person has to check stating that they agree that they related within four generations of the deceased. (This is [the same criteria as for required transfers.](#))

NOTE: I discussed this on Facebook shortly after it happened and some people told me that it doesn't really matter since most people don't even know about FindAGrave. Here's the thing: When a family member *does* know about FindAGrave and discovers a complete stranger made the memorial, it feels like a slap. And if the family *doesn't* know about FindAGrave, then waiting 30 days to create the memorial shouldn't bother the person making the memorial if they aren't related. Why the rush? The rush for many is the numbers game. Which leads me to suggestion #2.

Suggestion 2: Stop Displaying the Numbers. I am thankful for the people who have created memorials for my long-deceased ancestors. I am thankful for the volunteers who have added photos to those memorials. I enjoy walking in cemeteries and taking photos that people have requested. The problem is that for some people — a small minority of FindAGrave users — the numbers become the primary goal. This fuels the desire to create memorials before anyone else has a chance in order to drive up the number of memorials created.

Again, if it isn't about the numbers, then why the rush to be the first to create a memorial for a complete stranger who just died?

Stop displaying the numbers, and this sense of competition goes away.

Conclusion. FindAGrave is an incredible tool for genealogists. It provides information that we might not have access to otherwise. However, some contributors lose sight of the fact that those memorials are for real people and aren't just numbers on their profile page. FindAGrave can be redesigned to give family members an opportunity to create the memorials for their loved ones and also remove the competition that the numbers seem to drive.

The post [How FindAGrave Could – and Should – Be Made Better](#) appeared first on [Amy Johnson Crow](#).

Thanksgiving Day

From Wikipedia and Other Public Sources
by Jim Young

Thanksgiving in North America originated from a mix of European and Native traditions. Typically in Europe, festivals were held before and after the harvest cycles to give thanks for a good harvest, and to rejoice together after much hard work with the rest of the community. At the time, Native Americans also celebrated the end of a harvest season. When Europeans first arrived in America, they brought with them their own harvest festival traditions from Europe, celebrating their safe voyage, peace and good harvest.

It should be noted that not all historians agree on all of the information below. Texas even claims that the first Thanksgiving took place there and a few claim that there was no such thing as the big Plymouth feast.

However, I'll stick to the story that in the United States, the modern Thanksgiving holiday tradition traces its origins to a 1621 celebration at Plymouth in present-day Massachusetts. There is also evidence for an earlier harvest celebration on the continent by Spanish explorers in Florida during 1565, as well as thanksgiving feasts in the Virginia Colony. The initial thanksgiving observance at Virginia in 1619 was prompted by the colonists' leaders on the anniversary of the settlement. The 1621 Plymouth feast and thanksgiving was prompted by a good harvest. While initially, the Plymouth colony did not have enough food to feed half of the 102 colonists, the Wampanoag Native Americans helped the Pilgrims by providing seeds and teaching them to fish. The practice of holding an annual harvest festival like this however, did not become a regular affair in New England until the late 1660s.

The claim of where the first Thanksgiving was held in the United States, and even the Americas has often been a subject of debate. Authors and teachers Robyn Gioia and Michael Gannon, of the University of Florida have argued that the earliest attested "Thanksgiving" celebration in what is now the United States was celebrated by the Spanish on September 8, 1565, in what is now Saint Augustine, Florida. Texas bases its claim on the celebration of a "Thanksgiving" by Spaniard Francisco Vásquez de Coronado and his troops while searching for New World gold in what is now the Texas Panhandle.

Similarly, other historians say that the first thanksgiving celebration in the United States was held in Virginia, and not in Massachusetts. Thanksgiving services were routine in what was to become the Commonwealth of Virginia as early as 1607.

Thanksgiving in the United States was observed on various dates throughout history. The dates of Thanks-giving up until the time of President Lincoln had been decided by each state on various dates. The first Thanksgiving celebrated on the same date by all states was in 1863 by presidential proclamation. The final Thursday in November had become the customary date of

Thanksgiving in most U.S. states by the beginning of the 20th century. In an effort by President Lincoln to foster a sense of American unity between the Northern and Southern states, the final Thursday in November was proclaimed to be Thanksgiving. This was changed in 1941 to the fourth Thursday in November.

The 1621 feast between the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag at Plymouth Colony is said to have contained turkey, waterfowl, venison, fish, lobster, clams, berries, fruit, pumpkin, and squash. Many of the foods that were included in that feast (except, notably, the seafood) have since gone on to become staples of the modern Thanksgiving dinner.

The use of the turkey in the USA for Thanksgiving precedes Lincoln's nationalization of the holiday in 1863, but turkey was uncommon as Thanksgiving fare until after 1800. By 1857, turkey had become part of the traditional dinner in New England.



"Thanksgiving" by Doris Lee

A Thanksgiving Day dinner served to the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1935 included: pickles, green olives, celery, roast turkey, oyster stew, cranberry sauce, giblet gravy, dressing, creamed asparagus tips, snowflake potatoes, baked carrots, hot rolls, fruit salad, mince meat pie, fruit cake, candies, grapes, apples, French drip coffee, cigars and cigarettes.

The Thanksgiving dinner in many homes in the United States bears a good deal of resemblance to the Christmas dinner: the centerpiece at both is often a turkey.

However, the spirits of these occasions are usually different: gifts are not exchanged at Thanksgiving and the point of the meal is to reflect upon and be thankful for the things



A Thanksgiving Dinner in 1942

received and to reconnect with the people one holds close. The Thanksgiving meal is traditionally eaten in many households in the early afternoon, and it is not uncommon now to have a television in the line of sight (though usually not in the same room) or a radio within earshot, in order to watch the numerous parades, football games, and special events.

Turkey is the most common main dish of a Thanksgiving dinner these days, and Thanksgiving is often called "turkey day." Most Thanksgiving turkeys are stuffed with a bread-based stuffing (cornbread in the south and "loaf" bread in the north) and roasted. Sage is the traditional herb added to the stuffing along with chopped celery, carrots, and onions. Southerners usually call this "dressing" and bake extra pans of it. Deep-fried turkey has become popular. As the wild population of turkeys has rebounded some folks hunt and dress their turkey in the woods and then freeze it until meal preparation.

In addition to turkey and dressing, many other great dishes have become Thanksgiving standards including mashed potatoes and gravy, English peas, seven-layer salads, green bean casserole, cranberry sauce in both jelled and whole berry form, pecan pie, pumpkin pie, sweet potato pie, and hot rolls. Families with Spanish, Irish, English, French, Asian, Greek, Scandinavian, Latino, African-American, and other heritages often add favorites from their ancestral cultures.



A Thanksgiving Dinner in the 1970s

Thanksgiving on a small farm in 1920

In the first third of the 20th century, when Monette Morgan Young was growing up on her family's small farm in rural Mississippi, the Thanksgiving meals they had were simpler.

As she writes in her book, *The Cherry Hill - Poplar Springs - Reid Community in Calhoun County, Mississippi*:

"We did not do lavish Christmas cooking, not in our circle of acquaintances and kin, nor did we do lavish Thanksgiving cooking. We usually had fresh pork both times and often our meat would be a huge pot of backbones. If the hog killing had been in the last day or two before the holiday, we had the most prized meat of all, the loin strip. Our men did not make pork chops of any cut of hog. That long lean strip was taken out without

bone and how I looked forward to it! I hated any boiled meat. Mother and all her acquaintances and kin only boiled or fried meat. One reason for that is that they did not know of roasting procedures; and, second, that it would have required oven cooking and the use of much stovewood.

"Mother and others in our community would boil a piece or pieces of meat in the black iron cooking pot on the coals on the hearth by the fire which was already going for



warmth. Mother would make a good dressing with that stock and we always had small Bermuda onions growing in the garden all winter. These grew in clusters and did not decay as the large ones did and were not hot.

Mother did not have to buy sage. She grew it, dried it in a slow oven and so we had sage and onions for the dressing and since I always contended for fried meat, she fried something for me.

"We sometimes did have a hen boiled but since I didn't like to eat boiled meat, she fried some for me and I ate dressing with that.

"Usually Thanksgiving day was just another day. Daddy was sometimes up to his ears in corn gathering and we just cooked a little better dinner. Some meat as I have described, maybe a molasses cake with the dried apple filling and frosting. One or two or three of the many vegetables in storage, canned or dried, and the usual dish of pickles, preserves, canned berries, or peaches, on the table."

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

**Come, ye thankful people, come,
Raise the song of harvest home;
All is safely gathered in,
Ere the winter storms begin.
God our Maker doth provide
For our wants to be supplied;
Come to God's own temple, come,
Raise the song of harvest home.**

**All the world is God's own field,
Fruit unto His praise to yield;
Wheat and tares together sown
Unto joy or sorrow grown.
First the blade and then the ear,
Then the full corn shall appear;
Lord of harvest, grant that we
Wholesome grain and pure may be.**

Words by Henry Alford, 1844 Usually Sung to the tune
St. George's Windsor by George Elvey, 1858
to hear this , go to this site:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yVIsS243854>

Some Rules of Civility for Genealogists

A Follow-On Article to Our October Presentation by Dr. Sajwaj

In the GenealogyBank.com NEWS for October 2016, Mary Harrell-Sesniak looked at etiquette rules that George Washington wrote down when he was a boy to see if they apply to genealogy today.

In her article, she says that the topic of genealogy etiquette has never been fully explored, so she thought she would get the ball rolling with some of her own thoughts.

1) Be kind. If you have benefited from someone's research, a web page, publication or even a company's entire research library, be sure to tell them. Everyone wants to know they are appreciated.

2) Be cautious about correcting. It's possible there is conflicting evidence you haven't examined, so undertake your own reasonably exhaustive search. GW's Rule #83: "When you deliver a matter do it with passion & with discretion, however mean the person be you do it to."

3) Alternatively, sometimes it's better not to speak up at all. A professional method is to publish your take on the conflicting genealogy, so that others will be able to make up their own minds.

4) Give credit where credit is due. When evaluating your research, others will ponder if you merely copied something, or examined original sources. Most recommend that you identify the location of obscure findings. *Genealogy Tip:* To cite a source, consult the author or publisher directly, or refer to a reference such as Elizabeth Shown Mill's *Evidence Explained*.

5) Documents in personal collections may not be copyrightable, even if they passed through the family. This is one of the FAQs from the official copyright website <http://copyright.gov/help/faq/faq-protect.html> that is most applicable to genealogy:

Q. Can I register a diary I found in my grandmother's attic?

A: You can register copyright in the diary only if you own the rights to the work, for example, by will or by inheritance. Copyright is the right of the author of the work or the author's heirs or assignees, not of the one who only owns or possesses the physical work itself.

6) Respect privacy, especially in regards to DNA results. Just because someone shared their data with you, it doesn't mean you have permission to forward or share that information with others.

7) Never rant. When something frustrates you, keep it to yourself. After all, who among us has not made a typo or misinterpreted evidence? GW's Rule #73: "Think before

you speak; pronounce not imperfectly nor bring out your words too hastily, but orderly & distinctly."

8) Do not publish discoveries about living persons. Not only is it wrong, but in some cases you could be violating a law. For example, U.S. HIPAA laws protect the privacy of one's medical results.

9) Never alter an original document. Although it is tempting to bring out the details of an old document, make a copy and add an annotation.

10) If you have enhanced or photoshopped a photograph that can be used as genealogical evidence, make sure it is notated. (Use something like: "Enhanced from the original.")

11) Do preserve, protect and defend the right of future generations to have access to original materials.

12) Do give back. Share your findings, and if you have benefited from the genealogy research of others, do a favor in return.

13) Lastly, do not force genealogy on the uninterested. Your family may or may not come around to sharing your passion -- but if perceived as an unpleasantry, they'll never enjoy it.

Extract from *Ethics in Publishing Family Histories* by Stephen J. Danko

Facts can't be copyrighted. I was surprised when a friend of mine who practices copyright law first passed this information on to me. Reflecting on this statement, it makes sense. How could anyone claim copyright to the name of the ship on which their immigrant ancestor sailed, or the date of death of their great great grandfather, or the amount that an ancestor paid in monthly rent? Recent legal opinion has even decided that certain compilations of facts, such as telephone directories, are not subject to copyright. But what about compiled genealogies? What can I include in a published genealogy without infringing on someone else's rights? And what rights do I have to the compilations I produce?

On more than a few occasions, I've read tales of how someone shared their pedigree with someone else, only to find their own work published on the Internet without permission, often without any citation of the source of the pedigree. So, what recourse does someone have when they find their work published without their consent and without attribution? Do those who produce compiled genealogies own copyright to their compilations of names, dates, and locations?

The facts themselves are not copyrightable. That much is clear. Certain compilations such as phone books are not copyrightable. But what about compiled genealogies?

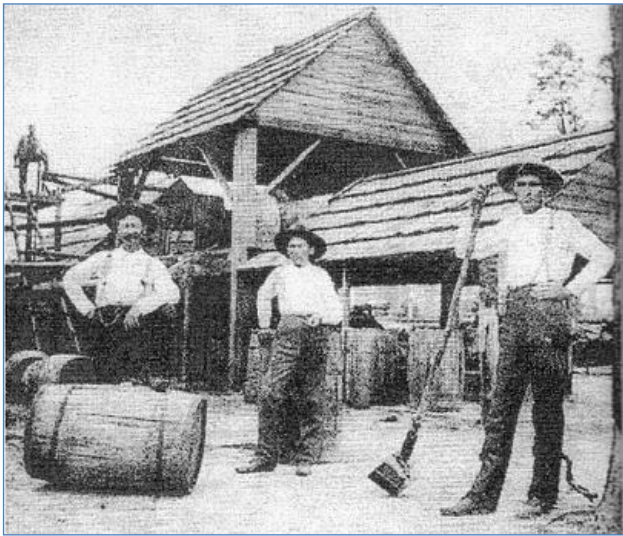
See <http://stephendanko.com/blog/1580> for the complete discussion.

Gopher Pulling and Making Turpentine

Holt is a small community in Okaloosa County in northwest Florida. In the early 1900's, many families in this community depended on the dense virgin pine forests for survival. The pine tree produced turpentine, lumber, cross ties (for the railroad) and tar products.

Turpentine was a process in which a few inches on the side of a pine tree would be de-barked and have two gashes forming a "V" about one-fourth inch deep and one inch wide cut into the tree. A new "V" was cut just above the last "V" when the flow of sap slowed. This caused the sap or turpentine to ooze out into containers ("cups") attached to the trees. The cups were emptied with a small hand scoop into a five gallon bucket which, when full, would be poured into 55 gallon wooden barrels on a wagon. The wagon pulled by mules or oxen would then be taken to a local distillery ("still") for processing the turpentine.

Two families, the Ewings and the Mitchems, each had turpentine "stills" in 1903. After distillation the turpentine product was sold to companies for use in medicines, paint thinners, solvents, etc.



Ewing Turpentine Still, Holt, Florida - About 1900
L-R: Bud Ewing, Wade Ewing, and P. T. Ewing, Sr.
John Pippins is on scaffold.

In the years following turpentine, pine trees were cut for lumber and cross ties. Other trees, cypress and gum were also used for railroad cross ties.

The railroad provided a great deal of employment for this area: purchasing wood for fuel for the train engines, buying cross ties on a continuing basis, as well as providing transportation for shipment of blue berries which grew in abundance here. Sixty cents a cord was paid for "lighter" (lightwood) for use in the train engines.

Years after the trees had been cut, "tar wooders" (naval stores operators) would unearth the pine stumps which

were rich in tar and haul them by truck or ship them by train to naval stores businesses in Pensacola. Two local naval stores operators were Jack Johns and Harvey Williamson.

In the earliest years of the tar-wooding or "stump-wooding" industry, the stumps were unearthed by digging beside them (about two feet deep), boring a one inch hole in the lower part of the stump (with a six foot auger) and placing a four to six inch stick of dynamite in the stump. Then, a "detonating" cap was fitted with a twelve-fifteen inch fuse and pushed into the end of the dynamite stick. The next step was to light the fuse with a match and "head for the hills." Sometimes the stump would be blown into splinters sending pieces as far as a hundred yards.

When processed, these pine stumps yielded a resinous substance used to make tar, pitch, medicines, anti-freeze, alcohol, etc.

Closely associated with the railroad was a sawmill business in Holt. Not only could the sawmill ship lumber by rail, cross ties could be produced there. The mill provided more jobs for local men.

The Holt area was also well-suited for blue berry production.

Northern markets would buy all the berries they could get. Persons picking blue berries (by hand) received 2-3 cents per quart for their tedious labor in the 1920's and 1930's.

Gopher pulling was another means of "putting meat on the table." This gopher was a hard-shelled, highland tortoise common to the Southeastern U.S., mostly found in Florida, Alabama, and Georgia. These gophers were strict vegetarians, clean and edible. Their home was a hole which they dug slanting about 20-25 feet in the ground. Locals learned to use a wild grapevine with a hook on the end to pull the gophers from their holes. As this was during President Hoover's Administration, the gopher came to be known as "Hoover Chicken."

According to one old timer, gophers were sold to a local store or traded for store goods. The store had a large box for gophers holding as many as 50-100. When enough gophers had accumulated the store would send them to market. A customer could exchange a large gopher for a pair of overalls, or a sack of flour and get two small gophers in change.

Trapping provided income, and in some cases, food, for local residents. Fox, coons, rabbits, possums, wildcats, and skunks were trapped for their furs. A solid black skunk hide (with fur) brought as much as \$5.00, while a black and white one was only worth fifth cents.

Written by Donald A. Reeves, Baker FL, and included in *The Heritage of Okaloosa County, Florida*, Volume 1, Okaloosa County Heritage Book Committee and Heritage Publishing Consultants, Inc., 2004

Events and Information of GSOC Interest

GSOC INFORMATION

Officers for 2016

President, Sue Basch
1st Vice President (Programs), Charlene Grafton
2nd Vice President (Membership), Jon Sheperd
Treasurer, Phil Hoge
Recording Secretary, Kathie Sheperd
Corresponding Secretary, Val Moreland
Immediate Past President, James Young
Journal Editor, Kathie Sheperd; Historian, TBD
Genealogist, Margaret Harris
Publicity Chairperson, Val Moreland
Webmaster & Newsletter Editor, Jim Young

Addresses

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

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Newsletter Editor: youngjmy@cox.net

Membership

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 download the membership form.

The Newsletter

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

The Web Site

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

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

A NOTE FROM JIM YOUNG CONCERNING THE GSOC NEWSLETTER AND WEB SITE

I have assembled, edited, and written articles for the GSOC Newsletter since 2010. It has been, and still is, a labor of love.



However, it isn't good for one person to stay in the same position in any organization for too long. It's good to get new people involved and to have fresh ideas and new approaches.

My approach for the newsletter has generally been toward the "more is better" side; however the next editor may prefer a leaner newsletter or one that has less historical context content than my version often does.

So I'm looking for someone who will be willing to assume the GSOC Newsletter editorship beginning about the middle of 2017. I will be planning to move out of that job then. My thought is that if someone is interested, they could work with me until next summer and then take over the position.

We will be electing new GSOC officers at our November meeting and one of these will be the new president. Our president, as you may know, appoints the editor who serves at the president's pleasure. Please contact me and/or our current president, Sue Basch, soon if you'd like to be that person.

I also am the webmaster and I am willing to continue serving in that capacity if the president would like me to. However, at some point, too, I expect to ask for someone to take on that as well.

Respectfully,

NOMINEES FOR GSOC OFFICERS FOR 2017

- President – Jon Sheperd
- 1st Vice President (Programs) – Margaret Harris
- 2nd Vice President (Membership) – Jerry Rush
- Recording Secretary – Kathie Sheperd (continuing from present year)
- Corresponding Secretary – Val Moreland (continuing from present year)
- Treasurer – Phil Hoge (continuing from present year)

MINUTES OF THE 8 OCTOBER 2016 GSOC MEETING

Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County Meeting Minutes, October 8th, 2016

The Northwest Florida Heritage Museum

President Sue Basch opened the meeting and welcomed this month's speaker (and GSOC member), Dr. Tom Sajwaj. Dr. Sajwaj's presentation topic was about ethics in genealogy research.

OLD BUSINESS

Minutes: Minutes from the September GSOC meeting were discussed. There were no recommended changes. Val Moreland made a motion to accept the minutes and Bob Basch seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by those members present.
Door Prize: Charlene Grafton won the monthly door prize which was a delicious jar of homemade jam by Val.

NEW BUSINESS

Notes of Interest: Sue passed around a clipboard with recent information. It included a pamphlet about the Clayton Library in Houston, TX. Kathie Sheperd talked about the recent trip she and Jon took to the library there. The Clayton Library is one of the top genealogy research libraries in the US. It is a large two-story building with thousands of books organized by state/county/geographical areas, family research, microfilm, etc. The library is free to use.

Local Info: The Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida will be hosting a Haunted Heritage Day on Oct 29th from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. They will have kid's crafts, games, contests, Trick or Treat story time, etc. Sue said they need donations for their bake sale and raffle. Details are on the museum's website.

GSOC Nominating Committee: Bob Basch reported that nominations were received for the following Officer Board positions for 2017:

- President – Jon Sheperd
- 1 Vice President – Margaret Harris
- 2nd Vice President – Jerry Rush
- Recording Secretary – Kathie Sheperd (continuing from present year)
- Corresponding Secretary – Val Moreland (continuing from present year)
- Treasurer – Phil Hoge (continuing from present year)

Nominations were then opened from the floor; no members present had a nomination from the floor. Members can still contact Sue if they want to be nominated. Elections will occur at the November meeting, and the installation of officers is in December at the annual party.

REPORTS:

1st VP Charlene Grafton: Charlene talked about the Nova project called "The Journey of Man." In the subject of ethics in the 21st century, there are many avenues to "do no harm." For instance, one of them is in medicine.

2nd VP Jon Sheperd/Membership: Jon introduced our newest member who joined at this meeting: Ms. Annie Helms. Her roots are primarily from WV, VA, and PA.

Treasurer Phil Hoge: Phil could not attend, due to surgery recovery, but sent his report. We have \$2,119.79 in the treasury.

Recording Secretary: Kathie Sheperd had nothing to report.

Corresponding Secretary: Val Moreland said we continue to advertise in the local papers with limited success.

Genealogist, Margaret Harris: Margaret was not present, due to illness.

Christmas Party Chairperson, Donna Elliot: The annual Christmas/holiday party will be at the Boathouse Landing in lieu of the normally scheduled December meeting. Donna reported receiving 21 responses for menu choice votes for the luncheon. The following selections received the most votes: an 8-ounce New York strip steak, grouper parmesan and mahi-mahi. The meal will include a side salad. She will finalize the prices and send out an email to the membership, through Jon, with details and a request to provide her attendee menu choices. Payment will be at the party.

Newsletter, Jim Young: Nothing sufficient to report

Journal Editor, Kathie Sheperd: The Journal is almost complete except for final formatting and review. It will go to the printers within the week. Mailing is expected to be in 2 weeks.

GUEST SPEAKER:

Dr. Tom Sajwaj gave a very informative presentation about ethics in genealogy. His background as a clinical psychologist was governed by serious standards and laws of ethics. Ethics are rules of behavior based on ideas about what is morally good and bad. Dr. Sajwaj noted that in genealogy research, the guidelines for amateur genealogists are not coherent. Ethics for professional genealogists are not very clear either. He found guidelines and standards in four organizations:

- Board of Certified Genealogists
- Association of Professional Genealogists
- International Communication on Accreditation of Professional Genealogists
- National Genealogy Society

The code of ethics and conduct respects restrictions on sharing information. Amateur genealogists should always identify the data received from others, and should be

sensitive to information regarding criminal, bizarre, and immoral behavior. Although this conduct may have occurred long in the past, there are descendants today who could be hurt by these revelations. The overriding principle we must use is to "do no harm." Ethical conflicts include information about living children, out-of-wedlock children, DNA results (including health), substance abuse, criminal arrest records, plagiarism, copywrite violation, and falsifying and editing material/censorship.

Dr. Sajwaj presented handouts titled "Dos and Don'ts," "Some Specific Ethical Conflicts" and "The Big Gray Area."

The following list reflects some of those words of advice:

- Do not disseminate or communicate any material about living individuals, without their explicit permission
- If not sure the individual is deceased, do not disseminate any material
- Consider not retaining and/or recording material on living individuals. If you do, minimize what and how much material to retain.
- Do not unilaterally violate and/or change any conditions set on the information or material by the person(s) who provided it to you.
- Always cite the source(s) of your material.
- If quoting verbatim, use quote marks, and cite the source.
- Always give credit to the sources you use, especially from the family genealogists who put time, efforts, and often money into the material you use.
- Do not destroy or damage records owned by others.
- Compensate the owners and/or sources of material that you use.
- Ask permission before using copywrited material. Or don't use it. Instead, find alternative, non-copyrighted sources.
- Do not disseminate DNA results without the permission of the donor(s)

Dr. Sajwaj presented two exercises in ethics for the audience to consider and discuss.

For further reading consider the ethics article by Annie Bower Tennant on rootsbid.com. Genealogist Rhonda McClure also wrote at www.genealogy.com/articles/twigs/rhonda. Another handy read is at Steve's Genealogy Blog: Ethics in Publishing Family Histories (stephendanko.com.2007).

SPECIAL PRESENTATION CHANGE OF MEETING LOCATION

Jon Sheperd presented a slide show discussing the current meeting location at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida and the need to seek another meeting location for 2017 and out-years.

Summary: The GSOC Officer Board recognized the need to find a larger and more visitor friendly space for meetings. Although the GSOC membership has grown slightly, it has held steady in some regards and there is not enough room for special presentations in which the community could attend as well as the GSOC members. The Board felt a need to find a larger meeting room location which could attract new members in greater quantities.

During the course of the summer, the Board visited two locations: The Valparaiso Senior Center and the Fort Walton Beach Library. The group made a list of the pros and cons of each location and these were presented to the general membership.

Jon also showed pictures of the facilities, inside and outside to include parking. One of the concerns discussed within the board meetings was the greater commute for Niceville residents. It was recognized that members from Fort Walton Beach had commuted to Valparaiso the entire time the meetings were held at the Heritage Museum.

Perhaps those who did not want to always drive the longer distance could meet and car-pool.

In accordance with the GSOC By-Laws, the Board voted unanimously for the FWB Library, primarily because the meeting room was spacious and modern and because we would be able to support the library and they, in turn, would support us by helping to advertise our meetings.

The Board hoped that eventually, the FWB location would draw Destin residents and vacationing "snow-birds." The Board also voted to begin meetings at this new location in January 2017.

Discussion:

Bob Richburg commented that this was a momentous decision.

Beverly Gross recommended the meetings be held at one location only. In the past, the GSOC tried alternating meetings between the north part of the county (Crestview) and the south part of the county (Fort Walton Beach) and this was problematic because people had difficulty remembering which meeting location to attend.

Charlene Grafton said that initially she was in favor of the Senior Center as she had attended many events there and it was a closer commute for her, but in the end, she also voted for the FWB library as the facilities were superior and would attract new growth better than the senior center.

None of the membership present disagreed with the presentation or decisions.

President Sue Basch thanked Jon for his slide show and presentation.

CLOSING

Sue thanked Tom and Jon for their presentations. The next meeting will be at the Northwest Florida Heritage Museum on Nov 12th at 10:00 am.

/S/
Kathie Sheperd
Recording Secretary
Genealogy Society of Okaloosa County



GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY OF
OKALOOSA
COUNTY

Our November 12, 10 am, program will be

Journey of Man: A Genetic Odyssey
A Video Presentation Facilitated by Charlene Grafton

**Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida
Valparaiso, Florida**

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

**Genealogical Society of
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P.O. Box 1175
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