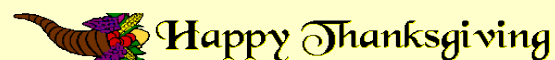


THE GSOC NEWSLETTER

THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

NOVEMBER 20, 2017



Happy Thanksgiving

SPECIAL NOTICE

November's GSOC meeting for November 25th has been cancelled as the Fort Walton Beach Library, 185 Miracle Strip Parkway SE, Fort Walton Beach, FL, will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday.

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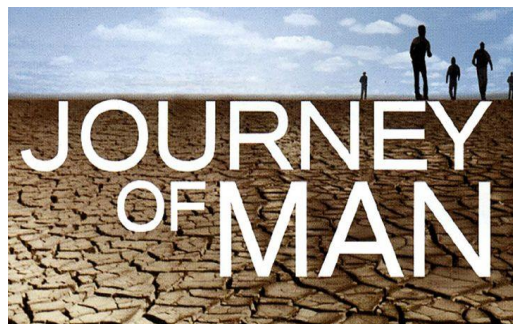
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November's cancelled Program:

Journey of Man: A Genetic Odyssey

A Video Presentation facilitated by Charlene Grafton

will be rescheduled for a later meeting.



JOURNEY OF MAN tells the remarkable story of the human journey out of Africa and into the rest of the world, tracing history through evidence uncovered in the Y-chromosome of man's DNA. Traversing six continents, the film takes viewers on a fascinating journey into the hidden world of their ancestry and offers a modern look at our ancestor's lives.

This informative film is based on the work of Spencer Wells, who is both an innovative scientist and enthusiastic host. He and crew scoured 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.

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 in that place and their relations.

Note: This is the second part of this documentary. The first part was shown as the November 2016 GSOC program. However, this part should be a stand-alone presentation.

The complete video, nearly two hours, is available at
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e6E05Q6EJw>

SPECIAL NOTICE

The election of GSOC Officers for 2018 will be held this month.

It may a first for the society, members will not have to be present to cast their ballot. Absentee voting will be used. Watch for your ballot by E-Mail or regular mail.

Future Attractions

December 16, 2017



AFGHAN RAFFLE

(Separate raffle for each one)

ALSO ON DECEMBER 16, 2017

Drawing for each of these beautiful handmade Afghans will be at the December luncheon. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00 and will be available at the luncheon prior to the drawing.

You do not have to be present to win.

Both are 45" wide and 67" long (photos show each folded in half).

Raffle benefits the Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County.

2018 Attraction

The Fort Walton Beach Stake LDS Family History Center will sponsor the

2018 Northwest Florida Family History Fair

March 3, 2018

9AM to 12PM (Three 40-minute sessions)

LDS Church

339 Lake Drive, FWB 32548

FREE, Everyone Welcome

Gain New Skills and Helpful Family History Information

Knowledgeable and Experienced Instructors

Classes offered in First Period:

1. **Family Secret Agent-** Keys to personal success for you family.
2. **Military Records-** Unlocking Information About Ancestors Who Served.
3. **European Research-** Special Emphasis on Italy & France.
4. **Making An Oral Life History-** If You Don't Do It - Who Will?
5. **Writing A Personal History-** A Rewarding Personal Journey.
6. **Basic Family Search-** Have Fun Getting Started Well!
7. **FamilySearch Indexing-** Helping Genealogy Move Forward.
8. **Best of The Rest Records-** Gold Mines For Experienced Genealogists.

Classes offered in Second Period:

1. **DNA-** Understanding The Basics Of Using DNA Information.
2. **Google Earth For Genealogists-** Enhancing Your Journey.
3. **European Research-** Special Emphasis On Germany.
4. **African-American Research-** Getting Beyond The Basics.
5. **Making An Oral Life History-** If You Don't Do It - Who Will?
6. **Basic Family Search-** Have Fun Getting Started Well!
7. **Primary & Secondary Sources-** Land, Probate, Census & Personal Records, Etc.
8. **Best Internet Sites 4 Genealogy-** New Resources You Can Count On!

Classes offered in Third Period:

1. **Advanced Family Search Doc.-** Quality Check The Family Tree!.
2. **Military Records-** Unlocking Information About Ancestors Who Served.
3. **DNA-** Understanding The Basics Of Using DNA Information.
4. **African-American Research-** Overcoming The Toughest Challenge.
5. **Favorite Family History Internet Sites-** Other than FamilySearch.
6. **FamilySearch Indexing-** Helping Genealogy Move Forward.
7. **Writing A Personal History-** A Rewarding Personal Journey.
8. **Land Records-** Pre & Post Revolutionary Ward Guidance.

Other Fair Offerings: *Family History Center Portal Q & A Session, Family History Help Center & Various Displays.*

For detail information on classes and instructors please visit the Northwest Florida Family History Fair- 2018 Facebook Page.

Three ways to register:

1. Email request of classes to familyhistoryfair1@gmail.com
2. Visit the Northwest Florida Family History Fair-2018 Facebook Page for Registration Form link <https://goo.gl/forms/RVVQaY3Wx4aDDOM62>.
3. Drop in at any of the Fort Walton Beach Stake Family History Centers to register.

Robert L. F. Sikes Public Library: Preserving the Past to Protect the Future

The following article was written and submitted by Emily Ruff, Adult Services Librarian, Robert L. F. Sikes Public Library, Crestview

Ray Bradbury, prolific author of the harrowing book-burning dystopia *Fahrenheit 451*, once said, "Without libraries, what do we have? We have no past and future." As a professional librarian, I often get the question: are libraries still relevant? My answer, emphatic as it may be, always sounds tired and worn to my ears. Yes, of course libraries are still relevant! I then launch into my spiel: we're not book mausoleums, we're life-long learning centers! We provide countless social, informational, technological, and educational services for our communities.

And yet, even as I drone on about the multiple benefits, I oftentimes find myself wanting to stop, look the inquisitor in the eye, and declare the proverbial bottom line. Regardless of what ornamentation I lay upon it, what I truly mean is this: libraries are servants of the human soul. To know ourselves on the deepest level, we must both studiously know who we are, the terrain we are trekking, and the destination. Life is ever marching on, and only the preservation and understanding of our narrative can truly aid us in preventing the eldritch horror of a Bradburian future.

As such, the Robert L. F. Sikes Public Library is dedicated to meeting the needs of the Crestview community by providing a rich collection and variety of services. We not only carry the latest in fiction, but also a hearty array of audiobooks, online services, DVD's,

and a poignant selection of non-fiction. Particularly of interest to this ongoing mission is a reference section on Local History and Heritage. Though it is modest in size, we house a wealth of intriguing resources about Okaloosa and its surrounding counties, including history, cemetery, and marriage records. We also carry an assortment of local yearbooks, with Crimson Crests going back as far as 1947. Most relevant to the genealogist, we have various sources for personal research, such as *The Source: A Guide to American Genealogy*, the *Dictionary of American Family Names*, and *Crestview: The Forkland*. There are newspaper clippings, photocopies of records, and various city directories for both Crestview and Fort Walton Beach. For those digging deep into the news, we have copies of the Crestview News Bulletin, formerly known as the Okaloosa News Journal, dating back to 1953. Though some of these resources are not available for checkout, we can provide photocopying capabilities and computer access.

If you have any questions, please either call us at 850-682-4432 or visit our website at www.cityofcrestview.org/library.php. Library cards are free to all Okaloosa residents. Come visit us, spend time in the profound intricacies of the past, and seek with us a genuine hope for the future!

Photos of the Crestview Library Genealogy area taken by the GSOC Newsletter Editor





Christmas Trivia

Submitted by Cindy Barber

Before 1850 many US citizens did not dream of Christmas at all. Penne Restad tells how and why this changed – and played its role in uniting the States in social cohesion.

Go to this Web page for the full story: <http://www.historytoday.com/penne-restad/christmas-19th-century-america>

Massachusetts Trivia

In the early 19th century—the 1830s—most New Englanders were not practicing Christmas,” says assistant curator Shelley Cathcart. “The majority of the population had Puritan roots, so most people were not decorating the interiors of their homes, especially with a Christmas tree.” Puritans mostly ignored the holiday because the Bible was silent on the topic.

Massachusetts declared Christmas a legal holiday in 1856

The first English Christmas cards were produced in England in the 1840s.

The first American made Christmas Card was distributed in the early 1850s. RH Pease who owned a variety store in Albany New York produced the card showing Santa, reindeer, dancers and an array of Christmas gifts and foods.

In 1875 a German Immigrant named Louis Prang expanded his trade card business by adding a Christmas Greeting to his color trade cards. This launched the practice of exchanging these small, affordable works of art.

By 1882, mailing Christmas cards had largely upset the traditional personal letter writing or making personal visits.

Exchanging gifts had been a modest feature of Christmas up until the 1870-80s. They now became a symbol of the new world of commerce and consumerism. They also served to mediate the fragile relationships of an increasingly fragmented society. As charitable gifts, they sought to become symbolic solutions to the problem of economic and social inequality.



ODDS AND ENDS



Genealogy Genie

This is a new feature added to the GSOC Newsletter. It is called **Genealogy Genie**. It will include information about learning Genealogy by providing links to web sites, tips, how-to info, and other items.

Your questions about Genealogy can be sent to: editorGSOCFLnews@gmail.com.

This month: "Can I start Genealogy research without spending money?"

The quick answer is, "Yes you can". The next question would be, "How and where do I start. The following are a two web sites that will help:

1. **ANCESTRYFINDING.COM**

This site offers a lot of information to help you get started. They also offer 11 free E-Books and free "Lookups" (one per day) in Births, Census, Deaths, Family Trees, Land records, Marriages, Military, State records, and Passenger/Immigration Records.

2. **FAMILYHISTORYDAILY.COM**

This site, not only offers information on Resources, Tips & Tricks, and Genealogy Searches, it has a list of 50 free Genealogy web sites.

Try these sites and Google "free genealogy" or "Free family tree" to find more. If you have questions, e-mail them to: editorGSOCFLnews@gmail.com. Others may need the same information, so the answer will appear in future articles.

FUNNY SAYINGS ABOUT COUSINS & OTHER RELATIVES

Can a first cousin once removed be returned?

A cousin a day keeps the boredom away.

A great party is when everyone joins in the gene pool.

An in-law is someone who has married into your family; an outlaw is an in-law who resists letting you do their genealogy!

If your family members won't talk about a particular relative, a seasoned genealogist knows they are keeping mum about something very interesting.

Moment of Truth for a genealogist: discovering you are your own cousin

If you don't know who the family black sheep is, it's probably you.

GENE TOONS by Wendell Washer



Great Uncle Bertrand didn't have a computer in 1880, so how will you find him on line?

Events and Information of GSOC Interest

Officers for 2017

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

Appointees:

Immediate Past President, Sue Basch
 Journal Editor, Cindy Barber
 Genealogist, Margaret Harris
 Publicity Chairperson, Val Moreland
 Newsletter Editor, Edward Crosby
 Webmaster, Jim Young

Addresses

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

Email: gsocokaloosa@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor: edcrosby@valp.net

GENIE Section: to submit questions about Genealogy:

EditorGSOCFLnews@gmail.net

Membership

Annual membership dues are \$24 for an individual and \$35 for an individual and spouse at the same address. You can obtain a revised membership form from our web site or use the copy that is included in this newsletter.

The Newsletter

The GSOC Newsletter is now published on or before the third weekend of each month. Suggestions for articles are welcome. The editor, Edward Crosby, can be contacted by phone at (850) 678-5423 or by email at edcrosby@valp.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 2017 issue, was published and distributed in September 2017 and has been mailed to all GSOC members. The theme of the 2017 issue is the Education. If you are a member and didn't receive your copy, please contact us.

The Web Site

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

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

GSOC on Facebook

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

The shortcut address to the official page of the Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County is shown above; or you can go to your Facebook account and search for **Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County**. This page will provide the latest information about our future meetings and other news that is important to members or prospective members. There is also a Facebook group. It is useful for exchanging information about your research and getting help with questions you may have about the Society or resources available to you. You can find it by going to your Facebook account and searching for **Friends of the GSOC**.

The GSOC Books

The five GSOC cemetery, marriage, and funeral books are all out of print, but are now available on the GSOC web site for reading on line and for downloading as searchable PDF files at no charge. **Please note that all these GSOC books are copyrighted by The Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County and may be only used for personal use. Reproduction is prohibited without the permission of the GSOC.**

Go to the web site, scroll down and click on the **GSOC Books** link, click on the name of the book to access, and read it on line. Save it to your computer to download it. Because of the size of these books, it may take them a few minutes to display (depending on the speed of your internet connection.)

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF OKALOOSA COUNTY

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

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

E-mail: gsocokaloosa@yahoo.com

I hereby apply for membership or the renewal of my membership in the Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County

ANNUAL DUES (Membership Year 1 Jan-31 Dec)

Individual \$24.00 Family \$35.00 (For Individual & spouse at the same address)

Please PRINT or TYPE all information:

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Preferred Telephone (Home/Cell): _____ E-Mail: _____ Date: _____ Can

information be shared with other members? Name: Yes/No, Address: Yes/No, Phone: Yes/No, Email: Yes/No

Your level of experience: Beginner ___ Intermediate ___ Advanced ___ Family Genealogist ___ Professional ___

Please indicate areas of GSOC in which you would like to serve or contribute:

Newsletter Editor ___ Write Newsletter Articles ___ Webmaster ___ Journal Editor ___ Journal Staff Member ___ Write Articles for Journal ___ Serve on Short-term Committee ___ Nomination Committee ___ Organize Field Trips ___ Christmas Party Organizer ___ Give Genealogy Presentation ___ Workshop Leader ___ Workshop Volunteer ___ Special Event Organizer ___ Special Event Volunteer ___ Librarian ___ Publicity ___ CD Sales ___

Research: Name of families and states you are researching

Surname	State or Area

Surname	State or Area

PLEASE MAIL FORM (ALONG WITH CHECK) TO THE GSOC P.O. ADDRESS ABOVE (OR BRING FORM AND CHECK TO NEXT SOCIETY MEETING)

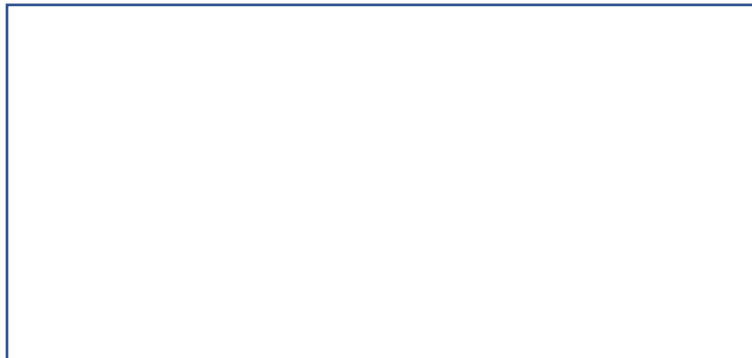


Our December meeting will on Saturday,
December 16th, from 11am to 1pm at the
Fort Walton Yacht Club, 180 Ferry Road NE

“Christmas Luncheon & Installation of Officers”

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

“Whatever you know, whatever you learn – Pass it On!”



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