

THE GSOC NEWSLETTER

Okaloosa County, Florida

October 2, 2010

GSOC Calendar

October 9

Our October speaker will be **Dale Cox**, a native of the little community of Two Egg, Florida. Mr. Cox is a writer and historian who has received growing praise for the unique literary style and depth of research evident in his books. Called a "skillful reconstructor of battle narrative" by one national reviewer, Cox's works range



from local histories to widely acclaimed volumes on small but significant Civil War battles.

Mr. Cox will be speaking on the **Asboth Raid of 1864**. This was the Union raid that started in Pensacola on September 18, 1864, and passed through what are now Santa Rosa,

Okaloosa, Walton, Holmes, Jackson and Washington Counties, culminating at the Battle of Marianna. He will focus heavily on events in Okaloosa and Walton Counties while giving an overview of the rest of the raid and an outline of the battle itself. This raid was significant for several reasons. First, it was the deepest penetration of Florida by Union troops during the entire Civil War. Second, it covered more linear miles than Sherman's March to the Sea. Third, Walton, Holmes, Jackson and Washington Counties suffered more economic damage than any other counties in Florida during the Civil War, entirely as a result of the 1864 raid. Fourth, it resulted in the single largest mass liberation of African Americans from slavery in Florida during the Civil War. Mr. Cox will bring some handout maps, etc., that those attending will be able to keep.

You can visit Mr. Cox online at:

<http://civilwarflorida.blogspot.com/>

and also at

<http://www.exploresouthernhistory.com>

This meeting will be held at the Heritage Museum at 10 AM. **Refreshments are planned and GSOC members are requested to bring snack items.** The meeting will be followed by an optional Dutch treat lunch at Woody's Hog Heaven in Niceville.

November 13

There will be a regular GSOC meeting at the Heritage Museum at 10 AM followed by an optional Dutch treat lunch at a nearby restaurant. This meeting will include the election of GSOC officers for 2011 which will be followed by a short program. Program information will be provided as it is firmed up.

December 11

The December meeting will include a short program for the installation of the GSOC officers for 2011 followed by the traditional annual holiday party. Information about the location for the meeting and party will be added as the details become available.

2011 Schedule

January 8, February 12, March 12

April 9, May 14, June 11

July 9, August 13, September 10

October 8, November 12, December 10

Minutes of the September 11th Meeting

President Malcolm Flanagan opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. at the Northwest Florida Heritage Museum with 19 members and no guests. Malcolm welcomed all members and asked if there were any changes to the posted minutes for August. Sue Basch made a motion to approve the August minutes as posted. The motion was seconded and approved by the membership.

Donna Elliott, First Vice President, provided an update on future programs. October will feature a special presentation by Dale Cox, Civil War Historian from Two Egg, Florida. Dale will provide a program on the Civil War period in Northwest Florida. Since this is a special presentation, Donna asked members to bring some snacks and the GSOC will furnish coffee and water. November will be the election of new officers with a short report on the Genealogy Convention in Knoxville, Tennessee, by Beverly Gross. December will be the GSOC holiday party which will be organized by

Martha and Phil Trau and include a brief meeting to install the 2011 GSOC officers.

Bob Basch, Treasurer, reported a budget balance of \$3,184.07 with only the Journal costs of approximately \$700 yet to be incurred.

Malcolm asked if any of the libraries that GSOC supports had any need for books. Ken Elliott, Baker Library Liaison, reported that the Baker Block Museum had received the documents from the Crestview Library but they had no room to display the materials. The Baker Block Museum was in the process of having a building built to house the collections and would let GSOC know what, if any, additional materials they needed.

Jim Young, Corresponding Secretary, reported that he sends the newsletter out the week before the next GSOC meeting. Jim encouraged members to submit any items to publish in the newsletter prior to the release date.

Sue Basch, Historian, asked members to bring any clippings of local genealogical news for inclusion in the GSOC scrapbook.

Malcolm announced that The Northwest Florida Museum was having an open house today from 10:00 to 12:00 with a presentation about life in the 1930s. Members were encouraged to attend.

Flyers were provided to anyone interested in attending the Florida Genealogical Society meeting in Sarasota Florida on the 12th and 13th of Novembers.

Donna introduced today's program (Show & Tell by the Members). Mary Skillman talked about her grandfather's early childhood, service in the Spanish American war, and his family life. Ken and Donna Elliott talked about their research of Ken's Great-Great grandfather, Veto Sangregorio, a Confederate Civil War veteran, and fisherman in early Florida. Mike Martell presented tips for using a digital camera and digital recorder in documenting genealogy research. Members also provided comments and suggestions about their research.

The blue box was passed to collect funds for the purchase of books for Okaloosa County genealogy libraries. The door prize was won by Pat Pruett. Nine members went to Ruby Tuesday's restaurant for lunch following the meeting.

Respectively Submitted, Mike Martell, Recording Secretary

Summary of the September 11th Program

GSOC members **Mary Skillman**, **Mike Martell**, and **Donna & Ken Elliott** presented the program for the September meeting.

Mary Skillman discussed what she had learned about her grandfather, **James Monroe Copeland**, who was born in Indiana and ran away from home when he was only nine. He educated himself, worked on the railroad, and joined the Marines in 1890, serving in the south Pacific during the Spanish-American war. He was married in 1896 while still in the Marines. He "bought himself out" of the Marines and settled in Washington, D.C. where he worked as a male nurse and a civilian guard. One day he told his wife that he was going to the store and asked if she needed anything. She said she needed a loaf of bread. He walked out the door and didn't return for seven years, apparently never telling where he had been! Mary related several stories that had been passed down in the family about this remarkable man, including the fact that he had read the Bible through five times. He lived to be 96 years old and was the oldest Spanish-American War veteran when he died.

Mike Martell described how he uses his digital camera and his tiny digital voice recorder in his genealogical activities. As the GSOC Recording Secretary, Mike records the discussions at our meetings and uses the recordings to help prepare the written minutes. He also mentioned its use in recording interviews. One of the GSOC members mentioned using a recorder in transcribing tombstone information for use in preparing cemetery listings. Mike also told how he makes extensive use of his digital camera. He takes pictures of documents and photographs relevant to his research that he finds in libraries or in relatives' collections. Mike described several techniques for making good quality pictures. He suggested not using the built-in flash but use various ways to steady the camera instead. He described how you can screw a ¼ x 20 eye bolt into the tripod socket on the bottom of the most cameras and then attach a long cord to the eye bolt. By stepping on the cord and pulling up on the camera, the resulting tension in the cord will help to significantly steady the camera. He also recommended using the camera timer mode in some cases to avoid

the camera shake that occurs when the shutter button is pressed manually.

Donna & Ken Elliott discussed their on-going research on the **Sangregorio** family, specifically on **Veto Sangregorio** who was Ken's maternal great-great grandfather. Donna told what information they had when they started the research and how they used that to find other information. Veto (also spelled Vito and other variations) was born in Italy and he and his family emigrated to New Orleans. Veto's wife and children's names were found on the passenger list for the Bark *Francesca*, 21 April 1858, but Veto's name wasn't included. This is one of the missing pieces of the puzzle, Donna said. Veto and his family later moved to Apalachicola, Florida (Franklin County.) Veto and his sons were seamen and fishermen by trade. Donna and Ken described how they found various clues that led them to information about Veto and his family and Veto's Civil War service. They've done extensive research, including many many hours of poring through dusty records in the Franklin County court house and the library there. They were successful in finding probate records and Civil War records that were helpful. Ken has made a book with copies of much of the information they've found, including a photo of Veto. They said that they still have a lot to find, though. Because of the unusual surname (**Sangregorio**) they have found many variations in the way the name was written in various documents. The surname was also later changed to **Sangaree** which made searching records even more complicated. One disappointment was that they haven't been able, so far, to locate the graves of Veto and his wife Pauline (originally Paulo) in the Magnolia Cemetery even though Veto's obituary states that he is buried there.

Ideas for Future Programs are Welcome and Needed!

Donna Elliott, the GSOC 1st Vice President for Programs, would like to hear from GSOC members concerning recommendations for future programs. We have had very good programs this year and are looking forward to having more good programs. You can help make this possible by letting Donna know what you would like to have presented.

Free Searchable Database Of All Known Civil War Participants

This following webpage link contains a searchable database of all known Civil War participants, Union and Confederate.

<http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/soldiers.cfm>

Cordially, David Slay, Ph.D.
Vicksburg National Military Park

Names Being Researched by GSOC Members

Abernathy	Abernethy	Alexander	Applegate
Ash	Ashe	Barnett	Bartlett
Best	Bishop	Blanton	Blomquist
Blue	Boones	Brand	Bryant
Burris	Caleb	Carroll	Causey
Connolley	Cooke	Cooper	Corslie
Cox	Cramer	Crockett	Cromelin
Cumperque	Daniell	DeCeass	DeLagnes
Dillon	Donahue	Duncan	Eithier
Elliott	Ellis	Flanagan	Foley
Forrester	Garison	Garrison	Gordon
Guizot	Hardin	Haughaboo	Heath
Henry	Hicks	Hoge	Hogg
Hooper	Hopper	Horner	Jean
Jeans	Johnson	Kluge	Lessard
Martell	Martin	Matlock	McBride
McCall	McCool	McCrews	McLaren
McMahon	Melvin	Mock	Morgan
Morounew	Murphree	Osborn	Padget
Peck	Piercy	Rankin	Reeves
Richard	Richards	Roberts	Roosa
Rossell	Sangaree	Scott	Sidebottom
Sparks	Stiles	Summerford	Switzer
Tate	Thomsen	Trau	Tuttle
Wade	Walker	Ward	Weathersby
Wells	White	Wilkinson	Williams
Winter	Winters	Young	Zeug

Please contact the Society by email or by regular mail to be put in touch with the GSOC member(s) who are researching the surnames listed above.

Technical Corner

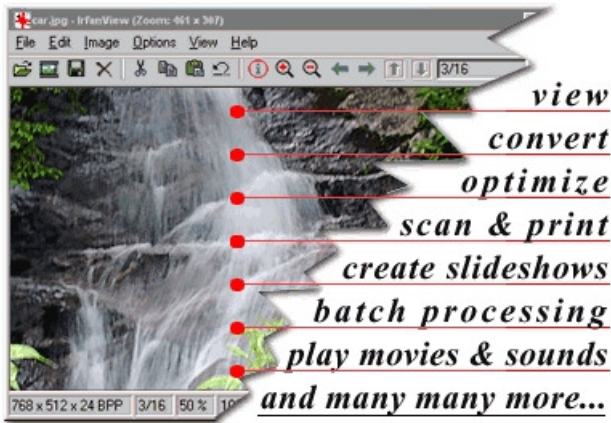
IrfanView A Highly Recommended FREE Photo & Graphics Program

IrfanView is an image viewer for Microsoft Windows that can view, edit, and convert image files and play video/audio files. It is noted for its small size, speed, ease of use, and ability to handle a wide variety of graphic file formats. It also has some image creation and painting capabilities.

IrfanView is free for non-commercial use; commercial use requires paid registration.

The program is named for its creator, **Irfan Skiljan** from Bosnia and Herzegovina, now living in Vienna.

IrfanView works under Windows 95 through Windows 7. It supports numerous file types including image formats such as BMP, GIF, JPEG, PNG, TIFF, camera RAW, non-image media files such as Flash, Ogg Vorbis, MPEG, MP3, MIDI, and text files.



The program is compact: the basic installation of version 4.27 occupies 1.6 MB, and a full install with all plugins occupies about 10 MB. While viewing images, there are several fit-to-screen scaling options and an automatic slideshow function.

Image editing includes crop, resize, and rotate. Images can be adjusted by modifying their brightness, contrast, tint, and gamma level manually or automatically, and by converting them between file formats. Many of these changes can be applied to multiple images in one operation using batch processing.

This program is well-suited as an historical and genealogical tool. For example, old photographs which have faded to yellowish tints can be converted back to black and white and the image sharpened.

IrfanView has too many capabilities for them all to be listed here. You can read more about IrfanView and also download it at www.irfanview.com

IrfanView was used in the preparation of this newsletter.

Deciphering Old Handwriting

Words and word meanings have changed over the years and the way we form handwritten letters has also. Deciphering old handwritten letters and records is usually a challenge, the older these are, the more difficult they are to read. Here is a link to an excellent on-line tutorial that gives tips on reading old handwriting:

<http://amberskyline.com/treasuremaps/oldhand.html>

Upcoming Events of Genealogical Interest

HERITAGE FESTIVAL Saturday, November 6, 2010, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Baker Block Museum & Historical Park Corner of Hwy 189 & SR 4, Baker, Florida

Woodworking, Quilters, Log Cabin tours, Corn Crib, Cornhusk Dolls, Flint Knappers, Family Heritage, County Heritage, Farm Demonstrations, Native Americans in our area, Naval Stores Displays, Lunch in the park, Greens 'n Cornbread, Boiled Peanuts, and much more, Southern Gospel and Blue Grass Music

North Okaloosa Historical Association

FLORIDA STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY 2010 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

*November 12-13 at the Hyatt Regency Sarasota
1000 Boulevard of the Arts, Sarasota, FL*

Outstanding speakers!

Check the FSGS web site for further information and to get a copy of the registration form:

<http://flsgs.org>

2010 Atlanta Family History Expo

November 12-13, 2010
Gwinnett Center, Duluth, Georgia
Sponsored in part by Ancestry.com

Take part in two full days of family history classes, exhibitors, and other events designed to improve your family history skills.

The Keynote Address on Friday, November 12 at 8 AM is Free to the Public. Other sessions require registration. Click on the expo title above to link to the expo web site.

Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida *Annual Wine Tasting*




**The BOATHOUSE
LANDING**
124 N John Sims Parkway, Valparaiso
(850) 678-2805
Saturday, Nov. 13 3 – 5 p.m.
Tickets: \$25  
Call today to reserve your tickets:
(850) 678-2615

Genealogical Support

LDS Family History Centers in Okaloosa County, Florida

Baker Block Museum

1307 Georgia Ave., Baker, Florida

Phone: 850-537-5714

Hours: Tue-Fri and third Sat 10am-3:30 pm

**Microfilms from the Church can be ordered at this
Museum**

Fort Walton Beach Florida

339 Lake Dr NW, Fort Walton Beach, Florida

Phone: 850-244-3338

Hours: Tue 12am-6pm; Thur 10am-7pm;

Closed: Holidays, Church Conferences

GSOC Officers for 2010

President, Malcolm Flanagan
1st Vice President (Programs), Donna Elliott
2nd Vice President (Membership), Lorna Sainz
Treasurer, Bob Basch
Immediate Past President, Beverly Gross
Recording Secretary, Mike Martell
Corresponding Secretary, Jim Young
Historian, Sue Basch
Genealogist, Margaret Harris
Publicity Chairperson, Pat Pruett
Webmaster & Newsletter Editor, Jim Young

GSOC Addresses

Web Site: www.members.cox.net/youngjmy/GSOC.html

Email: gsocokaloosa@yahoo.com

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

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.

If you are reading this newsletter online, click [here](#) to see a map showing the location of the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida. (Click the "Back" button on that page to get back to here.)

Membership dues are \$24 for an individual and \$35 for an individual and spouse at the same address.

If you are reading this online and would like to become a member of the GSOC or need to renew your membership, please click on one of these application forms. The form for new members is: [New Form](#) and the form for renewing members is [Renewal Form](#). When the desired form is displayed, you can print it or save it to your computer.

Checks should be made out to GSOC and mailed along with the application form to the post office address shown above or brought to a meeting.

Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County

Next meeting: Saturday, October 9th, 2010

Location: Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, 115 Westview Avenue, Valparaiso, FL

Time: 10:00 AM

Mr. Dale Cox, writer and historian, will be speaking on the Asboth Raid of 1864. This Union raid started in Pensacola and passed through what are now Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Holmes, Jackson, and Washington Counties, culminating in the Battle of Marianna. This was the deepest penetration of Florida by Union troops during the entire Civil War.

Admission is free. Visitors are welcome!

Refreshments are planned. GSOC members are asked to bring snack items.

**Genealogical Society of
Okaloosa County (GSOC)**

P.O. Box 1175

Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-1175

