

# THE GSOC NEWSLETTER

The Genealogical Society of  
Okaloosa County, Florida

October 3, 2014

## Next GSOC Meeting

October 11, 2014



Mr. Bert Blackmon will be the guest speaker for the October 11<sup>th</sup> meeting at 10:00 am at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida. Mr. Blackmon's presentation will be "Researching Military Records" and will focus on the many kinds of records available for persons who served in the military and where to look for these records.

Mr. Blackmon is retired from the Baldwin County School System, the United States Army and the Alabama National Guard. He is an avid re-enactor of the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812 and the War Between the States, and he belongs to numerous heritage and genealogical groups, such as the Sons of the American Revolution, the Sons of Confederate Veterans, and

the 15th Confederate Cavalry /1st Louisiana Union Cavalry (a reenactor group), plus many others.

Mr. Blackmon enjoys research and visiting historical sites, libraries and courthouses. Among his favorite pastimes are walking and surveying old semi-abandoned cemeteries and plowing through ancient, forgotten legal forms, Bibles and letters. He has done a good bit of genealogical research and has traced some of his family back to Virginia in the early 1600s and Salem, Massachusetts in 1629. From time to time, he gives talks on various historic and genealogical topics. and occasionally writes articles for the publications of some of the groups to which he belongs.

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## GSOC Meeting Minutes for September

September 13, 2014

Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida  
Pat Pruett, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President Jim Young at 10:00 AM with a large turnout of members. He also welcomed one guest, Sue Donavin. Other officers present were 1<sup>st</sup> VP Del Lessard, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Sue Basch, Treasurer Bob Basch and Recording Secretary Pat Pruett.

Pres. Young said the August minutes are in the September Newsletter and on the GSOC website. He then heard the motion to approve the minutes as printed. Bob Sutherland made the motion. Bob Basch seconded it and the motion was approved. Jim asked if anyone had any questions concerning the newsletter.

He proceeded to report on the GSOC Journal and said it was mailed on the 8th of Sept. He thanked all who helped write articles and proof the work. He said that Armstrong Printing and Graphics in Ft. Walton did an excellent job with the printing of the Journal. Everyone gave Jim a hand in acknowledgement of his fine work as Editor of this years Journal.

Pres. Young brought up the subject of our Bylaws, as to how they affect our Election of Officers. Presently a nominating committee brings a slate of officers to the Nov. meeting for the purpose of voting. Jim suggested that instead, the committee advertise in the October newsletter for nominations "from the floor". Then we will vote at the November meeting and install the new officers at the December meeting. A motion stating this was made by Donna Elliott and seconded by Bev Gross. It was approved unanimously.

### Officers Reports:

1<sup>st</sup> VP for Programs Del Lessard said that Mr. Bert Blackmon will be the speaker next month on Military Records and the following month we will have Ms. Bucchino, an archeologist from UWF, who will speak on cemeteries and tome stones.

Del took a show of hands to see who would like to go to the Dutch Treat lunch after the this meeting. Seven people planned to go to the Chia Bell restaurant. Del then distributed tickets for the door prize which was Charlene Grafton's donation of her new book, "What's in Your Genes?" Hilma Jenus's name was picked and she re-

donated since she already had purchased the book and Del was the lucky recipient.

2<sup>nd</sup> VP for Membership Sue Basch reported that we now have 74 members. Fourteen are Life members and twenty-four family, with one complimentary and the rest single.

Treasurer Bob Basch reported that we now have a checkbook balance of \$1550.00 which is \$200.00 ahead of last year at this time. He said this is with the Journal expenses having already been paid. Bob passed the Blue Box for donations for books for the Libraries and to help with Journal expenses.

Recording Sec. Pat Pruett had nothing to report.

Corresponding Sec. Carl Laws was not in attendance.

Publicity Chairman Val Moreland was not in attendance. Donna Elliott said she saw pictures in the Beacon that Val had sent in recently.

Library Liaison – Valparaiso – Charlene Grafton said they do not need any new books at the present time. They are trying to clean out some of their unused books and other items. Hilma Jenus said the Ft. Walton Beach Library does not need any at present, but could use containers to hold the newsletters they receive.

Pres. Young asked if there were any announcements any one would like to make. Donna Elliott, newly-appointed chair of the nominating committee, asked that everyone consider volunteering to run for office.

President Young then turned the meeting over to Del for the program portion of the meeting.

The program consisted of a “Show and Tell” by several members. As our members become more and more experienced in genealogical and historical research, the quality of the presentations have changed from “quite interesting” to “outstanding”. We had seven presentations, with the last one being an impromptu one from our visitor, Ms. Donavin.

Jim Young treated us to a look at the work he has accomplished in making a book reflecting the history of the small town where he was born.

Charlene Grafton gave us an update on the FDA and how it has changed the way DNA and gene studies are allowed

to be conducted. She stated that we need to pay close attention to what is happening concerning our medications. She suggested we checkout the Genetic Genealogist Website.

Bob Sutherland demonstrated with his computer how he used census and plat maps to trace the residences of his ancestors.

Hilma Jenus gave an update on her family research explaining how she had in the past paid attention only to the Scandinavian roots of her family and then learned that there was a French connection. She was fortunate in finding a relative who furnished a lot of good information from this change in directions.

Bev Gross will be teaching a class at Prime Time at NWFS College this fall and she gave us a handout with titles of books concerning migration. She pointed out the ones online that should be really helpful in our research.

Del Lessard gave a fascinating account of his and Carole’s trip to New York State and then to Quebec to research his French connections. He gave the history of the French settlers in the colonies in New York and how they migrated due to battles between the British, French and Indians and the affect it had on the colonists. His best source of information was from the small churches in the area due to the thorough way they recorded information on baptism, marriage and death certificates.

Sue Donavin told how through a fortunate turn of events she met a distant relative while in an RV park in the area where she wanted to do some research. It turned out that the person she met provided her with a significant amount of family history and even guided her to the little church where Sue’s great grandparents were married.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM.

## **Recently Received Publications from other Societies**

The Mesquite Tree Vol. 50 June, 2014 No. 1

Montgomery Genealogical Society Journal Vol. 21 No. 1  
January - July 2014

Kinfolks Vol. 38 No. 3 September 2014

## **Nominations for GSOC Officers for 2015**

The Nominating Committee consists of Donna Elliott, Beverly Gross, and Val Moreland. The 2014 officers, with the exception of the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President for Membership, have indicated that they are willing to continue to serve for another year. However, ALL of the officers must be elected each year and any GSOC member can offer themselves as a candidate for any of the positions.

If anyone is interested in being nominated for the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President for Membership office, or FOR ANY OTHER OFFICE, please contact Donna Elliott by phone (850-585-1739) or e-mail ([deliott66@cox.net](mailto:deliott66@cox.net)) for further information about the duties of the various offices or to express interest in being nominated.

## U.S. Congressman Robert Lee Fulton Sikes, 1906 – 1994 "The He-Coon"

**Robert Lee Fulton "Bob" Sikes** was born June 3, 1906 in Isabella, Worth County, GA, to Benjamin Franklin Sikes and Clara Ophelia Ford Sikes. His father was 61 when Bob was born. Of his name, Sikes says that his parents – believing he would be the last child they would ever have – named him after all the people in the family that hadn't had a child named after them. That's how he ended up with four names.



His father, Benjamin Franklin Sikes, was born April 10, 1845, and died March 28, 1916. He was a Confederate soldier and, according to his widow Clara's application for a pension, was in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Georgia Infantry, CSA. Bob Sikes, when he became a member of Congress, boasted of being the only man left in Congress whose daddy fought in "The War of Northern Aggression."

Benjamin Franklin Sikes' parents were Eli Sikes (1818-1895) and Charlotte Burch Sikes (1824-1903.) His first wife was Susan Ann Hobby Sikes (1833-1902). Clara Opelia Ford Sikes (1865-1953) was his second wife.

In addition to Robert L.F. Sikes, Benjamin Franklin Sikes' children were John (1871-1871), William

Franklin (1872-1946), James Benjamin (1874-1958), and Joseph Eli (1876-1929).

Robert L.F. Sikes' mother, Clara Ophelia Ford Sikes was born June 30, 1865 and died February 23, 1953. She was the daughter of James Newton Ford (1816 - 1870) and Barbara Cathrine Fulton Ford (1828 - 1909). She was first married to Robert H. Lancaster (1854-1893) and then to Benjamin Franklin Sikes. She had four children with Robert Lancaster and one, Robert L.F. Sikes, with Benjamin Franklin Sikes. Clara is buried in the Sikes Cemetery, Worth County, Georgia.

Bob Sikes grew up in Georgia and attended public schools there before entering the University of Georgia. He graduated from there with a B.S. degree in 1927 and then moved on to the University of Florida where he earned a Masters degree in English in 1929.

In early 1933, he moved to Valparaiso, FL. and within a few months was the owner and publisher of the *Valparaiso Star* weekly newspaper. Soon he was the owner of a second weekly paper, *The Okaloosa News Journal* in Crestview.

By 1935 he had built a house and established Crestview as his home. This was his principal residence until his death.

By 1936, Sikes was serving in the Florida Legislature where he served two terms. In 1937, he served as president of the Florida Press Association. His publishing career would last until 1946. It was during this time that he held his first political office, in the Florida House of Representatives, from 1936 until 1940.

In 1940 he was elected as a Democrat to the 77<sup>th</sup> and 78<sup>th</sup> Congresses and served from January 3, 1941, until his resignation on October 19, 1944, to enter the United States Army. He remained in the U.S. Army Reserve after he returned to Congress on January 3, 1945; and he remained in Congress until January 3, 1979. Before retiring from the U.S. Army Reserve, he reached the rank of Major General.

Sikes became the third ranking member of the powerful Appropriations Committee and was Chairman of the Military Construction Subcommittee. This Subcommittee had enormous power to direct funding to military installations.

Bob Sikes served as Congressman for Northwest Florida for 38 years. During his career, Sikes turned the Florida Panhandle into a military stronghold and helped to preserve its beaches for future generations and was responsible for making Eglin Air Force Base one of the largest military installations in the world.



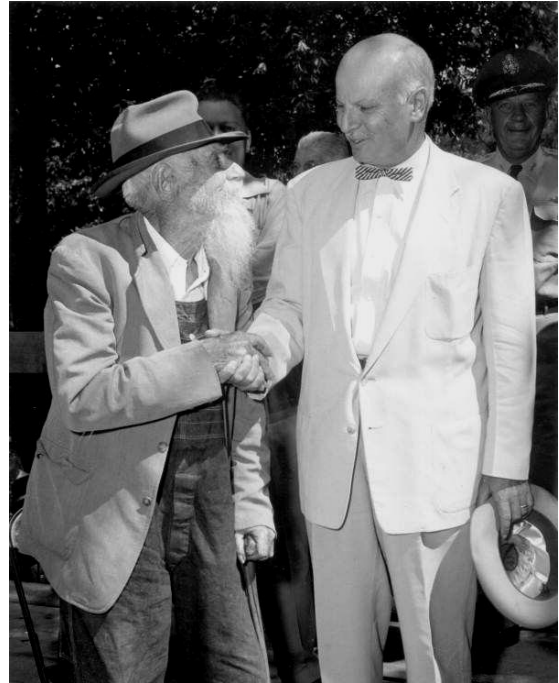
**Reps. Bob Sikes and Charles Bennett meet with President John F. Kennedy on 10 May 1961**

Of his abilities to represent the Florida panhandle, Representative Sam Gibbons, Democrat, from Tampa, had this to say: "Sikes looked after his district first, second, and third, and after that the rest of us got whatever crumbs were left." At one of Sikes' early rallies the Congressman was vehemently standing up for his territory and fighting for the rights of his people, and Sikes later said that "Someone in the crowd said, 'Well, he acts just like an old He-Coon. I thought about it, decided not to say anything about it and, well, it just stuck.'" Sikes recalled that – in the early days – folks commonly believed that anytime you saw five or six raccoons together in a pack, one of them must be the one to look for water, find the food, stake out the territory and protect all the others. They called him the He-Coon.

Sikes is credited for establishing the climatic lab, guided missile testing facilities and the federal prison at Eglin AFB. In addition to Eglin, he helped develop Tyndall AFB, Whiting Field and Pensacola Naval Air Station, the Jim Woodruff Dam and the Gulf Islands National Seashore. This area includes thirty miles of

beaches in Florida and Mississippi, covering some 139,000 acres. Sikes was also instrumental in the development of the Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola and the U.S. Air Force Armament Museum at Eglin.

Sikes was a segregationist, like most contemporary Southern politicians. During World War II, he protested the fact that black soldiers were billeted alongside white soldiers at the Naval Air Station and was assured by Rear Admiral George D. Murray that "in no cases is indiscriminate mixing of these groups permitted."



**Bob Sikes and Bill Lundy  
(last Confederate Veteran in FL)**

However, Sikes attempted to be receptive to all his constituents, regardless of race. Crestview City Councilman Sam Hayes who helped found the local NAACP branch, said of Sikes, "No matter what your color was, he listened to you. It didn't matter how high up or how down low you might be. He was a fair man."

In 1975, Common Cause, a public-affairs lobbying group, accused Sikes of using his office for personal gain. He owned stock in a Pensacola Naval Air Station bank that had been established by government officials at his urging, as well as military contractor Fairchild Industries, which benefited from government contracts awarded by Sikes. He failed to disclose his interest in both these companies in the requisite financial reports.

He was the first member of Congress to be investigated by the new Committee on Standards and Official Conduct which was created following the Watergate scandal. Sikes was reprimanded by a 381-3 vote of the House of Representatives for the financial misconduct on July 26, 1976. Sikes, a strong conservative, believed that "flaming liberals" had conspired against him. In a statement released after the reprimand, Sikes said, "I had no intent to violate any rule of this House, and any inadvertent and technical violation did not benefit me in any way. All of my personal business transactions are conducted openly, in my own name and without concealment, and are simple honorable transactions."

Despite the controversy, Sikes was overwhelming reelected by his district the same year, with 78% of the vote. However, on January 26, 1977, he was removed from the Appropriations Subcommittee which he had chaired and from which he derived most of his political power. His influence diminished, Sikes decided not to seek election and left office on January 3, 1979. He was replaced by fellow conservative Democrat Earl Hutto.

Sikes first married Emma Keyes (1929). He next married Inez Tyner (1949) and he married his third wife, Joan Thomas in 1983. According to a report after his death,"he was raised by his widowed mother, his adult half-sister and two nieces who were actually older than he was. He was the pampered boy in a household of women."

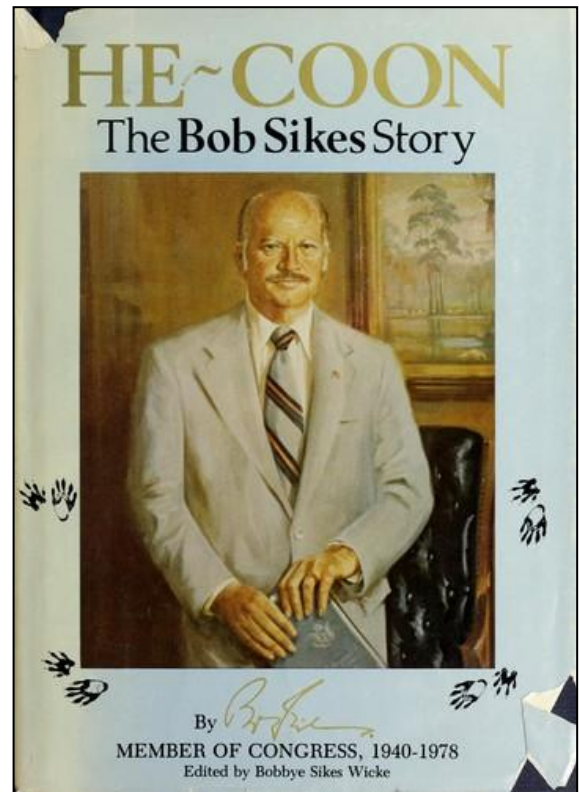
He was an avid sportsman whose home was filled with hunting trophies. After retiring for good in 1978, he remained active in the community. In his later years Sikes' health began to fail and he suffered from Alzheimer's disease.

Robert L. F. Sikes died on September 28, 1994 (aged 88) and is buried at Liveoak Park Memorial Cemetery in Crestview, FL.

Sikes' daughter Bobbye Wicke who also edited his autobiography, published a book in 2005, *Justice Denied: The destruction of the life and legacy of the He-Coon*. She says that she returned to bury her father and learned that he died of malnutrition and dehydration and that she and her family had been maligned and their estate stolen. She also alleges that his widow Joan was aided by a conspiracy involving, among others, Bob Sikes' secretary, Crestview Mayor Ted Mathis and State Senator Dr.

Durell Peaden, her father's physician at the time. Decades of court battles followed, but the daughter was not successful in the suits.

Some of Sikes' namesakes are: Bob Sikes Bridge, Escambia County; Bob Sikes Elementary School Crestview; Bob Sikes Airport, Crestview ; Bob Sikes Hwy (SR 85) Ft. Walton Beach to the Alabama State line; and the Bob Sikes Channel (Franklin Co. east of Panama City, FL).



**His Autobiography**

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## Civil War Sesquicentennial

### Selected Highlights of October 1864

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

**Atlanta fell on September 2<sup>nd</sup>.** It is what happened in Atlanta itself that remains one of the most controversial incidents of the American Civil War. Sherman ordered that any building that was of no use to the military should be destroyed and that the city was to be for the military only - not for civilians. Grant encouraged Sherman to continue being aggressive.

**In October 1864, the Confederate General Hood believed that the only way to fight Sherman was to confront him. In this he was supported by Jefferson Davis. Hood knew that constant retreating was demoralising his men. Hood's approach won the admiration and respect of the man he was trying to defeat - Sherman.**

October 1<sup>st</sup>: The body of Rose O'Neal Greenhow was found on a beach near Wilmington, North Carolina. She was one of the foremost Confederate spies in Washington DC and passed onto General Beauregard the plans of General McDowell on the eve of what became known as the Battle of Bull Run. Fearing her ship might be boarded on her return from Europe, Greenhow took to a small boat to row ashore but it must have overturned and she drowned.

General Hood decided that an offensive campaign was the only way ahead for him against Sherman. Hood decided that Sherman's supply lines were too long and therefore were vulnerable to attack.

October 2<sup>nd</sup>: Confederate troops cut the Western and Atlantic Railroad – an important part of Sherman's lines of communication.

October 3<sup>rd</sup>: Jefferson Davis made a speech at Columbia, South Carolina, declaring that if everyone supported the work of Hood, he was confident that Sherman would be defeated. Hood's men broke the track of the Chattanooga-Atlanta railroad, a further blow to Sherman.

October 4<sup>th</sup>: Hood's men destroy fifteen miles of railway near Marietta.

October 5<sup>th</sup>: Hood's men attacked Union positions that defended the railroad pass at Allatoona. The Confederate attack was defeated. Such was the importance of this victory, that Sherman sent a personal message of thanks to Major General J M Corse who commanded the Union troops at Allatoona.

October 6<sup>th</sup>: General Thomas Rosser led a Confederate cavalry force against General George Custer at Brock's Gap. It failed.

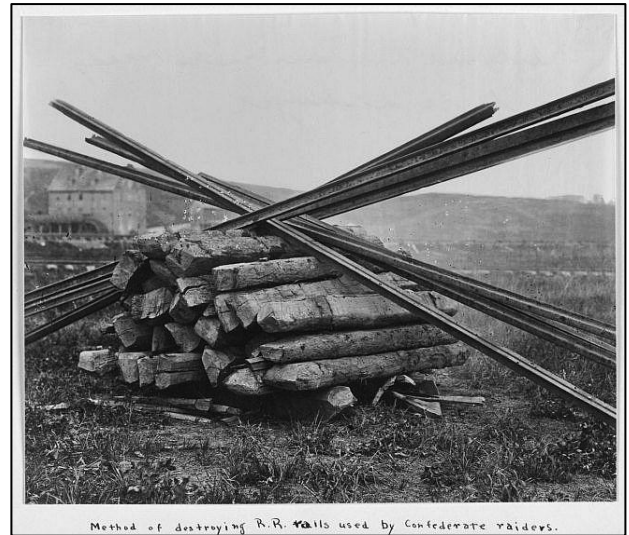
October 9<sup>th</sup>: Generals Custer and Lomax led a successful cavalry attack against Confederate positions in the Shenandoah Valley.

October 13<sup>th</sup>: Maryland voted to abolish slavery within the state. A Confederate force destroyed twenty miles of railway near Resaca.

October 18<sup>th</sup>: General Early decided to attack General Sheridan's army despite being heavily outnumbered. He knew that he could not simply just move and then move on still more.

October 19<sup>th</sup>: Early's 10,000 men attacked Sheridan's 30,000 troops at Cedar Creek. Early's advance was disguised by fog and his attack achieved near total surprise. However, the early Confederate successes could not be sustained and by midday the exhausted Confederates withdrew. Early's army lost 3,000 men in total. The Union lost over 5,550 men in total but Sheridan's army could sustain this.

October 20<sup>th</sup>: Sheridan decided not to pursue Early as he no longer considered them to be a sustainable fighting force.



Method of destroying RR rails used by Confederates

October 22<sup>nd</sup>: Hood continued with his aggressive campaign against Sherman. However, he was aware that lack of supplies was becoming a major issue.

October 26<sup>th</sup>: Sherman recognised that his opponent, Hood, was a highly able commander. He said of him: "He can turn and twist like a fox and wear out my army in pursuit." Bloody Bill Anderson was killed in an ambush at Richmond, Missouri. The last Confederate offensive in Missouri ended.

October 27<sup>th</sup>: General Grant launched an attack against Confederate positions in Petersburg but it was beaten back.

October 31<sup>st</sup>: Hood's attempt to draw Sherman away from Atlanta failed. Hood's army was heading in one direction while Sherman's was heading further into the Confederacy.

## Poke Salad Bessie © by Jesse Lee Yancy III

**Bessie Mae Evans** kept house for us when I was a kid. She was a fountain of the sort of lore that fascinates young boys, especially when it came to snakes.

Bessie knew snakes chapter and verse. She would tell about those snakes that could hoop up and roll downhill, the ones that would sting you with their tails if they couldn't bite you and snakes that would wrap you to a tree with their coils and beat you to death. She claimed that those snakes would stick the tip-end of their tail in your nose every now and then to see if you were still breathing, and if you were, they'd keep whipping.

Serpents were Satan incarnate to Bessie: I once watched her lob a Molotov cocktail made from a Coke bottle full of gasoline and a dirty sock into a thirty-foot culvert next to her house because a neighbor said she saw a snake crawl into it. The resulting explosion registered on a seismograph at Ole Miss, whose geology staff dutifully sent a team of graduate students to investigate the phenomenon. (I heard they took a wrong turn near Paris [MS] and ended up in Pontotoc.)

When we weren't discussing reptiles, one of our favorite things to do together was to plant ourselves in front of the television on Saturday afternoons and watch old Tarzan movies on Channel 13 out of Memphis. She'd pretend to iron, and I'd pretend to do my homework. One afternoon my mother came up on us watching *Tarzan Escapes* during a scene when a scantily-clad Johnny Weissmuller is being pursued by a hoard of Hollywood extras brandishing spears and slathered in Man Tan. Momma pointed to the screen and said, "Just think, Bessie, you might be kin to those people," at which point Bessie mustered up all of her considerable dignity and said, "No, ma'am; I am a *Christian* lady." And that was that about that, with Bessie leaving Momma's relation to Tarzan open to question.

Bessie taught me how to take care of "pot plants" (which is what we used to call houseplants), how to grow greens in the winter (usually in a burnt-over spot) and how to cook poke salad.

Euell Gibbons lauds poke as "probably the best-known and most widely-used wild vegetable in America." In *Stalking the Wild Asparagus*, Gibbons writes that the Indian tribes eagerly sought it and early explorers were unstinting in their praise of this "succulent potherb." They carried seeds when they went back home and poke soon became a popular cultivated garden vegetable in southern Europe and North Africa, a position it still maintains. In America it is still a favorite green vegetable with many country people and the tender young sprouts, gathered from wild plants, often appear in vegetable markets, especially in the South."

Much like ramps, poke salad was eaten as a spring green because it was one of the first edible herbs to appear, giving a much-needed break from the beans, cornbread and salt pork diet of winter.

In April 2000, Allen Canning Company of Siloam Springs, Arkansas canned its last batch of "poke sallet" greens. As late as 1990 at least two processing plants continued the tradition, Bush Brothers of Tennessee and Allen of Siloam Springs. Surprisingly, one of the best markets for canned poke was southern California due to the many "Oakies" who settled there in the '30s. John Williams, the canning supervisor at Allen Canning, said, "The decision to stop processing poke was primarily



because of the difficulty of finding people interested in picking poke and bring it to our buying locations." Also, poke processing was never a significant item in their multimillion-dollar enterprise, so it just became more bother than it was worth.

The only drawback to poke salad as a food is that it's poisonous. The mature parts of the plant and the roots contain significant amounts of a violent but slow-acting emetic. Having said that, you're probably wondering why in the hell anyone would even consider eating it, but prepared properly, poke salad is not only safe but delicious.

Here's how you do it: harvest only the youngest, tenderest sprouts of poke. Wash, stem and trim. Boil them for about ten minutes in plenty of salt water. Then drain, rinse and simmer for a while with just a bit more lightly salted water and a bit of oil of some kind. A slit hot pepper pod of the slender sort is a nice touch, and adding big pinch of sugar is something you just ought to do. Trust me.

Use prepared poke much as you would spinach; Euell has a poke salad dip in his book, and Bessie used to put it in scrambled eggs. She always cooked with bacon drippings, using plenty of salt (as somewhat of a talisman against



poison of any kind, I suspect, since she used to sprinkle salt around her garden to keep the snakes out, too), and though that sounds like a recipe for a heart attack, Bessie's still looking out for snakes up in my old home town of Bruce there in Calhoun County, Mississippi.

(Bessie Mae Evans died Feb. 8, 2013 at the age of 81.)

**Jesse Lee Yancy III is a photojournalist, writer, chef, and master gardener in Jackson, MS. This article is used with his permission.**

# Events, Groups, and Sites of GSOC Interest

## **The Crestview Public Library** **Tuesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 AM**

Can you really accomplish anything on your genealogy with online resources? Yes, you can! Elizabeth Powell Crowe will share with you some success stories of research, serendipity and cousin finding using online sites and records in her talk "Genealogy Online Success Stories" at the Crestview Public Library's First Tuesday Series program October 7<sup>th</sup>.

Elizabeth Powell Crowe (known as Libbi to her friends) has been pursuing genealogy for more than 30 years. Her various editions of *Genealogy Online* have sold a combined total of nearly 200,000 copies with the 10<sup>th</sup> edition coming out October 22<sup>nd</sup>. In the past she has worked as an editor for numerous genealogy or technology-related publications including *Computer Currents* magazine, *Valley Leaves*, *LeDespencer* magazine, and the *Computers in Genealogy* newsletter, and contributed articles to *Digital Genealogist* magazine. Crowe presents and speaks on genealogy throughout the South . . . when she is not pursuing elusive ancestors! Crowe lives and works in Navarre, Florida.

The program begins at 10:30 a.m. with coffee and cookies served at 10 a.m. when the doors open. The library is located at 1445 Commerce Drive behind the Post Office in north Crestview. Call 682-4432.

## **West Florida Genealogical Society** **October 4<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 AM** **West Florida Genealogy Library, 5740 N. 9th Ave,** **Pensacola, FL, 850-494-7373**

Topic: The Doy Leal McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library, University of South Alabama; Speaker: Carol Ellis, Director

The Doy Leal McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library at the University of South Alabama revolves around several families. The mission of this library has been to identify, acquire, appraise, preserve, organize, and describe important historical material relating to the history of the Alabama Black Belt and its families, the history of Mobile and southwest Alabama and its people, and the history of the University of South Alabama. In her presentation for WFGS, Ms Ellis will be touching on two specific families whose lives are documented in the collection.

Those who have relatives or ancestors who lived in southwest Alabama will be especially interested in this program.

Members and guests are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be available at 9:45. Meeting begins at 10:00.

## **PERSONAL GENEALOGY** **& FAMILY HISTORY WORKSHOP** **Thursday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 10:00 AM**

**A note from Marc Strickland:** *We will meet the first Thursday of each month from 1000 am-1200 pm in the same location we are now meeting. This will allow us to meet during the open hours of the Family History Center (FHC). Consequently, our next workshop will be Thursday 2 Oct 1000 am-1200 pm. I'll work hard to get a good agenda put together for October to help us get back on track. I'll work on the reference manual and get you the best update I can.*

*Although we are meeting during the opening hours of the FHC, you need to be aware that the computers cannot be reserved and that individual patrons have priority. That means our group cannot monopolize the Family History Center. If you, as an individual, want to discuss something with George or M., you are free to make those arrangements on your own. As always, anything we are doing in the workshop is to help us be better genealogists and you are free to not participate in the workshop and go to the FHC to work on anything personal. Do whatever you have to make best use of your time.*

## **Keep It Simple** **For Beginner's And the Rest of Us** **is the** **2014 Fall Seminar**

Presented by the Bay County Genealogical Society  
Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 8:30am – 3:30pm  
Bay County Library, 898 W. 11<sup>th</sup> St., Panama City, FL

For questions, please contact Janice ([jmcronan@aol.com](mailto:jmcronan@aol.com)) 850 - 899-1490 or Judy ([judybennett@knology.net](mailto:judybennett@knology.net)) 850 – 215-1579

FALL SEMINAR TOPICS: Beginner's First Steps by Jan Williams; Using Census Records by Fred Borg; Genetic Genealogy 101 by Janice Cronan; and Birth/Marriage/Death: the Family Framework by Claudia Steindl.

\$15.00 BCGS members, \$20.00 Non-members  
(Registration includes Handouts, Drinks & Snacks, Lunch and Door Prizes.)

Brochure and registration form can be obtained at:  
[www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flbcgs/seminar/fallseminar2014.pdf](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flbcgs/seminar/fallseminar2014.pdf)

# 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  
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Email: [gsocokaloosa@yahoo.com](mailto:gsocokaloosa@yahoo.com)  
Newsletter Editor: [youngjmy@cox.net](mailto: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](mailto: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



*Okaloosa News-Journal*, October 6, 1955  
Courtesy of the Okaloosa Public Library Cooperative

Explore a great 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 October GSOC meeting will be held on Saturday, October 11, at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida at 10 AM.

Mr. Bert Blackmon will be the guest speaker. His presentation will be "Researching Military Records" and will focus on the many kinds of records available for persons who served in the military and where to look for these records.

*"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**