



OCTOBER 1, 2016

**Next GSOC Meeting**  
**October 8, 2016 10:00 a.m.**  
Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida  
Valparaiso, Florida

## Ethics in Genealogy "Do no harm"

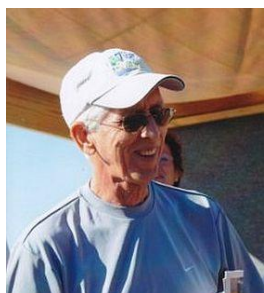
**Presenter: Dr. Thomas Sajwaj**

Key topics in this presentation include privacy, ownership, and integrity of the material disseminated.

Specific areas to be reviewed, among others, will include dissemination of material about living individuals, identity theft, substance abuse, criminal and arrest records, out-of-wedlock children, DNA results - genealogical and health copyright protection, plagiarism, source citation, censorship, preservation of materials, accuracy and reliability of published statements, censorship, and intentional destruction of documents and photos.

Specific do's and do not's are given, and illustrative exercises are discussed.

**Dr. Thomas Sajwaj is a Ph.D. psychologist, now retired.**



**He was active in clinical research with children and the behavioral therapies, and directed an urban mental health center in Nashville.**

**Dr. Sajwaj has been involved with genealogy since 1999. He has taught *Beginning Genealogy* for three years, published two articles in genealogical journals,**

**and has completed a biography of one of his great-grandfathers.**

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Family reunion at the home of William Ira Jackson and Martha Marshall Jackson, in Carroll County, Virginia, circa 1921 (David Dalton)

## THE FAMILY REUNION

After long years we meet again,  
Gathering from varied states  
To old home sites or churches  
Where our forbears met  
To worship long ago.

We search name tags -- descent of whom?  
We share a scrap or shred of memory  
And write it in our notes with such delight:  
"Aunt Martha said -----; Grandmother told -----"

Just yesteryear, how easy to have gotten more  
Oh! So much more to fill the missing gaps.

But we were all so busy, So many games to play,  
so many trees to climb, so many dolls to dress.

Granddads would always be sitting calmly on the porch  
And were eager to tell of other years  
From whence and where and why ancestors came,  
But were seldom asked or listened to.  
And now are gone, with all those memories.

Our quests are pitiful, rewarded now and then by finds  
In ancient documents.  
These we have brought and spread on a table, all to share.

How closely knit we are, held by kinship's bond  
Such love, such warmth, such reaching back  
Into a curtained past with its dim view.

Monette Morgan Young, Jackson, MS, 1985

# The Heritage of Okaloosa County, Florida

## THE HERITAGE BOOK COMMITTEE



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## HERITAGE BOOK COMMITTEE



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Lorraine Hines  
Member

***The Heritage of Okaloosa County, Florida***, in two volumes, is an essential reference for anyone who is researching the County for genealogical or historical purposes. The books are approximately 12¼ inches by 9¼ inches, and are nicely bound. Volume I contains 388 pages with historical photos on the inside of the front cover and front flyleaf and with a large detailed map of the County on the last flyleaf and the inside of the rear cover. Volume II contains 284 pages with historical photos on the inside of the covers and on the flyleaves.

The books were created by the Heritage Book Committee, and several of the Committee members were members of the GSOC. Photos of the two Committees are shown at the left. The books were published by the Committee and the Heritage Publishing Consultants, Inc., Clanton, AL. Volume I (ISBN 1-891647-71-7) is © 2004 and Volume II (ISBN 978-0-9798537-3-5) is © 2008. The books are available at most of the County libraries and museums. Copies of both volumes were still available for purchase at the Baker Block Museum on a recent visit there.

The first 120 pages of Volume I contain county history, and detailed information concerning government, religious, educational, community, settlers, and civic and fraternal organizations. The remainder of the book contains family and individual histories and recollections, most with photographs. The first 109 or so pages of Volume II contain additional historical information and the remainder of the volume contains additional family histories and recollections.

I'm not a native of Okaloosa County, but I found these books to be extremely interesting. The histories are detailed and the family and personal histories are wonderful. Many of the family names have become familiar to me in the names of communities, buildings, and parks. Some of the names are of GSOC members, past and present. Even if you are not conducting research, I recommend these books to anyone who lives in or has any connection to Okaloosa County, and offer my thanks to the members of the Heritage Committees for their professional and enduring work and congratulate them for a job well done!

Many of the contributed family stories brought a lump to my throat, such as Maggie's Story in Volume I which begins:



Maggie Cobb Adams (1894-1969), Florida Pioneer

***January 25th, 1894, was probably a typical Northwest Florida winter day, clear and cold, except that Annie Gary Cobb lay dying.***

***She had given birth prematurely earlier in the week to her sixth child, a girl she had named Maggie. Annie and her husband James Bartlett Cobb were trying to keep Maggie warm and alive by keeping her in a shoebox very close to the wood stove.***

***By the end of the day, Annie was dead leaving Susie, Pearl, Valerie, Welter, Dallas, and Maggie without a mother and Bartlett a widower. Annie was only 26, Bartlett was 34.***

(Submitted by her granddaughter, Margaret Talbot Hatfield)



# "Patent" Medicines

Adapted From Wikipedia

**Patent medicine** refers to medical compounds of questionable effectiveness sold under a variety of names and labels. The term "patent medicine" is somewhat of a misnomer because, in most cases, although many of the products were trademarked, they were never patented (most companies avoided the patent process so as not to have to reveal the products' often hazardous and questionable ingredients).

The phrase "patent medicine" comes from the late 17th century marketing of medical elixirs, when those who found favor with royalty were issued letters patent authorizing the use of the royal endorsement in advertising. Few if any of these nostrums were actually patented; chemical patents did not come into use in the United States until 1925. Many familiar names from that era live on today in brands such as Luden's cough drops, Lydia E. Pinkham's vegetable compound for women, Fletcher's Castoria, and even Angostura bitters, which was once marketed as a stomachic.

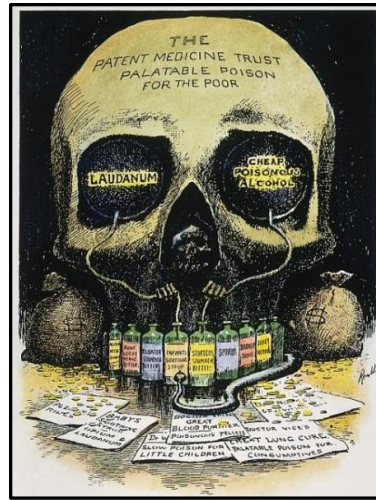
Within the English-speaking world, patent medicines are as old as journalism. A number of American institutions owe their existence to the patent medicine industry, most notably a number of the older almanacs, which were originally given away as promotional items by patent medicine manufacturers.

Contrary to what is often believed, many patent medicines did, in fact, deliver the promised results, albeit with very dangerous ingredients. For example, medicines advertised as "infant soothers" contained opium, and those advertised as "catarrh snuff" contained cocaine. While various herbs, touted or alluded to, were talked up in the advertising, their actual effects often came from procaine extracts, or grain alcohol. Those containing opiates were at least effective in relieving pain, though they could result in addiction. This hazard was sufficiently well known that many were advertised as causing none of the harmful effects of opium (though many of those so advertised actually did contain opium). In the case of medicines for "female complaints", the principal "complaint" that the medicine was intended to treat was early pregnancy; such products contained abortifacients, such as pennyroyal, tansy and savin.

Until the twentieth century alcohol was the most controversial ingredient, for it was widely recognised that the "medicines" could continue to be sold for their alleged curative properties even in prohibition states and countries. Many of the medicines were in fact liqueurs of various sorts, flavored with herbs said to have medicinal properties. An example is Peruna which was a famous "Prohibition tonic," weighing in at around 18% grain alcohol. People who took these potions felt better, and in the eyes of the advertisers this was scored as a "cure."

Muckraker journalists and other investigators began to publicize instances of death, drug addiction, and other

hazards from the compounds. This took some small courage on behalf of the publishing industry that circulated these claims, since the typical newspaper of the period relied heavily on the patent medicines, which founded the U.S. advertising industry. In 1905, Samuel Hopkins Adams published an exposé entitled "The Great American Fraud" in *Collier's Weekly* that led to the passage of the first Pure Food and Drug Act in 1906. This statute did not ban the



A series of articles published in *Collier's* in 1905-1906, exposed the patent medicine fraud

alcohol, narcotics, and stimulants in the medicines; it required them to be labeled as such, and curbed some of the more misleading, overstated, or fraudulent claims that appeared on the labels.

These products continued to be widely advertised. Here's a typical advertisement from one of our local papers.

From *The Okaloosa Leader*, Laurel Hill, Fla,  
Thursday, January 13, 1916

**UGH! CALOMEL MAKES YOU SICK!  
CLEAN LIVER AND BOWELS MY WAY.**

**Just Once! Try "Dodson's Liver Tone"  
When Bilious, Constipated, Headachy – Don't Lose a  
Day's Work**

Liven up your sluggish liver! Feel fine and cheerful; make your work a pleasure; be vigorous and full of ambition. **But take no nasty, dangerous calomel, because it makes you sick and you may lose a day's work.**

Calomel is mercury or quicksilver, which causes necrosis of the bones. Calomel crashes into sour bile like dynamite, breaking it up. That's when you feel awful nausea and cramping.

Listen to me! If you want to enjoy the nicest, gentlest liver and bowel cleaning you ever experienced just take a spoonful of harmless **Dodson's Liver Tone**. Your druggist or dealer sells you a 50 cent bottle of Dodson's Liver Tone under my personal money back guarantee that each spoonful will clean your sluggish liver better than a dose of nasty calomel and that it won't make you sick.

## Purgings and Home Treatments in the Early 1900s

by Monette Morgan Young

It is autumn. I think again how I never really noticed that beauty when I was young. In my mind's eye, I can still see the deep burgundy that the sumac berries had turned by very late summer. People used to talk of some medical uses of sumac berries, but I never knew exactly what they were supposed to be good for.

In my early days and well before that, doctors had only over-the-counter or patent medicines for ailments. Doctors would carry with them tablets or powders containing opiates, including laudanum and powdered opium or morphine which the doctors gave to people who were in very great pain. Some of the old doctors measured those drugs on their knife tips, the same knife they also used to cut their chew of tobacco. The doctors knew just how big a dose rested on the knife tip.

By about 1920, even the smaller towns had a drugstore or a general store that carried a variety of medicines and drugs. Until 1923, a prescription for morphine and the other powerful painkillers was not required, and if more opiates were needed than could be left by the doctor, he would tell the family what was needed and they would go to town and get it.

The treatment of choice for flu, heavy colds, pneumonia, etc., was always a dose of calomel followed by one of castor oil. Calomel, which is mercurous chloride, was constantly given. We now know that it is toxic, but it was used as a diuretic and purgative (laxative) from the early 1830s through the 1860s in most of the U.S. but even through the 1920s in rural areas.

After being dosed with calomel, weakened and sick, near to unconscious, the patient would be swaddled in cloths in the chest area front and back, saturated in Vicks Salve or a mix of lard and turpentine. A dose was always taken in the spring but also at any other time when people decided it was needed. Calomel came in tiny tablets, one to be taken every hour until two or three were taken, followed then by a dose of castor oil.

This produced about 24 hours of the sickest and most nauseated condition ever endured. Certain rules had to be followed or one would "salivate" (gums would get all sore and swollen, a sign of mercury poisoning.) Finally the body would be purged of all digestive fluids and much bile. Bile is actually a necessary secretion produced in the body, but folks thought it to be a deadly poison. In those purged fluids the green-brown of the bile could be seen and the calomel givers and willing takers were sure they'd avoided dire illnesses because all that "poisonous green stuff" was out of the body. Oh my, for hundreds of years calomel was dosed even to tiny babies. The purged one was weak for days. The fact that mucous was seen in the excretions following the purging made folks sure it was coming from the lungs into the gastrointestinal area. That's why the initial purging was done for colds.

I had to endure a lesser purging every Friday night during school times. Two or three Lane's Pills on Friday night, then Epson Salts on Saturday morning. Every school weekend was a time of dread. How weak and sick I would feel. Finally at age 13 or 14 I began to throw the pills out the window and pretended they accomplished their work and to some extent got that out of my life. But any "cold" (virus) was still treated first with the purging.

Coughs were treated with drops of liniment on sugar, or with coal oil (kerosene) on sugar. Now-days if a child ingests even a small bit of kerosene it is usually rushed to the emergency room since it can cause pneumonia if it gets in the lungs. Turpentine on sugar was also often given. We now know now that turpentine, too, can cause pneumonia if it gets in the lungs. (A favorite treatment for cuts and puncture wounds on the feet was to soak the injured foot in kerosene.)

Malaria was rarely seen up our hilly area since we had so few mosquitoes there. Even so, one patent medicine, "666" (called Three Sixes), was given widely during summers. We took it. (I was forced to.) No one had any idea why it was supposed to be such a good tonic. It was an almost clear yellowish liquid, very bitter. I think it was full of quinine.

Medicines then were only "patent" medicines. Very potent drugs could be purchased anywhere. "Nervine" compound contained bromine, a heavy tranquilizer which if taken for a long time and in great quantity caused brain damage. Tonics were on all the store shelves, touted as great curatives.

They all were heavily laced with alcohol, and many a church lady who would never allow liquor to touch her lips took her tonic regularly. Medicine ingredients were not required to be listed in those days. People dosed themselves.



Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound was a favorite herbal-alcoholic "women's tonic" meant to relieve menstrual and menopausal pains.

It had a variety of herbs and was laced with 18% alcohol.

Ed Note: This product is still being sold, although the alcohol is now reduced to 10%. It is being touted now for women who want to get pregnant, especially those who want to have girl babies! I kid you not! Check the reviews of it on Amazon. com!

People often decided that their children were wormy. Some actually were and other parents thought that theirs were, so many children were given White's Vermifuge. Oh! What a horrible taste People were being dosed and all the time for everything they or their parents dreamed up. The "better" parents did the most dosing. They thought they were being so careful of their children. The poorer children fared better. Noxious doses were not always being forced down them.

Early on, no one ever heard of heart attacks. Even in my childhood. Those deaths were said to be caused by a condition diagnosed by those pioneer people as "acute indigestion". They gave various reasons and causes for that. If someone died suddenly after a lot of strenuous exercise and then drinking cold water from a deep well, they were sure it was because of the cold water. So no one would drink as much cold water as they wanted after exercise.

I would hear old people speculate about what probably caused certain deaths in the community. Spiders were considered the cause of many deaths. Not spider bites, but the accidental eating of a spider. And, of course, all spiders were thought to be deadly poisonous. Spider eggs were also thought to be deadly poisonous. In the long ago, one of my grandmother Murphree's neighbors died suddenly after walking home from a neighbor's house. She'd picked and eaten blackberries on her way home. People were certain she'd eaten a spider's poisonous eggs. Most likely, her heart had given out or she had a stroke.

People were also sure that locusts (cicadas) were poison. In the years of the locusts, my parents were on constant alert for this deadly poison! One must never eat any piece of fruit directly from the tree or bush since they were sure that locusts cut a small half moon in plums, etc., and put their poisonous eggs inside. I could never, if my parents were looking, just pull a piece of ripe fruit from a tree and gobble it down. It must be washed and carefully inspected for a puncture mark to see if a locust had inserted a poisonous egg.

I didn't believe any of that foolishness and I ate as much unwashed fruit as I could sneak: ripe black cherries at Granddaddy's house, scuppernongs in August and September until I was sated with their sweet grapeness, and peaches, apples, plums, and wild muscadines.

Measles was a big bugaboo. People in our area were sure that unless helped by horrible tasting hot drinks, measles would not erupt into the bright red typical rash, therefore measles would stay inward and kill. Hot teas were forced upon the sick kid, teas that in my day were made of some herbs, grasses or such things.

However in my case I was not forced to drink the hot teas when I came down with the measles. What I craved was very cold water. It was winter and for once I was allowed to have what I craved during an illness. My parents kept water out on the back porch until it was full of ice crystals, and I'd often call for a glass full. I broke out just fine.

In my father's childhood, parents were told and believed that a tea made of the small pill-like droppings of sheep, i.e. "sheep pill tea", would bring out the measles in a child and he was given it to drink. For whooping cough, they believed that mare's milk was helpful and he had that given to him.

This article, by **Monette Morgan Young**, (1915-2000) is one of a small series of stories and articles extracted from her book, *The Cherry Hill - Poplar Springs - Reid Community in Calhoun County, Mississippi* and used here with permission. It was originally printed in the August 2011 GSOC Newsletter.

## National Register of Historical Places in Okaloosa County

The following eight places in Okaloosa County are currently on the National Register of Historical Places. Of these, only three are currently available for public visits. The rest are in controlled access areas under Eglin AFB jurisdiction.

1. [Camp Pinchot Historic District](#) is on the west side of Garner's Bayou, approximately ½ mile north of Fort Walton Beach. This is on Eglin AFB property and access is restricted.
2. [Crestview Commercial Historic District](#) is roughly bounded by Industrial Drive, North Ferdon Boulevard, North Wilson Street, and James Lee Boulevard.
3. [Eglin Field Historic District](#), the historic heart of Eglin AFB, is roughly bounded by Barranca, Choctawhatchee, Fourth, and "F" Avenues. Access is restricted.
4. [Fort Walton Mound](#) is located in downtown Fort Walton Beach on highway 98.

Gulfview Hotel



5. [Gulfview Hotel Historic District](#) 12 Miracle Strip Parkway, Southeast, downtown Fort Walton Beach.



Testing the Airbus A320 at minus 40 degrees C in the Climatic Laboratory

6. [McKinley Climatic Laboratory](#), Building 440 at Eglin Air Force Base. Access is restricted.
7. [World War II JB-2 Launch Site](#) Address Restricted
8. [World War II JB-2 Mobile Launch Site](#) Address Restricted



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# Events and Information of GSOC Interest

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## 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

Email: [gsocokaloosa@yahoo.com](mailto:gsocokaloosa@yahoo.com)

Newsletter Editor: [youngjimy@cox.net](mailto:youngjimy@cox.net)

### Meetings and Membership

Regular meetings of the GSOC are usually 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 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 [youngjimy@cox.net](mailto:youngjimy@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 2015 issue, was published and distributed in October 2015.

### 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.

### West Florida Genealogical Society

Meeting Date: October 1, 2016, 10:00 AM

West Florida Genealogy Library

5740 N. 9th Ave, Pensacola, FL 850-494-7373

### Renovating the West Florida Genealogy Branch Library

The West Florida Genealogy Branch Library is going to be renovated! We don't yet have a scheduled starting or ending date for this renovation, but plans are firming up, and we hope to be able to provide a tentative schedule soon. Genealogy Branch Manager Chris Hare and Facilities Coordinator Sean Kahalley will describe elements of the planned renovation and answer questions from the audience.

Members and guests are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be available at 9:45. Meeting begins at 10:00. Contact: Charlotte Schipman, 850-477-7166, [cschipman@mac.com](mailto:cschipman@mac.com)

### 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 soon and one of these will be a new president. Our president, as you may know, appoints the editor who serves at the president's pleasure. Please contact me and/or Sue Basch very 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,



## FOOD IN HISTORY: THE WORLD WAR II K-RATION



The **K-ration** was an individual daily combat food ration which was introduced by the United States Army during World War II. It was originally intended as an individually packaged daily ration for issue to airborne troops, tank corps, motorcycle couriers, and other mobile forces for short durations.

The K-ration provided three courses: breakfast, lunch ("dinner") and supper. The K-ration was the Army's answer to the demand for an individual, easy-to-carry ration that could be used in assault and

combat operations. It was noted for compactness and superior packaging and was acknowledged as the ration that provided the greatest variety of nutritionally balanced components within the smallest space.



The three-meal combination contained such common units as pemmican biscuits and gum. In addition, the breakfast unit furnished malted milk tablets, canned veal loaf, soluble coffee, and sugar; the dinner package had dextrose tablets, canned ham spread, and bouillon cubes; and for the supper unit there were the D bar chocolate, sausage, lemon powder, and sugar. The Army quickly noted the success of the new ration with the paratroops and in 1942 the item was adopted for all-service use as Field Ration, Type K.

**The instantaneous success of the ration with attendant popular publicity was a source of amazement to the developers.**

Many changes were effected in the components and packaging of the K-ration during the seven revisions of the ration before the final World War II specification was published. During that period the variety of biscuits was increased, newer and more acceptable meat products were introduced, malted milk tablets and D bars gave way to a variety of confections, additional beverage components were provided in improved packages, and cigarettes, matches, salt tablets, toilet paper and spoons were ultimately included as accessory items.



A GI of the United States 76th Infantry Division dines on K-rations outside a German pillbox.

The cartons containing the individual meals also were subject to many changes. The first cartons were coated both inside and out with a thermoplastic compound. Later they were wax-coated on the outside only, wrapped in waxed paper, then coated with a commercial product specified not to melt at 135 degrees nor crack, chip or become separated at minus 20 degrees below zero.



As finally specified, the breakfast packet contained a canned meat product, biscuits, a compressed cereal bar, soluble coffee, a fruit bar, gum, sugar tablets, four cigarettes, water-purification tablets, a can opener, toilet paper, and a wooden spoon. The dinner carton had a canned cheese product, biscuits, a candy bar, gum, a variety of beverage powders, granulated sugar, salt tablets, cigarettes, and matches, a can opener and spoon. The supper packet included a canned meat product, biscuits, bouillon powder, confections and gum, soluble coffee, granulated sugar, cigarettes, can opener, and spoon. The biscuits, beverages, sugar, fruit bar, confections, gum, and spoon were packaged in a laminated cellophane bag while the canned meat and cheese product were put in a chipboard sleeve-type box. The two units were assembled and sealed in a waxed carton inclosed in the nonwaxed outer carton labeled with the K-ration design and color. Twelve complete rations were packed in a fiberboard box

which was overpacked in a nailed wood box for oversea shipment.

The first million K-rations were ordered in May 1942 and were followed by increasing millions. In 1944, the peak year of production, more than 105 million rations were procured.

Toward the end of the war, the usefulness of the K-ration was coming to an end as a result of the emergence of a superior C ration.

Source: Quartermaster Corps, "History of Rations"

# MINUTES OF THE 10 SEPTEMBER 2016 GSOC MEETING

## GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF OKALOOSA COUNTY MEETING MINUTES

Northwest Florida Heritage Museum  
10 September 2016

President Sue Basch welcomed all the members, visitors and our guest speaker, Barbara Russell and her associate, Dorothy Pichardo to the September GSOC Meeting. Barbara and Dorothy were both wearing great shirts that read: *"I jumped into my Genes and dug up my Family Tree."*

### TODAY'S BUSINESS:

Door Prizes: Thank you Val Moreland for the homemade cherry fig preserves which went to Carl Laws and to Sue Basch for donating a ream of acid free computer paper which went to Pat Pruett.

### OLD BUSINESS:

Minutes: Minutes from the August meeting were discussed. Jon Sheperd proposed a correction to update the By-Laws portion of the minutes. The original minutes stated: "By-Laws: Jon Sheperd reported that we received two inputs for the By-Laws, which had been updated by the Board, and these will be discussed at the next Board meeting (August 20<sup>th</sup>). There was also a typographical error which was corrected. The final proposed version of the By-Laws will be voted on at the next meeting and will be placed on the GSOC website."

This paragraph is hereby modified to read the following insertion at the beginning: "By- Laws: Jon Sheperd told those in attendance he had sent out proposed changes to the Society By-Laws to all members via email on August 7<sup>th</sup>. No one responded they did not receive them. He then asked if there were any inputs on the proposed changes and there were none. Jon then reported that we received two inputs via email for By-Laws... (and the rest of the paragraph continues with the original paragraph in the minutes).

Bob Basch moved to propose acceptance of the change and Glenda Mannis made a 2<sup>nd</sup> on the proposal. Motion carried with all in favor of the proposed change.

Journal: Kathie Sheperd reported that the Journal was coming along nicely and had maxed out at 40 pages in length. It is currently in the formatting stage.

Nominations: Bob Basch is soliciting for willing members to be a part of the 2017 leadership team. If anyone is interested in being a Board or a Committee member, please contact him by email or telephone. He passed out copies of a GSOC "Interest" form which identifies available positions.

### NEW BUSINESS:

Lunch today will be at The Boathouse Landing restaurant.

People Update: Welcome back Phil Hoge who has been recovering from open heart surgery.

Christmas Party: Donna Elliot announced that the GSOC Christmas Party this year will be on Saturday, 10 December, 11:00 A.M., at the Boathouse Landing. All members and their guests are encouraged to attend. We will have a choice of three items from their group menu. As Donna had only one copy on hand, Jon Sheperd will type up the menu selections for us and email them with instructions to reply with their first, second, and third choice to Donna.

### REPORTS:

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Charlene Grafton: Charlene deferred comments until later.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Jon Sheperd: Nothing sufficient to report.

Treasurer, Phil Hoge: Phil reported that our treasury balance is \$2,421. He also added that he had a great doctor, a heart surgeon with lots of experience, and felt very fortunate to be with us. (We, of course, are glad Phil's surgery was successful!)

Recording Secretary, Kathie Sheperd: Nothing sufficient to report.

Publicity and Corresponding Secretary, Val Moreland: Val sent each library the information about today's guest speaker & program. She also sent the information to the local newspapers but The Bay Beacon was the only paper to print the complete article.

Newsletter editor, Jim Young: Jim is interested in finding someone who would help out with the newsletter. We all know this is a big responsibility and Jim needs help. If you are interested, please contact him directly.

Genealogist, Margaret Harris: Tom Sajwaj recently spoke in Pensacola to their genealogy society. He will be the speaker for us next month, and the topic is "Ethics." Margaret also reminded the group of the genealogy classes offered by the Center for Lifelong Learning (CLL). Members can still register – see the more detailed information on last month's meeting minutes in the Newsletter.

### GUEST SPEAKER:

Charlene Grafton introduced our speaker, Barbara Russell who would be speaking to us about EPOCH (pronounced EE-pok), or Electronically Preserving Obituaries as a Cultural Heritage.

Barbara has 37 years of experience in a public library and has been a genealogist for the last 10-15 years. Like many of us, she started her family history pursuits by learning her grandfather's stories.



EPOCH was started with a grant awarded to the Orange County Public Library System, (in Florida), 30 years ago. A group of people in the county wanted a readily accessible place to put obituaries or tributes so they didn't disappear. We all know that some of the on-line services such as Legacy.com eventually expire unless funds are paid for indefinite storage. Some newspaper obituaries are not archived and newspaper archive subscriptions can be expensive.

EPOCH offers a free method to post an obituary, include a picture or two and also include personal testimonials about the person. Barbara encouraged us to go to the website and check it out. To access EPOCH, we would go on line and log in with a user name and an 8 character password. You can search EPOCH by area and by googling a name (the person's obituary will come up providing their name has been entered). This is a good way to also enter names of ancestors to perpetuate their memory for others. *(Note: After the meeting, Jim Young went home and entered his mother's obituary and it came up beautifully.)*

Barbara encouraged us to use EPOCH and to spread the word about it so that they can begin to see many thousands of obituaries posted on line in this place, and all accessed for free. It is not a well-known service and starting at the grass roots level will take some time to publicize. She gave all the members in attendance folders with EPOCH related materials.

In addition to promoting the wonderful service of EPOCH, Barbara shared a presentation with the GSOC. Her presentation was titled: "Tombstone Tales, Cemeteries, Centuries, and Stories." What is the difference between cemeteries and graveyards? Cemeteries are usually owned by the city and are often away or outside the city. Graveyards are usually owned by a church. Looking at gravestones, you can take a picture of the symbols and later google the symbol for the meaning.

There are "softer side" images to indicate a death: the use of skulls on a tombstone means "remember death". Lambs indicate a child. Cherubs indicate a baby or a child who died very young. A tree trunk indicates that the person was a logger, a member of the Woodman of the World fraternal society, or that he may have been killed by a falling tree. She proceeded to show us some highly unusual pictures of tombstones and quotes from some famous people such as movie stars. One of the memorable tombstones had a working (coin operated) parking meter on the stone and the joke of it was that the coins collected would help pay for the grave.

Tombstones can tell us many things. We can learn the name of other family members and sometimes children are listed on the back of the monument, including their birth & death dates. Tombstones can tell where a person was born, died, and where they used to live. Historic cemeteries help us learn about the past (history) and can reflect different cultures and religions.

Barbara told the story of her great-great grandmother who died young, was buried (with her jewelry) on top of the soil. That night, grave robbers opened the container

to steal the jewelry. As they tugged on the rings, the lady sat up! This scared the robbers off... Barbara's ancestor was not really dead, and the next day the town found two men dead outside of the cemetery!

Barbara mentioned some unusual things: cats can smell in a cemetery – they had to bury the dead deep. If people are not buried in the same way or direction as others in the cemetery are buried, it is probably because they are from a different country.

Great care should be taken when cleaning or repairing gravestones. Never use bleach or any chemical/soap/insecticide, etc., as they will hasten the deterioration of the stone. Never put a sealant on a gravestone for the same reason. Clean with water. Don't scrub with a stiff brush, sprinkle talcum powder, or anything like that to read the engraving. Do not edge around tombstones with weed eaters as these weaken and deface the tombstones. Mirrors are good to help read engravings and sometimes taking pictures at different angles can help make out the letters. Be respectful of the dead in a cemetery. Keep records of any headstone you might carefully clean so you can space cleanings 10 years apart.

In our area, there are a couple of haunted cemeteries: Cobb Cemetery in Crestview (a ghost walks about 1:24 A.M and comes around Valentines' day). In Pensacola, the Saint Michaels cemetery (voices can be heard) and The Old City Cemetery in Tallahassee has a towering obelisk of Bessie Budd-Graham who, died in 1889 and thought to be a white witch, is haunted (her grave is the only grave that faces to the west direction). Another Tallahassee cemetery, Oak Lawn, has a 20 foot mausoleum and people who enter there get a cold feeling (colder than would be normal).

If you cannot find someone in the Census, Barbara suggested checking mental institutions. In the old days, these people were often overlooked. People with epilepsy were institutionalized and were often considered as a witch. However, some counties such as Chattahoochee, require a court order from a judge in order to examine these kinds of records. Pay close attention to birth certificates in case of error, such as the sex of a child (marked incorrectly). In closing, Barbara asked us to spread the word about EPOCH and to use it so they can keep their grant.

#### CLOSING REMARKS:

Sue reminded everyone to examine the clipboard of materials she passed around the room. The next GSOC meeting will be October 8<sup>th</sup>.

/Signed/  
**Kathie Sheperd**  
Recording Secretary  
Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County



Our October 8th, 10 am, program will be

## **Ethics in Genealogy** **"Do no harm"**

**Presenter: Dr. Thomas Sajwaj**

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

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

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