

THE GSOC NEWSLETTER

Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County (GSOC)

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New Newsletter Format

This is the first GSOC Newsletter in our new newsletter format. For several months we've been publishing a monthly one-page email update which contained a calendar of coming GSOC events and the minutes of the previous month's meeting. Beginning with this issue, the monthly update will be replaced by a monthly newsletter which will be sent by email to all GSOC members who have email addresses and by regular (post office) mail to those members who do not have email capability. Your comments and recommendations for improving this newsletter are appreciated. Please send them to me at the GSOC email address shown above or to the GSOC post office address.

Warm Regards,

Jim Young, Newsletter Editor

GSOC Calendar

September 11

The regular GSOC meeting for September will be at the Heritage Museum at 10 AM. **Because of a special exhibit in the room that the GSOC usually meets in, the GSOC meeting will be in the back room.** The program will be a "show and tell" by GSOC members who have volunteered to describe some aspect of their genealogical research that would be of interest to other members. This meeting will be followed by an optional Dutch treat lunch at a nearby restaurant.

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 and will be followed by an optional Dutch treat lunch at a nearby restaurant.

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.

Minutes of the August Meeting

President Malcolm Flanagan, opened the August 14th meeting at 10:00 in the Northwest Florida Heritage Museum with 17 members and three guests present. Malcolm welcomed everyone and asked the visitors, Karen Flesuig Cnu, Diane Lewis, and Susan Woodcock, to introduce themselves. He asked if there were any changes to the posted minutes for July. Ken Elliott made a motion to approve the July minutes as posted. The motion was seconded and approved by the membership.

Donna Elliott, 1st Vice President (Programs), provided an update on future programs. The September program will be a show and tell where some volunteer GSOC members will give a brief on their Genealogy research. The October program will feature Dale Cox, Civil War historian from Two Egg Florida, will provide a program on the civil war period in Northwest Florida. November meeting will be the election of new officers with a short program not yet identified. December will be the GSOC holiday party and include a brief meeting to install the 2011 GSOC officers.

Bob Basch, Treasurer, reported a budget balance of \$3,164.84 with no outstanding obligations.

Lorna Sainz, Membership, announced that all membership was up to date and new member forms were available on the table at the back of the room.

The blue box was passed to collect funds for the purchase of books for Okaloosa County genealogy libraries.

Malcolm said that the Crestview Library had closed their genealogy section and moved their genealogy materials to the Baker Block museum. Malcolm asked for a volunteer to be the GSOC liaison for the Baker Block Museum. Ken Elliot volunteered to be the GSOC liaison for the Baker Block Museum.

Hilma Jenus reported that the Fort Walton Beach Library was up to date and is storing all journals received by GSOC.

Malcolm also announced:

1. The historical record committee was sorting the GSOC records and if anyone wanted to assist please contact the records committee.

2. The Northwest Florida Heritage Museum is having a yard sale on the 28th of August from 0900 to 1400.

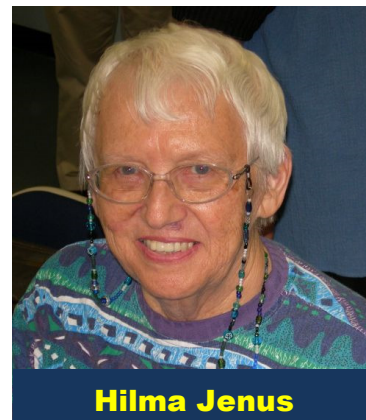
The Museum requested donations but no clothes. Donations can be dropped off at the museum during regular business hours.

3. The Museum asked the GSOC to hold the September meeting in the back room due to a special exhibit in the main room.

Donna Elliot introduced Hilma Jenus who provided the program "We are so connected" (people you connect with when conducting genealogical research). The meeting concluded at 12:00 and twelve members went to the Boat House restaurant for lunch.

Respectfully Submitted, Mike Martell, Recording Secretary

Summary of August Program: Hilma talked about how interesting it is to make connections that go far beyond "Name - Date of Birth - Marriage - and Death" (the so-called HATCH, MATCH, and DISPATCH approach). She discussed ways to connect through everyday experiences as well as through research, while telling



Hilma Jenus

family stories to make her points clear. "Sharing what we know about our own genealogy (in organizations and conferences, for example) makes even more connections," she said, "and, after all, connecting with our own background is a

goal of genealogy. Doing so then helps us connect with others who want to share thoughts of their (and our) ancestors lives".

Preserving GSOC Records

An effort is underway to review the old GSOC paper records which have been stored and to make digital copies of key information from them. Our president, Malcolm Flanagan, has screened them and has given appropriate groups of the historical records to Lorna Sainz (membership records) and Bob Basch (financial records). The remainder of the GSOC historical records have been given to the historical records committee which consists of Lorna Sainz, Donna Elliott, Sue Basch, and Frances Hogg. Copies of the instructions for sorting the records were also provided.

After the records have been sorted and duplicate records removed, they will be prepared for scanning by

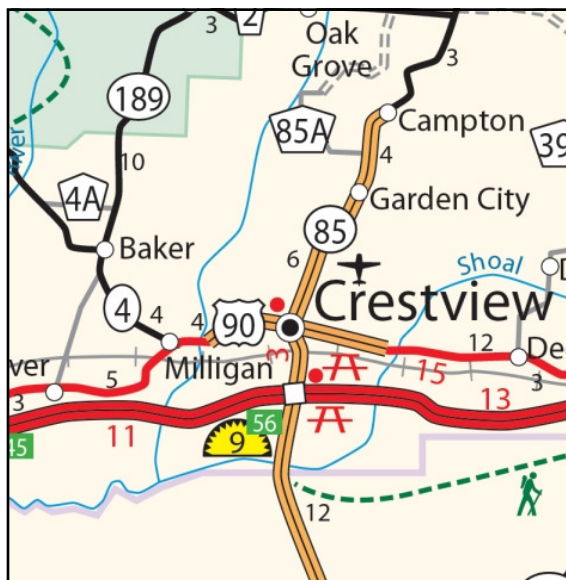
removing paper clips and staples. The actual scanning, which will be accomplished at no charge to the Society, will be temporarily placed on hold while a file naming convention is created and an indexing procedure developed.

After scanning, one complete set of the paper records will be retained and copies of the digital version will be placed in several different county libraries and museums.

Genealogical Material from Crestview Library Moved to Baker Block Museum

The genealogical material at the Crestview Library has been relocated to the Baker Block Museum. As mentioned in the August minutes, Ken Elliot will be the GSOC liaison. The Museum already had an outstanding collection of genealogical material and is a wonderful genealogical research asset for the entire region.

The Baker Block Museum is located at the intersection of Route 189 and Hwy 4 in Baker, Florida, approximately 10 miles WNW of Crestview as shown on this map.



The museum is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 10:00 AM to 3:30 PM and the 3rd Saturday of the month. **Admission is free.** The museum invites everyone to come in and view their vast collection of artifacts, enjoy the exhibits, and research local history,

heritage and culture in the reference library. Enjoy a picnic in the park.

The museum has an excellent web site at

<http://www.bakerblockmuseum.org/>

which cooperates with Okaloosa County's GenWeb site, among others, to provide digitized data and information for individuals - historians, genealogists, researchers, schools and many others. The museum invites us to begin our acquaintance with it by browsing on-line and by on-site visits.

Upcoming Community Events

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

GSOC Email and Web Site

Email: gsocokaloosa@yahoo.com

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

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
Webmaster & Newsletter Editor, Jim Young