

THE GSOC NEWSLETTER

The Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County, Florida

September 2, 2011

GSOC Calendar

September 10, 2011



Our September meeting will be a field trip to the University Archives and West Florida History Center at the **John C. Pace Library, University of West Florida**, in Pensacola. We will meet in the library there at 10 AM. Dean DeBolt, librarian/archivist, will be our host. Directions to the library and carpool details are provided on page 2 of this newsletter and on the GSOC website.

October 8, 2011

Our October meeting will be held at the **Valparaiso Community Library**, 459 Valparaiso Parkway. Mr. David Weatherford, Library Director, will provide a tour of the library's genealogy materials and give us his tips on genealogy research.



November 12, 2011

The November GSOC meeting will be held at the Fred Gannon Rocky Bayou State Park in conjunction with the annual Pioneer Day which is sponsored by **Friends of Emerald Coast State Parks** in partnership with the **Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida**. Family activities will include candle-dipping, blacksmithing, rag doll making, weaving and campfire cooking demonstration. Displays will also include early folk toys, a 19th century chuck wagon and a Civil War campsite by the Walton Guard. Other special activities include live dulcimer and flute music, quilting, storytelling and more. A rain date for this event is set for Sunday, November 13, 2011 from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Park admission is free to those attending this event.



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MINUTES OF THE August 13th Meeting

Malcolm Flanagan, President, opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. in the Northwest Florida Heritage Museum in Valparaiso, Florida. He welcomed the 18 members and three guests: Keith E. Latimer, Judi Leslie and our guest speaker Kathy Marler Blue.

Donna Elliott, 1st Vice President (Programs), announced that the September meeting will be a field trip to the University of West Florida Library, arranged by Dean DeBolt. The visit was to the Special Collections Library but it is now called the University Archives and West Florida History Center. GSOC is scheduled to be at the University Archives at 10:00 am. Since it takes an hour and 15 minutes to drive from Niceville to the University Archives it was suggested members car pool from Palm Plaza in Niceville. Members should meet by 8:15 to organize the car pool, and leave Palm Plaza by 8:30. This will leave time to get a pass when entering the University of West Florida Campus. Jim Young, Corresponding Secretary/Webmaster, will place a map on the GSOC web page. Those who don't want to car pool from Niceville can contact members in their area or drive on your own. October will be the Valparaiso Library tour with David Weatherford. The November 12th meeting was scheduled as a show and tell but now the GSOC will have a booth at the Pioneer Day on the 12th of November. Volunteers were asked for the November 12th booth at Pioneer Day. Mary Skillman, Malcolm Flanagan, Bob Basch, Donna Elliott, Ken Elliott, Mike Martell, and Lorna Sainz volunteered. The booth will have GSOC materials and volunteers are asked to bring their family histories, research and pictures for display. More volunteers are still needed, please contact Donna Elliott or any GSOC officer.

Malcolm asked that the July Minutes, be approved, as posted. Ken Elliott made a motion to accept the minutes and the membership approved.

Bob Basch, Treasurer, said GSOC had \$2650.00 in their account. Bob passed around the blue box for donations for local libraries. Lorna Sainz, 2nd Vice President for membership, asked that all attendees sign in.

Ken Elliott, GSOC/Baker Block Museum liaison, recently visited the Baker Block Museum. Ken talked with museum volunteers and was very impressed with the programs and encouraged GSOC members to take advantage of their library of genealogy material.

Donna Elliott introduced Kathy Marler Blue, Assistant Director, Destin History and Fishing Museum. Kathy provided a very good visual and oral history of early Destin, its families, work, and rich history.

Following the meeting 13 members went to Ed's restaurant in Niceville Florida for lunch.

Respectfully Submitted, Mike Martell, Recording Secretary

Civil War Sesquicentennial

Selected Highlights of September 1861

Sept 3, In response to a federal build-up in the West, Leonidas Polk orders Gideon Pillow to take Columbus, Kentucky on the Mississippi River



Sept 6, Grant takes Paducah, Kentucky unopposed

Sept 10, Jefferson Davis places Albert Sidney Johnston in command of the Confederate

West (Department Number Two)

Sept 11, Abraham Lincoln has Secretary of War Simon Cameron order the arrest of Maryland legislators who are openly pro-South.

Sept 13, Entering Confederate-controlled Pensacola harbor, Lt. John Henry Russell destroys the privateer Judah, marking the first naval action of the Civil War

Sept 16, Committee of Naval Constructors recommends three plans for building ironclads, Galena, Ironsides, and Monitor

Sept 20, Battle of Lexington. Sterling Price, with 18,000 men, lays siege to Lexington, Missouri, with a federal force of 3,600 under Colonel James Mulligan. Mulligan surrendered on the 20th.

September GSOC Meeting

John C. Pace Library

University of West Florida

Directions

From Interstate 10 (travelling west from Crestview)

From Interstate 10, take Exit 13 to Davis Highway. Proceed north on Davis Highway to University Parkway. (University Parkway is the next light after Olive Road), it is on the west side of Davis Highway, a left turn heading north from I-10.

Stay on University Parkway heading north until it comes to a end at a traffic light on UWF campus. Turn left at the traffic light and follow the road around to Parking Lot K which will be to your left across from the tennis courts on the right. The library is a short walk from that parking lot.

From Highway 98 (travelling west to Pensacola)

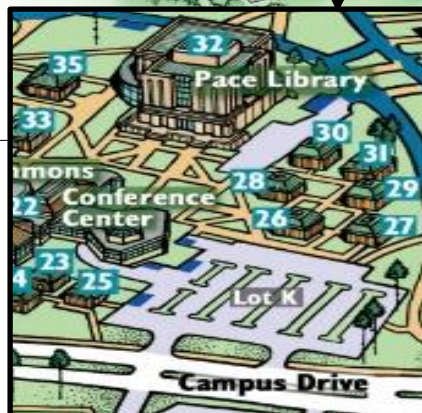
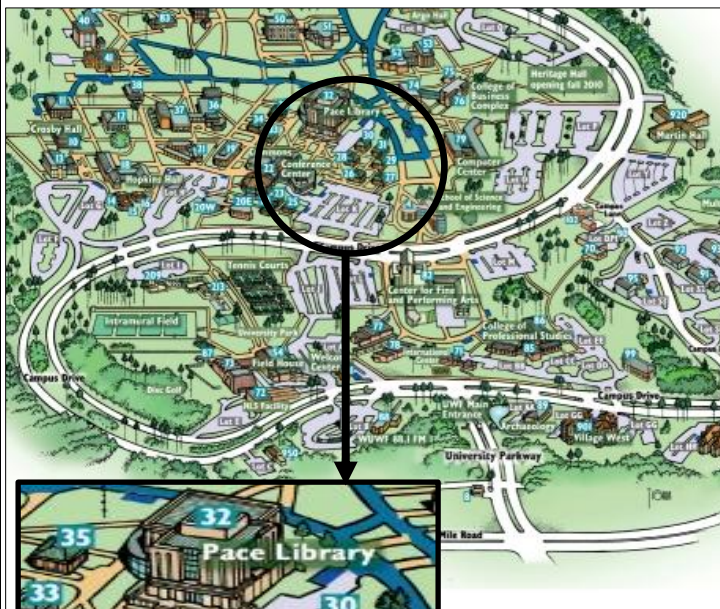
Follow Highway 98 into Pensacola from Gulf Breeze. Continue on Highway 98 until Interstate 110. Take I-110 north toward I-10. Remain in the right lane and take exit 6 at Davis Highway. Turn right (north) on Davis Highway. Proceed north on Davis Highway to University Parkway.

(University Parkway is the next light after Olive Road). See previous note for University Parkway to campus.

Using the map below, the library is right in the center...and just below the library is Parking lot K.

For Saturday, you can park anywhere but spots that are marked by orange signs (these are resident spaces).

For a large scale version of this map, click [here](#)



There will be a car pool which will assemble at the Palm Plaza Parking lot, Niceville, by 8:15. The car pool will leave for Pensacola at 8:30.

New Exhibit: Military Memories – On the Home Front & At War

Saturday, Sept. 3, 10 AM-12 PM at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, 115 WestView Ave., Valparaiso, FL

Opening reception with refreshments and an education program for this new exhibit, sponsored by Pioneer Technologies, Inc. Features original artifacts from the Museum's collection from the Civil War, WWI, WWII and the Vietnam War. In addition, on loan from local POW Howard Hill, is the original uniform he wore during his 5 years as a Prisoner of War during the Vietnam conflict. Historian, Michael Weech will be available to explain about the exhibit and discuss military history with an emphasis on the history of Eglin Air Force Base. General admission applies, active duty military and their families are free, Heritage Museum members are free.

My Friend Bulger

by Monette Morgan Young

My childhood playmate from my seventh year until he died about six years later of accidental poisoning was my dog Bulger. He was the smartest dog I ever saw. His intelligence and cute tricks were self-learned.

Bulger was very frightened of loud popping sounds and he hated the sight of a gun. Daddy did his rare squirrel or rabbit hunts alone for that reason. Bulger's favorite spot in the house was curled in the seat of one of our hickory-strip-bottomed chairs, those that we sat in when we gathered in the bed-sitting room. Bulger's very short hair kept him clean and always odorless, so Mother tolerated him some in the house. He had once jumped out of one of the chairs quickly and it turned over and made a loud noise and it frightened him so, the noise, that he would never get out of the chair unless one of us held it for him. He was careful never to use the house for a bathroom, so when he needed to go outside, he would start whining for us to come and hold the chair. I often teased him and would stand and laugh and not hold the chair. He knew I was teasing, would become angry and snarl. Then I would help him down.

His greatest fear was of thunder. When he heard the first rumble, he headed for the safety of being under Mother and Daddy's bed, in the far corner, never under mine. If we were away from home and he could not get in the house, he found safety under the house near the wall built to keep the chickens from the front yard. But we usually closed him up in a little utility house when we went away.

On one hot and threatening late spring day Daddy was in the field planting something and Bulger was with him. A terrible cloud "came up". Lightning was flashing and thunder was popping. Daddy almost ran in the back door, but Bulger was not with him. Bulger should have preceded him by about fifteen minutes! Daddy said that a "bad" snake had bitten Bulger and, to prepare me, "Now I think he will die, and I could not bring him out, but I will go and get him as soon as the cloud passes." I was shrieking and thinking how frightened Bulger was, too sick to walk or move, as Daddy had said he was, and lying exposed to the raging elements. Daddy said that he had put him in a bushy place, to be sort of sheltered. As much as Daddy loved him, our livelihood had to come first. Daddy had had to put the seed he was planting, two or three sacks, on the mule's back to bring it out so that it would not get wet. He had no money to buy more if it got ruined. He also had something else in his hands or arms and could not carry Bulger. Daddy said, and I've forgotten now, that either a cottonmouth or a highland moccasin or a rattlesnake pilot had bitten him (the latter was a less deadly form of moccasin than the cottonmouth, I do not know why it was called a rattlesnake pilot).

I raced out of the house, all fear of the bad cloud forgotten. Daddy had said that Bulger was too sick to walk. Lightning was flashing every few seconds. It was very dangerous for me, but I ran to where the field road began near the barn. Daddy had said that Bulger was swollen twice his size. I can't remember now what I had in mind to do, but I saw my little friend, playmate, and pet coming! He was only inching his poor little body along. I ran to get him, still unmindful of all the storm. And I got him to the house and to his place of safety till the thunder passed. He had come three-quarters of a mile in his bad condition.

There were no veterinarians. There were a few horse and cow doctors. No one ever heard of treating a dog. No one would know what to do for a snake-bitten dog. We made him a bed on the porch after the storm passed. He was so sick. We made the bed of soft old quilts. We carried cool water to him, but he never drank or ate. I had often seen him, when he had been sick before, get in the front yard and find herbs and chew on them. Vets today deplore that and say the sick animal is not finding any cure or even searching for one. But that was the only hope I had. I'd carry him into the yard and lay him among the petunia beds. He never responded, never tried to eat any vegetation.

He seemed to get sicker and sicker. One night I was lying on my bed, the cot in the hall, and he was on the porch very near. I saw him get off his bed and make his way very painfully off the porch and across the yard and down into the deep hollow. I kept calling softly to him. The moon was very bright. I had always had a horror of deep dark woods. I didn't dare follow. I went to wake my parents. They said very kindly that we had done all we could. They had wiped him with cool water and moved him to cooler places, etc. Now they said he had gone to die alone as all animals did when that time came. I probably cried the rest of the night.

I was up at early dawn and waiting for enough light to go and find him. There I sat on the front doorstep and Bulger came walking out of the woods quite nimbly, most of the horrible swelling gone. I think that he had known where some vegetative antidote was, had finally made the supreme effort to go get it as he had come from the field that day, so sick and his small body swollen so.

I ran to get him again. He had truly risen from the dead, I almost believed. In just a day or two he was completely well.

The disease rabies was the imagined horror of my existence then. Most families had to be their own doctors a lot of the time and almost every family had a “doctor” book. In the book would be descriptions of many or most diseases and how to care for them as best as could be done at home until a doctor could come. There were almost no hospitals in reach. In our doctor book, hydrophobia was described most graphically, with pictures of dogs in the varying stages of the disease. In those days I never heard of the “shots” which could be given following the bite of a rabid dog. People went to a “mad stone”. I don’t know where one

parents. Mother sat in the pretty carved rocker which usually sat in the hall and my Dad would bring his chair out (the one in my living room now.) [Editor’s Note: I have this chair now.] We would sit and enjoy the lightning bugs and the whippoorwills and the sounds of night insects. Then we would settle down for the night, me on that bed out there in the hall. Often we would have hoed until very late and we would really get busy, gathering eggs, Mother milking the cows and caring for the milk, and Daddy feeding the hogs and horses and cows. I would usually be sent to the garden to gather vegetables for the next day’s food and in

And the houses were cool. Although my Mother had grown up in a house surrounded by huge trees she’d never let shade trees grow immediately on the west side of ours and the sun did stream in, but the house was situated astride a small ridge atop the large plateau. It sat sort of cornered SE to NW and therefore the sun didn’t come in too completely and by the NW corner a large oak tree stood and it helped provide shade. A chain swing was hung upon one of its large limbs and I’d swing in its shade.

One day when the plums were at their sweetest, where those



Looking north in February 2011 from the porch of a house near Monette Morgan’s childhood home site

was, but supposedly some families or towns had them and they had come from the heart of certain hart deer. The mad stone was said to “draw out the poison” if it were applied to the site of a bite and then it would fall off after it had drawn it out. It may have supposedly acted as a suction while it was “drawing”. Then it had to be soaked in milk to rid it of the poison.

Stories of mad dogs and people who went mad abounded. I was horribly afraid of any stray dog. If we heard dogs yelping in the night, our Bulger was brought into the house and kept there in spite of his protests.

Oh, those pleasant summer nights! We were never porch sitters. We sat in the central hall of our little house, open but screened at both ends, until the night air cooled a little. I sat in my special rocker, a Christmas gift very early, before I can remember, from my

canning time (canning time usually coincided with hoeing time), I (and Mother would come to help), would gather vegetables for the next day’s canning. If so, that’s what we did until bedtime, prepare those vegetables for the next day’s dinner or for canning.

We would have left washtubs of water out in the sun to heat for baths before bed. When we had left for the fields that morning, Mother would have put a gallon bucket (they usually were used for molasses) of milk down inside another larger bucket. The larger would have water in it and she would let the two down into our cistern so that we would have cool buttermilk for supper. That was our only refrigeration. We would have eaten vegetables, corn bread, and buttermilk. Today my favorite of all food is cornbread and buttermilk. But it does not quite taste like that did long ago.

blue plums grew, Bulger and I played out there near the cow barn under the plum blossoms. It was spring. Soon it would be barefoot time. The air was so sweet and pleasant. There had been no tedious or unusual chores that day, just the ordinary ones. I thought I had never been so happy. Daddy had gone to Houlika and we awaited him with some anticipation. He was probably going to bring some loaf bread or maybe a few bananas. There was nothing to cause such a glow of happiness that I felt, but it was there.

The next day, Bulger was dead. Since then, I have always distrusted a happy and elated feeling.

This article, by **Monette Morgan Young**, (1915-2000) is one of a 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.

By her son, **Jim Young**

High Tech Tombstones

SEATTLE – July 20, 2011 – When Edouard Garneau died last August, his wife of 53 years ordered a bench-style tombstone.

"I go and talk with him," said Faye Garneau, who admits she isn't so sure she likes that her own name is already inscribed there, too.

That wasn't all: Several months later, the monument maker added a high-tech innovation – a small, square image known as a quick response or QR code, affixed alongside the big letters spelling out Garneau.

The monument maker – a friend – was working on the code before Garneau died of cancer at age 78.

People scanning the code with their smartphones are taken to a website that includes Garneau's obituary and a photo gallery highlighting the Seattle-area businessman. They learn he was a collision auto body repair expert, a world traveler and a loving uncle. In the future, more photos and stories from family and friends can be added.

"I think it's a neat deal," Faye Garneau said. "It kind of keeps people alive a little longer, down through the generations."

The Seattle-based tombstone company is one of many new adopters of quick response or QR codes that also include a Florida nature trail and a T-shirt maker.

New uses for the technology are popping up almost daily, said Shane Greenstein, a professor at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., who studies IT markets. That's because "the bugs are worked out" from the code, which was created in Japan in the early 1990s, Greenstein said, adding that "there's no licensing fee; there are no restrictions. Users are free to think creatively." And, they are.

In Seattle, Quiring Monuments has made code-adorned "living headstones" for about two months. It has sold about 30 so far, General Manager Jon Reece said, adding he's gotten "tons" of inquiries, often from people still very much alive: "They say, 'I want my story to be told the way I want it to be told.'"

Quiring Monuments offers the QR code, website and website hosting free to people buying new monuments from the company, Reece said, noting the company will add it to existing grave markers for \$65.

Thanks to Chuck Licari



This is an example of a QR code. It is the address of our GSOC website shown in the QR code.

Editor's note: If your smartphone, iPad, or tablet computer is capable of reading QR codes, you should be able to scan this and your smart-phone, iPad, or tablet will go to

the GSOC website. I have an iPad and have installed a free "app" on it which reads QR codes and immediately goes to the web site (if the QR code is a web address.) It works perfectly with this GSOC QR code.

FamilySearch expands its resources with YouTube channel

From Deseret News

FamilySearch.org, the genealogy website sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, recently launched [an updated YouTube channel](#). The renovated channel is designed to be a tool for both rookie and seasoned genealogists with additions like "[Genealogy in 5 Minutes](#)" playlist, which shows step-by-step processes in making progress in family history. They also implemented a "[Woven Generations](#)" playlist to showcase inspirational and personal experiences by those who have used FamilySearch for genealogical work.

Heritage Park and Cultural Center 139 Miracle Strip Parkway Downtown Fort Walton Beach



Visitors who can show a drivers license with a Fort Walton Beach address will receive admission at a reduced rate of \$3 for adults and \$2 for children.

(Pay at museum)

For more information: 850 833-9595

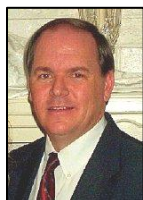


Civil War Museum Opens!

The Museum's mountain howitzer has found a new home. Thanks to the hard work of the museum staff and the contributions of dozens of individuals and organizational volunteers, a new museum of Civil War exhibits has opened in Heritage park. Stop by and see what part the Walton Guards played in the Civil War, and what life was like in the 1860s Camp Walton.

Events, Groups, and Sites of Genealogical Interest

Crestview Public Library



In case you missed his presentation to the GSOC or just want to hear it again, writer and historian Dale Cox from the Jackson County community of Two Egg will present "Civil War Sesquicentennial: The Local Asboth Raid of 1864" for the September 6th First Tuesday program at the Crestview

Public Library.

This raid, conducted by Union troops based in Pensacola that culminated in the Battle of Mariana, had a historical significance that surpassed the number of troops involved with economic, social and political impact much greater than the number of actual casualties would imply.

This free program begins at 10:30 a.m. with coffee and cookies served starting at 10:00 a.m. The library is located at 1445 Commerce Drive behind the Post Office in north Crestview. Call 682-4432 for more information.

BAKER BLOCK MUSEUM Corner of Hwy 189 & State Rd. 4, Baker, FL

The Baker Block Museum has a great new website! Check it out by clicking [here](#) or by Googling 'Baker Block Museum'.

Also, be sure to mark your calendars for the annual Heritage Festival on November 5th. More details will be in our next newsletter about this not-to-be-missed event!

The Museum is open Tuesday through Friday and the 3rd Saturday of the month, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. It is a living history museum. Take a walk through the past to gain



knowledge and perspective of life, heritage and history of our local region. Learn about naval stores, lumbering, farming, land development, local military patriots and much more. Study in the Research

Library. Use the excellent genealogy resources. Tour the collection and exhibits. Picnic in the park. Attend Special Events. Enjoy!

The museum operates under the auspices of the North Okaloosa Historical Association, Inc. ([NOHA](#)) The Board of Directors meet monthly to recommend, approve, establish policy and receive input on the operation of the museum. Click here to see and download the [membership form](#).


West Florida Genealogical Society, Inc.



The WFGS holds monthly meetings (except in July) at the new [West Florida Genealogy Library](#) at 10 a.m. with a brief business meeting and then a program. Check the 2011 calendar on the [WFGS web site](#) for complete information.

[Click Here For Map to West Florida Genealogy Library.](#)

Mobile Genealogical Society Fall 2011 Seminar

	John Philip Colletta, Ph.D.
	Lecturer
	Saturday, October 8, 2011
	Spring Hill Baptist Church Dining Hall 2 South McGregor Avenue Mobile, Alabama 36608 251-414-1995 (MGS)

The seminar is in three sessions covering advanced problem solving in: **Passenger Arrival Records**, **Naturalization Records**, and **Breaking Through Brick Walls**.

For more information and a seminar registration form see the MGS Newsletter at:

<http://mobileroots.org/news/upload/Newsletter.pdf>

2011 FSGS Annual Conference **November 11th and 12th** **Sheraton Orland North Hotel** **600 Lake Destiny Drive – Maitland, FL**

Conference Topics: "Finding the Maiden Names of Your Female Ancestors", "The War of 1812 and Its Genealogical Consequences", "Migrations 1607-1850", and "Newspaper Genealogy."

The keynote speaker is **Lloyd de Witt Bockstruck**, nationally known professional genealogist, educator, librarian, author, and columnist.

Go to <http://www.starwoodhotels.com> for hotel details. A block of rooms has been reserved for conference attendees at \$88 per night (mention that you are attending the FSGS conference).

In Sympathy



The GSOC offers the sympathy of its officers and members to fellow GSOC member Walt Ruckel on the passing of his sister, Raymonde "Rae" Ruckel Byrne Williams.

Raymonde "Rae" (Ruckel) Byrne Williams (1921 - 2011)

Ramonde (Rae) Ruckel was born in Evanston, Ill., on Feb. 28, 1921. She was the daughter of Marion (Plew) and Chuck (C.W.) Ruckel. At the age of 11 months she moved to Valparaiso, Fla., at the request of her grandfather, James E. Plew, so her father could help with the development of the new town of Valparaiso. She grew up on the bayous and in the forests of the area, dancing "on the empty road" called Highway 98 with other teenagers. She attended school in Pensacola, Fla., where she and her mother lived during



the week.

Later, she attended and graduated from Fassifern School for Girls in Hendersonville, N.C. Following high school she went off to Duke University. While in college she got her pilot's license and studied psychology. On a vacation home she met Capt. Bill Byrne, U.S. Air Force and they were married in November 1942. Much later in life she completed her Duke degree. After marriage, during World War II, she moved to a cabin on the plains of South Dakota with her first two children, where she had no running water.

The family returned to Valparaiso, where over the years Rae was actively involved in the Valparaiso Women's Club, the Red Cross and other community activities. Following the death of her husband in 1957 she became the President of Valparaiso Realty Co., where she still served as Chair of the Board of Directors. She was the second person and first woman to serve as President of the Valparaiso/Niceville Chamber of Commerce.

She married L.H. (Ike) Williams in 1960 and with him traveled the world. She reactivated her pilot's license and later took up racing cars. She traveled the southeast racing her Formula I Lotus, where she was known as the "Racing Grandmother" and placed third in Road Atlanta.

After her divorce she resettled in Valparaiso and again became active in community activities, founding the First Judicial District Guardian Ad Litem Program. She worked with that organization for years and in 1980 received the District One Volunteer of the Year Award from the state organization. She was an inductee into the Okaloosa Women's Hall of Fame in 1998.

Rae was involved in politics all of her life, working as a volunteer in Washington, D.C., in the National Democratic Party headquarters and as a Legislative Aide in Tallahassee for Florida Representative James Ward. She has "always" been a member of the Okaloosa Democratic Women's Club and the Democratic Executive Committee of Okaloosa County, where she served as State Committeewoman for many years. She was a constant member of the American Association of University Women and the League of Women Voters, serving in various capacities in both organizations.

In the 1980s she was a Girl Scout troop leader and taught sailing and canoeing for years. When there were budget constraints for that local troop she got her Bus Driver's License with the Okaloosa School District so she could drive the group to see the King Tut exhibit in New Orleans. She gave up her license after too many calls for her to be a substitute bus driver, some of which she drove.

She leaves her children: son, Andy (Ute) Byrne of Alpharetta, Ga., and children, Sean (Patter) of Atlanta and Drew of Tallahassee, Fla.; daughter, Judy Byrne Riley (Odin Toness) of Niceville, and children, Marion Riley Taylor (Ron) of Niceville, Meghan Riley Parham (Tim) of Atlanta, Karen Riley Grant (Andy) of Half Moon Bay, Calif., Anna Toness (Sebastian) of Washington, D.C., and Bianca Toness of Boston; son, Patrick E. Byrne (Beverly) and children, Capt. Patrick E. Byrne III, U.S. Army of Fayetteville, N.C., and Michael Byrne of Niceville; daughter, Terri Williams Fedonczak (David) of Valparaiso, and their children, Kinsey West, Alyssa West and Emily Fedonczak of Valparaiso.

She leaves her great-grandchildren, Zoe and Wolfgang Byrne, Mimi and Campbell Taylor, Gibson and Riley Parham, Phoebe and Margot Grant and Patrick E. Byrne IV.

She is also survived by her brother, Walt Ruckel of Niceville; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins all around the country. She is also survived by her loving and constant companion, Buddy; and her good friend, Joyce Sanford.

Funeral services were on Friday, Aug. 19, at the First Presbyterian Church of Niceville. Interment followed at Sunset Cemetery, Valparaiso.

Donations may be made in her name to the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, 115 Westview Ave., Valparaiso, FL 32580.

The Center for Lifelong Learning

The Center for Lifelong Learning (CLL) provides interesting educational activities for persons who believe that learning never ends. In addition to the educational classes, CLL activities include local social events and out-of-town trips.

The CLL is affiliated with The Elderhostel Institute Network ([ElderHostel](#)) that offers educational opportunities worldwide.

Most classes meet one day each week for eight consecutive weeks.

Registration Schedule September Semester 2011

Date: Friday, September 9, 2011

Times: 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. for current students (*those who have attended 1 of the past 2 semesters*)
1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. for new students

Place: Auditorium, joint campus of University of West Florida and Northwest Florida State College in Fort Walton Beach

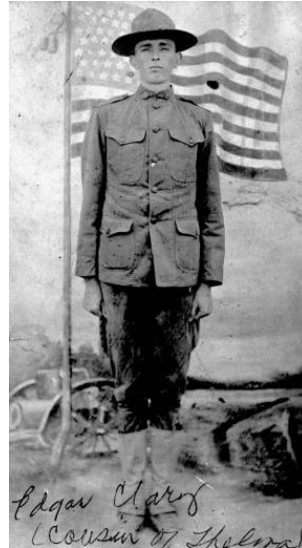
A \$40 registration fee entitles students to take as many as 4 classes; additional classes over 4 cost \$10 each
Late Registration: 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon, September 13, 14, and 15, 2011, in the University of West Florida administrative office

Notes:

- Most Thursday classes meet at Troy University.
- Most Friday classes meet at the University of West Florida.
- Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday classes generally meet at other locations that are mentioned in the detailed course listings.
- Click on [Course Listings](#) to view course descriptions.
- Click on [Class Locations](#) to view other class locations.
- Winter semester courses begin on January 20th, the first Thursday after registration, and continue for eight weeks, except where noted.
- The semester ends on the Wednesday following the "Final Follies" program on Friday, November 7, 2011.

The Center for Lifelong Learning [CLL] was established in 1993 as the "Senior Center for Lifelong Learning." Its purpose was to serve the educational interests of the senior community in the Fort Walton Beach area, although there was no criteria for who qualified as a "senior." The word "Senior" was dropped from the title as unnecessary and the purpose was expanded to include the entire adult population in our area.

Laurel Hill, Florida



Florida Archives Photo

Edgar Clary of Laurel Hill in his World War I Uniform

The area which is now Laurel Hill was one of the first English-speaking settlements in Florida. Settlers were documented establishing a community, originally known as Almirante, soon after Florida's acquisition by the United States in 1821. In the 1880s, railroad access to north-west Florida opened up a booming lumber industry, with the Yellow River Railroad reaching the Almirante (Laurel Hill) area

by 1892. In 1895 Almirante, then just a small logging and farming community, was platted and renamed Laurel Hill, the name purportedly inspired by a large laurel tree which grew in the center of the community. Growing rapidly, the community was incorporated by the Florida Legislature in 1905.

Although in 1915 Laurel Hill was the largest community in newly created Okaloosa County, the town lost out becoming the Okaloosa county seat to the more centrally located town of Crestview. Laurel Hill's economic fortunes went into a decline after World War I, a waning intensified by the Florida land speculation collapse of the 1920s which resulted in the closing of Laurel Hill's only bank. In order to install infrastructure improvements and to re-stimulate the community, Laurel Hill was reincorporated in 1953.

Once served by the [Louisville & Nashville Railroad](#), which purchased the Yellow River Railroad in 1906, the line was abandoned and lifted in the 1980s.

From Wikipedia

Laurel Hill Hobo Festival

Gene Clary Park, Laurel Hill

Laurel Hill turns out for a free community celebration on the second weekend of October.

Vendors offer food, arts and crafts, and more. Activities for children are available. Enjoy live

entertainment. A poker ride was added to the festivities in 2008. Learn more at

www.laurelhillnow.com.





1DollarScan is the U.S. division of a company called Bookscan which has been in business for several years in Japan. The U.S. division of the company is located in San Jose, California.

1DollarScan will scan books, documents, and photographs and convert the images into PDF files. The PDF files are sent to you by download or on DVD disks. The current charges are \$1 to scan a 100-page book (\$3 for a 300-pager, etc.), documents are \$1 for 10 pages, business cards are \$1 for 10 cards, photographs are \$1 for 10 photos, and greeting cards are \$1 per card.

The process for documents and books includes using OCR (optical character recognition) to create a text layer behind the images to make the text searchable and selectable.

In order to be able to accomplish the scanning of books at this low price, the company disassembles the books by slicing off their spines. After the materials are scanned and the electronic images are returned to the customer, the original paper documents may either be returned (the customer pays the shipping charges) or sent to a recycling service to be shredded and reborn as recycled paper.

Obviously, none of us will be sending family heirloom photos or documents! However, this is a great method of recycling less-valuable books and magazines.

PDF is a standard that probably will be around for many years. When a better format becomes widely available, conversion programs undoubtedly will be available to easily convert the PDF files to whatever format becomes popular in the future.

This appears to be a great service for genealogists and for many others as well. Dick Eastman, creator of the well-known *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter*, says, "I won't use it for scanning everything I plan to digitize, but I do hope to send most of the "tedious" scanning to 1DollarScan. I still plan to scan my fragile materials and valuable items myself."

You can learn more about 1DollarScan's services at <http://1dollarscan.com>.

Thanks to Malcolm Flanagan

GSOC INFORMATION

Officers for 2011

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

Addresses

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

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

Email: gsocokaloosa@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor: 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 Journal

The GSOC Journal, *A Journal of Northwest Florida*, is published once each year. The 2010 issue, Volume XXXII, Issue 99, was published in September 2010.

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. Letters to the editor are welcome and may be published.

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, and much more.



The symbol on the left is the QR code for the GSOC web site.



Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County
Next meeting: Saturday, September 10th, at 10 AM

**Field Trip to the University Archives and West Florida History Center,
University of West Florida**

Location: John C. Pace Library, University of West Florida, Pensacola, Florida

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

