

THE GSOC NEWSLETTER

THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
OF OKALOOSA COUNTY,
FLORIDA

SEPTEMBER 6, 2013

Next GSOC Meeting

September 14, 2013

Our September meeting will be a field trip to the Baker Block Museum in Baker, Florida. Beginning at 10 am there will be a very short business meeting followed by familiarization with the research material in the Museum and the opportunity to review the considerable collection of artifacts and exhibits there.



The Museum is located at the intersection of Highway 4 and Highway 189 in Baker, FL, as shown on the map above. The Museum is normally closed on Saturdays but is being especially opened for us.

There will be a GSOC carpool from Palm Plaza in Niceville for those interested. Meet under the sign at 8:45 and the trip will begin at 9. We can lunch at the Gator Café in Baker after the meeting.

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GSOC Meeting Minutes August 10, 2013

Pat Pruett Recording Secretary

President Donna Elliott called the meeting to order at 10:06 AM and welcomed one visitor and twenty one members. She acknowledged the presence of our Past President Malcolm Flanagan. Other officers present were 1st Vice Pres. Ken Elliott, 2nd Vice Pres. Sue Basch, Treasurer Bob Basch, Corresponding Sec. Jim Young and Recording Sec. Pat Pruett.

Pres. Donna requested a motion to approve our July minutes as published in the Newsletter. A motion was made by Val Moreland and seconded by Malcolm to do so. Motion was passed unanimously.

Officers Reports:

1st Vice Pres. Ken set out the coming months' programs: Sept. is a Field Trip to the Baker Block Museum, Baker, FL. They are opening the museum especially for us and have people who will help us with our research. It has many records and materials available.. We also may tour the museum while there. We will carpool from the Palm Plaza, Meet under the sign at 8:45 and the trip will start at 9:00. We will have lunch in a restaurant in Baker.

In October, Jim Young will present a program on how to improve photographs by using computer tools.

The November meeting will be changed from our scheduled speaker, Hilma Jenus, with her approval, to a field trip to Pensacola for an all-day seminar by genealogist Megan Smoleyak. The fee is \$40.00. A carpool will be formed.

December will be the Christmas luncheon with the installation of Officers.

2nd Vice Pres. For Membership, Sue said she is trying to get caught up after their recent trip.

Treasurer's Report – Balance in the checking account is \$2271.72. Bob said that our finances are in good shape and running close to the budget. No problems this year, but in the future we may need to do a fund raiser. We are a non-profit organization and may do so. He said our yearly mailing permit and the publishing and mailing of our Journal each year are our biggest expenses.

Corresponding Sec. Pat – nothing pertinent to report

Corresponding Secretary Jim said he is changing the computer he uses for maintaining our website and the

newsletter. He said Hank Kline has submitted an article for our Sept. newsletter. Jim requested that members submit articles for the newsletter.

Committee Reports:

Publicity – Pat Pruett reported excellent response from the local newspapers for our meeting notices and pictures. The Libraries and Gina at the Museum, also publicize our meetings.

Genealogist –Margaret Harris encouraged us to use the LDS Church resources at the facility on Lake Dr, FWB. They are open on Thursday from 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM. Ancestry.com is available for use and there are volunteers to help. They also need more volunteers. Margaret reminded us that the Center for Life Long Learning will be registering students in Sept. Margaret and Hilma will be teaching genealogy classes. again.

Library Reports:

FWB – Hilma had no report

Valp.- Bev.Gross had no report

Crestview – Martha Trau said they now have a new Library Building and encouraged GSOC members to visit it.

Journal:

Malcolm said he should have the 2013 Journal ready in about three or four weeks. He plans to include an article associated with WWII that is based on a location in Walton County

Old Business: Pres. Donna said there is no old business to be considered..

New Business: (1) Pres. Donna presented to the membership a proposed change to the GSOC By-laws concerning election of officers which was discussed at the officers' meeting on 8 August and unanimously recommended to be submitted to the GSOC membership. The following handout was given to the members to be voted on at the Sept. meeting:

ARTICLE VI – ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Current wording: Section 1. Elections shall be held at the Annual Meeting. Officers shall be installed at the close of the Annual Meeting.

Proposed change: Section 1. Elections shall be held in November. Officers shall be installed at the Annual Meeting. In the event that there is not a meeting scheduled for November, elections will be held by computer ballot. The persons receiving a simple majority of the votes cast will be elected

New Business: (2) Pres. Donna said it is time to consider the positions available for election of officers for 2014. Bev Gross will be Chairman of the Nominating Committee with Bob Basch and Jim Young as members. The proposed slate will be presented at the October meeting, and nominations from the floor will be accepted. If the

proposed change to the By-laws is approved, voting will take place in November and the installation in December.

Announcements:

Aug 23 (Fri) – 6:00 p.m., Indian Temple Mound Museum, Diane Merkel will be presenting “DeFuniak Springs, A Pictorial History, 1885-1915

Aug 24 (Sat) – 7:00-12:00, Heritage Museum, “Inside/Outside Yard Sale Spectacular”. Donations are needed, and can be dropped off Tues-Sat, 10:00-4:00, but please no clothes.

Please see the newsletter regarding the Bay County Genealogical Society Fall Seminar on October 19 and the West Florida Genealogical Society Seminar on November 9

Pres. Donna then turned the meeting over to 1st V Pres. Ken for lunch plans and the program.

Lunch Plans: 1st V Pres. Ken asked for show of hands for lunch today. Ten members will go to Café Bienville for lunch.

Program: Ken had a Show & Tell Program and introduced Betty Sheehan, Hilma Jenus, Margaret Harris and Charleen Grafton. Each speaker gave us a wide variety of interesting information, mostly concerning their own extensive family research. Hilma gave us an interesting lesson concerning countries changing names over the years and how it affected her research. Charleen surprised us with a connection that one of her relatives had in common with Lt. Abraham Lincoln during a war that took place when they were both young men. We received good advice concerning research sites from Margaret, such as Worldcat.org and Betty gave us several interesting booklets to peruse and suggested we check out ONENAME.org website.

President Donna adjourned the meeting at 12:00 PM.

Recently Received Publications from Other Societies

These and all other publications received are available for review in the History Room of the Fort Walton Beach Public Library.

The Searcher, Southern California Genealogical Society, Burbank, CA, Summer 2013, Vol. 50, No. 3, 38 pages

Yalobusha Pioneer, Yalobusha County Historical Society, Coffeeville, MS, Vol. 39, Issue 3, Fall 2013, 48 pages

The Butler County Historical & Genealogical Society Quarterly, Greenville, AL, Vol. 49, No. 3 July 2013, 24 pages

Suwannee Valley Genealogy, Suwannee Valley Genealogy Society, Inc., Live Oak, FL, Summer, Vol. XV-2013, No. 2, 20 pages

Yakima Valley Genealogical Society Bulletin, Union Gap, WA, Vol. 45, September 2013, No. 3, 32 pages

Early Destin Fishermen Used Well-Smack Fishing Vessels

By: H. C. "Hank" Klein

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Early Destin, Florida Fishermen used well-smacks as their fishing vessels prior to the introduction of artificial ice in the United States. The concept of well-smacks was first introduced in England in 1712, being used at Harwich, England where 12 were in operation as early as 1720. By the early 1800s, prior to the general use of ice on vessels in the United States most of the vessels in New England, especially those used in cod and halibut fishing, were constructed with a well in the hold in which the fish were retained alive until they could be delivered to market and sold.

The use of well-smacks, or welled-smacks, in the cod and halibut fishing began in the United States at both New London, Connecticut, and Greenport, New York, about 1820. By using well-smacks, New London fishermen were able to extend their fishing all the way to the Georges Bank, off Boston in Massachusetts Bay by 1840. The fish were caught by means of hand lines and were handled very carefully, being placed in the well immediately on removal from the water. Those dying before reaching market, through injuries or otherwise, were sold at about one-fourth the price of live fish.

The well-smacks running cod and sea bass which fished off Sandy Hook and Long Island shore, had a capacity for 8,000 to 20,000 pounds of fish depending on the time of the year and the length of the trip. When the well was so full that the holes could not be seen, it was considered time to sail to market to sell the catch. Normally the market where fish caught by New London fishermen were sold was the Fulton Fish Market located in the Bronx, in New York City.

Well-smacks were also used in red snapper and grouper fishing in Key West, Pensacola and East Pass (Destin), Florida. The well-smacks used in Gulf of Mexico red-snapper and grouper fishing were of the same type as those in use on the New England coast. Actually most of them were designed for New England fishing and brought to the Gulf of Mexico by New London fisherman who would winter in the Florida Keys and the Pensacola area in the winter after the United States took possession of Florida from Spain in 1822.

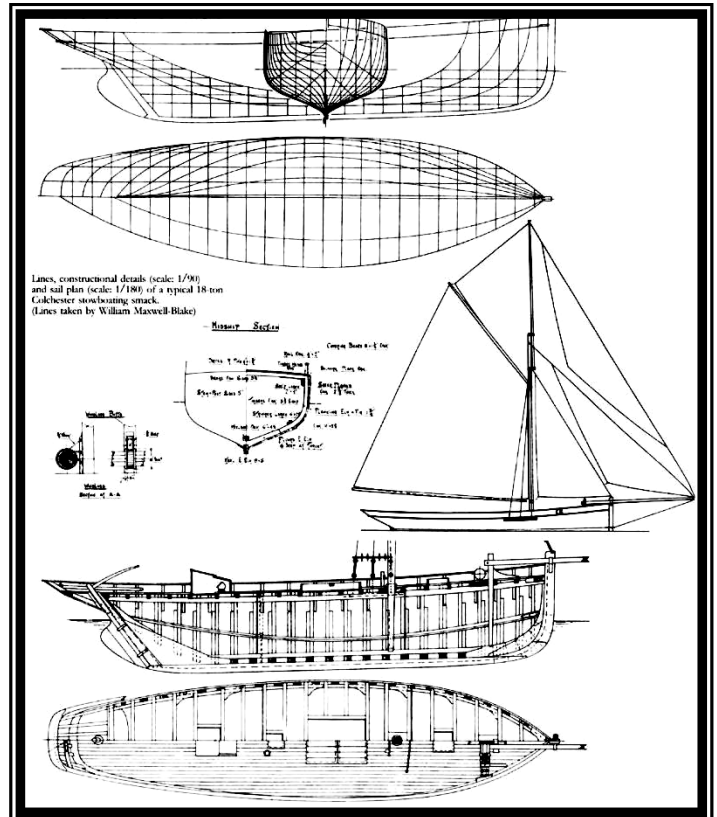


Diagram of a New London Fishing Smack

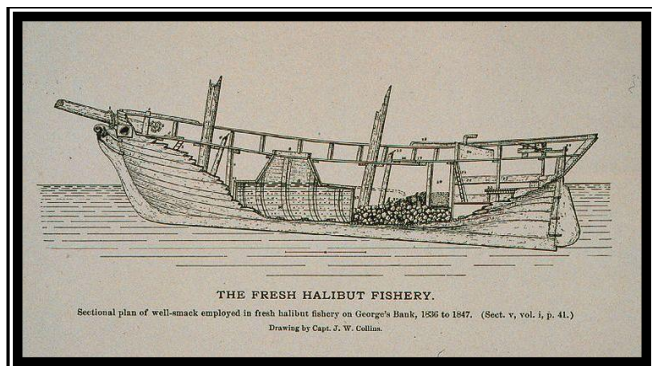


Boxes of Freshly Caught Fish Being Loaded on Wagons at Fulton Fish Market in New York City in the 1800s

The well in which the fish were placed was situated amidships at the bottom of the hold. It extended from just forward of the main hatch nearly to the mainmast, and occupied about one-third of the length of the vessel. Typical New London fishing smacks were of a sloop rig and 39 feet to 44 feet in length, with a 13-foot beam and a 6-foot draft. So the well would have been about 12 – 15 feet in length.

The well was formed by two stout, water-tight bulkheads at either-end, 4 or 5 feet high and about 5 inches thick, extending from keelson to deck and entirely across the vessel. Midway between these is usually another bulkhead, which assists in supporting the deck and divides the well into two compartments. Leading from the well to the deck is a funnel curb, about 2 feet wide by 8 foot long at its upper end and 4 feet wide at its lower end.

The frames are usually the same distance apart as elsewhere in the vessel. However, on some smacks they are twice as far apart in order to permit the water to circulate freely and to facilitate dipping the fish from the well. About 300 auger-holes, 1 inch in diameter were bored in the bottom planking of the well through which the sea water freely enters, and it is kept in circulation and constantly renewed by the motion of the boat. The sectional plan below clearly shows the construction features of the hull of a vessel with a well.¹



Smaller Well-Smacks at Key West Were Known as "Smackees"

At Key West a number of smaller fishing vessels, known locally as "smackees," were built for the local waters in the mid 1800s and also equipped with wells. The smackees were manned by one or two men and operated in the nearby waters catching fish for the Key West market. These vessels ranged in length from 14 to 28 feet.

They averaged about 24 feet in length, had a 8-foot beam, and 4 or 5 foot draft, with sharp bottom, the deep draft in relationship to the length of the vessel was necessary in order to submerge the hull sufficiently for the water to cover the fish in the well, which occupied about a quarter of the boat's length measured on the keel. The topside arrangements include a U-shaped cockpit for the helmsman and a small cuddy cabin forward of the live well for the crew.

On account of the great depth from which red snappers were, as a rule, obtained in the Gulf of Mexico, considerable difficulty was at first experienced in keeping them alive. Because the pressure of the water was so much less in the wells than at a depth of several fathoms that the air bladder would become greatly distended and the fish would float belly up. To overcome this the fishermen adopted a practice of puncturing the air bladder as soon as the fish reaches the surface, forcing a hollow metal tube ¼ inch in diameter into the side of the fish a little behind and just above the pectoral fin. This practice would relieve the air bladder of its extreme buoyancy so that the fish could control its movement in the well.

Only those red snappers taken in less than of 10 fathoms of water could be successfully held in the wells for a week or two; if caught in more than 10 fathoms of water they had to be handled carefully, and if caught in over 20 fathoms they would soon have a swollen surface, the eyes protruding and the scales becoming loosened and standing erect.²

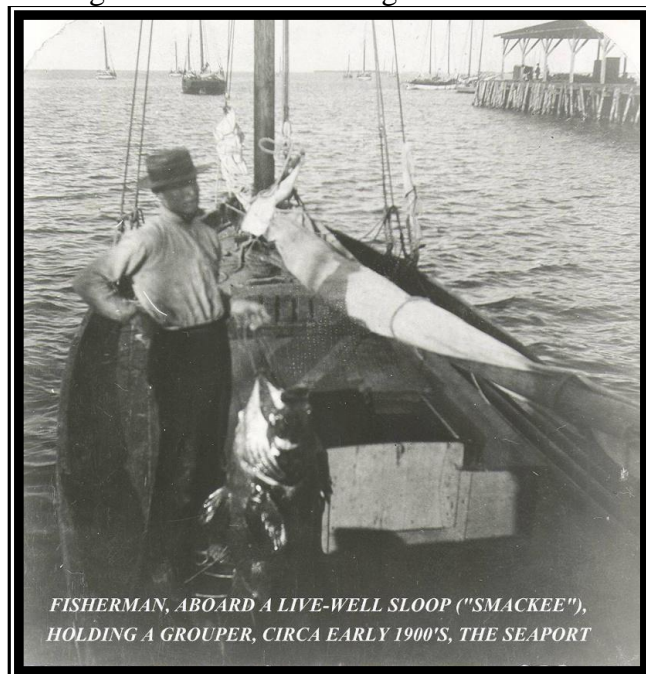


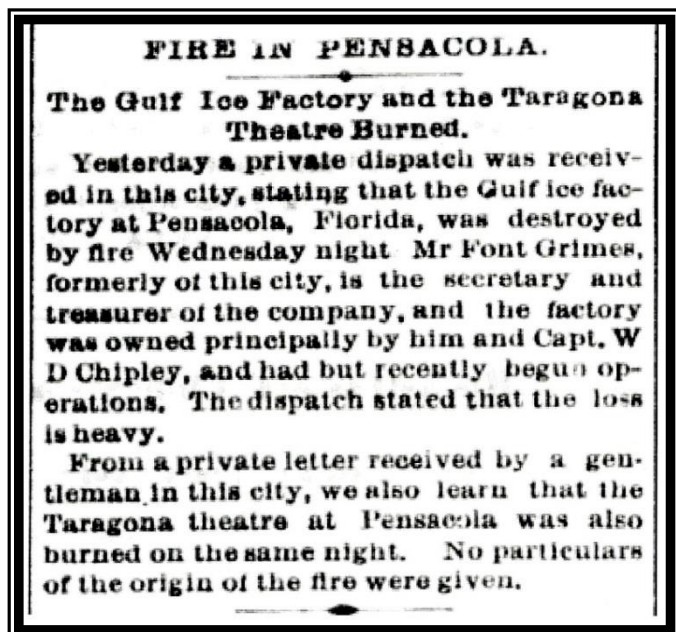
Photo Credit – Monroe County Library

Artificial Ice Changes the Need For Keeping Fish Alive in Wells

Prior to the invention of machinery to manufacture artificial ice, the importation of ice in blocks from the north to Florida was very expensive and hard to get. Fish and meat were preserved by salting them. Fisherman kept the fish they caught alive until they could get them to port to sell them by using well smacks.

Once the invention of artificial ice was perfected the rules all changed. No longer did fish and meat need to be preserved by the use of salt. They could be preserved by keeping them cold or by freezing the fish both aboard fishing vessels and for transportation to far away locations.

Pensacola, Florida was the first Florida city to obtain an Ice House. The Gulf Ice Factory opened in 1881, but ran into some bad luck. The December 23, 1881 issue of the Columbus Georgia Daily Enquirer newspaper³ contained an article titled "Fire in Pensacola" and read:



In the April 2, 1882 issue of New Orleans Times Picayune it was reported that The Gulf Ice Factory was a success and it was expected to produce 20,000 pounds of ice when in full production.

Artificial ice did not come to Key West, Florida for another decade however. In 1890 Tift and Company of Key West, Florida which was a ship's chandlery built Key West's first ice house.

As ice became widely available at the end of the 1800s and early 1900s the use of well-smacks in the fishing industry all but disappeared.

References:

¹ Bulletin of the Bureau of Fisheries, Volume 18, published 1899 – United States Fish Commission, pages 341-343

² The Historical Role of Fisheries of the Florida Keys, Edward J. Little, Jr. – Florida Keys Sea Heritage Journal, 1990

³ Columbus Daily Enquirer (Columbus, GA), Friday, December 23, 1881, page 4

This article is used in the GSOC Newsletter with the permission of the author, H. C. "Hank" Klein, who has long been interested in the history of Northwest Florida, and the genealogy of his father-in-law's and mother-in-law's families (Marler and Shirah). Both came from pioneer Destin families and both were related to Leonard Destin, the founder of Destin, Florida.

Hank's father-in-law's aunt, Emma Marler, married George Destin, the first born son of Leonard and Martha Destin. While Hank's mother-in-law's sister, Alice Shirah, married George D. Destin the son of George Destin and grandson of Leonard and Martha Destin.

Klein has written books documenting his and his wife's family genealogy. Hank has also contributed historical research for Tony Mennillo's book *Salty Memories along the Coastal Highway – Historic Stories of Destin and the Emerald Coast*. Copies of this book containing 492 vintage photographs of Destin and the Emerald Coast can be obtained by contacting Arturo's Studio at <http://www.arturosstudio.com> or 850/585-2909 or from Amazon.com.

Mr. Klein lived for many years in both Okaloosa and Bay Counties. He is now retired from his credit union management career, and he and his wife (the former Muriel Marler of Destin, Florida) live in North Little Rock, Arkansas. He can be contacted at klein@aristotle.net or at 501-256-7474.

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Marler Bridge, Destin, Florida

The Story of Sam Davis

Based on www.tennesseehistory.com/class/SamDavis.htm and other sources

In late November of 1863 a young Confederate soldier sat down in his jail cell in Pulaski, Tennessee, to write his last letter home to his parents over in Rutherford County.

Pulaski, Giles County, Tenn., Nov. 26, 1863

Dear Mother: Oh, how painful it is to write you! I have got to die to-morrow morning--to be hanged by the Federals. Mother, do not grieve for me. I must bid you good-by forevermore. Mother, I do not fear to die. Give my love to all.

Your son, Samuel Davis

P.S. Mother, tell the children all to be good. I wish I could see you all once more, but I never will any more. Mother and Father, do not forget me. Think of me when I am dead, but do not grieve for me. It will not do any good. Father, you can send after my remains if you want to do so. They will be at Pulaski, Tenn. I will leave some things, too, with the hotel keeper for you. Pulaski is in Giles county, Tenn., south of Columbia. S.D."

Samuel Davis was born on Oct. 6, 1842. His family were middle class farmers who did well for themselves and moved to a large new home in Smyrna, Tennessee.



Sam grew up to become one of the most promising young men in the county. His parents saw to his education; and, at age 18, Sam left the farm to attend the Western Military Institute in Nashville.

When the war began, school was dismissed; and Sam, now 19, returned home and enlisted in the Tennessee Infantry's Company I. He and his company were sent to Virginia and served in the opening campaigns of the war. When the Union Army invaded West Tennessee, his company was sent west. In the Battle of Shiloh, Sam proved himself under fire. After General Braxton Bragg assumed command of the Army of Tennessee, Davis' record of service was brought to his attention for a special project the controversial general was devising.

Sam was chosen to become a member of an elite group of men known as Coleman's Scouts. Their assignment was to operate behind enemy lines and gather intelligence on Union troop movements and collect other vital information. Coleman's Scouts were led by a Captain Shaw. In order to protect his identity, Shaw was given the codename E. Coleman. This alias was the only name ever used for Shaw by Confederate leaders and his own scouts. Coleman wandered between the battle lines posing as a herb doctor. Even the Union soldiers who knew the disheveled "doctor" never figured him to be one of the most wanted men in the south. His men were just as effective.

For over a year, they worked hard and became a first class operation. They often wore their Confederate uniforms behind Union lines. A single Confederate soldier on horseback could often maneuver near Union install-

ations and their presence not seen as unusual, as many local Confederates often slipped back to visit their families. Coleman's Scouts always regarded themselves as a military unit and functioned as one. Davis' work in the group was exemplary. When the information gathered by Coleman's Scouts led to the unexpected Confederate victory at Chickamauga, Union officials were furious and put a price on the heads of the scouts and their leader.

On a cold November night in 1863, Davis returned to Smyrna, well behind enemy lines, to visit his family. His father repaired his son's boots and his mother gave him a hand-dyed Confederate overcoat to help keep him warm. After a brief emotional visit, Davis left his family and met Coleman and some of the Scouts. The men agreed they needed to regroup in northern Alabama and that they would start making their way towards Confederate-held Chattanooga to report to General Bragg. Coleman gave a copy of the report to Davis to take with him in case the first group came to trouble. One by one they slipped out of the territory and began working their way south to the prearranged meeting place.

Davis rode quietly southward into Giles County. On Nov. 20 as he approached a Union outpost, he was spotted by two Kansas Cavalrymen dressed in Confederate Uniforms. Sam was captured. Because of his uniform, he was taken as a Prisoner of War and brought eleven miles to Pulaski, the county seat. He was searched and the maps and other information he had gathered as well as the papers given him by Coleman were found. He was jailed and put under the direct charge of Union General Dodge for interrogation and disposition. The general observed how young Davis was and thought that he could frighten him into confessing who his superior was and where he could be found. In spite of Sam's uniform, the general accused Sam of being a spy and threatened him with a court martial and death by hanging if he did not tell who had given the information. On 25 November, a court-martial found Sam guilty of spying, despite the testimony of both arresting soldiers and their commanding officer (Capt. Naron) that Davis was wearing his Confederate uniform when arrested. Davis was sentenced to hang on 27 November.

As the gallows on which Davis was to be hung was constructed in full view of Davis' jail cell, the Union officers continued to interrogate Davis. At this point, they were virtually begging Davis to reveal the requested names, so that his execution could be deterred. Sam was taken from the jail to the gallows in a wagon, sitting on his own coffin. The last soldier to appeal to Davis did so as Davis stood on the gallows. Capt. Naron promised Davis his horse, his sidearms, and an escort to Confederate lines if Sam would reveal who gave him the papers he was carrying. Davis' reply is still remembered today, as it echoes the sentiments of Nathan Hale in an earlier war:

"I am but a private soldier in the Confederate Army. The man who gave me this information is worth ten thousand more to the Confederate cause than I, and I would sooner die a thousand deaths before I would betray a friend or be false to duty."

Davis had refused to sell out his men. There were three captured prisoners in the cell next to his. Sam had glanced at the men as he passed that cell and showed no interest in them, but the men in the cell were, in fact, Coleman and two fellow scouts -- the very men the General was seeking! The three men had sat silently while Union officials constantly interrogated Davis and offered him his freedom for just telling the names of Coleman's Scouts.

Sam's refusal to be an informant earned the admiration of Pulaski citizens and even his captors. The Union soldiers were so taken with Davis's resolve to remain silent that they often visited the Tennessean and begged him to save his own life and name the scouts. During one of the visits, Davis remarked: "I do not fear for death, but it makes me mad to think I am to die as a spy."

On Nov. 26, 81st Ohio Infantry Chaplain James Young went to Sam's cell to comfort him. He was touched by the ongoing story of Sam and quickly made friends with the young man. Sam and the Chaplain spent the entire day and night together. During that night, Sam requested that the Chaplain join him in singing "On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand" and the two stayed in prayer throughout the night. His coffin had been brought into his cell to try to intimidate him and Sam sat on its lid as he listened again to offers of freedom for the information.

Before the night had ended, Sam penned his final letter to his family. He then wrapped his belongings and gave them to the chaplain. He gave the chaplain the coat his mother had made for him as a gift for the final moments of friendship the chaplain had provided.

On the gallows, the offer for freedom was again made to him. Sam Davis again refused and told the Provost Marshal. "I am ready."

At 10:20 a.m. Nov. 27, 1863, Coleman Scout Sam Davis was dropped from the gallows and hanged. Union soldier John Randal, who had helped capture Davis, watched with tears streaming down his face as the young Tennessean was executed. He later stated that he had never witnessed such a pathetic and heroic scene and noted other Federal soldiers in tears.

Many of the Union soldiers stationed at the post were in disbelief that the general had gone through with the execution and silent resentment towards him began to grow among his men. The story of Sam Davis began to spread in Tennessee and even in the Union ranks where nothing but respect was offered for his actions and sacrifice.

Following the execution, the prisoners in the cell next to Davis were put on a train headed north to Union prisons. Somewhere along the tracks in Kentucky, Coleman jumped from the train and escaped into Confederate territory where he continued his work.

Pulaski is about 70 miles south of Smyrna. A rumor came to Davis' parents that their son had been killed. They didn't know for sure it was their son (apparently the letter had not yet been received) and asked family friend John Kennedy to travel to Pulaski; and, if it was true, to locate their son's body and bring it home.

Kennedy and Sam's younger brother rode in a mule-drawn wagon to Nashville where they bought a coffin. After a federal run-around there, Kennedy managed to get a note from Union General Rosseau allowing safe passage

as far south as Columbia. From there until he reached Pulaski, Kennedy relied on the illiteracy of Union pickets. Once there, he was brought before the Provost Marshal who declared Rosseau's note invalid. But when Kennedy told him he was there to collect the body of Sam Davis, the Marshal's attitude changed and he offered his help and gave Kennedy a statement for Davis' parents: "Tell them for me that he died the bravest of the brave, an honor to them, and with the respect of every man in this command."

The Marshal gave Kennedy return passes and offered men if necessary to help retrieve the body. The Marshal then told Kennedy the details of Davis' death and Kennedy went to the graveyard where he exhumed Sam's body and began his work of identification. The white execution hood was still on Sam's head but the face was recognizable. A group of Union soldiers gathered with their hats in hand and watched the solemn proceedings. With the body placed in the new coffin, Kennedy returned to Pulaski and collected Sam's personal effects. Kennedy took the body to Nashville where it was properly shrouded and then took it on to Smyrna. Sam's mother passed out at the sight of the coffin. Acting as only a family friend could, Kennedy buried Davis in the family graveyard.



Little did they know that Sam would soon become a legend throughout America. From Pulaski (the monument shown here) throughout Middle and West Tennessee, monuments commemorating Sam started going up. The phrase he had repeated over and over to his Union captors: "If I had a thousand lives, I would lose them all before I would betray my friends or the confidence of my informer" would forever enshrine him as the "Nathan Hale of the South" and earn him the respect of soldiers on both sides of the war.

Sam's parents had hidden their family pictures in the hay loft of their barn -- fearing the Union Army would burn their home. When Union soldiers raided them, however, they set fire to the barn rather than the house and all photographs of Sam were lost.

Around the turn of the century, the Tennessee legislature commissioned an official monument of Sam. Since there were no pictures of Sam available at that time, the sculptor worked from descriptions and also used Sam Davis' younger brother as a model. The monument was dedicated in 1909 by Governor Malcolm Rice Patterson. With the dedication, the monument became the only one on the capitol grounds not commemorating a U.S. President.

In 1865, as the War Between the States came to a close, the Confederate States of America commissioned their own Medal of Honor, but the war ended before the first medal could be awarded. The duty of bestowing this highest military award was eventually passed to the Sons of Confederate Veterans; and, in 1976, the SCV awarded the highest CSA military honor posthumously to Sam, the first of four Tennesseans to receive the Confederate Medal of Honor.



Civil War Sesquicentennial

Selected Highlights of September 1863

<http://blueandgraytrail.com>



Chickamauga by Tom Redman on the Ambrose Bierce Web Site

September 5 British forces stop the shipment of two ironclads from Liverpool under orders from Lord Russell. This dashed Confederate hopes of British support during the war.

September 8 General William Franklin [US], intending to begin the occupation of Texas, steamed past Sabine Pass to Confederate Fort Griffin on the Texas-Louisiana border. John Bankhead Magruder [CS], with two "cotton-clads" and a force of 44 men turned back more than 200 Union troops.

September 9 Federal troops enter Chattanooga, Tennessee following its evacuation by the Army of Tennessee.

September 13 Sensing a change in Lee's lines, George Meade [US] pushes the Army of the Potomac to the Rapidan River.

September 15 Lincoln suspends the writ of habeas corpus.

September 16 Thomas Crittenden [US] reaches Lee and Gordon Mill on the Chickamauga River. Rosecrans [US] orders the rest of his men, spread out along 50 miles of Georgia's backwoods, to concentrate at this landmark.

September 19 - 20 Battle of Chickamauga. General Braxton Bragg [CS] tries to split General William Rosecrans [US] forces as they try to return to the safety of Chattanooga. A second day breakthrough at the Brotherton Cabin forces the federals into a retreat, halted only by the Rock of Chickamauga, General George Thomas on Snodgrass Hill.

The Battle of Chickamauga was the bloodiest two days in American history. It cost the Federals 1,657 dead, 9,756 wounded, and 4,757 missing for a total of 16,170 casualties out of 58,000 troops. The Confederate losses were 2,312 dead, 14,674 wounded and 1,468 for a total of 18,545 out of 66,000 troops. September 21. After withdrawing from Chickamauga, Gen. George Thomas forms a line in Rossville. He abandons the position that evening.

September 21 Mortally wounded at Chickamauga, Confederate Brigadier General Benjamin "Ben" Hardin Helms dies. He was Abraham Lincoln's brother-in-law.

September 23 President Lincoln orders the 11th and 12th Corps to Stevenson, Alabama to relieve the Army of the Cumberland surrounded in Chattanooga.

September 23 Colonel Henry Sibley defeats the Sioux at Wood Lake, ending the Great Sioux Uprising.

September 24 President Lincoln wires Gen. Rosecrans [US] in Chattanooga, telling him 40,000 to 60,000 troops are on their way. Within a week a corps arrives at Stevenson, Alabama.

September 26 President Lincoln and members of his Administration are distressed that troop movements aiding General Rosecrans in Chattanooga are published in the New York Post.

September 28 Repercussions from Chickamauga: US Generals Crittenden, Alexander McDowell and McCook are relieved of duty and ordered to Indianapolis to face a court of inquiry.

Events, Groups, and Sites of GSOC Interest

Destin History & Fishing Museum 108 Stahlman Avenue, Destin, FL

Tuesday – Saturday, 10am to 4pm
Adults: \$5; Seniors & Military: \$4; Students: \$3;
Kids 6 & under and Members: Free
850-837-6611

West Florida Genealogical Society **September 7, 2013, 10 AM**

West Florida Genealogy Library. 5740 N. 9th Ave, Pensacola, FL.

Autosomal DNA

Speaker Jerry Merritt will use PowerPoint to cover the vast differences in using autosomal DNA vs. Y or mtDNA and also the use of the X chromosome in tracing ancestry. He will discuss the popular “23andMe” site for autosomal matching and whether autosomal DNA testing will help in genealogical research or whether it would be a waste of time in its current state of development.

This will be good preparation for those attending the Megan Smolenyak Seminar on Nov. 9.

Cynthia Dean cgdean@bellsouth.net 850-432-7072

Bay County Genealogical Society **September 21, 2013**

Bay County Library, 898 West 11th St., Panama City, FL

Scottish Genealogy, Anne McLeod (Colonel, USAF Ret), the genealogist for her husband's Clan MacLeod, will present a program on Scottish Clans.

The BCGS web site includes a merged countywide index to every interred person in all 38 Bay County cemeteries reported by 1995.

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flbcgs/cemetery/index.html>

Bay County Genealogical Society **October 19, 2013**

The BCGS Annual Fall Seminar

Bay County Library, 898 West 11th St., Panama City, FL

Please pre-register due to limited seating. Prices include the seminar, lunch, drinks, and snacks. Cost: \$15 (BCGS Member), \$20 (non-member), \$30 (new members only, includes 2014 dues.)

Theme: 21st Century Genealogy Research Tools.

8:30 – 9:00 Registration & check in;

9:00-11:35 Morning Program;

11:35-12:20 BBQ Lunch;

12:20-3:30 Afternoon Program.

Topics:

The Family Jewels in Your Genes

The Top 10 Breakthrough Technologies

Timelines: How to Make Sense of all that Research
Using Library Online Resources & Interlibrary Loan

Contacts: Janice Cronan 850-647-3105

and Judy Bennett 850-215-1579

Please make checks payable and mail to:
BCGS, P.O. Box 662, Panama City, FL 32402-0662

West Florida Genealogical Society **November 9, 2013**

The WFGS Fall Seminar

Washington High School Auditorium,
6000 College Parkway, Pensacola, FL

Speaker: Megan Smolenyak - Popular genealogist, speaker and author of six books. Google her name for background.

Pre-Registration: WFGS Members: \$35.00; Non-Members: \$40.00; On site Registration (8-9 AM): \$40.00.
Continental Breakfast Included

8:00-8:50 Check In/Registration, Coffee, Donuts, etc.

8:50-9:00 Welcome and Introduction

9:00-11:30 Morning Program

11:30-12:45 Lunch (You're on your own)

12:45 4:00 Afternoon Program

Topics:

Right Annie, Wrong Annie

Trace Your Roots with DNA

Find That Obituary! Online Newspaper Research

Honoring Our Ancestors

Q&A Session, Book Signing

For more information, visit the WFGS web site:

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flwfgs/>

Click on 2013 Calendar. Scroll down to Nov. 9 for speaker's topics, map & directions and registration form.

Center for Lifelong Learning

Registration for the September 2013 Semester is on Friday, September 6, 2013, at UWF. For more details concerning registration, fees, courses offered, and schedules, go to:

www.cll-fwb.org/RegistrationSchedule.html or

www.cll-fwb.org/CLL_Courses.html

Two classes of special GSOC interest are “ABCs of Beginning Genealogy” (Fridays 10:15 – 11:45 at UWF), taught by Dr. Thomas Sajwaj and Hilma Jenus; and “Beyond Basic Genealogy” (Fridays 10:15-11:45 at UWF) taught by Margaret Harris.

UWF is at 1170 Martin Luther King, Jr., Blvd., FWB, FL

Upcoming Events of Note

Baker Block Museum fall festival, Baker FL

1st Saturday in November

Pioneer Day, Rocky Bayou State Park, Niceville FL
November (date to be announced)

GSOC INFORMATION

Officers for 2013

President, Donna Elliott (850 585-1739)
 1st VP (Programs), Ken Elliott (850 678-5452)
 2nd VP (Membership), Sue Basch (850 865-6637)
 2nd VP (Membership) Asst, Carol Lessard (850 678-4567)
 Treasurer, Bob Basch (850 897-3310)
 Recording Secretary, Pat Pruett (850 678-2023)
 Asst Recording Secretary, Frances Hoge
 Corresponding Secretary, Jim Young (850 862-8642)
Immediate Past President, Malcolm Flanagan
Journal Editor, Malcolm Flanagan (850 217-9455)
Historian, TBD
Genealogist, Margaret Harris (margmarieh@cox.net)
Publicity Chairperson, TBD
Webmaster & Newsletter Editor, Jim Young (850 862-8642)

(Elected, Appointed, and Ex Officio positions)

Addresses

P.O. Box 1175, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-1175
 Web Site: <http://www.rootswest.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 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 Journal

The GSOC Journal, *A Journal of Northwest Florida*, is published once each year. The 2012 issue, Volume XXXIV, Issue 101, was published and distributed in November 2012.

The Web Site

The GSOC web site is hosted by Rootswest at:
<http://www.rootswest.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. Scanning this symbol with properly equipped mobile devices will connect that device to the GSOC website.

Meeting Location



The arrow indicates the door to the room used for GSOC meetings at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida

GSOC Publications

Volume I (out of print), Cemeteries of Okaloosa County, Florida 24 cemeteries east of the Yellow River & north of the Shoal River and I-10	Out of print but available on CD, see below
Volume II (out of print), Cemeteries of Okaloosa County, Florida 26 cemeteries north and west of the Yellow River	Out of print but available on CD, see below
Volume III Cemeteries of Okaloosa County, Florida 11 cemeteries south of the Shoal River	\$5.00 plus \$3.00 postage
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, parents names are indexed.	\$5.00 plus \$3.00 postage
Santa Rosa County Marriages 1869-1906 Over 7,000 names with every-name index, 123 pages.	\$5.00 plus \$3.00 postage
Walton County Marriages (out of print), 1895-1915 Over 10,000 names with every-name index, 165 pages.	Out of print but available on CD, see below
The GSOC Publications Disk This compact disk (CD) contains <u>searchable</u> PDF files containing the books listed above: Cemeteries of Okaloosa County, Volumes I, II, and III; Funeral Records of Okaloosa County; Santa Rosa County Marriages 1869-1906; and Walton County Marriages 1885-1915	\$15.00 plus \$2.00 postage

Please send your order information with your check to
GSOC, P.O. Box 1175, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-1175
 and mark your envelope "Book Sales"



The September GSOC meeting will be on Saturday, September 14. The program will be a field trip to the Baker Block Museum, Baker, FL. The meeting will begin at 10:00 A.M. and carpool arrangements from Niceville are described on page 1.

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

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

