

THE GSOC NEWSLETTER

The Genealogical Society of
Okaloosa County, Florida

September 5, 2014

Next GSOC Meeting

September 13, 2014



Our September meeting will be devoted to one of our popular Show-and-Tell programs.

Volunteer members describe interesting aspects of their genealogical research and show things that they have found that relate to their research or their family history.

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GSOC Meeting Minutes for August

August 9, 2014

Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida
Pat Pruett, Recording Secretary

The Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County met at the Heritage Museum, Valparaiso, FL where the meeting was called to order by Pres. Jim Young at 10:00 AM. Before the formal opening, our speaker for our program today, Mr. George Legge, played a comical video of the song "I'm My Own Grandpa".

Pres. Jim had those who had not already done so, get a door prize ticket and sign in. He then welcomed members and guests.

Jim explained how our organization's minutes are published in our monthly Newsletter on our GSOC website and he now needs a motion to approve the minutes as published. Motion was so made by Bob Sutherland,

seconded by Val Moreland and motion was approved by members present.

Jim said the Newsletter was sent out to members on 30 July and asked if anyone had trouble accessing it or had any questions concerning it. Jim mentioned that Amy Raley's presentation from last month is on our Members section of the website. Need to see Jim for password.

Pres. Jim said that our 2014 Journal is in progress and he needs articles as soon as possible. The deadline for articles is 15 Sept., which will allow the period from 15 Sept. to 15 Oct. to edit, format, and print the Journals so that they will be ready for mailing by 15 October. This journal will finish WWII and come forward.

Officers' Reports:

1st VP Programs – Del Lessard was not present, but sent word that the Sept. meeting will be a members "Show and Tell" and he needs more volunteers.

1st VP Membership – Sue Basch said we have one new member from our June meeting, Shirley Stanifer, and had her stand and introduce herself. She said we have 27 members and 2 guests present today.

Treasurer – Bob Basch reported that we have a checkbook balance of \$2432.00 and have only one small bill for postage outstanding. Bob then passed the "Blue Box" to collect donations for books to be donated to our local libraries and to help with the Journal publication expenses.

Recording Secy. – Pat Pruett had nothing to report.

Corresponding Secy. – Carl Laws said he has several new publications available today and then they will be taken to the Ft. Walton Library by Hilma Jenus.

Publicity – Val Moreland said that the newspaper is a bit slow in getting our pictures in, but they are good publicity when they do come out. Val brought up the subject of buying T-shirts by our members to use during special events to advertise our GSOC. Fifteen members raised their hand to show willingness to do this.

Library Liaison:

Valparaiso – Jim said that Charlene Grafton had surgery this past week and is home recovering.

Ft. Walton Beach – Hilma Jenus said that when she takes the literature to the library, she places it on the shelves in the Genealogy section herself, in answer to a question

from Ken Elliott. At the Valparaiso library, the materials are given to the librarian for placement.

Announcements from Membership:

Phil Hoge said that he is a member of the Institute of Senior Professionals and mentioned concerns of his organization about any help that can be given to the Heritage Museum to find a permanent home for all their collections and historical documents. Bev Gross said that the GSOC members lend assistance to the Museum staff at present.

Bob Basch awarded two door prizes and then took a show of hands for those who planned to attend the "Dutch Treat" lunch. He had a large total and plans were to go to the Le Bienville Restaurant following the meeting and program.

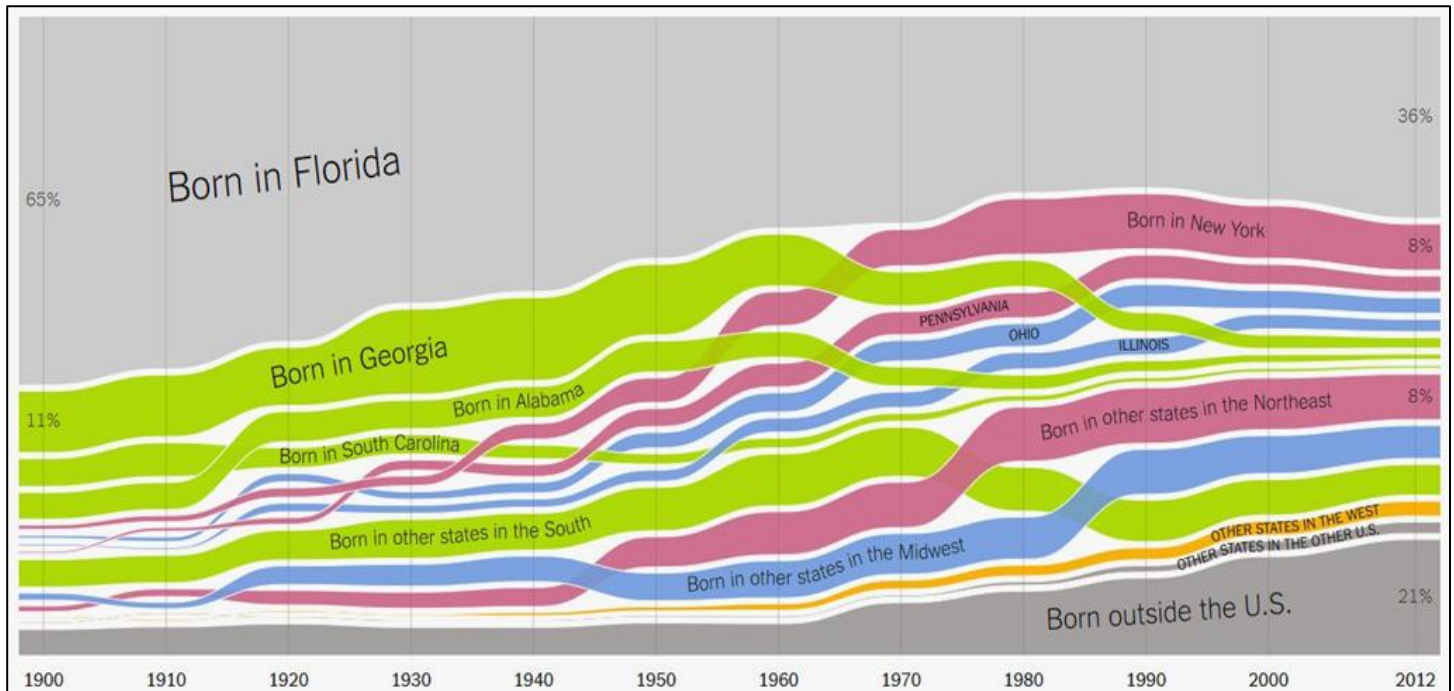
Margaret Harris profiled our speakers, Mr. and Mrs. George Legge, and gave a short synopsis of their background. She then turned the meeting over to them for our program.

Mr. Legge is the Director of the LDS Family Center in Ft. Walton Beach and he and Mrs. Legge gave a rundown on all the facilities, files, records and computer programs for use by the public in researching their family histories. He distributed handouts that detailed records that are accessible only on the computers at their centers.

He is available to give individual help to anyone who wants to come to the Ft. Walton Center. All of their resources are free, except for the use of films that would need to be ordered from their main depository for use at the local center.

Pres. Jim adjourned the meeting at 11:50 AM.

Where Do Residents of Florida Come From?



This chart shows, by year from 1900 through 2012, where the folks living in Florida came from. It may seem as if Florida has been attracting residents from the snow country forever, but the reality is, through 1960, Georgia was the leading source of Florida migration. Now the Northeast and Midwest are dominant.

Florida has grown so much that even though this chart makes it appear that the migrant population (people coming into Florida from other states) is shrinking, it isn't; it's just not growing as fast as the native-born and immigrant populations.¹

¹ Nation on the Move, Mapping Migration in the United States, *The New York Times*, Aug. 15, 2014. Thanks to Dick Eastman's Genealogy Blog, Aug. 21, 2014

The Cosson Tragedy

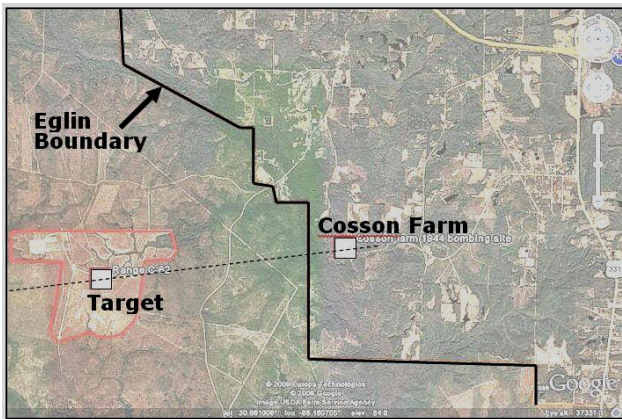
Jim Young

The light at the end of the World War II tunnel was finally visible in August 1944. The Allied forces had successfully landed in Normandy and were beginning to force the Germans back toward Germany. The Russians were pressing the Germans from the east. United States naval and air forces were pushing Japan back to their home islands. At Eglin Field, the largest Army Air Corps installation in the United States, the dual missions of testing and training continued night and day. Eglin, with its main base, eleven auxiliary airfields, and numerous gunnery and bombing ranges was playing a key part in helping bring the war to an end. People living in the southern parts of Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, and Walton counties were familiar with the sights and sounds of this activity.

One of the families which was especially familiar with the activity at Eglin was the Jim Cosson family. In 1936, James Marvin Cosson Sr. had moved his family to this farm located only several hundred yards east of the Eglin reservation. This farm in the Alaqua Community southwest of DeFuniak Springs he hoped would provide more land to provide for his wife, Annie Bell Cosson, and their children.

August 11, 1944, was a Friday, a family evening for this family. On this day, after the day's work was done, Jim and Annie Bell were having supper for Jim's brother Alfred, sister-in-law Pearl, and those of the two couples' children who were still home. One son in each family was in the service, and another of Alfred's and Pearl's sons was staying at his grandmother's home about 100 yards to the north.

Isaac David Cosson, the oldest son of Alfred and Pearl who hadn't gone off to war, was then 12. He later recalled that family had gone to their cousin's house to have supper with them that night. After supper, the adults talked while David helped his cousins, 12-year old James Jr. and 13-year-old Winnie Lee pack Grit newspapers.



About 9 p.m. the nighttime activity at the bombing range three miles west of the Cosson home began to increase. As part of the training mission, a pathfinder plane dropped flares by parachute. These flares lit up the ground below so that the bombers overhead could spot their targets. David said that they could see the flares being dropped and that he, his dad Alfred, his uncle Jim, and his cousins James Jr. and Winnie went out to the dirt road just outside the front-yard gate for a better view.

"We were out on the front porch talking," Frank recalled. "My mother (Annie) was washing my father's foot, doctoring it. We had a lantern on the porch."

For this particular practice mission, the bombers were dropping live 20-pound fragmentation bombs. But, tonight, something went terribly wrong. Instead of releasing the bombs on the intended target, they began to fall only after the plane flew past the target and toward the Eglin boundary. Thirty-six bombs fell as the plane neared the boundary. David said, "We could hear the bombs drop. The bombs whistle."

The Cossons suddenly knew they were in danger – the bombs sounded much too close. . The first bombs began striking west of the Cosson home and as each bomb hit in the woods or fields, the explosions got louder. James Sr., Alfred, James Jr., Winnie, and David scrambled to get through the gate and into what little protection the wood-frame Cosson house might give them.

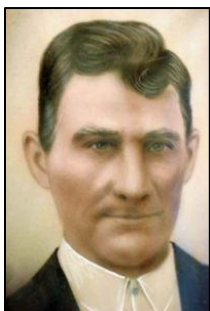
Six bombs fell around the Cosson home and four of them exploded. David said, "I laid there. Everybody was screaming." From his grandmother's porch 100 yards away, 14-year-old Wallace saw the bombs fall. Shrapnel hit that house, too. Wallace heard the screams from his Uncle Jim's house and he ran down there without shirt or shoes on.



David had been blown under the porch. Wallace pulled David out and carried him to the gate. Alfred was lying down with his arms stretched out. Winnie was moaning, her face mutilated. James Jr. lay dead on the front porch. Frank, 10, and Tom, 4, had been inside the house but both of them were wounded. Frank had been hit in the chest and was trying to hold his intestines in with his hands. Tom had been sleeping inside the house. Shrapnel cut the bed in two where he had been sleeping and he had a wound in his hip. David didn't know what had happened to his mother or his Aunt Annie Bell.

After carrying David to the gate, Wallace ran back to his grandparents' home to get more help. He and others drove back in their 1935 Chevrolet pickup. They couldn't call for help. In that rural Alaqua community telephones and electricity wouldn't arrive for years yet.

Photos, Top to Bottom: Alfred, James Sr., James Jr., and Winnie



The injured and dead were carried in the pickup for the six-mile drive on dirt roads to DeFuniak Springs' Lakeside Clinic. David was in the back of the pickup with Winnie's head on his chest and his Uncle Jim beside him. "I could feel that his feet were cold," he said. David never lost consciousness during the fearful ride.

At Lakeside there was one doctor and several nurses. And confusion. The clinic staff sorted the living from the dead, wheeling the bodies of Winnie and her father into a hallway. The Cossons were Mormon, but a Catholic priest was found and administered last rites.

By now Eglin Field had learned the mission had gone horribly wrong. Military ambulances arrived at the Lakeside Clinic and took the survivors to Eglin's own hospital. David recalled the trip as being "Twenty-nine iles of screaming and hollering." Wallace remained at the Clinic helping as he could until they had left for Eglin.



At Eglin, David learned his mother was alive but shrapnel had pierced her left armpit and exited near her neck. Alfred had died. Annie Bell had been wounded, and had lost her husband and two of her children.

The next day, Maj. Edward Doherty from Eglin Field acknowledged the Army's responsibility. The intended target of the bombs had been three miles inside Eglin's boundary, he said.

Folks living around DeFuniak Springs speculated that the oil lamp burning on the porch of James Cosson's home may have been mistaken by the bomber pilot for his target but the Army investigators discounted that theory.

The accident was later ruled to have been caused by bombs becoming hung up on the bombing rack's releasing device. Other details, such as the plane's make and the pilot's name, were never released.



David's older brother, Shelley, was in the Navy and was stationed at New York City when a chaplain told him the news from home that Saturday. With the Navy's help, Shelley traveled back to Alaqua for the Tuesday afternoon funeral. "A major and a colonel met me at the bus stop. We got there just in time," Shelley said. Hundreds of people, many of them strangers to the Cossons, gathered for the funeral at Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church. It was estimated that more than 300 cars were parked outside the small church, less than two miles from where the bombs fell. People who couldn't get inside crowded around the windows and doors.

Mormon pastor Albert Lindsey, a longtime friend of the Cossons, conducted the service.

James Cosson and his two children, Winnie and James Jr., were buried side by side in the Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church Cemetery. Alfred Cosson was laid to rest a few feet away.

The inscriptions on Winnie's and James Jr.'s headstones still stand out: "Sleep on, sweet baby, and take thy rest. God called thee home. He thought it best."

There were also the wounded to think of.

“As soon as the funeral was over, the major and colonel took me to see mother and David at Eglin,” Shelley recalled. The doctors weren’t optimistic. They told Shelley that his mother, Pearl, and his brother, David, might not live much longer. Pearl’s chest had been torn apart by the blasts, and the doctors had done very little surgery to help her mend. David’s spine had been severed and his legs severely cut. He was paralyzed from the waist down.

At Shelley’s insistence, doctors began the first of many operations to heal the wounds of David and Pearl. Pearl spent a year in and out of the Eglin hospital. David’s wounds were much worse. In April 1945, eight months after the bombing, doctors weren’t expecting David to live much longer. Bedsores covered his body and dry gangrene had set in in his right leg. The leg later was amputated below the hip.

A 1945 administrative claim to the Army for David’s injuries requested only \$259. A report noted the amount was small because David was expected to live for no more than another nine months. David beat the odds.

After Shelley was stationed on a Navy ship in Mobile, Ala., he had David moved to a Mobile hospital where surgeons cleaned away much of the infected bone. David showed signs he would pull through.

In Washington, D.C., it was literally taking acts of Congress for the Cosson family’s medical bills and losses to be paid. In 1945, U.S. Rep. Bob Sikes asked Congress to approve \$10,000 for David’s family. The request was cut to \$6,000. Five years later, after the then 18-year-old David had proved he would survive his wounds, Congress passed a bill awarding him \$15,000 if his guardians would agree the \$15,000 settled all of David’s claims. The Florida county judge overseeing David’s case objected to the settlement clause and the \$15,000 was never paid.

In 1954 another bill was introduced into Congress for David. The bill authorized \$7,676 to the Florida Crippled Children’s Commission for its work with David and \$7,232 for David himself. But again the Army asked that the money be paid only if David accepted it as a final settlement. The bill was never passed, according to a congressional report.

David’s paralysis and other medical complications kept him in and out of hospitals and made it hard to find steady work. Often he had to get by on supplemental Social Security checks and depend on Medicaid to pay his hospital bills.

In 1979, 35 years after the bombs fell, Congress again had a bill seeking compensation for David. Introduced by U.S. Rep. Earl Hutto, the bill sought an annual \$18,000 payment. The yearly amount would keep pace with inflation and would be paid to David as long as he lived. The \$18,000 amount was agreed on because it was nearly equal to what a veteran with injuries of David’s severity would be paid. This time the Pentagon attached no conditions except that it would be in “full satisfaction of any claim”. After much lobbying by David’s relatives, Congress in approved the compensation and enacted Private Law 96-54, complete with bureaucratic language:

**Private Law 96-54 - 96th Congress
An Act For the relief of Isaac David Cosson.
July 2, 1980 [H.R. 2475]**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled. That the Secretary of the Treasury shall, from funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, make monthly payments to Isaac David Cosson of Clermont, Florida, in amounts determined in accordance with section 2 of this Act. Such payments shall be in full satisfaction of any claim against the United States relating to the injuries suffered by Mr. Cosson as a result of the accidental bombing of the yard near his home by an aircraft of the United States Army on August 11, 1944.

SEC. 2. (a) Each monthly amount payable under this Act shall be equal to one-twelfth of \$18,000, adjusted in accordance with subsection (b).

(b) On or before February 28 of each year, the Secretary of the Treasury shall adjust the \$18,000 amount referred to in section 2(a), with respect to the twelve months beginning after such date, by the percent change, if any, which he determines to have occurred in the price index published for December of the previous year from the price index

published for the month in which this Act is enacted.(2b) The monthly amount payable after adjustment under this section shall be rounded to the nearest dollar (rounding any amount which is \$0.50 or higher to the next highest dollar), except that no adjustment shall be for less than \$1.

Shelley stayed in the Navy and later switched to the Air Force. Wallace joined the Navy in 1948 and retired after 31 years. David, who endured about 100 operations, was paralyzed from the waist down. He lost one leg to infection. Thomas joined the Army at 17 to support his mother, then built up a construction business. Frank, rejected by the Army, Air Force and Navy because of his bomb injuries, was later drafted into the Army and built his career there. He retired after he was wounded in Vietnam, coming home blind in one eye and deaf in one ear.



The shattered frame of James Cosson's home was removed long ago. Still lying on the ground are a few rotted fence posts and lengths of the rusted wire fence near where Wallace carried David.

In 1993, in time for the Cossons' annual reunion at the homestead, Shelley put up this sign marking the site of the bombing and listing the names of the dead. "The young ones here only know what they've been told about the bombing," Shelley said. "I thought the sign would be a way of reminding people."

Shelley and Wallace never held a grudge against the Army for the bombing. "My brother died in Vietnam, but I don't blame the Navy for that," Wallace

explained.

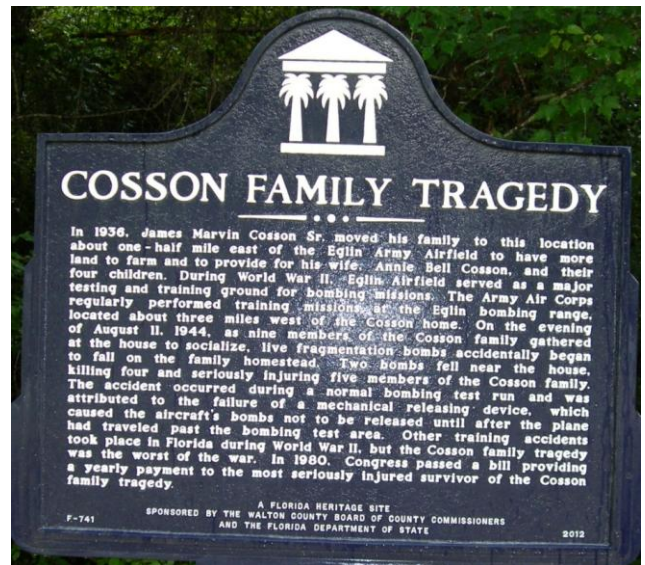
There is, however, some bitterness about how the federal bureaucracy delayed for 36 years a settlement with David.

The nighttime accident is a vivid image even for Cosson generations born long after. James Franklin Cosson was named after grandfather James. Cosson, born about 10 years after the bombs took their toll, appreciated Congressman Miller's effort to construct a memorial. But the Vietnam veteran held a strong grudge at the way "bureaucrats" have handled the family's plight. "It's long, long overdue," Cosson said. "I'd like to see something done. It only took the government (decades) to acknowledge the tragedy."

Sixty-eight years after the bombing, the community came together on Aug. 30, 2012 to place a marker in memory of the tragedy in front of what was once the Cosson home, now overgrown with time, trees and memories.

The memorial marker had been in the process for many, many years. Previous Florida House of Representative committees had rejected the marker in the past due to some objections about the wording and the project was refined and resubmitted before finally being approved.

Throughout everything, the Cosson family waited patiently for the tragedy to be noticed and recognized by the government. "We know what happened here, but when other people drive by, they don't see anything but woods," said U.S. Congressman Miller about the sign and the tragedy, "Now, they'll know."



While many of the Cossons forgave the military for the wartime accident, there remains an anger over how the survivors were treated by bureaucrats. Over how it took nearly 40 years and an act of Congress for David Cosson to be awarded a disability pension, and the smaller slights government agencies inflicted on the family.

"The government paid \$2,500 per death, then took the family to court to

get back \$800 from a farm loan,” recalled James Cosson’s son, Frank, who was wounded in the chest by shrapnel.

Frank Cosson was 12 when he took the long ambulance ride down the dirt roads from the old county hospital that used to sit on College Avenue in DeFuniak Springs to the hospital at Eglin Field. He was placed in the ambulance with his father, head on his chest, listening to the sound of life escape his body during the long trip. “They put me in there with him, cause they didn’t think either of us would make it,” he said.

Cosson added about the night of the tragedy when speaking to the crowd, “I also want to say that the night I lost my daddy, Bob Sikes came to me and said he couldn’t replace my daddy, but he would do his best to look out for us and be a daddy to us if he could, and he was as close to it as he could be. He was a man of his word.”

Cosson had originally approached the government about a memorial for the family more in the style of a headstone monument with names and dates of their death as well as survivors. Cosson said he was grateful for all of the help with the marker project, but he was disturbed with many of the rumors and mistruths that had surrounded the family since the accident as well as how the marker was worded. “I just have to say, to make clear, a lot of people say our family was having a party and now we all get checks every year. That’s just not true. My daddy didn’t drink or party. He was a hardworking and honest man. Nobody in our family gets a check for this of any kind. A few got a one-time payment long, long ago, but that’s it. I just want people to know the truth.”

“A memorial 68 years overdue”

As the *Northwest Florida Daily News* stated in an editorial published September 13, 2012:

Perhaps someday we will get a full accounting of why it took so long for a memorial marker to be erected at the site of the Cosson tragedy — a wooded region in northern Walton County where, in August 1944, a military plane bombed the Cosson family farm and killed four people. After all, it’s been 68 years.

“We’ve had so many promises of what was going to happen here and it didn’t,” Thomas “Bill” Cosson said last week as the marker was finally unveiled. “After 68 years, you don’t know what to expect, but it’s happened. I didn’t think I’d ever see this before I died.”

Sources:

Playground News, 7 Feb 1946, “Asks Uncle Sam For \$31,500 for Cossons, Bomber Family May Yet Be Paid”

Northwest Florida Daily News, 16 Aug 1993, “Family remembers bombs of death”

Northwest Florida Daily News, 14 Aug 1994, “50 years and bombs still echo”

Associated Press, August 14, 1994, Bill Kaczor, “Bombs Rained on Florida Family in 1944”

Northwest Florida Daily News, 5 Mar 2003, “Miller: Memorialize mishap, Monument To Pay Tribute”

Northwest Florida Daily News, editorial published September 13, 2012

Interview with Jim Cosson on August 17, 2014

Family Photos: Alfred, James Sr., James Jr., and Winnie (hand-tinted)

The Cosson Memorial is located on the north side of Cosson Road, southwest of DeFuniak Springs. From highway 331 as it enters the city from the south, go west on Bob Sikes Road to Pleasant Ridge Road and turn south. Cosson Road branches from Pleasant Ridge Road a few miles south of the Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church and the monument is a few miles south of there.



Civil War Sesquicentennial

Selected Highlights of September 1864

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

Atlanta fell on September 2nd and such was the importance of taking the city that Lincoln ordered a day of national rejoicing on September 5th 1864. It is what happened in Atlanta itself that remains one of the most controversial incidents of the American Civil War. Sherman ordered that any building that was of no use to the military should be destroyed and that the city was to be for the military only - not for civilians. Grant encouraged Sherman to continue being aggressive.

September 1st: The Confederates evacuated Atlanta. What they couldn't take with them they destroyed.

September 2nd: Union troops entered Atlanta and Sherman sent a message to Lincoln, "Atlanta is ours, and fairly won".

September 4th: Sherman ordered all civilians to leave Atlanta and the destruction of all buildings except private residences and churches.

September 8th: George B McClellan accepted the Democrat nomination to run against Lincoln in November. Detractors questioned why a serving officer would run against his commander-in-chief.

September 12th: Buoyed by Sherman's success, Lincoln urged Grant to be more aggressive against Lee.

September 16th: Lee's army ran out of corn and there seemed no way his Army could be supplied. A daring Confederate raid captured 2,400 head of cattle.

September 24th: Crops in the Shenandoah Valley was destroyed on the orders of General Grant.

September 27th: Confederate guerrillas continued to unsettle Union forces in the South. Especially successful was Bloody Bill Anderson who looted the town of Centralia in Missouri.

September 29th: Grant started a major assault on Richmond.

September 30th: Lee informed Davis in Richmond that his position was bleak.

Events, Groups, and Sites of GSOC Interest

West Florida Genealogical Society September 6, 2014, 10:00 a.m.

West Florida Genealogy Library
5740 N. 9th Ave, Pensacola, FL, 850-494-7373

Adam, from Laser Images in Pensacola, will discuss "Picasa", the free application program available from Google. It allows you to edit, organize, and enhance your genealogy photos without disturbing the original photograph. It also includes face recognition software which can assist in identifying unknown pictures you may have. Guests welcome. Refreshments will be available at 9:45.

Bay County Genealogical Society Saturday, 20 September 2014, 1:00 p.m.

Bay County Public Library
898 West 11th Street, Panama City, Florida

Preserving Our Genealogy Research by Janice Cronan

Ensuring that our treasured genealogy collections will be available for future generations. Where do I start, what do I keep, and how do I keep it?

Janice Cronan has spoken to the BCGS several times and has also served in numerous Society positions, receiving the Society's President's Citation Award in 2012 for service and leadership.

Destin History & Fishing Museum

108 Stahlman Avenue
Adjacent to the Destin Community Center
850-837-6611

The **Annual Tin Cup Classic Golf Tournament** to benefit the Destin History and Fishing Museum will be held on **Sunday, September 14**, at the Seascapes Resort Golf Club. This event is being organized by AJ's Seafood & Oyster Bar. Hole sponsorships and prizes that can be raffled off to participating golfers are needed. Any type of donations will be appreciated. **Contact AJ's Seafood & Oyster Bar at 850 837-6457 or at golf@ajs-destin.com**

Center for Lifelong Learning

Registration for upcoming classes is on **Friday, Sept. 5**, in the auditorium at the UWF, Emerald Coast campus in Fort Walton Beach. Registration for current CLL students (*those who have attended 1 of the past 2 semesters*) is between 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.; for new students it is between 1:00 and 2:00 p.m.

To view a list of classes by day-of-the-week, click on:

<http://cll-fwf.org/ScheduleInfo.html>.

To view detailed course descriptions, click on:

http://cll-fwf.org/CLL_Courses.html.

GSOC INFORMATION

Officers for 2014

President, James Young
1st Vice President (Programs), Del Lessard
2nd Vice President (Membership), Sue Basch
Treasurer, Bob Basch,
Recording Secretary, Pat Pruett
Corresponding Secretary, Carl Laws
Immediate Past President, Donna Elliott

Journal Editor, Jim Young; Historian, TBD
Genealogist, Margaret Harris
Publicity Chairperson, Val Moreland
Webmaster & Newsletter Editor, Jim Young

(Elected, Appointed, and Ex Officio positions)

Addresses

P.O. Box 1175, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-1175
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 2013 issue, Volume XXXII, Issue 102, was published and distributed in December 2013. The 2014 issue will be published in the near future.

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.

The GSOC Publications Disk

This compact disk (CD) contains all of the books listed below in searchable PDF files. To get a copy, please send your check for \$17.00 (shipping is included) with your order information to GSOC, P.O. Box 1175, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-1175.

Volume I, Cemeteries of Okaloosa County, Florida; 24 cemeteries east of the Yellow River & north of the Shoal River and I-10

Volume II, Cemeteries of Okaloosa County, Florida; 26 cemeteries north and west of the Yellow River

Volume III, Cemeteries of Okaloosa County, Florida; 11 cemeteries south of the Shoal River

Funeral Records of Okaloosa County; Records from McLaughlin Funeral Home, Crestview, FL, from 1927 - 1984. Over 11,000 entries. Includes the names of the deceased and, when given, the names of parents. Deceased are listed alphabetically, parent's names are indexed.

Santa Rosa County Marriages, 1869-1906

Over 7,000 names with every-name index, 123 pages.

Walton County Marriages, 1895-1915

Over 10,000 names with every-name index, 165 pages.

Nostalgia



Okaloosa News-Journal, December 1956
Courtesy of the Okaloosa Public Library Cooperative

Explore a great new on-line source of digitized
Crestview, Laurel Hill, Florala, and DeFuniak Springs
newspapers.

The earliest issues are from 1914.

<http://flhiddentreasures.com/okaloosa/jsp/RcWebBrowse.jsp>



The September GSOC meeting will be held on Saturday, September 13, at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida at 10 AM.

The program will be a Show-and-Tell by members who will share interesting aspects of their research and show things they've come across.

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

HONOR THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE

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

You