

THE GSOC NEWSLETTER



THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF
OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

SEPTEMBER 1, 2015

Next GSOC Meeting September 12, 2015 10:00 am

Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida



Our September 12th meeting will be presented by GSOC Genealogist, Margaret Harris. Her topic will be "Tap the Source: Researching by Location."

In addition to being the GSOC Genealogist, Margaret is a renowned genealogical researcher and teacher. In the session of the Center for Lifelong Learning beginning this month, she will be teaching "Beyond Basic Genealogy".

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August 8th GSOC Meeting Minutes

Charlene Grafton, 1st Vice President, Membership

The meeting was called to order by President Jim Young. Motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the July Minutes as printed in the newsletter and on the website. There were no questions or comments regarding the August newsletter.

Officer Reports

1. Del Lessard, 1st VP Programs, said that the September program will be given by Margaret Harris with the topic of "Tap the Source: Researching by Location." Hilma Jenus will be providing the program for the October meeting and Bev Gross the one for November. The December meeting will be our Annual Christmas Party.

2. Charlene Grafton, 2nd VP Membership, stated that there were no new members for this month. Invitations were given to several people to attend today's presentation, but none attended. Charlene said she visited the Valparaiso Library and spoke with David Weatherford as to any needs or problems we could help with. He said that he had no needs monetarily but that

there has been a decrease in use of the genealogy section and he is planning to decide by September whether or not to remove the newsletter collections to make room for more children activities and program literature. There was a discussion centered on writing letters to the library cooperative again plus the councils of Niceville and Okaloosa County for help in computer program additions at the libraries.

3. Bob Basch reported that the check book balance was \$2145.49 after paying post office box rent. He passed the Blue Box for donations to local libraries and help with the Journal costs.

4. The Recording Secretary was not present. Carl Laws, Corresponding Secretary, discussed the Journals recently received, some of which were displayed at this meeting. The Publicity Chairman and the Genealogist were not in attendance.

The Show-and-Tell Program

Jim led off the program by telling about letters found in an antique trunk which were written to his great great aunt. He read one of them which was from a lonely Confederate soldier which described his hopes, fears, and their camp activity.

Charlene Grafton explained newly found resources in Virginia and Texas for her ancestors which led her to review military rosters for the Blackhawk Wars in 1832-34 for two of her ancestors: Collins and Clark. Then, finding them both in the War of 1812 and continuing her searches through the Texas War of Independence at San Jacinto. Five of her male ancestors fought in that battle: Collins, Clark, Hutchison, Anderson, and Rutherford. All of them secured bounty land grants and either used them to purchase land in Lamar County, TX (near the Red River) or in Tennessee and to continue farming. Wm. C. Clark became more famous than any of them donating land and a trading post for the Lake City settlement in Montgomery County, TX.

Pat Walker displayed a ceremonial metal fire horn used in the Birmingham, AL fire department as well as newspaper pages listing the salaries of all Birmingham city workers in 1936 and the Election Ballot for the national election in 1936.

Ken and Donna Elliott showed their latest family treasure: their 9-month-old granddaughter who is the latest bud in their family tree.

Robin Stiles showed a huge family tree chart (in the fan format) and explained how useful such charts are to quickly show family links.

Sue Basch showed a certificate given to one of her male ancestors who served aboard ship. This certificate is called a Shellback Certificate and was awarded to those crossing the equator for the first time.

Del Lessard, explained the useful information he and Carol found by reviewing legal depositions from 1880 taken during divorce proceedings. He passed out extracts from a large number of these depositions and members were asked to read them aloud to simulate what the people who gave them had to say about the behavior of the husband and wife.

Twenty one members were in attendance with no guests.

The meeting adjourned, and five members had lunch together at Po Folks.

*I sent that 'Ancestry' site
some information on my
Family Tree*

*They sent me back a pack
of seeds
and suggested that I
just start over.*

The Questions to Ask

If there are any questions you have about your family, NOW is the time to ask them. Time is running out! Those in your family that have the information that you need may not be here when you get around to talking to them.

Think about the things you want to know about them and your family history. Each time you talk with her or him, ask one simple question, something that will help them remember the fun times throughout their life while also helping you get to know the details that you will treasure later.

Here is a list of questions that I always thought I had more time to ask about.

What is your full name? Why did your parents select this name for you? Did you have a nickname?

When and where were you born?

How did your family come to live there?

Were there other family members in the area? Who?

What were your parents' names? Where were they born?

What were their parents' names? Where were they born?

What were your parents and grandparents occupations?

Did any of your parents, grandparents, or great grandparents serve in the military? Which units were they with?

Did any of them ever receive a government pension based on their service?

What was the house (apartment, farm, etc.) like where you grew up? How many rooms? Bathrooms? Did it have electricity? Indoor plumbing? Telephones?

What is your earliest childhood memory?

Describe the personalities of your family members.

What kind of games did you play growing up?

What was your favorite: Toy and why? Thing to do for fun? Songs and music growing up? What about now? Color and dessert as a child? What about now? Holiday?

What was school like for you as a child? What were your best and worst subjects?

Where did you attend grade school? High school? College?

What school activities and sports did you participate in? Do you remember any fads from your youth? Popular hairstyles? Clothes?

Who were your childhood heroes?

What was your religion growing up? What church, if any, did you attend?

Did you ever go on any family trips as a child? What was your favorite?

Did you have a special place that you liked to go as a child?

Were you ever mentioned in a newspaper?

What world events had the most impact on you while you were growing up? Did any of them personally affect your family?

Describe a typical family dinner. Did you all eat together as a family? Who did the cooking? What were your favorite foods?

How were holidays (birthdays, Christmas, etc.) celebrated in your family? Did your family have special traditions?

Who was the oldest relative you remember as a child? What do you remember about them?

When and how did you meet your spouse? What did you do on dates?

What was it like when you proposed (or were proposed to)? Where and when did it happen? How did you feel?

Where and when did you get married?

What memory stands out the most from your wedding day?

How would you describe your spouse? What do (did) you admire most about them?

What do you believe is the key to a successful marriage?

How did you find out you were going to be a parent for the first time?

Why did you choose your children's names?

What was your proudest moment as a parent?

What did your family enjoy doing together?

What was your profession and how did you choose it?

If you could have had any other profession what would it have been? Why wasn't it your first choice?

What has been your favorite place to visit or travel to as an adult? What did you do there that I should do when I go visit?

What accomplishments were you the most proud of?

What is the one thing you most want people to remember about you?

What is your earliest memory of me? What is your favorite thing that we have done together (or that our family has done)?

Of all the things you learned from your parents, which do you feel was the most valuable?

What do you know about your family surname?

Is there a naming tradition in your family, such as always giving the firstborn son the name of his paternal grandfather?

Are there any physical characteristics that run in your family?

Are there any special heirlooms, photos, bibles or other memorabilia that have been passed down in your family?

What stories have come down to you about your parents? Grandparents? More distant ancestors?

Are there any stories about famous or infamous relatives in your family?

Have any recipes been passed down to you from family members?

THE BEGINNING: OKALOOSA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

by Lela Adams for the Spring 2001 Journal

Back in the days before the Okaloosa County Genealogical Society was organized, genealogy was just getting its hold on some of us living in the Florida Panhandle. It was a "new hobby" but one that quickly captivated our time and energies!

There were not many places to do research locally. Local libraries did not have big genealogy collections. The Valparaiso Community Library began adding to its collection in earnest, thanks to one of its librarians, and has continued to grow since that time. Other local libraries now have much better collections than were available then.

There were always the records available in the local courthouses and health departments, but many of us did not have relatives in the Florida Panhandle. Some of us were unable to travel to the areas where information was available, at least not as often as we desired.

There were collections in libraries in Escambia County, FL, and Mobile, AL, but distance was a factor. Genealogy was just beginning to catch on. (Remember, this was 26 plus years ago! The cars, roads, etc., were not what they are today).

At that time there was a Branch Genealogical Library at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Pensacola, and one had just opened in Fort Walton Beach. (These libraries are now known as Family History Centers). A few people began coming to use the equipment and materials that were available. The BGL had two microfilm readers and access to the microfilms located at the main library in Salt Lake City, Utah. There were also a few books and periodicals which had been donated.

A few dedicated people, who were interested in genealogy, felt there should be some kind of organization in the local area. The "bug" had bitten us and wouldn't let go. We were ready, willing and able to get "off the ground" with our desired goal. And so The Okaloosa County Genealogical Society was formed.

An article on February 20, 1976, from the Playground Daily News mentions that fourteen genealogists met in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latterday Saints on Lake Drive, for the purpose of forming a genealogical society to serve Okaloosa County. The moderator of the meeting, Wiley Benjamin Hill, Jr., credited Sharon Jasper, wife of Capt. William A. Jasper of Eglin Field, for spearheading the society formation. Mrs. Eileen McCall who worked with the Okaloosa-Walton Historical Society acted as secretary.

Mrs. Eileen McCall became the first president of the Society. Soon after formation of the Society, the first periodical was on its way to members and reciprocal societies. Information on cemeteries, marriage records, and other records from Okaloosa, Walton, and Santa Rosa Counties continues to be published in the Society's Journal.

Meetings over the years have been held in various locations. At the present time, the meetings rotate on a quarterly basis between Crestview, Ft. Walton Beach and Valparaiso.

The original nucleus of the GSOC, justifiable, feels a burst of satisfaction for a "job well done". Our gratitude goes to each of the founding "parents" and to those who have followed and who continue to make the GSOC an outstanding organization. The Society has helped many fellow genealogists.

P.S. Isn't it wonderful how much information is available in these enlightened times? Research and sharing is at our fingertips. Who would have dreamed it was possible way-back-when.

GSOC OFFICERS 2001

**Fran Whittaker, President; Margaret Gerdel, Secretary;
C. Walter Ruckel, Treasurer; Margaret Harris, Past President;
and Rita Bartmess, Membership**

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 rattle-snake 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.

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 parents. Mother sat in the pretty carved rocker which usually sat in the hall and my Dad would bring his chair* out. 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 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 as good as it did that long ago.

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, fearing that a big wind might come and blow the trees over on the house. Oh the sun did beat down, 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.



Monette Morgan age 11 with her brother who lived only six days.

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

Used with permission.

* Jim Young: This chair is now in my home.

Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida

115 Westview Ave., Valparaiso, FL

**Participates in
"Smithsonian Magazine Museum Day Live!"
Saturday, September 26 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

Download Free Tickets to over 400,000 participating Museum's across the country at:
www.smithsonianmag.com/museumday.

Visitors who present a **Smithsonian Magazine Museum Day Live!** ticket to the *Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida* will gain free entrance for two on Saturday, September 26, 2015 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Bring the family! Everyone will enjoy a stroll in the beautiful "Paradise Gardens", an outdoor exhibit of the Valparaiso Garden Club featuring indigenous trees, shrubs, plants, and flowers.

Make a day of it. After your Museum tour plan a picnic at nearby Lincoln Park on scenic Boggy Bayou.

For more information call the Museum: 850-678-2615

Events, Groups, and Sites of GSOC Interest



Center for Lifelong Learning Registration Schedule September 2015 Semester

Registration will be held on Friday, September 4th, 2015, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. for current students, 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. for new students at the auditorium, joint campus of University of West Florida and Northwest Florida State College in Fort Walton Beach.

After September 11th, individuals may register at the CLL office, Room 461 in Building 4 on the campus.

A \$50 registration fee entitles students to take as many as 4 classes; additional classes over 4 cost \$10 each.

All courses for the upcoming semester begin on the week of September 14th and continue for eight weeks, except where different start dates and number of sessions are specifically stated in the catalog. Classes end on November 6th with the Final Follies event.

Most Thursday and Friday classes meet at the University of West Florida; and Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday classes meet at off-campus locations that are specifically listed in the detailed course listings.

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.

(If clicking doesn't take you to a desired web page, copy and paste the URL into your browser.) To print a hard copy of either of the above web pages, a clickable link to a printer-friendly version is provided on each page.

The on-line version of the catalog contains all of the September semester classes listed in the printed catalog. Also, it includes any last-minute schedule changes, any new classes that have been added, and any courses that have had to be cancelled since the printed version was mailed.

West Florida Genealogical Society September 5, 2015

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

Which Way Did the Census Taker Walk or Ride His Horse?

Bert Outlaw, WFGS President, will give a Power Point presentation on using census, tax records, plat maps, and deeds to help locate ancestors that didn't own land.

Members and guests are welcome to attend.

Refreshments will be available at 9:45. Meeting begins at 10:00.

Contact: Charlotte Schipman, 850-477-7166,
cschipman@mac.com for more information.

Heritage Alive! Craft Classes at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida

Traditional Basket Weaving:

Lou Holt will teach students to make a Paper Plate Basket. Learn a new skill and create something uniquely yours!
Date: Saturday, September 19 (9a - 2p) Fee: \$35; \$30 for Museum Members; All supplies included.

Pine Needle Basketry:

Joe Stoy will teach the age-old tradition of pine needle basketry using the original Seminole techniques. Learn to weave long leaf pine needles into beautiful and useful baskets like the early NW Florida Native Americans. Sept. 15 & 22 (2-part class) Tuesdays evenings (5p - 8p) Fee: \$55; \$50 Museum Member; All supplies included.

Seat Weaving Workshop

Interested? Call 850-678-2615 Date/Time: TBD. Bring your chair for a free consultation to find out what it will take to make your old chair look like new. Fee per session: \$10; \$8 for Museum Members plus a one-time fee per chair of \$10 to instructor for use of materials & tools. Phil Richter will teach participants to replace the seats on their own chairs. Weaving styles to be taught include the classical cane open weave, closed weave of fiber rush common on ladder-back chairs, and herringbone pattern using flat or oval reed. Some chairs & stools are available for learning.

Trinity United Methodist Church

403 Racetrack Road NW, Fort Walton Beach, FL



Elmer Dean, a jeweler by trade, along with 37 other charter members, organized the Trinity Methodist Church* in the Wright community on October 30, 1960. Dwight Eisenhower was president and a gallon of gas cost 31 cents. In lieu of a church home, the members met in the cafetorium of W.C. Pryor Jr. High School.

Church leaders got the OK to begin the search for a 3- to 5-acre tract for a church home. They almost immediately honed in on property on Racetrack Road. The land was acquired on January 3, 1961 at a price of \$14,200. The church struggled for months with low membership and an even lower cash flow; but, after months of prayer, the membership grew and they set to building a church home of their own. The church's groundbreaking ceremony landed it on the front page of the Playground Daily News, which later would become the Northwest Florida Daily News.

In February 1963, District Superintendent Si Mathison met with church leaders and predicted that in five to 10 years, "Trinity will be one of the stronger churches of our area." In the meantime, however, they would have to share a full-time pastor with the Destin Methodist Church until both churches reached a place where they could stand alone. Amid their own financial struggles, members of Trinity Methodist had also regularly supported the newly organized Destin Methodist church with \$50 contributions.

Pastor Douglas Newton moved into the recently acquired parsonage in early June of 1963 and became Trinity's first ordained pastor. He also served the Destin Methodist Church. Construction work on the church was completed in late August, and the consecration service was held on Sept. 1, 1963.

Over the next few months, membership in the Sunday school program and church grew and grew. By January 1964, membership had tripled to almost 160. Trinity had outgrown its new church and was already looking at expanding. The second phase of construction began that year and was completed a year later.

Trinity's growth over the years continued, and in 1973, expanding the facilities even further. A new sanctuary was completed in September 1976 and a new education wing was added in 1981. The vision continued to evolve.

In its 50th year in 2010, Trinity embarked on a building program to renovate its sanctuary and this was completed by the beginning of 2011.

Today, more than 1,100 members call Trinity their church home. The church includes almost every type of ministry from prison wards to soup kitchens, from the streets of Fort Walton Beach to the mountains of Ecuador, from a vibrant youth ministry to a thriving retiree base.

Charter Members of Trinity Methodist Church

Elmer F. Dean	Jean Dean
William Dean	David Dean
David H. Greer	Virginia Greer
Berta Jones	Edna S. Nelson
Ed R. Bilby	Barbara Bilby Cable
Harold Showers	Lillian Showers
Alden Derthick	Wilna Derthick
Howard W. Wolford	Madge Wolford
Janette Mills	Martha Roberts
Richard B. Roberts	Clyde Howard Nicholson
Thomas F. Nelson III	Burnetta Nicholson
Carl George Gicker	Dorene Gicker
David H. Greer II	Ben Bilby
Ken Bilby	Claudia Adams
Jack Bilby	Robertta Lamont
Clarence Fetting	Lula Fetting
Thomas F. Nelson Jr.	Linda Nelson Smith
Lawrence Allmon	Frances Allmon
Harold D. Visser	Adele Visser

Senior Pastors

Elmer F. Dean 1960-1963
Douglas C. Newton 1963-1968
Walter E. Edwins 1968-1970
Robert V. Greenwood 1970-1972
Joseph H. Bullington, Jr. 1972-1978
James T. Ross 1978-1985
John W. Bryan 1985-1986
Thomas Lane Butts 1986-1993
Wesley H. Wachob 1993-1997
Paul D. Wolfe 1997-2001
John H. Bonner 2001-2008
Bobby Ellisor 2008-2011
Sterling Boykin 2011- present

Associate Pastors

Nancy L. Watson 2004 - 2010
M. Christina Hale Shaver 2010 - present

*Changed to 'United Methodist Church' in 1968 by the union of The Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church

Millionaire property developer used children's gravestones to build a patio

Extracted from an article in the U.K. *Daily Mail*

A millionaire property developer who used children's gravestones to decorate the historic mansion which inspired the hymn *All Things Bright and Beautiful* has been ordered to pay £300,000.

Kim Davies, 60, took tombstones from a derelict chapel and cemented them to the walls of Llanwenarth House in Abergavenny, South Wales, where Cecil Frances Alexander penned the famous hymn.

Newport Crown Court heard how planners were horrified when they saw the 'decorative stone plaques' that had been used as part of a gaudy £1m makeover to the Grade II-listed home, turning it into a 'palace for an Iron Curtain dictator'.

One of the 150-year-old gravestones was even engraved with the names of three brothers and a sister who all died while under the age of four.

The wealthy businessman also used some of the gravestones as flagstones for a patio which he built at the £2.2m country mansion. It means children are now lying in unmarked graves at the disused Soary-Graig Non Conformist chapel in the village of Llechryd.

The father-of-three also replaced 300-year-old carved stone windows with plastic ones, ripped out an Elizabethan staircase and damaged valuable architecture at the Georgian-style manor. The court also heard how he fitted a modern kitchen, hung modern crystal chandeliers and put spotlights in the ceilings.

Davies, who owned the disused chapel at the time, has now been fined £60,000 and ordered to pay another £240,000 costs for breaking planning laws.



He changed his plea during the case and admitted five charges under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

Davies's own costs in the last three years were estimated at more than £250,000. He has already sold his Aston Martin and a Lamborghini Spider to raise funds for his court costs.

Issuing the fine, Judge Williams said the work Davies had done to the seven-bedroom house was 'vandalism'. He told him: 'You turned the house into something comparable to a hidden palace of an iron curtain dictator.' 'An architectural expert said it was the worst damage he had seen at a Grade II-listed building in 25 years. What you did was criminal.'

He added that Davies's motivation to buy and refurbish the property to his own tastes was purely financial. 'You played for high stakes and you lost,' he said.

The court had heard how planning officers at Brecon Beacons National Park only discovered the true extent of the bizarre makeover after seeing the property's exterior in a newspaper property advertisement.

'Planners discovered headstones taken from the village of Rhymney in South Wales.

'One was the grave of David, four, Rose, three, and Thomas who was just 11 months old when he died. These headstones were inserted into the walls of Llanwenarth House as decorative stone plaques.

Conservation expert Mike Davies said the 'wholly inappropriate' damage done to the property was the worst he had ever seen to a building of such 'historical and architectural importance.'

A National Park insider said: 'It is quite macabre. Why would anyone want to live in a house where the walls are decorated with the carved names of children who have died?

'There were quite a few gravestones with children's names on them, they dated back to the 19th century, some of them were for babies. 'We don't know how he was able to simply dig up an old graveyard without as care in the world. 'But these gravestones should not have been to decorate the house where *All Things Bright and Beautiful* was written.'

ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL

All things bright and beautiful, All creatures great and small,

All things wise and wonderful, The Lord God made them all;

Each little flower that opens, Each little bird that sings, He made their glowing colours, He made their tiny wings;

The rich man in his castle, The poor man at his gate, God made them high and lowly, And ordered their estate;

The purple headed mountain, The river running by, The sunset and the morning, That brightens up the sky;

The cold wind in the winter, The pleasant summer sun, The ripe fruits in the garden, He made them every one;

The tall trees in the greenwood, The meadows where we play, The rushes by the water, We gather every day;

He gave us eyes to see them, And lips that we might tell, How great is God Almighty, Who has made all things well.

GSOC INFORMATION

Officers for 2015

President, James Young
1st Vice President (Programs), Del Lessard
2nd Vice President (Membership), Charlene Grafton
Treasurer, Bob Basch,
Recording Secretary, Pat Pruett; Asst. Frances Hoge
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

Addresses

P.O. Box 1175, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-1175
Email: gsocokaloosa@yahoo.com
Newsletter Editor: youngimy@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 usually published on or before the first Friday of each month. Suggestions for articles are welcome. The editor, Jim Young, can be contacted by phone at 850 862-8642 or by email at youngimy@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 2014 issue, was published and distributed in September 2014.

The Web Site

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

The site is updated frequently and contains information about future GSOC meetings, minutes of past meetings, copies of the newsletters, articles and items of genealogical and historical interest, and much more.

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, and mark your envelope "Book Sales"

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, parents 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

Crestview News Journal, September 1, 1955

EGLIN Theatre N. MAIN CRESTVIEW Thursday-Friday Straight from Arabian Nights Decameron Nights Starring Joan Fontaine and Louis Jourdan Technicolor Saturday DOUBLE FEATURE Revenge Of The Creatures with John Agar ALSO War Paint With Robert Young Pathe Color Sunday-Monday SPECIAL TWO FEATURES It Came From Beneath The Sea — PLUS SECOND FEATURE — Creature With The Atomic Brain With Richard Denning Tuesday-Wednesday Killers From Space With Peter Graves Barbara Bestar	EXPECTED HOME Rev. and Mrs. James Milton Mc-Knight are expected to return home this week following a three week vacation in Virginia, where they visited relatives and attended the Bible Conference held in Harrisonburg, Va. LOCAL QUARRIES Many large banks and public buildings are floured with travertine rock. The lounge building floor and the hearths of each cabin at Myakka State Park are also constructed of beautiful travertine scrap obtained from nearby quarries. SPECIAL BUSINESS-MAN'S LUNCH Monday Through Saturday Serving from 11:00 till 1:00 DIFFERENT MEAT EVERY DAY FRESH VEGETABLES CHOICE OF THREE HOT ROLLS DESSERT COFFEE or TEA Complete Lunch Only 90c ENZOR SISTERS RESTAURANT U. S. 90 W. Crestview Phone 6157 for Reservations	J. D. Duboss, and her brother, Quentin, of Crestview. FOX Theatre Phone 3741 N. MAIN CRESTVIEW Thursday-Friday Debbie Reynolds, Dick Powell in Susan Slept Here Technicolor Saturday BIG DOUBLE FEATURE Judy Canova in Lay That Rifle Down — Plus — Robert Young in Relentless Technicolor Sunday-Monday Kirk Douglas, Jeanne Crain in Man Without A Star With Claire Trevor TWO DAYS ONLY Technicolor Tuesday-Wednesday Walt Disney's Vanishing Prairie Technicolor — PLUS SECOND FEATURE — Walt Disney's Willie, The Operatic Whale Technicolor
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The September GSOC meeting will be on Saturday, September 12th, 2015, at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso, at 10 AM.

The program, presented by the GSOC Genealogist Margaret Harris, will be on the topic of "Tap the Source: Researching by Location."

"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

