

THE GSOC NEWSLETTER

THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

SEPTEMBER 23, 2019



September 28, 2019, 10:30 AM

Fort Walton Beach Library

185 Miracle Strip Parkway, SE, Fort Walton Beach, FL

Cindy Barber, our GSOC President, will be giving a presentation of "DNA PAINTER". DNA is more than painting! Come learn about the other tools and learn a bit about painting too.

The DNA Painter is not just for working with DNA – there are other tools on the site that every genealogist can use. Come learn about all DNA Painter has to offer!

Cindy has been doing genealogy for almost 40 years. She uses DNA to bust through brick walls and find new cousins. Cindy teaches research techniques as well as DNA and other topics. She just completed the ProGen Study group and is preparing to go "on the clock" in pursuit of her professional certification. She is passionate and addicted!

Come join us!!

GSOC President's Corner - September 2019

Fall is roaring in with a vengeance! Dorian put us all on edge once again, CLL started, and I inadvertently made September DNA Painter month! As our fall and winter events approach, we also have elections right around the corner.

The Research Guide Donna Elliot, Kathy Sheperd and Beverly Gross and others have been working on is complete. It will be a valuable resource for researchers.

The Family Tree Maker event was great! Over 60 people attended. There were great questions and we got a peek at the new upgrade.

Cindy Barber

Cindybarber2@gmail.com

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

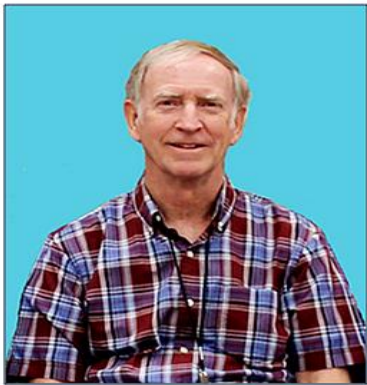
SEPT 28 CINDY BARBER "INTRO TO DNA PAINTER"
OCT 26 DON ALLGOOD "OKALOOSA COUNTY RECORDS"
NOV 23 GSOC MEMBERS "SHOW & TELL"-Individual members discuss their research and discoveries during the year
DEC 12 GSOC MEMBERS GSOC CHRISTMAS PARTY AT TRADEWINDS

SPECIAL EVENT

An Introduction to Genealogy

November 16, 2019 10:30 AM

**Robert L. F. Sikes Public Library
1445 Commerce Drive, Crestview, Florida**



The Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County (GSOC) will be holding their fall program in Crestview on November 16th at 10:30. Jon Sheperd will be presenting An Introduction to Genealogy.

Jon has been doing genealogy research for many years. He teaches at the Center for Lifelong Learning, and is a past president of the GSOC.

After the presentation, Jon and other members of the Society will be available to answer questions.

The GSOC meets on the fourth Saturday of each month (except December) at 10:30 in the Fort Walton Beach Library. The Society also holds periodic presentations and workshops at other locations in Okaloosa County.

MEET NEW MEMBER - BETSEY PLANTHOLT



Where were you born? In Greenbelt, MD, a planned community built in 1936, eight miles from Washington, D.C. We lived there until I finished college and my parents retired and moved back to NC.

Have you lived in other places? Where? My husband and I lived 10 months in Gulfport, MS, when he was stationed there for Air Force electronics schooling. When he was sent to Eglin, we moved to Shalimar and later to Fort Walton Beach. We've been here many, many years and plan to never leave.

What is your background (Where did you work, what did you do, etc.?) Before I was married, I had a job in Grand Central Terminal in New York City where I worked as a social worker at Travelers' Aid. That was an interesting and fun job! Then I married and was a full-time mother until our kids grew up and left home. Then I went back to school to get my master's in counseling and Human Development so that I could find a job. First, I was a home visitor for a program that prevented child abuse and later became the program manager for Healthy Families, a national organization that teaches young mothers how to be better moms and prevent child abuse.

When did you start doing genealogy? We had an uncle who used to talk about family history, but we didn't pay much attention to what he said. Now I wished I had! I became more interested about 2006 and joined DAR in 2012.

What geographic areas have you researched? VA and NC, because both families were from the counties near that state line. I should find out more about France, Ireland, England, Wales, and Scotland where my ancestors formerly lived before the 1600s. I have also done some work on my husband's family, Plantholts and Kohlers, most of whom came from Germany, landing in Baltimore or Pennsylvania.

Have you attended any conferences? No, not yet.

Do you belong to any other genealogy related societies? In addition to DAR, I'm a member of the Halifax Co., VA, and Genealogical Society which mails me a newsletter four times a year. I'm also in the Patrick Henry Descendants' Group and am a director in the Fontaine Maury Society that meets annually in different locations nationally.

Tell us about one of your brick walls. ONE? You've got to be kidding, right? Lots, especially on Mama's side where, according to her, my 2nd g. grandfather is William Wiley Warren. I even have a good photo of him with my 2nd g. grandmother, but can't find him anywhere online.

Have you DNA tested? Not yet. I'm still studying about it.

Does one of your ancestors have an unusual name? Unity West (5 g. grandmother). Her mother, Martha West Woodward (her middle name, West, was also later her married name), married 3 husbands and had children with all three men and I'm directly descended from her with each of those 3 men! She's my 5 g. grandma through her husband Gillian Macon; 5 g. grandma through husband William Bigger; and 6 g. grandma through Nathaniel West. As the generations trickled down through all the various names and couples, I'm at the bottom of each of the three family blood lines. Very strange!

Do you have an ancestor you would consider famous? Patrick Henry, 3 greats grandfather; First Lady Martha Dandridge Washington, 1st Cousin 6th degrees removed; Virginia Gov. Alexander Spotswood, 6 g. grandfather; Virginia Gov. Col. John West, 8 g. grandfather; King of Scotland Robert I de Bruce (1274 – 1329), 15 greats grandfather; and Charlemagne (742-814).

If you could ask one ancestor a question, who would you ask and what would the question be? I'd ask Samuel Smith Brandon, one of my great grandfathers on Mama's side, where he is buried. Since there were three Samuel Smith Brandons all born in the same county from about 1837-1939, it's difficult to prove which one he is, because the censuses aren't accurate, there are no birth certificates, and other information is sketchy, if available. I'd also ask Patrick Henry why he didn't leave any writings or speeches as his legacy like others did during that time period.

A FREE DOWNLOADABLE E-BOOK: “Jump into Genetic Genealogy: Use Genealogical DNA Testing to Solve Family Mysteries” - <https://www.familytreemagazine.com/freebie/jump-into-genetic-genealogy-use-genealogical-dna-testing-to-solve-family-mysteries/>

Newsletter Change

Ed Crosby has done an excellent job writing the Newsletter. The changes he made look fantastic. In August, Ed asked to step away from the newsletter. One of our newest members, Monique “Nicki” Chamberlain, has already shown her willingness to help by volunteering to manage the registration desk at the Day of DNA last April and helping me with other tasks. Nicki agreed to look at the newsletter and decided she can continue with Ed’s format. Please thank Nicki for taking on the Newsletter! For those of you who do not know who Nicki is, we will ask her to do a member interview in the next month or so. **Also, if any of you have suggestions for the newsletters, please let Nicki know!!!**

Family Tree Maker Event

By Cindy Barber

When we moved here in 2016, I went looking for genealogy events to attend. Family Tree Maker, whose software I have used since the beginning, announced that they were doing a Florida Tour. I checked and to my dismay, a Florida tour began in Orlando and continued south! I sent an email and pointed out that there is more to Florida than Disney World and The Villages. The next year, FTM did the same Tour. I pitched our active genealogy community, white sand beaches and lack of nearby events. This year I did it again.

On August 27th, I received a call from an unknown number in Utah. Imagine my surprise when Mark Olsen introduced himself and said, “OK, Cindy, we hear you, we are coming to the panhandle!” It seems I was not the only one to pressure Mark. Ann Staley in Jacksonville had approached him at FGS, but FTM would only come if we could meet their timeline starting September 17th in Mobile and ending September 24th in Jacksonville. Their plan was Mobile, Pensacola, Panama City, Tallahassee, etc. Did you notice? Fort Walton Beach was not on the list! Each location was asked to help FTM find a venue. Mark planned a follow up call at 11am on the 28th.

It did not take long to convince Mark that we were a great event location! I quickly had to find a venue. I called Val Moreland and Mike for ideas and then I got on the phone. The venue had to allow sales and be within budget. I had some leads but had to go to work so I called Sherry O’Neill and asked her to continue where I left off. It really does take a Village! Sherry has not turned in her membership form yet. She was just a visitor, but she had told me she has a marketing background, so I knew she had the skills! Sherry had other choices ready when I got off work.

The Island Hotel was on my shortlist, but I feared they would be overpriced. I toured the hotel at 8am on the 28th. They offered FTM a great price! So, at the 11am call, I gave Mark the information, and they booked The Island. We were in!

On September 19th, we had over 60 people attend the FTM Event. They came from Panama City as well as Mobile. Mark was very happy with the venue and turnout. We hope they will come back!

Meeting conducted during dinner after the Family Tree Event at the Island Hotel .



Cindy Barber & Mark Olsen
(FTM Associate)



Monique Chamberlain,
Cindy Barber & Mark Olsen



Kiara Nielsen (FTM Associate)
and Frank Fanucci (from the
Mobile Genealogical Society)

Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County

Minutes of the August 24, 2019 Meeting

GSOC Meeting:	2019_08_24
Call to Order:	10:35 am
Approval of June's Minutes:	Val Moreland moved the minutes be approved as presented and Monique "Nicki" Chamberlain seconded it – Minutes were approved.
Finance Report:	Phil Absent – Report via email. Cindy reported each Balance separately. Bank Balance: \$1,347,48 - Blue Box Balance: \$759.33
Membership Report:	Jerry - absent; 1 new member – Nancy Henderson. 19 members were present. 7 visitors attended.
Correspondence:	Val – Nothing to report
Website:	Jim – Nothing to report
Newsletter:	Ed is very busy and wants to step down. Cindy asked for volunteers.
Genealogy Report:	Margaret – no queries have been received.
Project Lead:	Donna Elliot - Quick Sheet – Cindy has asked for quotes, in final draft.
Jon:	Lunch after meeting will be at Slick Mick's.
Cindy:	We are ordering the next 30-35 boxes for the genealogy section. They will be ordered in October because the city is closing out the fiscal year. FamilySearch Affiliate Library contract has been submitted, awaiting status. CLL is starting up – Flyers were passed around.
Volunteers for Library:	1-4 on Wednesdays - Passed sign-up sheet around. We need volunteers for the library to answer genealogy questions. (During that time the volunteers may work on the books or do their own research.)
Crestview	Fall Beginning Genealogy Presentation will be held in Crestview on November 16th. (Thanks to Jon for doing this.) WE NEED 2 OR 3 MEMBERS TO ASSIST! The Library will handle registration.
Destin:	October 29 th – Introduction to working with your DNA matches. January – workshop TBD.
Niceville:	DNA Painter Workshop – 7 September (10:00am-12pm) - RSVP IS REQUIRED – CALL THE LIBRARY - 850-279-6436 Ext 1500 - Niceville Public Library – 206 Partin Drive N., Niceville, FL 32578. Intermediate DNA topics in Niceville on 2 nd Tuesday (6pm-7:30pm)
Fort Walton Beach:	Next meeting – Intro to DNA Painter by Cindy Barber.

Christmas:	The luncheon will be on Thursday, 12 December at Tradewinds in Niceville. We have a reservation for 11:30 am. Luncheon is being coordinated by Kathie Sheperd.
Presenter:	Welcomed Jim Young. He presented "Writing and Publishing Your Family History"
Door Prize Winners:	Ed Crosby and Val Moreland donated the door prizes. Jim Young was given a jar of Ed's honey as a thank you for presenting.
Questions Asked	An attendee asked about Poor house information. Cindy gave them possible sources to check.



Our next meeting is Saturday,
September 28th, at 10:30 am

Featuring:
"INTRO TO DNA PAINTER"
Presented by Cindy Barber



Fort Walton Beach Library
185 Miracle Strip Parkway SE,
Fort Walton Beach, Florida 32548

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



**Genealogical Society of
Okaloosa County (GSOC)**
P.O. Box 1175
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