



HISTORY

OF

TURPENTINE & LUMBER

INDUSTRIES

IN

NORTHWEST FLORIDA



BEFORE THE  
DISCOVERY OF THE  
TURPENTINE



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# 2018 Annual Report

North Okaloosa Historical Association





The 1887 printing press (above), donated by Willard Wilson, was last used by local minister Rev. James Head. Print trays with cold type were used to print newspapers and other printed material until desktop publishing made this system antiquated.



## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Cover photo: The turpentine display in the Baker Block Museum reflects how turpentine was done locally in the Panhandle. The turpentine tools on display belonged to Tommie Simon who was born and raised in the industry. The Museum's book, *Turpentine in the Florida Panhandle* published in 2018, is dedicated to Tommie Simon.



# VISION, MISSIONS, GOALS

## **Vision**

**Preserve Okaloosa County history**

## **Mission**

**Collect, preserve and promote the history of Okaloosa County, the northwest Florida panhandle and the surrounding communities**

## **Goals**

**Preserve historical artifacts**

**Capture oral histories**

**Educate future generations**

**Promote a better understanding and appreciation of this area's rich heritage**



# **NORTH OKALOOSA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION**

## **PRESIDENT**

Tracy Curenton

## **VICE PRESIDENT**

Phyllis Enzor

## **TREASURER**

Sharry Rustin

## **SECRETARY**

Connie Dukes

Mike Bush  
Judy Cadenhead  
Stephanie Holcombe  
Debra Nestor  
Roger Robinson

## **MEMBER EMERITUS**

Jeanette Henderson

## **MUSEUM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Ann Spann

## **BOOKKEEPER**

Ken Behring

# **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

# 2018 Year in Review at the Baker Block Museum

In January, the Baker Block Museum unveiled its new logo, designed by Colorado resident Roz Birkelo. The logo features a stylized icon of the Museum's block building. The logo will be used on all Museum printed material as part of a new branding effort.

Highlights of 2018 included a fundraiser for a new pavilion in March that helped raise more than \$2,000 toward building a new outdoor venue for the Jeanette & Charles Henderson Heritage Park. Included was a petting zoo with a pot-belly pig and miniature horses, all a hit with kids young and old.

In November, the Museum held its 14th Annual Baker Day Heritage Festival. A new attraction this year was horse-drawn wagon and cart rides. An estimated 3,000 people attended this event.

Oso Wallman, a retired chef, collected

local food stories for his oral history "Winter Food Series" project. Topics covered homemade recipes, covered-dish gatherings, cooking methods, church events and family meals, just to name a few.

April marked publication of the Museum's newest history book. Author Julia Cadenhead was on hand for a book signing of her latest history, *Turpentine in the Florida Panhandle*.

This 184-page is the newest addition to the Museum's book series on the history of Okaloosa County.

## Museum Acquisitions

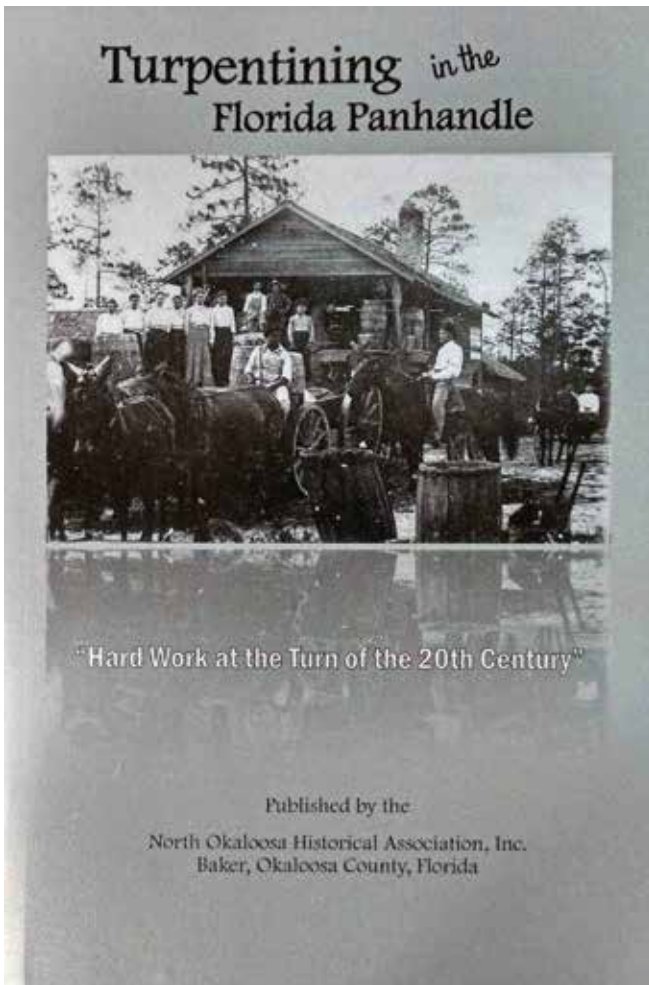
- » Oil can dispenser
- » Richbourg baseball bat and lithograph shadowbox Ironing board
- » Post office mail slot box



(Above) Visitors to the Baker Heritage Day Festival enjoy a horse-drawn cart ride Nov. 3. (Above right) Children and adults enjoyed the petting zoo at the April 21 pavilion fundraising event in the Heritage Park. (Right) The Museum's new logo was unveiled in January.







## ***Turpentine in the Florida Panhandle***

Turpentine significantly impacted the way of life in the Northwest Florida panhandle. *Turpentine in the Florida Panhandle* describes an integrated experience—through culture, industry and the human condition—in the lives of those who lived it.

**BOOK SERIES**

## **Other books in the series**



### **The Escambia Farms Community: A Pictorial History of the Project and the Community**, published in 2017

In 1936, the federal government established the Resettlement Administration to help relocate urban and rural families to cooperative communities. Escambia Farms, located in north Okaloosa County on nearly 13, 000 acres was one of those planned communities and had more than 80 families working and living on 95-acre homesteads.



### **Homefront: Okaloosa Strong**, published in 2015

Homefront: Okaloosa Strong is a sampling of the people, places, stories and events during wartime in Okaloosa County.



### **Crestview Florida: A Pictorial History**, published in 2015

A collection of photographs, *A Pictorial History* offers a look at Crestview's earlier days. Photographs include the railroad, town, schools, businesses and entertainment.

# ACCESSIONS

## **Lube Dispenser**

Donated by the David Youngblod family of Baker  
The lube dispenser is an early 1900s Model 1252 Lincoln Gear oil dispenser owned by Alan Sloan who owned and operated the store in Blackman for many years.

## **Cotton baskets**

W.B. Harberson portrait  
Family history  
Debra Savage family

## **Richbourg Bat and lithograph**

Donated by Dean and Lena Bradly of Crestview  
A Louisville Slugger baseball bat, photos and lithograph of Lance Richbourg sliding into home plate are encased in a shadowbox. Lance Richbourg from DeFuniak Springs played professional baseball for the New York Giants, Philadelphia Phillies, Washington Senators, Nashville Vols, Milwaukee Brewers, Boston Braves and the Chicago Cubs. Richbourg returned to Crestview in the 1940s and was as the Okaloosa County Superintendent of Education until 1964.

## **Ironing board**

Donated by the Dallas Peaden family

## **Post office mail slot box**

Donated by the Wadsworth family  
On display in the Otahite Post Office located in the Charles and Jeanette Henderson Heritage Park.





# Baker Block Museum Lifetime Members

Dr. Wanda Batson  
Joyce Blalock  
Ronnie Bryan  
Tom & Linda Barrow  
Larry Bulger  
Michael Bush  
Mark Curenton

George & Cathy Griffith  
James Griffith  
James & Tammy Griffith  
Henry & MaryAnn Griffith  
Claudene Hall  
Jeanette Henderson  
Martha Jordan

A.E. & Mary Moses  
Jo Nagel  
Margaret Sasser  
Faye Shaw  
Ann Spann

## Baker Block Museum Sponsorship

The Museum would like to thank our generous sponsors throughout the year of 2018. Without the support of these organizations, many of our programs would not have been possible.

**Baker Metal**  
**Gulf Power**  
**Baker Pic 'N Save**  
**Enzor Management**  
**Baker Parts & Supply, Inc.**  
**S&L Auto Body, Inc.**  
**Eglin Federal Credit Union**

**David's Catfish House**  
**Richard Thomas, D.D.S.**  
**CCB Community Bank**  
**Baker Feed & Country Store**  
**The Restroom Portable Toilets**  
**Adams Sanitation**  
**Ruthie's Notions**



The Native American canoe on display in the Museum is an example of a traditional burnout canoe. It was found in White Western Lake in Bay County, Florida. Data from the Florida State Museum in Tallahassee indicates the radiocarbon age to be more than 1,200 years old.

**MEMBERSHIP & SPONSORSHIP**

# Baker Block Museum Membership

The North Okaloosa Historical Association updated its membership benefits in 2019. Membership terms run from January 1 to December 31.

All members receive a membership card, email subscription to the quarterly newsletter, a 10 percent discount off books and calendars published by NOHA, email notification of special events, and an invitation to the annual meeting.

Lifetime members receive all of the above as well as a 20 percent discount off books and calendars published by NOHA, recognition in the annual report, and 10 percent off Family Heritage Wall of Honor nominations.

## Membership

- Individual \$25
- Family \$50
- Student \$15
- Lifetime \$250

# Baker Mercantile Gift Shop

The original Baker Mercantile Store operated out of the brick buildings that now houses the Museum for nearly 90 years. In keeping with the tradition, the Museum operates a small gift shop filled with collectibles, antiques, books, and toys, and offers a place to find that something special for birthdays, Mother's Day, Father's Day, and stocking stuffers for Christmas. The Museum charges the appropriate sales tax for items purchased.





# The 2019 Numbers

## Income

Starting income	\$10,200
Donations	\$4,016
Activity income	\$8,585
Sponsorship	\$125

## Membership

Annual	\$75
Lifetime	\$250
Family	\$0
Student	\$0

Rent	\$7,075
Okaloosa County	\$8,815

**Total Income**      **\$39,141**

## Expenses

Utilities	\$1,619
Supplies	\$3,855
Maintenance	\$2,556
Florida sales tax	\$666
Insurance	\$4,693
Payroll	\$16,877
Federal withholding	\$3,610
Merchandise	\$1,383
Events	\$344
Miscellaneous	\$596
Discrepancy adjustment	\$4

**Total Expenses**      **\$36,203**

**Net Income**      **\$2,938**

**Number of sign-in visitors:** 852\*

**Average number of visitors per month:**  
59

## Visitor locations:

29 states—58% of the  
country represented  
1 U.S. territory  
1 foreign country

## Visits by county:

Okaloosa	351
Santa Rosa	70
Walton	13
Escambia	54
Other Florida	72

*\* Numbers based on visitors who signed the registry*

**FINANCIAL REPORT**



This log cabin was built in the late 1800s by William Flavis Helms. It was donated by Danny Hall from Pace, a descendant of the Helms and Hutto families.