



WALTON RELATIONS

Volume 5, Issue 9

Walton County Genealogy Society

August 2014

Caring for Your Collections

Most genealogists have collections of original documents and photographs they want to preserve for future generations. The Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC) specializes in paper collections, including artworks, photographs, books, and maps. It offers a variety of services for individual collectors as well as professionals. While NEDCC charges for its services, it also offers a wealth of do-it-yourself information for free.

Leaflets: There are over 50 free online leaflets covering topics such as “Protection from Light Damage,” “Cleaning Books and Shelves,” and “Care of Photographs.”

Online Course: “Preservation 101: Preservation Basics for Paper and Media Collections” teaches you how to properly care for collections. This is a self-guided course. There will be an instructor-led course in 2015, but there will most likely be a charge for it.

Preserving Private and Family Collections offers tips on caring for your collections.

You can explore the entire Northeast Document Conservation Center website at <http://www.nedcc.org/>.

WCGS News

The Walton County Genealogy Society will not meet in September. The next meeting will be on Saturday, October 11, at 10:00 a.m. at the Walton County Heritage Museum.

Family Reunions

Based upon prior years, it is likely the following families will be holding reunions in August and September: Burgess, Hobbs, Ingalls/Wilder, Monk, and Thomason. If you have information about an upcoming reunion, please let us know so that we can update the Reunions page of our website.

Walton County Heritage Museum

Open Tuesday - Saturday: 1:00 - 4:00 PM

1140 Circle Drive, DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435

850-951-2127

www.WaltonCountyHeritage.org

HeritageMuseum@centurylink.net

The FSU Myth

By Diane Merkel

Visitors to DeFuniak Springs often hear it proudly stated that the city was the birthplace of Florida State University (FSU). Although there is an educational connection between the two, DeFuniak Springs cannot claim to have been the birthplace of FSU.

For the truth about the DeFuniak Springs-FSU connection, we need to go to FSU's chief rival, the University of Florida. There the George A. Smathers Libraries' Special and Area Studies Collections holds the records of the Florida State Normal School of DeFuniak Springs, which operated from 1887 until 1905. The guide to that collection tells the story:

The Florida State Normal School, located in DeFuniak Springs, was founded in 1887 and was the principal state school for teacher training prior to the passage of the Buckman Act of 1905. It was also in 1887 that the Normal School for Negro Students, which would later become Florida A and M University, was formed in Tallahassee. Although the Florida State Normal School was coeducational, the majority of the students were women. Prior to 1901, however, women were not offered teaching scholarships. In that year, the legislature authorized one female scholarship a year for each county. All recipients of the scholarship were to attend the Florida State Normal School. When the school was abolished in 1905, female teacher education was undertaken by the Florida State College for Women in Tallahassee and men were directed to the University of Florida. The last principal of the school, Henry Eastman Bennett, became the first head of the Normal Department at the University of Florida.

In 1904, while in DeFuniak Springs, Henry Eastman Bennett authored *A History of Florida* with Caroline Mays Brevard, a history professor and granddaughter of Territorial Governor Richard Keith Call. Like Bennett, Brevard had a Walton County connection. Governor Call was granted a land patent on a parcel southwest of Eucheeanna in 1833 and is mentioned a couple of times in *History of Walton County* by John L. McKinnon. Henry Eastman Bennett later authored other books and was on the faculty at the College of William and Mary in Virginia.

For those whose ancestors attended the Florida State Normal School, the collection at the Smathers Libraries holds "minutes of the school faculty for 1897-1905, student examination scores, student graduation dates, daily programs (class schedules), and a record of stipends paid to scholarship students. Also included are the constitution, by-laws, and minutes, 1899-1903, of an athletic association organized by the male students." The collection is open to research but is not online.

Present-day Florida State University dates its beginning to 1823 although it has had many names and curricula throughout the years. In 1905, when the legislature reorganized Florida's educational system, its name was changed from Florida State College to Florida Female College. As with the Florida State Normal School, men attending the college were transferred to the new University of Florida in Gainesville. In 1909, Florida Female College became Florida State College for Women and, in 1947, men were admitted and the name was changed to Florida State University. That was also the year the Seminole mascot was selected. Go 'Noles!

For more on the history of Florida State University, see <http://www.fsu.edu/about/history.html>.

©2014 Walton County Heritage Association, Inc.

www.WaltonCountyHeritage.org

Walton Relations is a publication of the Walton County Genealogy Society. Wayne Sconiers, President.

Distribution is encouraged! For more information or to submit an article, please email its editor,

Diane Merkel, at WaltonCountyHeritage@cox.net or call 850-897-4505.