



WALTON RELATIONS & HISTORY

Volume 9, Issue 2

Walton County Heritage Association

January 2018

New Visitor Record Set

By Sam Carnley

The Walton County Heritage Museum continues to set new records in its yearly visitor count with the number for 2017 exceeding 3,000, considerably more than the previous year. This is an optimistic sign that word about the museum is getting out to more and more people every year and interest in it is growing. This should encourage us all to do everything we can to keep the upward trend moving toward an even better repository of the County's unique heritage that the museum represents.

Lt. Sconiers To Be Honored

DeFuniak Springs native son and WWII hero, the late Lt. Ewart T. Sconiers will be honored by several events in January. On the 18th Wayne Sconiers a cousin of the Lt. will give a presentation on his life story at the WCHA members meeting at the museum. The City of DeFuniak Springs will hold a parade in his honor on the 26th, and his remains will be returned for burial in a local cemetery on the 27th. Pamela Sconiers Whitelock, the Lieutenant's niece maintains the website www.bringsconiershome.com which tells the story of his heroism as a B17 Flying Fortress Bombardier during WWII.

Upcoming Reunions

We have no reunions to announce for January and February 2018. For a complete listing of other months see the Reunions page at the following link:

<http://www.waltoncountyheritage.org/genealogy.htm>

Request for Information

Hi, my name is Wes Cunningham and I am a historian and archaeologist for Amec Foster Wheeler and we are conducting an archaeological excavation on Eglin AFB in the coming weeks. The sites that we are studying have been identified to have all been a part of the "New Home Turpentine Community" and our excavations seek to learn more about this as well as the turpentine industry as a whole. I will be down in the area part of next week and the week after doing historical research and I am trying to get in touch with as many people prior as I can to see if they will have any collections that would be of some help. If your collections have information that you think might be helpful to me so that I can schedule a visit while I am in town or if you have any other contacts that would be useful to my research then I would greatly appreciate it. Thank you and I look forward to hearing back soon!

Wes Cunningham MA, Historian

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Louisville, Kentucky USA 40299

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Walton County Heritage Museum

Open Tuesday – Saturday, 1:00 – 4:00 PM
1140 Circle Drive, De Funiak Springs, FL 32435
850-951-2127

<http://www.waltoncountyheritage.org/>

About a Barber Shop **A Sidebar to the Lt. Ewart Sconiers Story**

By Sam Carnley

Pamela Sconiers Whitelock, niece of Lieutenant Sconiers, looks forward to the arrival on January 27, 2018 of her uncle's remains and reburial beside his mother at Southwide Baptist Church Cemetery in DeFuniak Springs. On January 26 the City of DeFuniak Springs will hold a parade in his honor and at the WCHA members meeting on January 18 Genealogist Wayne Sconiers will give a presentation on the life of Sconiers to whom he was related. Much of the Lieutenant's story is also presented in an exhibit at the Walton County Heritage Museum which is open to the public free of charge.

Another source of his story is Whitelock's website in which she details his heroism as a B-17 Flying Fortress Bombardier during WWII. Shot down by the Germans, the bomber crashed into the sea but remained afloat long enough for all the crew except Sconiers to escape on life rafts. Rather than ride the plane down with the rest of his crew, Sconiers bailed out before it crashed. He and others of the crew were captured and placed in the German POW camp, Stalag Luft III. After a head injury in a fall on icy footing led to major complications, his captors hospitalized him in Poland where he died and was buried in 1944. From the time of his burial to the positive identification of his grave residue in 2015, he remained the only American MIA from Stalag Luft III. The website can be found at <http://www.bringsconiershome.com/>.

In happier times before the tragic events of WWII overtook him, Sconiers planned to get a college degree and become a lawyer. But coming from a poor family headed by a single mother, the money needed to pay for college was hard to come by. That did not deter him though. He skipped high school to become a barber so he could work and earn the money he needed.

He had an uncle who was a barber in DeFuniak Springs, and he might have worked with him for a while. But at the time he registered for the draft in October 1940, he worked in the barber shop of A. A. Hinote located at 7 E. Garden St. in Pensacola. He gave his own address as that of his mother, Mrs. Maude Sconiers, at 12th St., DeFuniak Springs. Whether he daily commuted the some 80 miles from DeFuniak or had temporary lodging in Pensacola is unknown, but the lodging seems more likely as the least expensive alternative. He registered with the Registrar of the 14th precinct in Pensacola, but the stamp of the local board with jurisdiction was Walton County, 11th Street, De Funiak Springs.

His age at the time was 24, and his birth date was November 29, 1916 in DeFuniak Springs. He was 5 ft. 8 in. tall, weighed 140 lbs., had gray eyes, brown hair and a ruddy complexion.

His employer, A. A. Hinote, whose initials stood for Arthur Augustus, appeared on the 1935 Florida State census as a resident of Pensacola, at 1405 E. Gonzalez St. He was 44 years old and worked as a barber. He took out a lease on the shop at 7 E. Garden St. in 1926. As of 1940 when Sconiers worked there, Hinote had operated his business on the premises for 14 years and continued operating it until about 1960 when he sold it.

As of January 2018, there is still an operating barber shop on the same premises, although under different ownership. The address is now 11, rather than 7 E. Garden, and the change is probably due to once larger premises coming before number 7 being subdivided into smaller ones, thereby upping the barber shop's address from number 7 to number 11. Its name is now Esquire Barber Shop whose



**Esquire Barber Shop, 11 E. Garden St. Pensacola,
Florida (Photo by Sam Carnley)**



Tony Riha, owner and operator of Esquire Barber Shop.
(Photo by Sam Carnley)

current owner is Tony Riha. He confirmed that the shop is the same one that was there in Sconiers' time, but was long before he acquired it. Tony's sense of humor is evident from the sign in his window, which reads, "Sorry, We're Open."

Other than the amusing sign, there is nothing memorable about the shop's store front. But on entering the door, a festive array of pennants, placards, signs and miscellanea of all colors and shapes festooning every wall assails the eye. Tony said that the wall decorations began years ago when people started bringing him automobile license tags from various states to hang up. Over the years he has accumulated hundreds more items of all sorts, some of which he still has in storage. The pennants and other sports related memorabilia reflect his enjoyment of most sports except for hockey which he never particularly cared for.

At age 80 he is semi-retired and only works when he wants to, primarily just to stay active. He has owned and operated the barber shop since July 1963 when his step-grandfather bought it for him. The owner before him was a man from Birmingham, Alabama who bought it from A. A. Hinote about 1960 and remodeled it to the way it looks now. As a young boy Tony was a customer of the shop and remembers Hinote, but not Sconiers. He recalls that before the remodeling it was just an old timey barber shop of the type seen in yellowing old photos. In his early years as a barber Tony worked at the shop briefly for the previous owner whose name he has forgotten. When his boss soon after became unhappy with Pensacola and offered to sell out Tony seized the opportunity and has operated the business successfully for 55 years. Counting the 37 years it was in operation when Tony acquired it, the barber shop has been in business at least 92 years.

But there is another twist to this story. As it turns out, Lt. Sconiers is not the only connection the barber shop has to Walton County. Tony's grandmother was Mable Bowers of the large and prosperous Bowers family of Eucheeanna and DeFuniak Springs is home to numerous of his relatives in that lineage. Who would have guessed that an obscure little barber shop in a distant city would touch in some way the lives of not one but two families with Walton County roots -- one whose descendants enjoy all the benefits and privileges of working and living in a free country, and the other whose native son heroically gave his life to keep it that way.

Welcome home Lieutenant Sconiers.



Shown above and on the following page are interior views of the Esquire Barber Shop. (Photos by Sam Carnley)



SERIAL NUMBER 1488		1. NAME (Print) Ewart Theo Sconiers <small>(First) (Middle) (Last)</small>			ORDER NUMBER 615	
2. ADDRESS (Print) 12 th St. Defuniak Spgs, Walton, Fla. <small>(Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)</small>						
3. TELEPHONE None <small>(Exchange) (Number)</small>		4. AGE IN YEARS 24 DATE OF BIRTH Nov. 29 1916 <small>(Mo.) (Day) (Yr.)</small>		5. PLACE OF BIRTH Defuniak Spgs, Fla. <small>(Town or county) (State or country)</small>		6. COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP U.S.A.
7. NAME OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS Mrs. Maude Sconiers <small>(Mr., Mrs., Miss) (First) (Middle) (Last)</small>					8. RELATIONSHIP OF THAT PERSON Mother	
9. ADDRESS OF THAT PERSON 12 th St. Defuniak Spgs, Walton, Fla. <small>(Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)</small>						
10. EMPLOYER'S NAME A. A. Hinote						
11. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS 7 E. Garden St., Pensacola, Escambia, Fla. <small>(Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)</small>						
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.						
REGISTRATION CARD D. S. S. Form 1		(over)		16-17105		<i>Ewart Theo Sconiers</i> <small>(Registrant's signature)</small>

Ewart Theo Sconiers WWII Draft Registration Card, Section 1, showing A. A. Hinote as his employer in October 1940. Section 2 appears on the next page.¹

¹ https://www.fold3.com/browse/251/hAYLjIOSmMJECM4_CbA8fArOOV1UGFtx9hpf98cVDh, Downloaded by Sam Carnley, 9/23/2017.

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT

RACE		HEIGHT (Approx.)	WEIGHT (Approx.)	COMPLEXION	
White	✓	5'7.8	140 lb.	Sallow	
				EYES	HAIR
Negro		Blue	Blonde	Ruddy	✓
				Gray	Red
Oriental		Hazel	Brown	Freckled	
				Brown	Black
Indian		Black	Gray	Dark brown	
					Bald
Filipino					

Other obvious physical characteristics that will aid in identification.....

I certify that my answers are true; that the person registered has read or has had read to him his own answers; that I have witnessed his signature or mark and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

Registrar for 14 Judith Bell Kenosha, Fla.
(Precinct) (Ward) (City or county) (State)
 Date of registration Oct. 16, 1940

LOCAL BOARD
 WALTON COUNTY
 11th STREET
 DE FUNIAK SPRINGS, FLORIDA
(STAMP OF LOCAL BOARD)

(The stamp of the Local Board having jurisdiction of the registrant shall be placed in the above space.)

Section 2, above gives Lt. Sconiers' physical description.

The Hunter Press, Tallahassee

PRECINCT NO. 39

POPULATION CENSUS 1935

Escambia COUNTY

NAME	ADDRESS	HOUSE OR CITY LIGHTS	AGE		RACE	RELATION TO FAMILY	PLACE OF BIRTH IF IN U. S. GIVE NAME OF STATE, TERRITORY OR NAME OF COUNTRY	DEGREE OF EDUCATION	OWNER OR RENTER	OCCUPATION
			MALE	FEMALE						
Hickland Lois Kathryn	1501 E. Beaton St	Escambia	X	61	White	daughter	Fla.	5 th Grad	Owner	Student
Lewis Jasper A.	1515	"	X	53	"	Head	"	9 th	"	Unemployed
Boyster Okley M. Sr.	1519	"	X	57	"	Head	Ala.	5 th	"	Salesman
Stallk E.	"	"		54	X	wife	Fla.	3 yrs Col	"	Housewife
Lettie Leola	"	"		27	X	daughter	Ala.	College	"	Teacher
Mary Doris	"	"		22	X	"	"	4 yrs Col	"	Student
Norssa Elizabeth	"	"		14	"	"	Fla.	8 th Grad	"	"
Comstock R. W. Sr.	1410	"	X	42	"	Head	Ohio	High Sch	Renter	Cigar Engraver
Gertude	"	"		40	X	wife	Fla.	10 th Grad	"	Housewife
Dorothy	"	"		16	"	daughter	"	12 th	"	Student
R. Donald	"	"								
Mary Frank	"	"								
Barrast Espindola	1408	"								
Alice	"	"								
Rosina	"	"								
Loggins Marshall	"	"								
Minnie Lou	"	"								
George H.	"	"								
Jessie M.	"	"								
Thomas M.	"	"	X	10	"	son	Ariz.	5 th Grad	"	Student
Smother Blayna	1400	"		24	X	Wife	Fla.	9 th	Owner	Housewife
John Jackson	"	"		44	"	son	"	none	"	none
Penlon Cassie	"	"		45	X	mother	"	10 th Grad	"	none
Hinote Arthur A. Sr.	1405 E. Goughley	"	X	44	"	Head	"	8 th	"	Barber
Rebecca	"	"		41	X	wife	"	8 th	"	Housewife
Arthur A. Jr.	"	"		18	"	son	"	High Sch	"	Student
Opalee	"	"		9	X	daughter	"	3 rd Grad	"	"
Carl R.	"	"		40	"	Head	"	8 th Grad	Renter	Carpenter
Flossie	"	"		19	"	wife	"	6 th	"	Housewife
Red H. R.	1411	"		51	"	Head	K. C.	8 th Grad	Owner	(Carpenter)
L. M.	"	"		48	X	wife	Ala.	High Sch	"	Housewife
White Sr. 76 yr.	"	"	X	30	"	Head	Fla.	2 yrs Col	Renter	Housewife
Sara R.	"	"		25	X	wife	Ala.	1 yr Col	"	Housewife
H. 76 3 rd	"	"		3 1/2	"	son	Fla.	none	"	none
Lang John H.	1425	"	X	40	"	Head	High Sch	Renter	Scalman	Scalman
Throat	"	"		34	X	wife	Ind.	1 yr Col	"	Teacher
Herring Henry	"	"	X	64	"	Head	"	9 th Grad	Owner	Retired
Sallie E.	"	"		64	X	wife	"	High Sch	"	Housewife
Lang Bonnie Mae	1427	"		21	Negro	Head	S. C.	6 th Grad	Renter	Cook
Morgan Muzel	"	"		23	"	Head	Fla.	5 th	"	Chauffeur
Richburg W. A.	1501	"	X	58	White	Head	"	9 th	Owner	R.P. Engineer
Paul L.	"	"		50	X	wife	"	1 yr Col	"	Housewife
W. Dorra	"	"		20	"	son	"	Col 3 rd	"	Student
Wilson Franklin C.	1507	"	X	37	"	Head	La.	8 th Grad	Renter	Mechanic
Inez W.	"	"		33	X	wife	"	"	"	Housewife
Thelma A.	"	"		10	X	daughter	"	4 th	"	Student
Neil A.	"	"		5	"	son	"	none	"	none
Scott E. R.	1509	"	X	42	"	Head	Ind.	Ohio Grad	"	Col. Capt.
Bessie H.	"	"		40	X	wife	"	2 yrs Senior	"	Housewife
Red H.	"	"		14	"	son	"	10 th Grad	"	Student

Hinote Arthur A. Sr. 44 Barber
 Rebecca 41 Housewife
 Arthur A. Jr. 18 Student
 Opalee 9 Student

White m 7
22 25
Black m 7
1-1

(5)

Above is an image of the 1935 Escambia County Florida State Census showing the household of Arthur A. Hinote in which his occupation is listed as "Barber."¹ Annotated by Sam Carnley, 1/14/2018.

¹ "Florida State Census, 1935," database with images, FamilySearch([https://familysearch.org/ark -JGY: /61903/1:1:MNVQ 8 August 2017](https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MNVQ 8 August 2017)), Arthur A Hinote Senior, , Escambia, Florida; citing line 24, State Archives, Tallahassee; FHL microfilm 2,425,157. Downloaded by Sam Carnley, 5/20/2017.

Was Destin Once in Walton County?

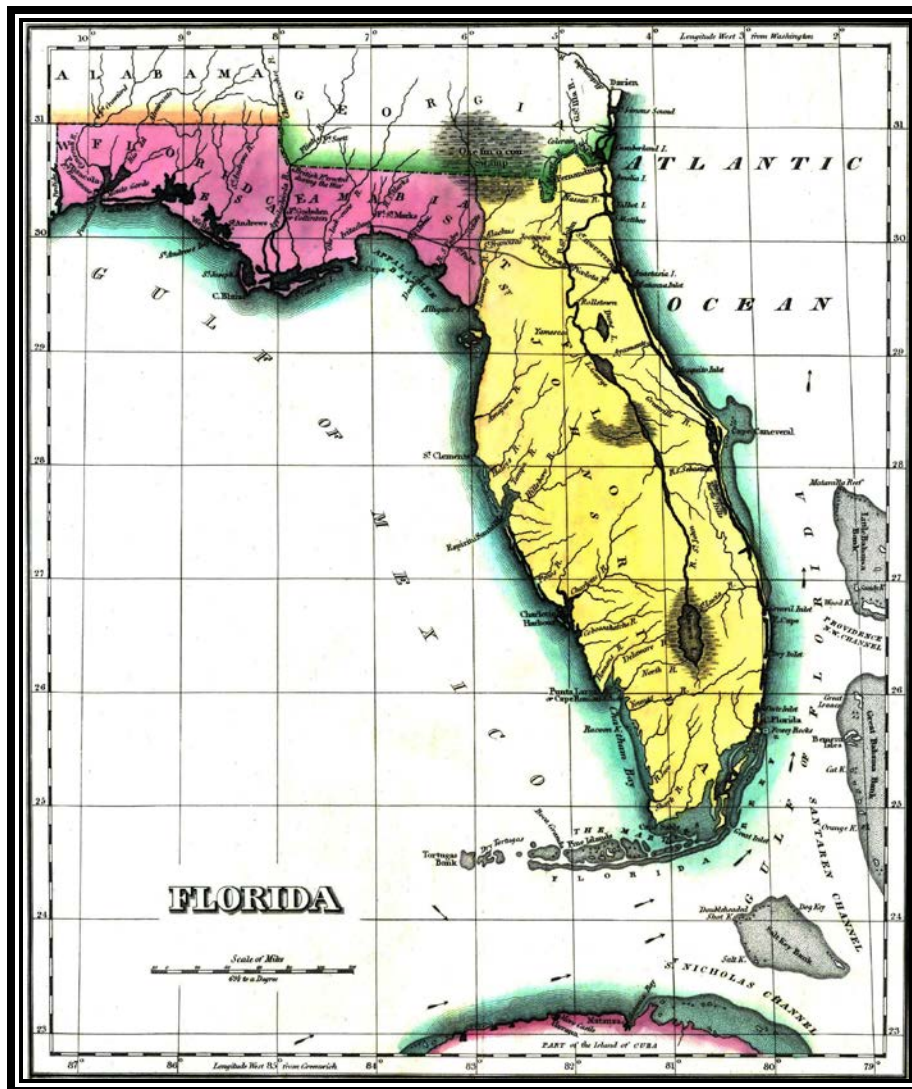
Submitted by Hank Klein

Edited by Sam Carnley

Destin, Florida has actually been in Walton County TWICE and in a total of FIVE DIFFERENT COUNTIES, since the United States acquired Florida from Spain in 1821. So what happened?

When West Florida and East Florida were acquired from Spain, Territorial Governor General Andrew Jackson established two counties in the new Florida Territory. On July 21, 1821 all of what had been West Florida was named Escambia County, after the Escambia River. It stretched from the Perdido River to the Suwanee River with its county seat at Pensacola.

All of what had been East Florida, under English and Spanish rule, became St. Johns County. Named after the St. Johns River, it had its county seat at Saint Augustine. Saint John's County contained the entire Florida peninsula to the Suwanee River on the west.



(Map of the Original Two Florida Counties - Escambia and St. Johns County – 1821)

As settlers moved into Florida, additional counties were formed when there were large enough pockets of population to justify a new county. The two original counties of Escambia and St. Johns were divided into new counties and those new counties were often divided further into additional counties until today there are 67 counties in Florida. Initially most of the new counties formed were in west Florida as that is where most of the early population growth occurred. **What we know today as Destin was in Escambia County from July 7, 1821 until August 12, 1822.**

The third county formed in the Florida Territory was Jackson County. It was created in 1822 out of the eastern portion of Escambia County. It was named after Andrew Jackson, the first Territorial Governor of Florida, and extended from the Choctawhatchee River on the west to the Suwannee River on the east. **What we know today as Destin was in Jackson County from 1822 to 1824.**

In 1824, Walton County was created as the 11th county in the Florida Territory. It was created out of Escambia and Jackson Counties and was named after Colonel George Walton, the secretary of the Florida Territory from 1821-1826. The first County Seat of Walton County was Euchee-Anna (Editor's note: Alaqua has been documented as the first County Seat followed by Euchee-Anna). In 1886, the county seat was moved to the new railroad town of DeFuniak Springs. **Destin was in the newly formed Walton County that was formed on December 29, 1824, but for less than one year, until December 8, 1825, when Washington County was created.**

In 1825, Washington County was created as the 12th county in the Florida Territory. It was created on December 9, 1825 out of Walton and Jackson Counties. It was named after President George Washington. The first county seat was Vernon, but in 1927, the county seat was moved to the new railroad town of Chipley. **Walton County lost Destin when it was moved to newly created Washington County on December 9, 1825 and Destin remained in Washington County for nearly 90 years.**

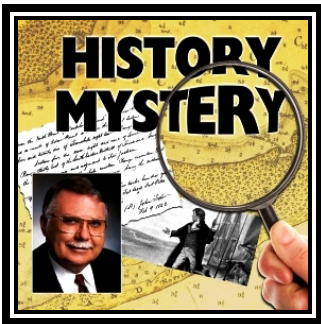
On May 17, 1913, Washington County lost a large area with the creation of Bay County. At that time Walton County acquired the area along the Gulf of Mexico from Bay County (Phillips Inlet) to Destin. **Destin was once again in Walton County where it remained for just over two years until late 1915.**

On September 6, 1915, Okaloosa County was formed from the eastern portion of Santa Rosa County and the western portion of Walton County. Okaloosa County was the 52nd county in Florida. Okaloosa was the name of the steamboat that brought passengers from Milton to Pensacola. The name "oka" and "lusa" come from the Choctaw Indian words for Black Water. **Destin has remained in Okaloosa County ever since Okaloosa County was formed and probably always will.**

So you see, while Destin, Florida has not moved, the county it was in has changed a total of six times. Moreno Point or East Pass or Destin, as it has been called over the years, was originally in (1) Escambia County. Then it moved from Escambia County to: (2) Jackson County; then briefly to (3)

Walton County; then to (4) Washington County where it remained for nearly 90 years; then briefly back to (5) Walton County; and finally to (6) Okaloosa County where it has remained for the past 102 years.

H. C. "Hank" Klein is a Destin historian who visits often and lives in North Little Rock, Arkansas with his wife (the former Muriel Marler of Destin). Klein recently published historic books about Destin - **DESTIN'S Founding Father...The Untold Story of Leonard Destin** and **DESTIN Pioneer Settlers...A Land History of Destin, Florida from 1819-1940**. Both can be obtained from Amazon.com, Tony Mennillo of Arturo Studios at 850/585-2909, Dewey Destin's Restaurants in Destin, the Magnolia Grill in Fort Walton Beach, and Bayou Books in Niceville. Additionally, Klein has a monthly historical column in the Destin Log newspaper titled: **History Mystery**. Klein can be contacted directly at klein@aristotle.net.



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at wsamuelcarnley@gmail.com or phone at 850-209-3778.



Walton County Heritage Association

Membership in the Walton County Heritage Association includes
Membership in the Museum and Genealogy Society

2018

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM as we are updating our records

Membership Benefits:

The Museum Research Center:

Members get free copies of documents and use of the Genealogy Society computer when Museum is open to the public.

The Museum Gift Shop:

Members receive 10% discounts on books, special publications, postcards, photographs, CDs, DVD's Videos and Gift items.

Membership is on a calendar year basis. Those paying in November or December will be members during those months as well as the next calendar year..

Walton County Heritage Association annual dues: Single - \$25.00 Family - \$40

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State** _____

Zip: _____ **Phone** _____

Email: _____

Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift to the Walton County Heritage Association:

_____ \$ _____	Dues	Individual, Family	\$25.00	\$40.00
_____ \$ _____	Other Cash Donations	Total Enclosed \$	_____	

- I would like to volunteer at the Walton County Heritage Museum
- I have genealogy information I would like to share with the Genealogy Society
- I would like to talk with someone about how to get started researching my family tree
- I have artifacts or photographs I wish to donate or loan to the Museum

Please mail your check and this form to
Walton County Heritage Association
1140 Circle Drive
De Funiak Springs, FL 32435
Thank You!
All membership dues are tax deductible.