



WALTON RELATIONS & HISTORY

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Walton County Heritage Association

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George Washington Hurst

Submitted by Cathy Filson

Transcribed and Edited by Sam Carnley

[This is another in the series of family stories taken from the book "The Heritage of Walton County, Florida." Sam Carnley, editor]

Farming was the major occupation around Walton Co. in the close of the 19th century and into the 20th. George, born in the area ca 1872, followed his father, James, as a tenant farmer. He also worked in the timber/turpentine business. His mother was Julia Ann Lassiter, daughter of John J. and Nancy Prescott Lassiter of Boggy Bayou. He married Anna Palmer, daughter of Bob and Sarah Palmer, all natives of the area. They raised their family in the Paxton, Svea and Childrens Home area.

Child #1 - Charles H. ("Bogie"), born 1905, [and] as a young man, moved to Prattville, AL., where he married Elmore Wyett in 1933. Their one child, Shirley married William A. Durbin. "Bogie" told of growing up around Childrens Home - at one time living on the "Gordon Place." There was no stock law so farm animals as well as wild animals ran loose. People had to fence gardens and farms to keep animals out.

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Upcoming Reunions

Butts: The last known reunion was on July 4, 2009. No info available on future reunions.

Gaskin School: The last known reunion was held 16 July 2016 in DeFuniak Springs. For more info. contact Glenda Simms Arrant at 850-834-2452 or Cheryl Sims Alberson at 850-834-3206.

Harrison: The 75th reunion of the descendants of Samuel Tennessee Harrison and his wife Leona Anderson Harrison was held at the Oak Grove Baptist Church in July 2017. No information available on future reunions.

Manning: The last Manning reunion was held July 13-16, 2017 in Orlando, Florida. For info on future reunions see manningfamilyhistory.wix.com.

Slay: The 11th biennial reunion was July 11, 2015. Contact Marie Holly at marie.holly@acegroup.com for info on future reunions.

Wilkerson: Last known reunion was July 11, 2015. Contact Don Wilkerson for information. No contact info provided.

For a complete listing see the Reunions page at the following link:

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

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/>

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Submitted by Cathy Filson
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(Cont. from page 1)

A neighbor's horse regularly tore their fence down and damaged their garden. He and his brothers got tired of rebuilding the fence and came up with a plan.

They balled up a piece of rope to the size of a baseball, [and] soaked it in kerosene all day. Sure enough that night they heard the horse near their garden. They coaxed it up to the fence. One boy climbed the fence and raised the horse's tail, and others crammed the ball under the tail and set it on fire. The horse took off running, jumping, kicking, snorting - but never came back to the garden. The next day their neighbors told of sitting on their front porch and seeing a ball of fire bouncing up and down and sailing around all over the place and they never could figure out what it was. Of course the boys never told a thing.



Figure 1. The George W. Hurst Family, ca 1943. Photo courtesy of Cathy Filson.

Child #2 - Annie ("Tink"), born 1907, married Alfred Lee (Alf) Adams, son of Wiley and Frances Adams, (Walton Co. natives) at DeFuniak Springs in 1926. They later moved to Niceville where he worked as a gardener at the hospital there. She is still living in 2003, age 96. They raised their family there. (1) Mable Estelle, born 1930, married Harley Lee Cawthon, son of Walton County natives Chipley and Lora Cawthon. Harley and Estelle lived in the Paxton area, had (a) Patricia Ann, married Stanley Louis Stefanie, Jr. and had Stanley Louis, III; (b) Cathy Dianne married Kenneth Filson and had Robin Lynn who married Robert Harrison and had Case; Cathy also had Leslie Rachelle; (c) Beverly Lynn married Tom Richardson then Stan Price and had Christa Lynn, Anna Elizabeth and Justin David. (2) Frances Anna, born 1929, married William Vern Griffin, son of Levi and Ellen Griffin, and had, (a) Anna Elisabeth married Thomas W. Taylor and had Thomas "Jared," Charity Ann, William Babriel and Trinity Elizabeth, (b) Robert Lee married Lynn Riley and had Amanda; (c) Bruce Stanley married Tina English and had Justin; (d) William Vern Jr. married D. J. Duncan; and (e) Dennis Russel. (3) William (Billy) born 1941, married Suzanne McKelvey then Bonnie Bell and had (a) Wiley; (b) Stephanie and (c) Jason. (4) Randolph (Randy) born 1942, married Sally Miles and had (a) Tina, (b) Andy, (c) Laurie, (d) Holly, (e) Seth and (f) Christopher.

Child #3 - Lillie, born 1909, married Idos Henry. No children.

Child #4 - John, born 1912, married Lois Evelyn Bryan, daughter of Jefferson and Sarah Bryan of Walton Co., and had Barbara Sue who married Donald G. Harvard, son of Burl and Lida Harvard of Walton Co., and had Jonathan Brett. They live in Lake Wales, Florida.

Child #5 - Brady, born 1918, married Helen Carnley [daughter of Alec "Buster" and Gladys Henderson Carnley, of Walton County], and had Sherri and Rickey. They live in Lake Wales, Florida.

Child #6 - Eulice, born 1921, married Orene Busby and raised their children in the area. (1) Son, Ronnie was Walton County sheriff for many years and lives in the Paxton area. (2) Daughter Debbie, married Mr. Hullen and lives in Pensacola.

Child #7 - Eva Nell, born 1924, married Glen Kilpatrick, then Edward Ray Bryan, son of Walton County natives Jefferson and Sarah Bryan. Ray is the brother of Lois, wife of Eva's brother, John Hurst. Ray and Eva live in Lake Wales. Eva's son, Billy Gill had William, Danny Joe and Mark.

Walton and adjacent counties still have descendants - Hurst, Adams, [Carnley], Cawthon, Filson, Harrison, [Palmer], Price [and] Griffin.

Submitted by: Cathy Filson, 113 Perdido Circle, Niceville, FL 32578; written by: Eliel Hurst, 407 W. Pryor St., Athens, AL 35611. Sources: from personal knowledge and family records.

Jones Descendants Honor Ancestors with Markers

Submitted By Jim Martin, with photos by Rachel Elizabeth Blalock

Edited by Sam Carnley



Figure 1. Jim Martin, in white shirt, addresses the group at marker laying ceremony. Photo by Rachel Elizabeth Blalock.

Chancellor, Alabama - Descendants of Rev Charles Shepherd Vincent Jones (1766-1847), a Walton County, Florida pioneer, gathered April 14 2018 at the Jones family burying ground near Providence Methodist church east of Chancellor, Ala., Hwy 85, Geneva County, Alabama, to install three new markers at the graves of two of his sons, John Edmond Jones Sr, Ransom David Jones, and a grandson, John Edmond Jones Jr.

The ceremony featured Civil War re-enactors with the 15th Alabama Regiment/15th Alabama Regiment (Regulars), Dale County Beauregards chapter, Sons of Confederate Veterans, who are also members of Battle of Newton [Alabama] Society: Commanding Officer Brian Fleming; Fox Brunson; Matt Lott; Wayne Brunson and Adjutant Mrs Georgia Fleming. They presented a canteen/rifle salute to Confederate veteran Ransom David Jones (1819-1885) who volunteered to serve as a private in January, 1863 at Geneva, Alabama, with Choctawhatchee Rangers Home Guards CSA.

The idea to install new more informative grave markers next to the weathered and fallen Originals came from Josh Jones, 4th great grandson of Ransom David Jones and 3d great grandson of Jackson Jones. Jim Martin, 3d great grandson of Ransom David Jones, conducted the ceremonies following the Jones family reunion held at Providence Methodist church, less than a mile south of the burying ground. The once-abandoned but now restored burying ground sets atop a hill on the Astor Stewart plantation on the west bank of the Choctawhatchee River east of Chancellor, Alabama. A group of about 80 descendants, guests and media representatives attended the ceremony. Mr Edwin Blalock, president of the Jones family reunion, welcomed descendants and guests.



Figure 2. Pictured above, Tim York, Brandon Gay and his brothers, Colson and Jamison, carry the new marker for the grave site of their ancestor, John Edmond Jones, Sr. Photo by Rachel Elizabeth Blalock.

Mrs Augathee Helms, great granddaughter of **John Edmond Jones Jr.**, presented a brief statement. Jim Martin introduced Josh Jones, who told of his idea for adding new tombstones to the nearly illegible and in two

instances, fallen markers. Installation of the first marker, that of the third oldest child of Rev CSV Jones, **John Edmond Jones Sr.**, featured four descendants who carried the marble marker to the cinder-block enclosed burying ground: Tim York, Brandon Gay and his brothers, Colson and Jamison Gay (Figure 2).



Figure 3. George and Jay Helms, Jim Vaughan and Jamison Gay carry the new marker for the grave of their ancestor, John Edmond Jones, Jr. Photo by Rachel Elizabeth Blalock.

Bearers of the second marker for **John Edmond Jones Jr.** included George and Jay Helms, sons of Augathee Jones Helms; and Jim Vaughan, and Jamison Gay (Figure 3).

Leading the procession for the Ransom David Jones marker were the Civil War re-enactors followed by his descendants who included Josh Jones, Garrett Sniezko, Steven Jones and the brother of Mr Edwin Blalock (Figure 4). The re-enactors presented a canteen/rifle ceremony: Each member approached the gravesite, saluted, removed his head cover, took a knee, placed his rifle erect by his side, opened his canteen, took a drink, and then poured a drink onto the gravesite; rose, skirted the gravesite and returned to the ranks. Then the commanding officer ordered "attention; ready; aim; fire," followed by three volleys.

Following that ceremony, Jim Martin read an excerpt from the 1939 book "How Green Was My Valley," the autobiography of Richard Llewellyn, son of a coal miner in Wales, the ancestral home of the Jones family, referencing an imagined vision of the author regarding his ancestors:

I saw behind me those who had gone, and before me, those who are to come. I looked back and saw my father, and his father, and all our fathers, and in front, to see my son, and his son, and the sons upon sons beyond. And their eyes were my eyes. As I felt, so they had felt, and were to feel, as then, so now, as tomorrow and forever. Then I was not afraid, for I was in a long line that had no beginning, and no end, and the hand of his father grasped my father's hand, and his hand was in mine, and my unborn son took my right hand, and all, up and down the line stretched from Time That Was, to Time That Is, and is not yet, raised their hands to show the link, and we found that we were one, born of Woman, Son of Man, had in the Image, fashioned in the Womb by the Will of God, the eternal Father. I was one of them, they were of me, and in me, and I in all of them."



Figure 4. Josh Jones, Garrett Sniezko, Steve Jones and Mr. Blalock carry the new marker for the grave of their ancestor Ransom David Jones. Photo by Rachel Elizabeth Blalock.

The inscriptions on the three 3 new grave markers are shown below.



Figure 5. Ransom David Jones marker. Photo by Rachel Elizabeth Blalock.

Marker 3:

John Edmond Jones Jr. (1/27/1841 - 2/4/1899); Wife, Francis Louise Granger (8/1/1843 - 4/12/1929); Children, James Edmond Jones (8/27/1865 - 2/9/1946); William Capers Jones (9/8/1869 - 4/26/1950); Fletcher Clifford Jones (12/13/1884 - 3/27/1941). (Figure 7)



Figure 7. John Edmond Jones, Jr., marker. Photo by Rachel Elizabeth Blalock.

Marker 1: Ransom David Jones (10/14/1819 - 8/12/1885); Wife, Lydia Alberson Jones (10/13/1816 - 12/10/1877); Children, Charles S V Jones (1841), John Calvin Jones (5/13/1843 - 3/20/1921); Mary C Jones (1850); Ira R Jones (1853 - 12/20/1918); Jackson A Jones (12/14/1853 - 6/23/1934) (Figure 5).

Marker 2: John Edmond Jones (1/6/1802 - 8/28/1879); Wife 1, Sarah Nancy Vaughan (1803 - 1836); Children, Mary Jones (7/25/1825 - 6/18/1869); Martha Jane Jones (1828); Charles Cade Jones (April 1829); Rachel Jones (1831); Rebecca Jones (1832); Sarah Jones (1836). Wife 2, Elizabeth M. Alberson; Children, William Zinnamon Jones (1838); James Weldon Jones (1839 - 1917); John Edmond Jones Jr (1/27/1841 - 2/4/1899); Malinda Ann Jones (1/6/1855 - 8/29/1936); Frances Caroline Jones (11/8/1844 - 6/6/1913); and Seaborn Cass Jones (10/5/1847 - 7/15/1930). (Figure 6)



Figure 6. John Edmond Jones Sr., marker. Photo by Rachel Elizabeth Blalock.

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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..

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

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- I have artifacts or photographs I wish to donate or loan to the Museum

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