



WALTON

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Walton County Heritage Association

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WALTON COUNTY HERITAGE ASSOCIATION, INC.

OFFICE LOCATION

Walton County Heritage Museum, (Old Train Depot)
Hours: Open Tuesday – Saturday, 1:00 – 4:00 PM

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Newsletter Cover Collage Photos

Clockwise from top left:

1. Darlington, Florida, early 1900s, Courtesy of Baker Block Museum, photographer unknown. Edited by Sam Carnley.
2. *View of a turpentine still in Glendale or Gaskin*. 1904. Black & white photoprint, 4 x 6 in. State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory. <<https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/42107>>, accessed 28 June 2017 by Sam Carnley.
3. William Lewis (Luke) Hurst Family, Fleming Creek/Clear Springs area, north Walton County, ca 1894, from “The Heritage of Walton County, Florida,” p. 190.
4. Old Paxton High School, “1961-62 Paxtonian” Year Book, photographer unknown. Edited by Sam Carnley
5. Paxton Town Hall, Paxton, Florida, photo and editing by Sam Carnley.
6. Gladys D. Milton (1924-1999), Midwife, Flowersview/Paxton, photo by her daughter, Maria Milton. Also in “The Heritage of Walton County, Florida,” p. 249, and the September 2018 Newsletter at <http://www.waltoncountyheritage.org/GenSoc/NL2018Sep.pdf> Edited by Sam Carnley.
7. Lake Jackson, South Side, in Paxton City Limits, photo and editing by Sam Carnley.
8. Paxton Water Tower, Paxton, Florida, photo and editing by Sam Carnley.
9. Old Freeport School, constructed ca 1908, burned 1943. Photo from “The Heritage of Walton County, Florida,” p. 45. Photographer unknown. Edited by Sam Carnley.
10. *Floralia Saw Mill Company's engine number 3 - Paxton, Florida*. 1907. Black & white photonegative, 4 x 5 in. State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory. Photographer unknown. <<https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/146972>>, accessed 7 September 2019 and edited by Sam Carnley. [Built in 1873 and Originally owned by New York, Ontario and Western Railroad Company as engine number 60; then owned by Southern Iron and Equipment Company as engine number 568 in 1907; then owned by Florala Saw Mill Company as engine number 3 on March 3, 1907; returned to Southern Iron and Equipment Company and number changed to 915 on March 13, 1913; then owned by Louisiana Saw Mill Company as engine 50 in May, 1913.]

The **Walton County Heritage Association, Inc.** is an 501 (C) 3 Florida Not for Profit Corporation Recognized by the IRS as a Public Charity Organization for Tax Deductible Donations.

The Walton County Heritage Association was organized for four main purposes:

- To promote the preservation and restoration of buildings and other landmarks of historical interest within Walton County;
- To maintain the Walton County Heritage Museum to preserve the heritage of Walton County for the education and enjoyment of current and future generations by collecting, preserving, and exhibiting artifacts and information from the time of its original inhabitants to the present;
- To foster and enhance the development, education, and sense of history which is unique to Walton County; and
- To secure cooperation and unity of action between individual citizens, businesses, and other groups as may be necessary to fulfill these purposes.

The Association depends upon the support of its members and the business community to accomplish its goals. Annual dues are \$25 for individuals, \$40 for families and \$100 for corporate memberships.

[Click here](#) for the Individual Membership Application

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Member Benefits:

- **Automatic** membership in the **Walton County Heritage Museum** and the **Walton County Genealogy Society**.
- **Invitations** to Quarterly Members Meetings
- **Discounts** on Special Events
- **The Museum Research Center:** Members get free copies of documents and use of the Genealogy Society computer when the Museum is open.
- **The Museum Gift Shop:** Members receive discounts on books, special publications, postcards, photographs, CDs, DVDs, videos, and gift items.
- **Free subscriptions** to the WCHA Newsletter and Journal.

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Hurst Family Of Walton County, Florida

Transcribed, Compiled and
Edited by Sam Carnley

Editor's Note: Information for this article came, in part, from family histories taken from the book "The Heritage of Walton County, Florida." The families include "George Washington Hurst," submitted by Cathy Filson and written by Eliel Hurst (An article on this family was previously featured in the June 2018 Newsletter. It is again included here as an updated and more comprehensive version); "James Hurst," submitted by Eliel G. Hurst; "William Lewis (Luke) Hurst," submitted by Eliel Hurst; and "William Lewis "Luke" Hurst, submitted by Stephanie Belue. These stories are found on pages 188-190 of the Heritage Book. As they all relate to the same family, they were combined into a single composite article for purposes of this WCHA newsletter. Additional information came from the Bureau of Land Management, General Land Office website, the familysearch.org website, Walton County Deed records from the Walton County Clerk of Court website, the Find A Grave website and my personal knowledge of some members of this family. All photos were provided by story submitters, but edited as necessary for inclusion in the article.

James J. Hurst Family

James J. Hurst was born to Isaac Henry Hurst and Priscilla Marle 2 May 1815 in Sumter, South Carolina. He died 25 September 1885 near today's Clear Springs in north Walton County and was buried at Greenwood Memorial Cemetery in Florala, Covington County, Alabama, Mem. ID 94182693. The name on his headstone reads: Pvt. James Jim Hurst He married (1) Temperance Collins about 1838 in Barbour County, Alabama. She was born ca 1818 in Georgia and died 26 June 1871 in Louisville, Barbour County, Mem. ID 75837585. He married (2) Julia Ann Lassiter, daughter of John J. and Nancy Prescott Lassiter 4 March 1874 at Woods, now Clear Springs, Walton County. She was born 20 March 1847 in Walton County. After James died, she married (2) Daniel James Busbee 25 June 1896. She died 21 October 1923 at age 76 and was buried at nearby Clear Springs Community Cemetery, Mem. ID 42977767.

The children of James Hurst and Temperance Collins were:

1. John Hurst, 1839-1887
2. Jefferson Hurst, 1842-1863
3. James Albert Hurst, 1845-1912
4. Joseph Marion Hurst, 1845-1921
5. Susan Hurst, 1849-1878
6. David Hurst, 1851-?
7. Jackson Wilson Hurst, 1851-1917

The children of James Hurst and Julia Ann Lassiter were:

8. **George Washington Hurst**, b. 28 September 1872,¹ Walton County, Florida; d. 19 July 1955, buried Clear Springs Community Cemetery, Walton Co., Florida; Mem. ID 43218022; m. Anna

¹ His birth year predates the year his parents married, but is supported by his WWI draft registration card which he signed with his signature rather than an x, indicating he was literate enough to have kept a written record of his birth year.

Palmer, 27 July 1904, in Walton Co., Florida.^{2 3} She was born 12 September 1880 to Robert and Sarah Palmer, and d. 12 December 1959 at age 79. She was buried at Clear Springs Community Cemetery, Clear Springs, Walton, Florida. Mem. ID 43217999.

9. **Angeline Hurst**, b. ca 1875 in Alabama, and d. ca 1888 in Alabama at about age 13. Date and place of burial unknown⁴. Her age in the "James Hurst" story is ca 1870-ca 1888.
10. **Fredonia (Doney) Hurst**, b. 17 Feb 1876, Bullock, Crenshaw County, Alabama; d. 29 June 1939 at age 63; buried Limestone Community Cemetery, Darlington, Walton Co., Florida; Find A Grave Mem. ID 30539777; m. Henry Allen Thompson, b. 18 July 1870, Covington Co. Alabama; d. 26 May 1952, buried Clear Springs Community Cemetery, Clear Springs, Walton Co., Florida; Mem. ID 113630850. He and his brother Arch were raised by an Aplin family near Laurel Hill. As a young man he worked in the timber/saw mill/turpentine business. They moved to south Florida for a time and most of their descendants live in that area. Children: McKinley, Frank and Henry.
11. **Mary Alice (Allie) Hurst**, b. 14 August 1880, Bullock, Crenshaw County, Alabama; d. 27 June 1977 in Okaloosa, Florida; buried in Pensacola, Florida; m. Andrew Jackson Martin, 2 February 1901 in Walton County. He was born 21 February 1877 in Alabama, and d. July 1963 in Escambia County, Florida, buried in Pensacola. He was a farmer living in Laurel Hill, Okaloosa, Florida when he registered for the WWI draft in 1918. An Assembly of God pastor, he and Allie lived in Laurel Hill, Florida, Florala and Birmingham, Alabama, Pensacola, and Walton County, Florida. Late in life he became totally blind and Allie became deaf. Their impairments did not rob them of their good sense of humor though. They told of how he would get lost in the house and call her to help him out, but she could not hear him calling her so he had to figure out where he was by himself. Their children were Emma Louise and Bertha. Emma (1918-1992) m. James pate, they lived between Svea and Laurel Hill where they raised children: James Jr., Betty, Billie and Don. After James died, Emma married Rev. W. J. Cox. Bertha (1910-1985) m. John C. Gibson, raised their family, Joan and John Ray in Pensacola.
12. **Berry Webster (Web) Hurst**, 1881-1964, never married, lived around Walton and Okaloosa counties with relatives, worked as a farm hand for a living.
13. **James Samson (Sampse) Hurst**⁵, b. 28 May 1885, Paxton, Walton Co. Florida; d. 3 June 1957, Crestview, Okaloosa, Florida, buried Almarante Cemetery, Laurel Hill, Okaloosa, Florida, Mem. ID 75332273; m. Frances Alabama Hutto, 3 February, 1913 in Walton County, Florida; she was born 10 August 1893, Covington County, Alabama; d. 19 August 1983, Okaloosa County, Florida, buried Almarante Cemetery, Laurel Hill, Okaloosa, Florida, Mem. ID 75332298. They raised their family around Walton and Okaloosa Counties. He worked in saw mill/timber/turpentine businesses and farmed for a living. Their children were Percy, Glen, Gladys and Nelle. They lived in Crestview, Tallahassee, and Pensacola.
14. **William Josiah Dabner (Dabney) Hurst**⁶, b. 24 September 1892, Walton County, Florida; d. 17 August 1972. Florala, Covington County, Alabama; buried Pleasant Grove Cemetery, Pleasant Grove Community near Paxton, Walton County, Florida, Mem. ID 81839901. He m. Minnie Melinda Miller, daughter of the Rev. David S. Miller, a pioneer settler of Walton (now Okaloosa) County, 29 January 1913 in Walton County. She was b. 8 April 1897 in Elba, Coffee County, Alabama and d. 4

² Documented by Walton Co., Florida marriage certificate.

³ She was the sister of James Palmer who married my father's sister, Kate Carnley.

⁴ The 1880 U. S. census of Old Town, Coffee Co., Ala., the only one on which she appears, lists her age as 5, giving an est. birth year of 1875.

⁵ His name is spelled Samson on the census of 1920 and 30, and on his WWI Draft registration card. It is spelled Sampson on his marriage record and his headstone. The way he spelled it on his draft card is probably correct as it appears he wrote it himself.

⁶ He may have been named after William Josiah Dabney Cawthon, a prominent resident of the area who was a stockman and large land holder. Like WJD Cawthon, WJD Hurst was also nicknamed Bullie.

December 1981 in Tallahassee, Leon County, Florida. She was buried with her husband at Pleasant Grove Cemetery, Mem. ID 81839927. When William completed his WWI draft registration card in June 1917, he was 24 years old and lived at Rt. 1, Darlington, Holmes County, Florida. He gave his place of birth as Walton County, Florida. He worked as a logger for the Geneva Mill Co in Holmes Co. and described himself as tall, medium build, blue eyes and red hair. He became an Assembly of God pastor and preached all over Walton County, and the rest of west Florida and Alabama. At the time of death, he was pastor of Pleasant Grove Church where he was buried in its cemetery. Their children were Urbane Silvanus (1920-2011), Eliel and Noel. Both Silvanus and Eliel became Assemblies of God ministers.

Notes for James J. Hurst

After James' father, Isaac Henry died in 1830, his widowed mother sold out in South Carolina and migrated with her family to Alabama where they settled in Barbour County. When the Creek Indian War broke out in 1836 James joined the militia and served for a brief 32 days. During that time his regiment marched a group of captured Creeks from Barbour County to Ft. Mims on the Mobile River where they were being concentrated for removal to Oklahoma. Their path took them through Walton County, Florida, where they crossed Horse Head Creek south-east of Laurel Hill, which later became part of Okaloosa County when it was created in 1915. After he married Temperance (Tempe) Collins in 1838 they remained in Barbour County until about 1851, the year their youngest child, Jackson Wilson was born. About that time James seems to have gotten an itch to move on – but without his family. It was said that he started casually mentioning to his family that he had decided to go to Florida, apparently giving them the impression he was joking. But it turned out that he was not and one day he struck out down the trail on foot and on noticing that one of his children was following after him, scolded the child and sent him back home. James continued on to no one knew where, abandoning his family to fend for themselves.



*Creek Bridge, Clear Spring to Svea Road
Walton County, FL Ca 1917, Julia Ann
Lassiter Hurst, Louise Martin, Daniel Busby,
Ida Morrow, Bertha Martin, Luzia Marrow,
Mary Alice (Allie) Hurst Martin*

He was not heard from again until 1874 when he married his second wife, Julia Ann Lassiter in Walton County.⁷ By that time, his first wife had died and all his children with her were grown. The circumstances under which he reunited with them are unknown, if he ever did, and he never revealed to anyone where he was between leaving his first family and his second marriage.

It is unclear where he and Julia initially lived after marrying. They may have remained in Walton County for a short time but soon moved to Old Town, Coffee County, Alabama, where their first child, Angeline was born. She appeared in James' household on the 1880 census enumerated for Old Town at age 5 and her place of birth was Alabama. That suggests they moved there soon after marrying. After returning to Walton County they made their home in the

Figure 1

⁷ Julia Ann was a younger sister of Martha Ann Lassiter, who married Rev. George M. Carnley. They were my great grandparents.

rural area between Clear Springs and Svea, a few miles east of Laurel Hill. He made his living, primarily as a farmer, but also worked at a grist mill owned and operated by his nephew, William Lewis (Luke) Hurst, located on Fleming Creek in the north-west corner of the County.

James came “down sick with heart dropsy for a long time before he died.” After he passed, Julia applied for a widow’s pension for which she qualified based on James’ militia service during the Creek War. The first application made in 1893 was denied, but a second one in 1895 was approved and she was awarded \$8.00 a month. About a year later however, it was canceled due to an erroneous report that she had died. She never reapplied for it, possibly because she married Daniel James Busbee in 1896 and no longer needed the pension, or might have felt it wasn’t worth the trouble to make another application. Some of her children moved away from Walton County when they grew up and married but her son, George spent his life there.

Notes for George Washington Hurst

Farming was the major occupation around Walton County at the close of the 19th and into the 20th century when George was born. Like his father James, George became a tenant farmer and also worked in timber and turpentine as a laborer. As of the 1945 Florida State census of Walton County, he and Anna were living in the Children’s Home community next to the old school of that name where I entered the first grade in the fall of 1948. My mother wanted to send me to Paxton but I had not turned six and they would not accept me. The Children’s Home School did, so that was where my education began. I went there until I turned six on January 10 of the next year and was able to transfer to the first grade at Paxton, leaving Children’s Home School behind never to return. The time I spent there was very memorable and possibly my most vivid recollection was watching Uncle George Hurst repair the old hand operated



Figure 2

L-R back Allie Hurst Martin, Anna Palmer Hurst holding son Brady, John Hurst, George Hurst, Julia Ann Hurst, Louise Martin, Front L-R Frances Hutto Hurst, Grady Hurst



Figure 3

pitcher pump that was the school’s only source of drinking water. Although he seemed old to me then, he was actually a year younger than my current age of 76. He had a serious tremor in his hands, but in spite of that managed to fix the pump as the entire student body of the one room school, which totaled less than a dozen children in grades 1 through 5, crowded around him fully absorbed in what he was doing. The only student otherwise occupied was his nephew, Millard Palmer, who had borrowed George’s hack saw when he wasn’t looking and sawed half-way through a broken chunk of concrete before getting caught. Fortunately George had finished with the saw before Millard ruined the blade.

Although George and I were related by his mother

and my great grandmother being sisters, he was actually the uncle of my Palmer first cousins whose father James and George's wife Anna were siblings. Uncle Jim as James was better known, married my dad's sister, Kate, making her George's sister-in-law. That was the first and only time I recall seeing George Hurst. In later years I became familiar with some of his children, most of whom were about my father's age, or older. All his and Anna's children are included in the following list.

The Children of George Washington Hurst and Anna Palmer were:

- 1. Charles H. (Bogie) Hurst**, b. 26 June 1905, Walton County, Florida; d. 7 September 1997, Prattville, Autauga County, Alabama; buried 9 September 1997, Bethesda Baptist Cemetery, Autauga County, Alabama, Mem. ID 17741143. Married Elnora Wyatt 1 April 1933, Montgomery, Alabama, She was b. 11 February 1915 to Alfonso F. Wyatt and Cynthia Elmira Huff of Montgomery, Alabama. She d. 10 December 2005 in Autauga County, Alabama, and buried at Bethesda Baptist Cemetery, Mem. ID 17741636. The following is from his story in the "Heritage Book" :

As a young man, he moved to Prattville, Alabama where he married Elnore Wyatt in 1933. Their one child, Shirley, married William A. Durbin. He told of growing up around Children's 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. A neighbor's horse was regularly tearing their fence down and damaging 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 the size of a baseball, 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 cramed the ball under the tail and set it on fire. The horse took off, jumping, kicking, snorting – but never came back to the garden. The next day their neighbors told of sitting on their 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.

- 2. Annie (Tink) Hurst**, b. 1 March 1907, Children's Home Community, Walton County, Florida; d. 6 February 2007 at Niceville, Okaloosa County, Florida; buried Clear Springs Community Cemetery, Clear Springs, Walton County, Florida, Mem. ID 17854474. She m. Alfred Lee Adams 9 February 1926 in Walton County. He was b. 1 August 1901 in Florida and d. 30 March 1960 in Covington County, Alabama; buried Clear Springs Community Cemetery, Clear Springs, Walton County, Florida, Mem. ID 42887155. Her story from the "Heritage Book" :

Her husband, Alf, was a son of Wiley and Frances Adams of Walton County. They moved from Children's Home to Niceville about 1947 where he worked as a gardener at the hospital. 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 Stefanic, 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) Elizabeth Ann, 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. Ducan; and (e) Dennis Russell. (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.

Annie's obituary:

Annie "Tink" Adams, also known as Granny Adams of Niceville, Fla., died peacefully at home on Feb. 6, 2007, just 23 days shy of her 100th birthday. Annie was born on March 1, 1907, in

Children's Home Community, Walton County, Fla., and moved to Niceville in 1947 with her belated [late] husband Alfred Lee Adams. [I seem to recall them living back in Children's home briefly after 1947 because I remember their sons, Billy and Randolph being at Uncle Jim and Aunt Kate Palmer's house on Sundays when I was a teenager.]

She is preceded in death by her brothers, Charles, John, Brady and Eulice Hurst; and one son, Billy Adams. She is survived by her sister, Eva Bryan of Lake Wales, Fla. She is also survived by three children, Francis Griffin and husband Vern, Estelle Cawthon and the late Harley Cawthon, and Randy Adams and wife Sally. She was the grandmother of Robert Griffin, Stanley Griffin, Vernon Griffin, Dennis Griffin, Anne Taylor, Patti Stefanic, Cathy Filson, Beverly Price, Tina Turner, Andy Adams, Chris Adams, Laurie Abernathy, Holly Butcher, Seth Adams, Wiley Adams and Stephanie Cullinan. She is also survived by Jason Adams who was not only her grandson, but who she raised as her own child from the age of 18 months. Annie enjoyed watching her family expand (five generations) and thoroughly enjoyed visiting with numerous great- and great-great-grandchildren.

3. **Lillie Hurst**, b. 1909, Walton County, Florida, d. Unknown; m, Idos Henry.
4. **John Hurst**, b. 16 December 1912, Walton County, Florida, d. 11 December 1997, Lake Wales, Polk County, Florida, buried Lake Wales Cemetery, Mem. ID 62792930; m. Lois Joyce Bryan, daughter of Jefferson Davis Bryan and Sarah Naomi Helms of Walton County. She was b. 30 August 1928 in Walton County and d. 14 March 1973 in Lake Wales. She is buried at Lake Wales Cemetery, Polk County, Florida, Mem. ID 62792931. Their only child Barbara Sue married Donald G. Harvard, son of Burl and Lida Harvard of Walton County. Barbara and Donald's child is Jonathan Brett. They live in Lake Wales, Florida.
5. **Grady L. Hurst**, b. 14 September 1914, d. 15 May 1932 at age 17; buried Clear Springs Community Cemetery, Clear Springs, Walton County, Florida, Mem. ID 42977698. In the photo at **Figure 2** above, his head seems abnormally large, indicating that he possibly suffered from Hydrocephalus.
6. **Brady Lee Hurst**, b, 16 November 1918 Walton County, Florida, d. 18 November 1991, Lake Wales, Florida, buried Lake Wales Cemetery, Polk County, Florida, Mem. ID 62792926; m. Helen Carnley, 11 April 1950, Florala, Covington County, Alabama; she was born 24 November 1933 to Alexander (Buster) Carnley and Gladys Henderson in Walton County, Florida; d. 2 July 1997 in Lake Wales, Polk County, Florida and buried at Lake Wales Cemetery, Mem. ID 62792929. Children were Sherri, Rickey and Margaret. They lived in Children's Home and Lake Wales. His obituary follows:

BRADY LEE HURST, 73, of Lake Wales died Monday at Lake Wales Hospital. A native of Florala, Ala., he came to this area from Niceville in 1966. He was a retired Citrus World employee and Baptist. He is survived by his wife, Helen; a son, Richard Lee, and two daughters, Margaret Ann Oliver and Sharon Lee Tillman, all of Lake Wales; two brothers, John of Lake Wales and Charles of Montgomery, Ala.; two sisters, Eva Bryan of Lake Wales and Annie Adams of Niceville; a grandson; and a great-grandson.⁸

Even though I can no longer visualize Brady's features, I recall seeing him on occasion and it was not unusual for him to go around shirtless and shoeless in the summer time. An interesting story was told about him in an encounter with revenue agents searching for moonshine stills. Children's Home was surrounded by hundreds of square miles of dense woods which secreted numerous of the stills back in the day and Internal Revenue

⁸ Tampa Tribune, The (Florida) 20 November 1991, obit for BRADY LEE HURST, GenealogyBank.com (<https://www.genealogybank.com/doc/obituaries/obit/0FCCA47FB715A87F> : accessed 11 August 2019)

Service agents combed the woods in search of them. Anybody they caught running a still was arrested and sent to jail. Brady told the story that he was present at a still once when revenue agents suddenly showed up and began arresting everybody there. Brady however, managed to slip loose from them and lit out through the swamp in his bare feet. The swiftest of the revenue agents went chasing after him but Brady outran him and got away. Those who heard the story were amused at how Brady gave the revenue agents the slip.

7. **Eulice Hurst**, b. 25 July 1921, in Walton County, Florida; d. 21 November 1973, buried Clear Springs Community Cemetery, Clear Springs, Walton County, Florida, Mem. ID 43050928. He married Alice Orene Busbee, daughter of James Walter and Agatha Jones Busbee, 26 January 1951 at Bartow, Polk County, Florida. He was 29 and she was 16. Her mother, Agatha Busbee, was a witness to the marriage. Their residence was Lake Wales, Florida. They remained together for 9 years and then divorced in January 1960. Nothing is known of her after that.
8. **Eva Nell Hurst**, b. 8 January 1924 in DeFuniak Springs, Florida. She d. 3 October 2017 in Lake Wales, Florida. She m. (1) Rolland Teddy Gill 1 March 1941 in Lake Wales Florida when she was 17 and he was 30. Her father, George Hurst, signed the marriage application giving his consent for her marriage. They later divorced and in 1953 she married (2) Glen Kilpatrick in Okaloosa County, Florida. She divorced him in 1964 while still living in Okaloosa County. Her last marriage of record was to (3) Edward Ray Bryan, also a native of Walton County, the date of which is unknown. They are both buried at Lake Wales Cemetery, Lake Wales, Polk County, Florida. Her Mem. ID is 202230952 and his is 62534108. His memorial incorrectly gives his middle name as Roy. Eva had a son, Billy Gill, and his children were William, Danny, Joe and Mark.

William Lewis (Luke) Hurst

William Lewis (Luke) Hurst, b. 13 February 1835 in Coffee County, Alabama to Isaac (Henry) Jr. and Emily Jane Holt Hurst; d. 10 March 1918 in Pensacola, Escambia County, Florida. Buried in Cawthorne Cemetery per familysearch.org but no cemetery of that name is found on Find A Grave in Escambia County, Florida. He married (1) Sarah Hurst, a cousin on 22 September 1850, and (2) Lucinda (Cindy) Busbee before 1851 in Coffee County, Alabama. The daughter of Frederick and Sarah Busbee, she was born March 1831 in Crawford, Georgia and d. 1890 in Walton County, Florida.

Children of Luke and Sara were:

1. **(William) Franklin Peora Hurst**, b. 12 September 1851 in Coffee County, Alabama; d. 18 September 1922 in Dothan, Houston County, Alabama. He married Emeline L. Maddox 23 November 1871 in Jackson County, Florida. She was b. September 1853 in Alabama and d. 13 July 1932 in Barbour County, Alabama. Their children were Carrie and Sarah. Franklin stuck knife in his leg while butchering hogs and bled to death.
2. **Sophronia (Fronie) Ann Hurst**, b. 25 June 1858 in Coffee County, Alabama and d. 22 February 1896 in Walton County, Florida and buried at Greenwood Memorial Cemetery, Florida, Covington County, Alabama, Mem. ID 136882377. She m. (1) James Richard (Dick) Harrison before 1876, birth and death dates and place of burial unknown and (2) Moses Oliver J. Harrison, ca 1876, probably in Florida. He was b. 12 August 1854 in Coffee County, Alabama and d. 20 November 1927 in Crestview, Okaloosa County, Florida. He is buried at Greenwood Memorial Cemetery in Florida, but his grave is unmarked. His Mem. ID is 202324212. Sophronia and Dick Harrison had one child, John F. Harrison, b. 18 July 1877 in Walton County, Florida. What became of Dick is unknown, but Sophronia m. Moses Oliver Harrison in 1876, possibly before her son John F. was born in 1877.

John F. d. 25 April 1926 according to his Alabama death record which identifies Richard Harrison as his father and Fronie Hurst as his mother. He is buried at Greenwood Memorial Cemetery in Florala, Mem. Id 136882120. The children of Fronie and Moses were Daniel Thomas (1880-1919), Lucendia Augusta (Gussie) (1881-1950), Nettie (1883-?), George Levy (1886-?), Nancy Fleming (1887-1967), Cleveland L. (1892-1936), Grady (1894-?) and Fronie (1898-?). Fronie's birth year is apparently erroneous because it is 2 years after her mother's death date. After Sophronia died, Moses married Lillis Grimes Steel on 25 April 1905. Lillis was b. 30 September 1877 and d. 24 June 1951. She is buried at Greenwood Memorial Cemetery, Florala, Mem. ID 136885246.

Children of Luke and Cindy were:

3. **Martha Elizabeth Ann "Lizzie" Hurst**, b. 8 February 1862 in Walton County, Florida and d. 26 April 1936 in Walton County. She is buried Clear Springs Community Cemetery, Clear Springs, Walton County, Florida, Mem. ID 40876563. She m. William Henry Harrison (1859-1947) ca 1878 in Walton County. William Henry (Bill) was the brother of Sophronia's first husband, Dick Harrison. Martha and bill lived in the Clear Springs/Paxton, Florida area. Their children were:
 - 1) **John Henry**, (1892-1967), m. (1) Georgia Pearl Brown and (2) Nella May Bruner. His children with Nella may were: a) Mauderene m. Ed Arnold; b) Burl m. Pauline, their children were Jerry and Burline; c) Walter m. Leila Lorene Yates; d) Mable m. Cecil Hall; e) Edna m. Norman Poole; f) Foy m. Viola Addetton; g) Claude m. Margaret Prescott; h) John Jr. m. Yvonne Harrison; i) Agnes and j) Randall m. Sheila Senn.
 - 2) **Jeanne**, (1902-1990), m. Hubbard Millard (Hub) Presley. Children were: a) Theron m. Pauline Bedsole; b) Willard Gene m. shirly Ann Manning; c) Mary Magdalene m. Ted Covington; d) Anice m. Cloy Ray Coone, e) Edith m. Glenville Eugene Clary; f) Janice m. Robert Guy Pollard; g) Mary Agnes m. Leo Ellis Clary; h) Herbert m. Mary Smith and i) Sidney Lavaugh m. Ramonda Jean Barnes.
 - 3) **William Franklin**, (1879-1947), m. Lizzie Mason.
 - 4) **Isaac Columbus (Lum)**, (1888-1968), m. Dolly Simmons. Their child was Leroy m. Bessie Adams.
 - 5) **Lucy**, (1881-1963), m. (1) David Harper and (2) Tobie Qualls.
 - 6) **Mattie Joanna**, (1895-1932), m. (1) Marcus Paul and (2) Cairo Strickland.
 - 7) **Mary Magdalene (Maggie)**, (1884-1977), m. John Allen
 - 8) **Lee**, (1899-1990), m. Essie Ree Rayborn.
 - 9) **Gladys**, (1905-1918)
 - 10) **Callie Gertrude**, (1897-1969), m. Cab Paul, brother of Marcus
4. **John T. Hurst**, b. 1865 in Walton County, Florida and d. 1938 in Pensacola, Escambia County, Florida. Nothing further is known about him.
5. **Mary Ellen Hurst**, b. July 1869 in Euchee Anna, Walton County, Florida, d. 10 November 1933 in River Junction, Gadsden County, Florida. She m. Henry Free. Their children were: Earl, Charlie, Pearl and Lucille.

6. **Isaac Hurst**, b. may 1876 in Walton County, d. there 23 December 1951. Date and place of burial unknown. He married Julia Whitehead 17 October 1899 in Walton County. The date and place of her death is unknown.

Notes for William Lewis (Luke) Hurst

Luke Hurst was born ca 1835 in Coffee County, Alabama, son of Isaac Henry Jr. and Emily Jane Holt Hurst. Isaac Henry Jr. was a brother of James J. Hurst, whose genealogy precedes this one, making James Luke's uncle. Although Luke may have been the name he was most often called by family and friends, he seems to have been identified in the records more often as Lewis, or Louis. He was described as a small man with gray hair and a long beard. He migrated from Coffee County to Walton County, Florida about 1860 because his 10 year old daughter, Martha, on the 1870 census was born in Florida. That was the first Florida census on which he appeared and in addition to himself, which identified him as a 35 year-old farmer born in Alabama, were listed Lucinda, age 35, born in Alabama; Franklin, 16, b. Alabama; Sophronia, 13, b. Alabama; Martha, 10, b. Florida; John, 5, b. Florida and Mary, 1, b. Florida.



Home of William Lewis (Luke) Hurst, Ca 1894 Clear Springs, Fleming Creek area, Walton, Co., FL, Ike, Mary Free and baby, Luke, Cindy, Earl Free, Sampse, Webb, William, Julia Ann, Dan Busby, George

Figure 4

It is said that at least by the 1880s he owned land in Svea, originally in Walton County, but now in Okaloosa, and on Fleming Creek in the north-west corner of Walton County. If that is true, he bought the land by warranty deed and if it was before 1885 when the Walton County courthouse at Euchee Anna burned destroying all the records it housed, a record of the deed no longer exists. The earliest land he acquired of record in Walton County was a homestead of 160.60 acres in the Fleming Creek vicinity on 27 December 1890. This is documented by Patent No. 8206 issued on that date on file with the Bureau of Land Management, General Land Office, and is evidenced of record in Walton County deed books, , Bk 44, P. 406, dated 1890.

He owned and operated a water powered grist mill and pond on Fleming Creek in the vicinity of where the Clear Springs to Svea road crossed the Creek. His Uncle James Hurst worked there and his children played around it. One day James' daughter Mary Alice (Allie - later Mrs. A. J. Martin) and son Webb were at the pond and Webb's hat blew into it. James heard them hollering, and on seeing the hat floating in the pond and thinking Webb had fallen in, he jumped in to save him, but it was a false alarm.

On 11 February 1890 a post office was established on Luke's Fleming Creek property and John T. Hurst was appointed Post Master. It closed however before the end of the year and moved three miles NE and renamed Wood P. O⁹. Wood was the predecessor to Clear Springs. That post office closed in

⁹ Walton County, Florida Genealogy Trails History Group, Walton County Post Offices, <http://genealogytrails.com/fla/walton/postoffices.html>

1896 and Laurel Hill, then in Walton County, but now in Okaloosa, became the local post office and remains so today.

There are two stories about how Luke met his demise. One is that he ate too much corn meal (uncooked?) and it swelled up in his stomach and killed him. The other is that he was shot. The story goes that several men were driving cattle from Florida to market in Milton. They camped out for the night on Pond Creek near Children's Home. One man stayed up as guard. About midnight, after men and cattle were settled, someone rode through the camp on horseback hollering and clapping his hands, apparently trying to stampede the cattle. The man on guard hollered, "I don't know who you are, but if you come through here again I will shoot you. In a little while the rider came back and the guard shot. The horse ran on. Next morning they found a man lying dead. They sent for the sheriff and someone to identify the man. No charges were filed as it appeared that the rider tried to scatter the cattle and possibly steal some of them. It was said the dead man was Luke Hurst.

Although I never knew Luke Hurst and many of the other people in these stories, their names are special to me because, not only was I related to many of them, but their names were familiar to me as a child growing up in Children's Home and just reading the names evokes warm recollections of familiar faces, events and places of a time that no longer exists outside my memory. More documentation supporting information contained in this genealogy can be found on the familysearch.org website for these family groups as listed below.

[James J. Hurst \(1815–1885\) | Person | Family Tree | FamilySearch](#)

[Julia Ann Lassiter \(1847–1923\) | Person | Family Tree | FamilySearch](#)

[George Washington Hurst \(1872–1955\) | Person | Family Tree | FamilySearch](#)

[William Lewis Hurst \(1834–1918\) | Person | Family Tree | FamilySearch](#)

[Sophronia Ann Hurst \(1858–1896\) | Person | Family Tree | FamilySearch](#)

[Martha Ann Hurst \(1860–1936\) | Person | Family Tree | FamilySearch](#)