



WALTON

RELATIONS & HISTORY

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Walton County Heritage Association

February 2021



WALTON COUNTY HERITAGE ASSOCIATION, INC.

OFFICE LOCATION

Walton County Heritage Museum, (Old Train Depot)

Hours: Open Tuesday – Saturday, 1:00 – 4:00 PM

Postal Address

Walton County Heritage Association, Inc.
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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. *Henderson-Mathis 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. Walton County Heritage Museum, 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 a 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.

Individual Membership Application <http://www.waltoncountyheritage.org/Membership2020.pdf>
[Click here](#) for the Corporate Membership Application

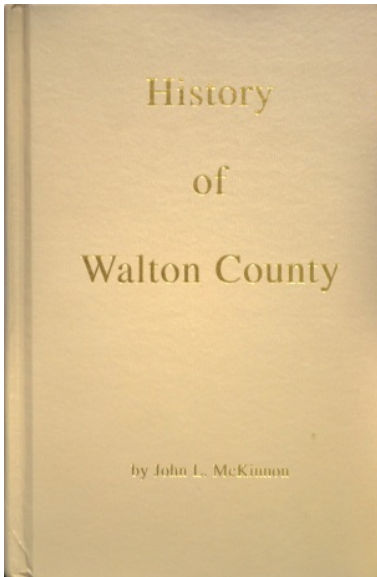
Member Benefits:

- 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.

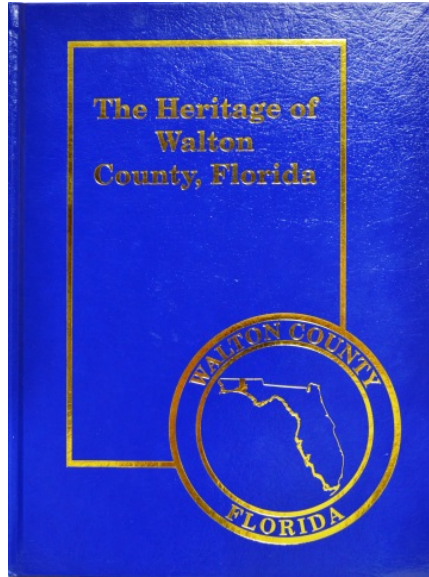
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From the Museum Gift Shop

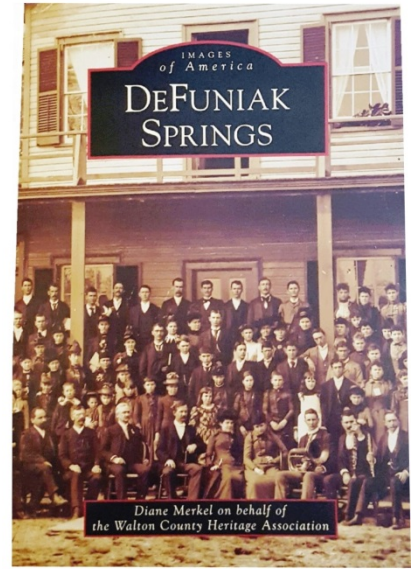
Our most popular books



History of Walton County
by John L. McKinnon. The Museum has sold out of this book and it is out of print, but it is available on line free of charge at this link,
<https://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/georgiabooks/pdfs/gb0503.pdf>



The Heritage of Walton County, Florida. Item code **B13.** History of Walton County's organizations, churches and people. Hard cover, 316 pages, indexed.
\$59.00 plus tax and shipping.



Images of America, DeFuniak Springs. Item code **B06.** By Diane Merkel. Softcover, 128 pages, 185 photos, indexed.
\$21.99 plus tax and shipping.

BOOK MAIL ORDER FORM

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Customer Name: _____
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Quantity	Description	Item Code	Price Each*	Amount
	The Heritage of Walton County, Florida	B13	71.13	
	Images of America, DeFuniak Springs.	B06	31.53	

*Price includes tax at 7% and shipping of \$8.00 per item.

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SOME HISTORICAL PLACES AND PEOPLE OF WALTON COUNTY, FLORIDA

Stories from the
“The Heritage of Walton County, Florida”

Transcribed and edited by
Sam Carnley

Editor’s note: Once again, this month’s newsletter article is based on stories adapted from the above book. Those who possess the book may recognize the stories. Those WCHA members who may derive the greatest benefit from this article are those who do not have access to the book, which is my hope and intent.

Scots, Indian Relations in Early Walton County

By
Bob Newton

Unlike most movements of European settlers into Indian lands the Scots who came to Walton County were invited by the local chief. They were given their land by Euchee Chief Sam Story (or Timpoochee Kinnard) about 1820. [Whether or not Sam Story and Timpoochee Kinnard were one and the same is debatable]. By the early 1830s, both Neill McLennon, the Scot whom the Chief had given land, and the chief were fed up with the poor white trash who were trashing the land and left. The Scot went to Texas and the Eucheas were thought to have gone further south along the Gulf Coast.

Neither where the Eucheas came from or where they went is clear from the sources I have read. One book, History of Walton County, states that the Chief said they originally came from the west which they left because of pressure from the more warlike tribes in Mexico and Texas before 1528. The author states: “that they must have descended from one of the best lines of the civilized Aztecs or Toltec races, for they certainly had many good natural inbred traits.”

Chief Sam Story, or Timpoochee Kinnard, stated that before the Eucheas arrived, two other tribes in the area had fought a bloody battle. The winners had gone west and the losers were absorbed by the Euchee. In 1861, McKinnon [John L. McKinnon, author of “History of Walton County,”] as member of the Walton Guards, was stationed near the Indian mounds in What is now Ft. Walton Beach. The Guards dug up “great skeletons of giant warriors.” Carswell [E. W. Carswell,] of Holmes County, said the creek warriors were tall and slender [He was probably quoting McKinnon.] Whether these were Indians from Mexico or Creeks, the evidence would tend to substantiate the account of Chief Sam Story

Apparently, the local Euchee had relatives further north who went to Oklahoma with the Creeks. The following information is from the “The Indian Tribes of North America,” by John R. Swanton:

The Yuchi have attained an altogether false reputation as the supposed aborigines of the Gulf region. They were also noted for the uniqueness of their language among the Southeastern tongues. The name is preserved in Euchee, a post hamlet of Meigs County, Tenn.; Eucheeanna, a post village of Walton County, Fla.; Euchee (or Uchee) Creek in Russell County, Ala.; Uchee, a post station, also, of Russel County, Ala.; Uchee Creek, Columbia County, Ga.’ And an island in Savanna River near the mouth of the latter.

It would appear that the evidence points to the Euchee having come from the north rather than the west [confirmed by Swanton, who also wrote that the Yuchis, aka the Eucheas, or Chiscas, as the Spaniards called them, migrated from the southern Appalachian Mountains to Florida in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.] Their chief was half Scot—as were many chiefs—and his father probably came from the English colonies on the eastern seaboard.

Where they went appears to be south where they joined with the Seminoles just prior to the second Seminole war. As Chief Story died before the tribe left, his son, Jim Crow, was in charge of the trip. In 1874, the author of the “History of Walton County,” met an Indian from the Everglades who, he was convinced, was a grandson of Sam Story by his third eldest son, Sleeping Fire.

From where they came or where they went is of little significance. The mutual respect and friendship between the tribe and the original Scots was rare and beneficial to both. Anyone wishing more details about the Seminoles should contact the tribe at tribulle@semtribe.com, their E-mail address. My E-mail address is rnewton938@Worldnet.att.net.

Submitted by: Bob Newton

Cattle Drives in Walton County

By

Bill Steadley-Campbell

Cattle were the main means of income for the early settlers in Walton County – before timber and naval stores.

Florida was an open range until the 1950s, so there were no fences and cattle roamed freely over the entire county. Identification was not by brands, as in the west, but by notching the ears of the cattle. Each family had their own notch. [It was common all over the eastern part of this country back then to maintain a “Brands and Marks Book,” in which the notches, or marks, of each livestock owner documented his or her marks as an official record. Walton County no doubt had such a book at one time, which was probably destroyed in the Eucheeanna courthouse fire of 1885.]

In the spring cattle hunts started, rounding up newborn calves and other unmarked cattle. When those round-ups were complete, a joint community cattle drive would start from Euchee Valley to Freeport and the cattle boats. [The round-ups not doubt also took place in the north of the county where the large Cawthon family settled south of Lake Jackson and maintained sizeable herds of free-range cattle. It is a matter of record that they supplied the Confederate Army with beef during the Civil War and was the reason Union General Asboth seized and jailed the elderly William Cawthon when the Union Army passed through Walton County en route to the Battle of Marianna in September 1864.] Prior to the drives, the cattle were driven through a dip vat to rid them of ticks and other insects. [I observed a dip vat in operation when I was a small child in Children’s Home Community on the north side of Pine Log Creek. It was a trench in the earth of a length and depth sufficient to fully immerse every animal of any size in the dip solution. The cattle were driven single file into the vat, swam the length of it and clambered out the other end. I didn’t know then what chemical was used in the dip but have since learned it was an arsenic solution.]

The drovers rode horses and used whips to keep the cattle in line. [The cracking sounds of their bull whips allegedly led to the term “cracker,” as Florida cowboys came to be called.] From some parts of the county, it was necessary to cross the rivers or creeks at the “cow fords.”

Usually, the trip would take at least two days. The first stop would normally be at High Lonesome, then on to Freeport. The drovers slept out under the stars with their bedrolls and cooked their food over an open fire. Guards would be posted to protect the cattle from wandering too far and against bears or panthers.

On arrival in Freeport, the cattle were loaded into the boats/ships for transportation to the slaughterhouses. The cattlemen were paid in silver or gold. When placed in the saddlebags it was said

some were so heavy they could hardly be lifted. This was the cash crop and provided the settlers with money to purchase things they could not grow. When the railroads came the cattle drives were no longer necessary.

Submitted by: Bill Steadley-Campbell, P. O. Box 67, Argyle, FL.32422.

Almarante

By

Carolyn Senterfitt

Almarante, a community with the musical name, was a Stage Coach Station in 1849. Almarante is a community that has been in two different counties; Walton and Escambia before Okaloosa County was formed from Walton and Santa Rosa in 1915 [which means it has actually been in three counties.]

To begin with, Almarante was located near Yellow River on a high hill where there was a road that intersected from South Alabama and to the East to Euchee Valley that is still a part of Walton County.

It is believed that General Andrew Jackson marched through this community on his forced march to Pensacola and to New Orleans in 1818 [it was actually in December 1814 before the Battle of New Orleans took place in January 1815. A reference to Almarante was noted by a member of Jackson's army and I have seen it, but cannot recall where it was. The implication of it being mentioned in 1814 is that the place may have been the earliest settlement in Walton County instead of Eucheeanna.] A post office was established in 1827 in the name of Yellow River, which at that time was in Escambia County [a post office was established in the name of Yellow Water on 31 January 1827 with Jeremiah Savelle as post master. It was discontinued by that name on 5 May 1828 and reestablished the same date as Almirante, with Jeremiah Savelle continuing as postmaster. It continued with various other postmasters until discontinued on 29 March 1867.] The community of Almarante was in Walton County a year later; the post office continued to serve the public until it was moved to Laurel Hill. The first church building at the site where Almarante is today was a Presbyterian Church built in 1850, the cemetery was started at this time.

A Baptist congregation built a new building in 1896. A log school served the children of the surrounding area until around 1901. In 1946 a four-denomination chapel was built primarily for funerals, singings and revivals, but it is gone now. Education and religious services are now centered in the town of Laurel Hill.

Written and submitted by: Carolyn Senterfitt, 6034 Garden City Rd, Crestview, FL 32539. Source: Florida Historical Review, Featuring Okaloosa County, FL.

[The name Almarante comes from Rio Del Almirante, meaning River of the Admiral in Spanish. That was the name given to the Black Water River in 1693 by the Mexican cartographer Don Calos de Sigüenza y Góngora in honor of Admiral Don Andres de Pez on whose ship the cartographer arrived in Pensacola Bay for the purpose of mapping it and its tributaries. Over time, the name became incorrectly associated with Yellow River. See Walton County Heritage Association newsletter, April 2017, at <http://www.waltoncountyheritage.org/GenSoc/NL2017Apr.pdf>]