



# WALTON

## RELATIONS & HISTORY

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Walton County Heritage Association

August 2022





# 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.  
1140 Circle Drive, DeFuniak Springs, Florida 32435  
Phone: 850-401-2060

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### Museum Docent Coordinator

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Cover Design: Sam Carnley

## 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 Floralia 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.]

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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 varying amounts for donors as shown on attached Annual Donor/Member Application for 2022. Donor logos are also shown on the attached Donor page in the monthly newsletter.

**Annual Member/Sponsor Application 2022; See attached.**

**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.

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# Walton County Heritage Association, Inc.

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

Email: [HeritageMuseum@bighthouse.com](mailto:HeritageMuseum@bighthouse.com)

## ANNUAL SPONSOR/MEMBER APPLICATION 2022

Name:

Individual/Family \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor/Business/Company \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor/Member Category: ( ) Individual \$25.00, ( ) Family \$40.00, ( ) Sponsor \$100-499.99,  
( ) Silver Sponsor \$500.00, ( ) Gold Sponsor \$1,000.00, ( ) Platinum Sponsor \$2,000.00,  
( ) Additional Gift \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \* Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*Gift earmarked for: \_\_\_\_\_

### Our Mission

The Walton County Heritage Association is a nonprofit organization that was organized for four main purposes:

1. To promote the preservation and restoration of buildings and other landmarks of historical interest within Walton County;
2. 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;
3. To foster and enhance the development, education, and sense of history which is unique to Walton County; and
4. To secure cooperation and unity of action between individual citizens, businesses, and other groups as may be necessary to fulfill these purposes.

\* Additional gift of over \$2,000.00 (or any amount) would be greatly appreciated. You may earmark this gift for a specific expense/purchase of gift items for our museum.

- All sponsor categories are entitled to membership in the museum and Genealogy Society and 10% discount on museum gift shop purchases.
- For all levels of Sponsorship, the Walton County Heritage Association, Inc. will acknowledge sponsors on our website, in our newsletter and on a permanent plaque in the Museum. Sponsorships are on an annual basis from January to December. This is an acknowledgement of your gift only and does NOT constitute advertisement or the promotion of any individual, business or organization by the WCHA.

Please mail your check and this form to:  
WALTON COUNTY HERITAGE ASSOCIATION, INC. 1140 Circle Drive, DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435.  
**THANK YOU!!!**

The Walton County Heritage Association, Inc., is a 501(C)(3) charitable organization as defined by the IRS Code. Gifts may be tax deductible as defined by the Federal Income Tax Regulations. To request a receipt for your tax-deductible membership in the WCHA, or donation, please contact us.

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. REF: WALTON COUNTY HERITAGE ASSOCIATION, INC., DTN3054584, CH52108.

## **OUR SPONSORS for 2022**

We dedicate this page to our sponsors in recognition of their generous support of our mission.

### **SPONSORS (\$100-\$499.00)**

**George and Margaret Little (\$100.00)**

**Douglas W. Rogers (\$100.00)**

**Bob Beasely, Supervisor of Elections (\$100.00)**

**David Bludworth (\$260.00)**

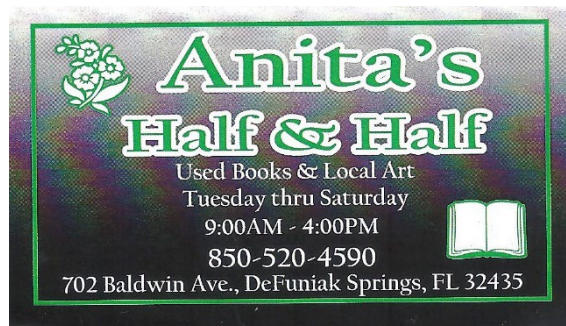
**DFS Landmarks, Inc. (\$100.00)**

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(None at present time)

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**Anita's Half & Half (\$1,000.00)**

### **PLATINUM SPONSORS (\$2,000 and up)**

#### **City of DeFuniak Springs**



In the past the city has generously supported us with cash donations of \$2,000.00 annually, but due to changing budget priorities, was unable to do so in 2022. We wish to recognize the city's generosity however, for its in-kind donation of the RR depot which serves as the Walton County Heritage Association, Inc., Museum and administrative facility. The city provides maintenance and upkeep on the facility, and payment of electrical, water and waste disposal services as well. The value of this facility to us is far in excess of \$2,000.00 annually, for which we are deeply appreciative. Thank you, City of DeFuniak Springs.



**John L. McKinnon, Jr.,**  
**His Ramblings and Recollections**  
**of**  
**Life In Walton County**  
By  
Sam Carnley and Bruce Cosson

This month's article is a continuation from the one of the previous month on the inaccuracies and omissions of John L. McKinnon's *History of Walton County*.

On page 60 of his book, McKinnon writes:

Now we have some idea where the early settlers were located. Now, it has always been strange to me why Walton's first County site was for a while at Alaqua. It is true there were quite a lot of good people settled on the Alaqua Creeks on good lands, but nothing to compare with those around the Valley, and at that time it was a very much out of the way place, not even convenient to the Bay people, who were but few. Judge Exam's home -- the first Circuit Judge -- was there, and some say this was why it was there. In a little while it was moved to Euchee Anna and remained there until it was moved to DeFuniak Springs.

Although he acknowledges Alaqua as the first county site (seat), some of his other statements are incorrect. First is his allegation that Alaqua was an "out-of-the-way place." Other records dispute that. In the first place, Alaqua sat in a

more centralized location than Euchee Anna as the county then existed. It had a post office; Euchee Anna did not. A stage coach carrying the mail made a stop there. It did not in Euchee Anna. It sat on Alaqua Creek, navigable all the way to Choctawhatchee Bay and the Gulf of Mexico.

Bruce Creek (formerly Euchee Creek), the nearest major stream to Euchee Anna emptied into Choctawhatchee River, but was too small and choked with fallen trees for anything larger than an Indian canoe to navigate.

The two major roads of the time junctioned at Alaqua. The Pensacola-St. Augustine Road traversing the entire width of the north part of the Territory passed through Alaqua and so did the Alaqua-Marianna Road. Euchee Anna could claim no local access to similar far ranging transportation arteries, making it a more out-of-the-way place than Alaqua.

He identified Judge Exam as the first circuit judge who had a home in Alaqua; another inaccuracy. Territorial West Florida Superior Court Judge, Henry M. Brackenridge, appointed by Andrew Jackson, and who served as the county's first judge of record, built a log home in Alaqua in the late 1820s. He dedicated one of the three wings of the home for use as the county court and site (seat).

Previous to that, the Territorial Legislative Council and governor passed an act in 1825 recognizing William Baley's house on Alaqua Creek as the first site (seat) and courthouse in the county.

That changed when Brackenridge built his home on a knoll overlooking Alaqua Creek and made it his residence. In accordance with the customs of the time, the residence of the presiding judge also became the county seat. Both of the roads mentioned above ran by Judge Brackenridge's place, and the Creek flowed only a few yards down from it.

Judge Brackenridge's home remained the county site until he fell out of favor with President Andrew Jackson, who

appointed him as superior court judge. Because he had become critical of Jackson, the president did not reappoint Brackenridge at the end of his term in 1832 or 33. He departed Alaqua about that time and returned to his native state of Pennsylvania. After he left, the county seat found its way to Euchee Anna, where it remained until the courthouse burned in 1885.

About a year later, it found a new home in DeFuniak Springs, which did not come into existence until many decades after Brackenridge vacated the county.

The judge played a prominent role in the early history of Walton County, yet, McKinnon makes no mention of him in his book; another major historical omission.

Another matter of historical interest McKinnon omitted was the squabble over the location of the Confederate Veteran's Monument that ultimately had to be decided by the state supreme court.

McKinnon deals with the monument on pages 373-376 of his history. He tells of how the women of Euchee Anna formed the "Ladies Memorial Association" to raise funds and have the monument built which cost them \$250.00.

In reference to the location of the monument, McKinnon writes on page 376:

. . . It was erected at first at the Valley Church [Euchee Valley Presbyterian Church] then moved to Euchee Anna, the county site, as a more appropriate place, where it stands today . . .

The monument, the first erected in memory of the Confederate dead in the state of Florida, arrived from the New Orleans sculptor in 1871. The monument group had it placed on the grounds of the Euchee Valley Presbyterian Church.

Built by the first Scottish immigrants to the county, no older church of its denomination existed in Florida. Its

cemetery also held the distinction of being one of the county's earliest burial grounds. The ancestors and families of many of the soldiers listed on the monument were interred there.

Thinking it proper for the monument to be placed near the family burial sites of the soldiers it memorialized, the church grounds seemed to the monument group the most appropriate place to erect it.

Others of the community however, disagreed with that logic and argued that it should be placed on the courthouse grounds as the site most appropriate for it. McKinnon Jr. obviously agreed with that group in view of the opinion he expressed in writing about the monument's placement.

Those of that view prevailed upon members of the monument group to vote on where the monument should be located. The vote in favor of moving it to the Euchee Anna courthouse carried and it soon found itself moved there.

But that did not sit well with those wanting it at the church. In their determination that it should be there, they spirited it back in the dark of night and restored it to where it originally stood by the church. John Morrison and his son, Murdock, led the group who carried out the clandestine switcheroo.

Jennett McCullom, head of the monument group, supported the move to the courthouse. She sued Morrison and his son in circuit court, claiming they lacked authority to move the monument but the judge sided with the defendants and dismissed the case.

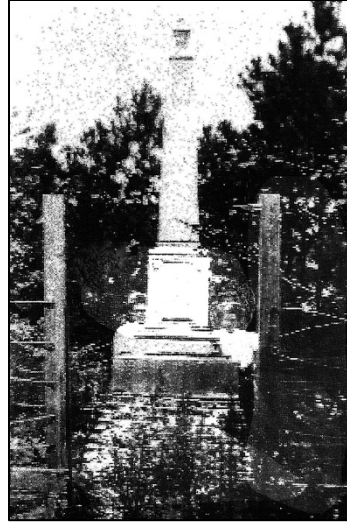
Ms. McCullom refused to accept that outcome however, and in 1874, took the suit to the Florida State Supreme Court. That court ruled in her favor and ordered the monument back to the Euchee Anna courthouse, which is where author McKinnon left it in his history.

It remained there long after the courthouse burned in 1885 and the county seat moved to De Funiak Springs. As

depicted in an old photograph,<sup>1</sup> the monument, looking forlorn and abandoned, sat in a patch of weeds. Someone erected a barbed wire enclosure around it as a deterrent to vandals who threatened to destroy it during the forty or so years it remained alone and unprotected on the site. About 1926, it was rescued and transported to the new courthouse in DeFuniak Springs where it now stands.

By omitting the intriguing details surrounding the story of its travels, McKinnon missed an opportunity to reveal the full history of the Confederate monument, truly one of Walton County's most significant and enduring historic symbols.

With the foregoing examples of inaccuracies and omission in the McKinnon history, we have barely scratched the surface of the many that have been identified in the book. We will continue bringing them to light through the October newsletter at least. After that we will move on to other matters of historical interest from the county's past.



Old photo of Confederate Monument at Euchee Anna site. Photo courtesy of Mark Curenton, Apalachicola, Florida.

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<sup>1</sup> Curenton, Mark, WCHA Newsletter, January 2012, p. 2: A photograph of the monument when it was still located in Eucheeanna. This picture was among the pictures of my grandfather, Robert Palmer Campbell. There is no date on the picture, but he was a student at Palmer College, graduating in May 1916, so I presume it was taken prior to that date.