



WALTON

RELATIONS & HISTORY

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Walton County Heritage Association

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

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Clockwise from top left:

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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 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.

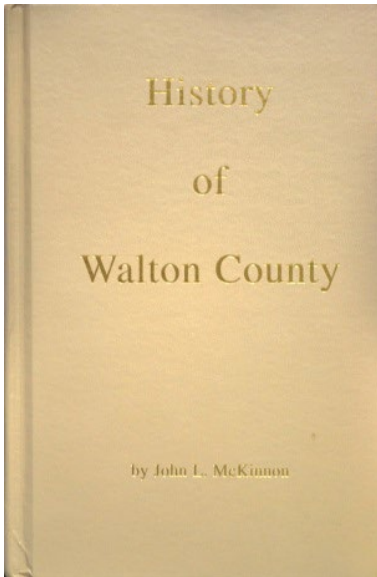
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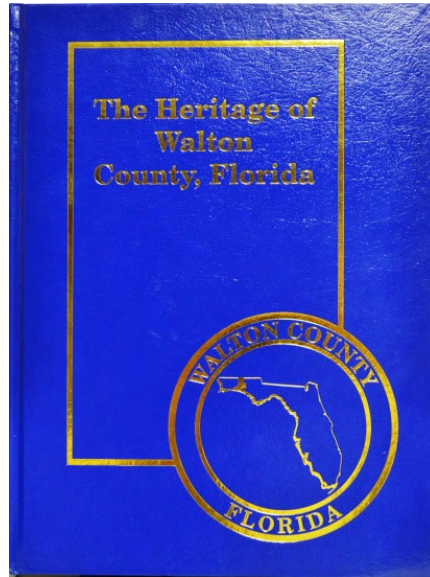
Our most popular books



History of Walton County

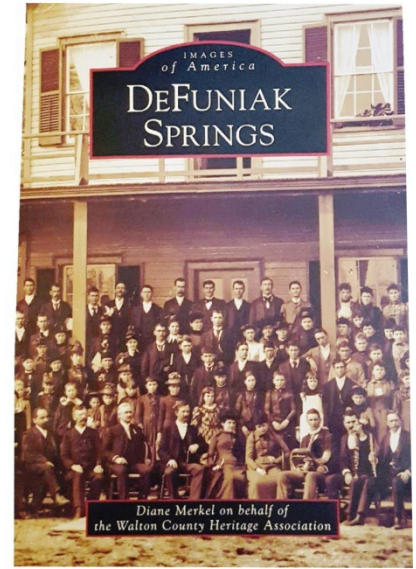
by John L. McKinnon. The Museum has sold out of this book and it is out of print, but it is available at these links;

<https://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/georgiabooks/pdfs/gb0503.pdf>, and <https://www.alibris.com/booksearch?mtype=B&keyword=history+of+walton+county&hs.x=0&hs.y=0>



The Heritage of Walton County, Florida. Item code B13.

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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.

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- 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.
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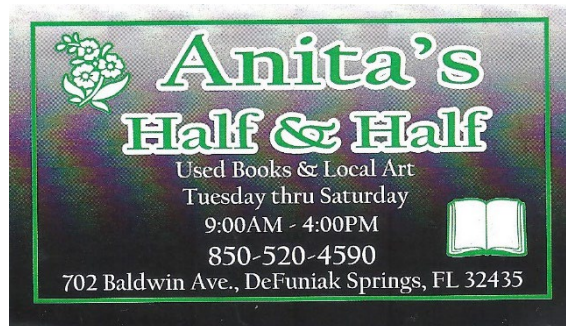
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In the past the city has generously supported us with cash donations of \$2,000.00 annually, but due to changing budget priorities, was unable to do so in 2022. We wish to recognize the city's generosity however, for its in-kind donation of the RR 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

Or, the *HISTORY OF WALTON COUNTY*, as the junior McKinnon titled his book with which many Walton Countians are familiar, is more a fanciful memoir than a formal history of the county.

Though he meant well in writing it, he placed greater reliance on his recollections and hear-say than on documented sources. That resulted in his history containing many instances of misinformation rather than historical accuracy.

The purpose of this article is to alert readers of the book to that fact and caution them against assuming everything it says is true, because in many instances, it is not.

The first example of this occurs on page 9 of the book regarding the date the Legislative Council of the Territory of Florida established the county.

According to McKinnon, the territorial government gave birth to the county on “November 28, A. D. 1828.” The actual date of its establishment however, occurred on December 29, 1824.¹

¹ An Act to establish new counties and to define the boundaries of the counties of the Territory, 29 December 1824, *Acts of the Legislative Council of the Territory of Florida, Passed at Their Third Session, 1824*, (Tallahassee, 1825, Printed at the Office of the Florida Intelligencer), pp. 260-262.

His second inaccuracy appeared on the same page when he alluded to the panhandle of Florida as being the “foot-hills of the Blue Ridge.” Presumably, he referred to the Blue Ridge Mountains, which extend no further south than North Georgia.²

Still another undocumented claim are references to the title of John L. McKinnon Sr. as a colonel and that he “stood for the military and civil trend,” in the county in its early years (page 12).

That claim mystifies this writer and other researchers who have searched in vain for documentation that the senior McKinnon ever held a higher rank than private in any military organization. This question will be examined more closely later in this article.

In writing of the Neil McLendon party of settlers departing North Carolina for Florida in 1820 (page 13), whom he credits as Walton County’s first white settlers, author McKinnon indicates the path they took through those states they passed enroute to their destination had been opened up by removal through treaty of the “unfriendly Creek Indians westward.”

Again, he had his history wrong. The U. S. government did not pass the Indian Removal Act until 1830, some 10 years after the pioneers allegedly trekked to their future home in the Florida panhandle.³

² Blue Ridge Mountains, Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue_Ridge_Mountains.

³ Immigration History, Indian Removal Act (1830), <https://immigrationhistory.org/item/1830-indian-removal-act/#:~:text=1830%20%2D%201833,west%20of%20the%20Mississippi%20River>.

The ‘unfriendly Creeks,’ as McKinnon called them, had been removed because General Andrew Jackson and his army defeated them 6 years earlier at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend in 1814. Jackson’s army killed 800 of the 1,000 Creek warriors defending their fortified encampment in that historic bend of the Tallapoosa River, nearly exterminating them as a danger to whites.⁴

The Treaty of Fort Jackson imposed on the Indians after their defeat ceded much of their land in Alabama to the U. S. government, which opened up the Federal Road through the area.⁵

Although serving secondarily as a postal road, the facilitation of military movement to points south in response to British hostilities along the Gulf Coast became the focal point of its use.

But as it turned out, the road played no role in the final show down with the British when General Jackson defeated them at the Battle of New Orleans on January 8, 1815.⁶

He had already gone to Florida in pursuit of renegade Creeks in the panhandle and Pensacola in the fall of 1814 when he received word of the impending British assault on New Orleans. Disquieted by the urgency of the news, he

⁴ Battle of Horseshoe Bend, Encyclopedia of Alabama, <http://encyclopediaofalabama.org>, etc.

⁵ Treaty of Fort Jackson, Encyclopedia of Alabama, <http://encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-1044#:~:text=Treaty%20of%20Fort%20Jackson%20The,the%20Battle%20of%20New%20Orleans>

⁶ Battle of New Orleans, Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_New_Orleans

expeditiously marched his army there from Pensacola without benefit of the road.

Following their humiliating defeat at the hands of Jackson's rag tag forces, the Brits finally gave up on the idea of recolonizing the Americans and decided they had best let them be.

With the British threat eliminated, the Federal Road found a new purpose. It became the main artery through which settlers by the tens of thousands found their way to Alabama, Mississippi and the Territory of Florida.⁷

Mostly farmers whose land in the Carolinas and Georgia had been depleted of nutrients by generations of cultivation without the benefit of fertilizer, they came south to avail themselves of the plentiful, cheap acreage still with sufficiently rich soil to grow decent crops.

In all likelihood, the McLendon party found themselves among the many settlers who took the Federal Road south and it was the path referred to by McKinnon.

Although McKinnon credits Euchee Valley where McLendon settled as the earliest settlement in the county, that claim is not a documented fact.

In December 1821, the inhabitants of West Florida sent a memorial to the United States congress requesting the annexation of West Florida to the state of Alabama.

At that time, West Florida encompassed the area in the panhandle stretching from the Apalachicola River to

⁷ Federal Road in Alabama, Encyclopedia of Alabama, <http://encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-2999>

Pensacola. The list of individuals supporting the memorial included H. G. Ramsay and David Evans, early residents of Alaqua in what later became Walton County.

The names on the list included a John K. MacLennan, not found in the McKinnon book, but neither Neil McLennan (McLendon as McKinnon spelled it), supposedly the first settler in Walton County, nor any members of the John L. McKinnon family.

In 1827, John Lee Williams of Pensacola, wrote a book titled *A View of West Florida*, in which he lists the earliest settlements in the county. He includes Euchee Valley among them, but also mentions Alaqua, Yellow Water Settlement (also known as Almarante), the Shoal River settlement and the McDavid's Pond settlement south of today's Lake Jackson in the north of the county adjacent to the Alabama state line.

William's book contains extensive data on geography, plants and animals he observed in his travels through the panhandle counties that existed at the time. Collecting the information required several years of work before the book could even be written.

He makes no mention of the year he made his observations in Walton County but it could have been several years prior to writing the book, which suggests the settlements he listed were already well established at the time.

Until and if it can be proven of record, it is premature to state which of those early settlements holds the distinction of being the first, contrary to what the McKinnon book alleges.

On page 245 of his book, McKinnon junior writes, “Let it be remembered that Col. John L. McKinnon was the first Justice of the Peace and the only one for years in Walton, . . .”

In fact, Governor William P. Duval rejected McKinnon Sr’s. first appointment as justice of the peace in 1829 in favor of someone else. He finally received his first appointment to the position in 1834, of which, not one as McKinnon Jr. writes, but five J. P.s served in the county at the time.

McKinnon writes glowingly of the good relations between the Euchee Indians and the first white settlers as if no trouble existed between them. The laws of the Territory however, painted a different picture.

On 15 January, 1827, the Legislative Council of the Territory of Florida passed; “An Act to prevent Indians from roaming at large through the Territory:”

Be it enacted by the Governor and Legislative Council of the Territory of Florida, That from and after the passage of this act, if any male Indian of the years of discretion, venture to roam or ramble beyond the boundary lines of the reservations which have been assigned to the tribe or nation to which said Indian belongs it shall and may be lawful for any person or persons to apprehend seize and take said Indian, and carry him before some justice of the peace, who is hereby authorized, empowered and required to direct (if said Indian have not a written permission from the agent to do some specific act) [the whipping of] not exceeding thirty nine stripes, at the discretion of the

justice, on the bare back of said Indian; moreover to cause the gun of said Indian (if he has one) to be taken from him, and deposited with the Colonel of the county or Captain of the district in which said Indian may be taken, subject to the order of the superintendent of Indian affairs.

And be it further enacted, That no general license, to roam or remain out of said limits for the purpose of hunting, shall be received by said justice as an excuse for any Indian, when found without his assigned limits.

No reservation had been officially established in Walton County when this law went into effect, so to what extent it impacted the relations between the Euchees and whites in the county is unknown.

Presumably, the Euchees were made aware of the law, which understandably, they would view as less than welcoming news.

That, compounded with the passage by the U. S. Government of the Indian Removal Act of 1830 no doubt made the Euchees feel increasing unwelcome among the whites in the county, leading them to believe they should start looking for happier hunting grounds elsewhere.

Motivated by that desire, McKinnon writes that they indeed sent a party in search of a new home, after which they departed the county never to be seen or heard of again.

He tells the story on pages 72-98 of his book. He makes no mention of any laws as the reason the Euchees left, but that they had become increasing unhappy with the

careless and wasteful destruction of the forests and wildlife and encroachment on their hunting grounds by a low class of whites who had moved into the area.

Neil McLendon, who sympathized with the Indians, decided to leave for the same reason. But while the Indians went to the east and south, McLendon headed west to Texas where he spent the rest of his days.

According to McKinnon, McLendon departed in November 1833, "after the Euchees left in November before," indicating the year of their departure as 1832 (page 98).

The previously mentioned Indian Removal Act of 1830 set off a series of events involving conflict between the Creeks and white settlers in neighboring Alabama that brought violence to Walton County residents in 1837, five years after the Euchees left.

It occurred, according to McKinnon, when a party of 5 men hunting cows on a branch of Shoal River, were attacked by hostile renegade Creeks. Three of the men died in the affray, but the other two hid out and survived (pages 109-117).

McKinnon gave the year as the fall of 1835. Two other sources however, differ in the details as told by McKinnon. Those sources give the year as 1837, which is consistent with the documented history of the event.

Brian Rucker gives the precise date as April 23 and writes further, that the number of whites in the party were seven, five of which died while two escaped. Regarding his

sources, Rucker states only that it was “according to available information,” and offers nothing more in elaboration.⁸

The second source is an unsigned letter from Uchee Valley, dated May 1, 1837, printed in the Pensacola Gazette of May 13. The letter does not give the precise date of the attack, but confirms the year as 1837, instead of 1835 as written by McKinnon. It also gives the number of fatalities as three, in agreement with McKinnon and contradicting Rucker.⁹

An additional comment in the letter regarding John L. McKinnon Sr., cast him in a rather embarrassing light. In recounting the outcome of a skirmish the settlers had on engaging the Creeks who murdered the cow hunters, it stated that McKinnon, who fought in the skirmish, took home with him a squaw they captured.

She later escaped and in the words of the letter; “She is able to give the Indians much information concerning the situation of our settlement, she having passed directly through it, will be to the Indians an efficient guide.”

That blunder by the senior McKinnon got him in trouble with his brother, Lochlin, captain in command of the militia in which McKinnon Sr. served, not as a colonel but a private.¹⁰

⁸ Rucker, Brian R, *West Florida's Creek Indian Crisis of 1837* (The Florida Historical Quarterly, Vol. 69, No. 3 (Jan., 1991), pp. 315-334; <https://www.jstor.org/stable/30147524>

⁹ Euchee valley Letter, May 1, 1837, Transcripts of Pensacola Gazette, Articles, May 13, 1837 (Ref. April 2019 NL)

¹⁰ McKinnon, John L., Private, Muster Rolls of the Florida Indian wars, Volume 7, p. 20 (attached)

To prevent him from doing anything else foolish that might put the community in danger of attack, the captain on May 12th had McKinnon Sr. appointed quartermaster in LaGrange to manage the 20 thousand troop rations and camp equipage ordered there by Governor Call in support of militia operations. Presumably, he remained there for the duration of the conflict.

His location in LaGrange would seem to contradict the claim in the McKinnon book that, as a colonel, he commanded the militia during a battle with the Indians at Black Creek, aka the Battle of Cow Pens which took place on May 21, as described below.

The Pensacola Gazette dated May 27, 1837, published an unsigned letter, dated May 21, stating that Captain Lauchlin McKinnon commanded the militia at Black Creek, and tells of the wounding of Enos Evans, the most severe militia casualty reported in the engagement.

Author McKinnon writes that not only did Colonel John L. McKinnon command the militia at Black Creek, but it was who bore the wounded Enos Evans out of the swamp on his shoulder (page 118-119).

Unless private McKinnon disobeyed orders and left his post of duty at the supply depot in LaGrange to join that fight, he could not have been present at Black Creek to rescue Evans. In all probability, Captain Lochlin McKinnon, whose presence at the battle is confirmed by the foregoing letter, should have been recognized as the person performing that heroic act.

Author McKinnon's coverage of the "Creek War in Walton," as he called it, filled pages 118-123 in his history.

In those pages, he seemed to attach the greatest importance among events of the war to the alleged heroics of his father, “Colonel” John L. McKinnon, Sr., which this article has exposed as grossly inaccurate misinformation.

Misinformation can also be construed as the omission of important facts. The documented history of the Walton County Indian war included the massacre of a dozen Indian prisoners by the militia as revealed in a LaGrange letter dated May 23rd and reported in the Pensacola Gazette on May 27 as follows:

Col. Brown had an affair with the Indians this morning on Alaqua Creek about 5 miles from this place in which 12 Indians were killed and ten taken prisoners. The whites received no injury. We have further information on the subject. It is reported that the Indians killed all, or nearly all, were prisoners. That there was but one man among the slain – the rest were women and children. We would fain hope that this is not true.

Colonel Leven Brown of Jackson County, whom Florida Governor Richard K. Call put in charge of the militia during the war, not “Colonel” John L. McKinnon as reported in author McKinnon’s history, wrote a letter to the Governor dated May 24th, in which he reported the killing of the prisoners, and offered no excuses or apologies for it. The Pensacola Gazette printed the letter in its edition of July 8, 1837.

U. S. Marine Lt. John G. Reynolds, dispatched by the military to find the Indians and persuade them to submit

peacefully to removal, went to the place of the massacre and apparently found the corpses of the slain prisoners lying where they fell.

He reported in a letter published by the Pensacola Gazette on June 10, 1837, that some of them were scalped, and others had their ears slashed with knives in robbing them of the silver earrings they wore. He concluded with the observation that for them “to be murdered in cold blood in the manner the scene indicates is worse than my imagination could conceive.”

The editor of the Pensacola Gazette joined Lt. Reynolds in condemning the killings, but the Governor, nor anyone else in a position of authority, apparently viewed the killing and mutilation of the defenseless women and children by the militia as barbaric or outrageous enough to warrant an investigation, because none ever took place.

It is the duty of responsible historians to include all happenings of significance they know about, whether good or bad, when undertaking the honest recording of factual historical events.

The heinous act by the militia was no less historically significant to author McKinnon’s history than the supposed exploits of his father, yet he wrote not a word about the horrid affair that tainted the reputations of the otherwise honorable men who served in the militia.

In view of his prodigious grasp of Walton County history, it is difficult to accept the idea that he had no knowledge of so despicable an event that even if attempts were made to cover it up, would at least have brought widespread rumors.

Possibly, he knew of it, but chose not to perpetuate its memory and for that reason, left it out of his book. If guilty of intentionally omitting it, he revealed himself as less than a responsible historian more interested in whitewashing history than faithfully recording it.

The foregoing are only a few examples of the inaccuracies and omissions Walton County Historian Bruce Cosson and others have found in the McKinnon book in an effort to document the county's true and factual history. With that goal in mind, this newsletter will cover and attempt to correct those inaccurate representations of the county's past as we become aware of them going forward.

Lauchlin L. M^cKINNON, Capt, 10/10

Daniel A M^cIVER, 2nd Lt., 8/8
 Angus C. DOUGLAS, 1st Sgt., 8/8
 Alexander M^cLEOD, 2nd Sgt., 10/10
 John MORRISON, 4th Sgt., 25/25
 Malcolm M^cLEAN, 2nd Corp.,
 on foot, 7/7
 Hugh M^cDONALD, 4th Corp., 8/8

Duncan, HENDERSON, 1st Lt. 0/0

James M^cLEAN, 3rd Lt., to be paid as:
 1st Sgt., 0/0

Daniel K. M^cDONALD, 3rd Sgt., 8/8
 Henry G. RAMSAY, 1st Corp., Joined 5
 May, 20/20
 Lauchlin D. M^cLEAN, 3rd Corp., 0/0

PRIVATES

ANDERSON, Norman C., 5/5
 ANDERSON, Daniel, joined 12 May
 10/10
 BUCHAN, James, joined 12 May,
 on foot, dead, 3/3
 BAKER, James E., joined 5 May,
 on foot, dead, 20/20
 CAMPBELL, Angus, 2/10
 CRAWFORD, Angus M.A., joined
 18 May, 4/4
 EVANS, Enos, 20/20
 EVANS, Jesse, 20/20
 GILLIS, John, 8/8
 GALLAWAY, Noah, 12/8
 GILLIS, Angus, 15/15
 HARRELSON, John, 20/20
 HARRELSON, Eli, 20/20
 JONES, Charles, on foot, 20/20
 M^cDONALD, John K., 8/8
 M^cLEAN, Norman, 7/7
 M^cGILVRAV, Alexander, 7/7
 M^cLEOD, Angus, 10/10
 M^cDONALD, Daniel M., 3/3
 M^cLEAN, Daniel M., 3/3
 M^cLEAN, Daniel G., appointed
 commissary of post at
 Euchuanna on 12 May, 0/0
 M^cDONALD, Peter C., 9/9
 M^cPHERSON, Neill, 9/9
 M^cCALLUM, Duncan, 22/22
 MALLETT, James, 20/20
 MOORE, William, 20/20
 M^cKINZIE, John, 25/25
 M^cQUAGGE, Norman, 14/14
 RAY, Daniel, 8/8
 RAY, John P., 8/8
 ROBISON, Robert, 15/15

ANDERSON, Alexander C., 5/5
 ANDERSON, Angus Sr., joined 23 May
 35/35
 BOWERS, Giles, joined 12 May, 35/35
 BOWERS, James, joined 12 May, 20/20
 CAMPBELL, John, 8/8
 CAMPBELL, Alexander, 10/10
 CARTER, Samuel, joined 18 May, 26/26
 CASWELL, Sylvanus, 35/35
 DOUGLASS, Alexander C. 8/8
 EVANS, James, 20/20
 GUNN, William G., 8/8
 GILLIS, Daniel, on foot, 8/8
 GODLEY, Caleb, 20/20
 GILLIS, Swain, joined 20 June,
 dismissed 12 July, 15/15
 HARRELSON, Jonathon, 20/20
 M^cKINNON, John L., was appointed
 quartermaster at LaGrange on
 12 May, 4/4
 M^cLEAN, Hugh, 15/15
 M^cCALLUM, William W., 4/4
 M^cLEAN, Daniel D., 0/0
 M^cLEAN, William, 2/2
 M^cDONALD, Angus, 2/2
 HUNROE, Alexander, 3/3
 M^cCASKILL, Kenneth, 9/9
 M^cLEOD, Daniel, 0/0
 M^cLEAN, Alexander G., 0/0
 M^cCALLUM, William C., served 4 days
 a pilote (?) 22/22
 MORRISON, Allen, 15/15
 M^cQUAGGE, Samuel, 14/14
 PURCELL, Dugald, 8/8
 RAY, Gilbert, 8/8
 RAY, John J., 8/8
 ABEL, P., on foot, 35/35