



WALTON

RELATIONS & HISTORY

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Walton County Heritage Association

June 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

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

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Back Issues: <http://www.waltoncountyheritage.org/GenSoc/newsletters.htm>

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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 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.]

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.

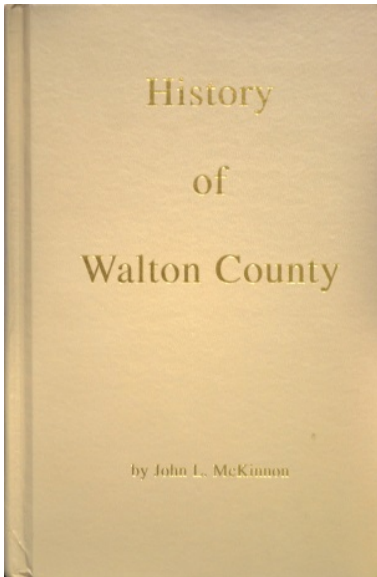
Member Benefits:

- 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.

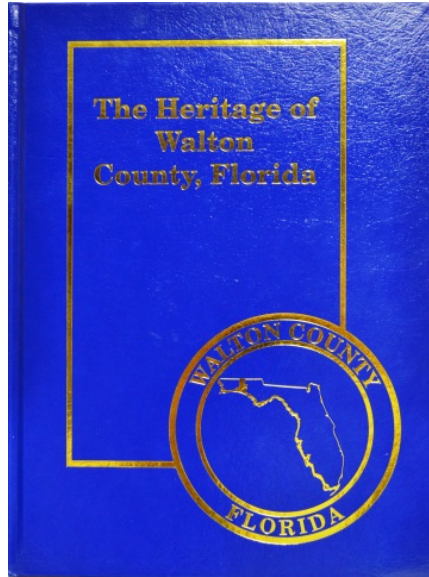
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From the Museum Gift Shop

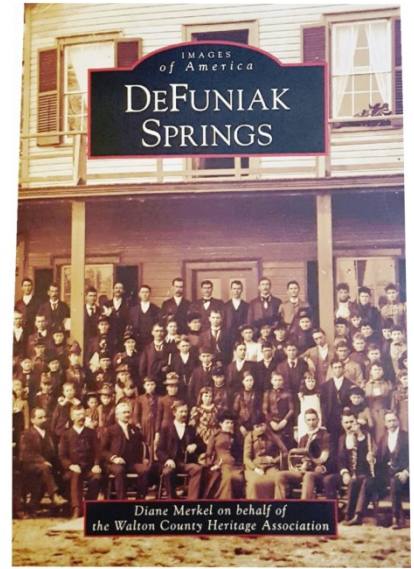
Our most popular books



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

Walton County Heritage Association
1140 Circle Drive
DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435

Customer Name: _____
Address: _____
Ph./Email: _____

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.

Total _____

Sorry, credit cards not accepted. Please send check or money orders only. Do not mail cash. Please allow two weeks for delivery.



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1140 Circle Drive, DeFuniak Springs, Florida, 32435, Ph. 850-401-2060

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

Email: HeritageMuseum@brighthouse.com

ANNUAL DONOR/MEMBER APPLICATION 2022

Name:

Individual/Family _____

Sponsor/Business/Company _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Donor/Member Category:

Individual \$25.00, Family \$40.00, Silver Sponsor \$500.00, Gold Sponsor \$1,000.00, Platinum Sponsor \$2,000.00, Additional Gift/Donation \$ _____ *

*Gift earmarked for: _____ Total Enclosed \$ _____

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 donor 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, please contact us.

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)

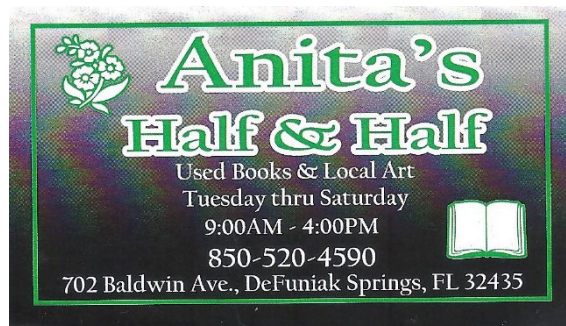
DFS Landmarks, Inc. (\$100.00)

Merrifield & Pilcher Realty (\$100.00)

SILVER SPONSORS (\$500 to \$999.00)

(None at present time)

GOLD SPONSORS (\$1,000 to \$1,999)



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.

DISPUTED ELECTIONS

Nothing New in Walton County

By
Sam Carnley and Bruce Cosson

The concept of a disputed election may have been unfamiliar to many of us until the presidential election of November 2000 between George Bush and Al Gore. On the evening of November 7 of that year, the main stream media announced Al Gore as the winner. They soon learned however they had been premature in making that announcement on realizing the votes in several large Florida counties had not been finalized. When the final count came in, they had to retract their announcement because it then appeared Bush had won. But Bush's narrow margin led Gore to demand a recount. The controversy that followed brought first the Florida Supreme Court and then the U. S. Supreme Court into the fray. The dispute ended with Bush beating Gore by a slim 537 vote margin which threw the electoral college vote to Bush giving him the victory.¹

A similar dispute occurred 165 years earlier when, in the election of October 1835, although on a microscopic scale relative the 2000 election, Henry G. Ramsay beat John L. McKinnon as Walton County's representative on the Territorial Legislative Council. At the opening of the Council's fourteenth session on 4 January 1836 in Tallahassee, it recognized Ramsay as member elect to the Walton County seat.² McKinnon however, who previously held the position, refused to recognize Ramsay as the legitimate winner.

Determined not to concede defeat to Ramsay, McKinnon filed a petition with the legislative council contesting his seat. On Wednesday, January 6, Representative Thomas M. Blount, of Escambia County, presented the petition to the council with referral to a select committee following. Appointed to the committee were Blount himself, along with Representatives Morton, Hawkins, Wood and Johnson.³

On Thursday, January 7, Mr. Blount as chairman of the select committee, filed the committee's report on McKinnon's petition as follows:

The Select Committee, to whom was referred the petition of John L. McKinnon, contesting right of H. G. Ramsay to retain his seat in the Legislative Council, together with the accompanying documents, beg leave to Report –

That they have investigated the matter with all the diligence and attention which the importance of the subject demands. It appears, that at the election held in the county of Walton, on the second Monday of October last past, for a Member to the Legislative Council – 128 votes were taken, of which, Henry G. Ramsay received 65, and John L. McKinnon 62 votes.

¹ 2000 United States presidential election, Wikipedia,

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2000_United_States_presidential_election#:~:text=The%202000%20United%20States%20presidential,incumbent%20Vice%20President%20Al%20Gore.

² Journal of the Proceedings of the Legislative Council of the Territory of Florida, 4 January, 1836,

https://books.googleusercontent.com/books/content?req=AKW5QafablgknjrS69AkS79J_cv_2yrhU7msdou4EVNrrcTuoGagvXmZt51rQKaGAjsS_T1MhxIo_gVXP8ZKjxF6dWbcOAOk5jLRdij5hasGdA6PQgnvyjh8Eb0d0bg3ABKK2aqO7Z59UiYiyUgv6ZcjQjyEyhDEogI3axRG46u4344cBIzg6SZbxtJEEu7OmMKPxT9eLu-c9P3NTjJ-92jn8V9b4HbyQYOTpTk2rpPP17t6tKWRPvCjDCEjPWnkrHMEXbVoU6gGF1O3d65FJEG-eopT6BzCGnFbuQ2835Q5nm_wgRfKo, accessed by Sam Carnley, 6/18/2022.

³ Ibid, p. 15

Mr. McKinnon in his petition, assumes two positions, why the election of Mr. Ramsay should be declared void;

1st. That he (Ramsay) has received and had counted for him, illegal votes, by reason of which, illegal votes, he has been declared elected.

2nd. That the requisitions of law regulating elections, have not been complied with, in as much as the Poll book of the Pea river precinct, in said County, was not filed in the office of the Clerk of the county of Walton.

As to the first point, it is alledged by Mr. McKinnon, that William Charles and Dempsey Fennel, were illegal voters, because the said Charles voted under an assumed name, and acknowledged that he was a seaman in the service of the Navy of the United States, and that said Fennel was a minor. From the depositions and proofs adduced before them, the committee are of the opinion that the votes of said Charles and Fennel were given for Mr. Ramsay – in that they were illegal, for the causes alledged, and that he ought not to be entitled to any benefits from said votes, and that they should be considered as null.

It is further urged by Mr. McKinnon, that the votes of A. P. Vaughan, John Porter, and John Anderson, should also be considered illegal, on the ground, that they are not residents of the Territory. The Committee are of an opinion, that the proofs adduced before them, is not of that character which can justify them in declaring the said votes be illegal. The Committee must shrink with diffidence from a decision, or even a declaration of an opinion, on a question, involving as it does, the boundary line between Alabama and this Territory; a line extremely uncertain in its location, and must necessarily continue so at least until is left to some other arbitrament, than the mere opinion of individuals, which if clothed with official garb or authority, might have the requisite weight with this committee.

It has, however, been made to appear satisfactorily to the committee, that the last named individuals, serve as jurors, pay taxes, and are subject equally with other citizens of this Territory, to all the burthen of its government, and it would seem peculiarly hard, that while they subscribe their quota of expenses for its support, they should be deprived of participation in its benefits. -- It, moreover appears that at the last March term of the County Court of Walton, the Jury lists were examined in that Term of the Court, Mr. McKinnon was one of the justices of the peace present, and that those individuals were at that time on the list of persons subject to jury duty within the county of Walton, and that they were considered citizens of the Territory.

As to the second position assumed by Mr. McKinnon, the committee are of opinion, that although the law in relation to Election returns has not been strictly complied with, yet the neglect or omission of the inspectors to perform all the requisites of the law, cannot, upon any principle of sound policy affect the rights of Mr. Ramsay. If the principle be established, that unless the inspectors of an Election precinct perform all the prerequisites of law, regulating Election returns, the Election at such precinct should be null and void, the door would be at once opened to fraud and corruption of the most revolting character – It would at once place the whole elective franchise in the hands of three individuals. The Committee believe that there is scarcely an Election held in the Territory, where all the prerequisites of the law regulating Elections, are complied with. The laws regulating Elections, are directory in their nature, and if strict compliance with all their provisions was exacted, many Elections, from a variety of causes, would be nugatory. The inspectors have not at all times the laws before them, or within their reach, and owing to the sparse population in certain sections of our Territory, selections of inspectors cannot always be

made with that nice and requisite care, as to intelligence, qualifications and competence, to discharge their duties; and it would seem contrary to all notions of equity or right, to debar a representative of the people his seat for any cause to which he had no agency, or for want of a literal compliance with the laws regulating the mode of making Election returns.

The laws regulating Elections, have always been construed in every portion of our widely extended country with extreme liberality and legal technicalities have always been disregarded. An enlightened and liberal policy requires that it should be so, and so long as the sense of the people is clearly known, and its voice heard, the object and end of the elective franchise is answered.

The Committee had also referred to them, sundry documents and depositions in behalf of Mr. Ramsay; among them, is the deposition of Mr. Thomas Albin, who declares that he is a foreigner, and has resided two years only in the country, and that at the last election, he voted for Mr. McKinnon; therefore, by deducting the votes of William Charles and Dempsey Fennel from the poll of Mr. Ramsay, and the vote of Thomas Albin from that of Mr. McKinnon, Mr. Ramsay still has a one vote majority. The Committee have unanimously come to the conclusion, after the most mature reflection, that Mr. H. G. Ramsay is the legally elected Representative from the county of Walton for the present Session of the Legislative Council, and request that they may be discharged from further consideration of the subject.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Tho. M. Blount,
Jackson Morton,
Isham Johnson,
G. S. Hawkins,
E. J. Wood.⁴

The views expressed in the second paragraph above on “The laws regulating Elections. . .” are eye-opening in light of present-day political stances. Furthermore, McKinnon’s willingness to overlook the vote of a non-citizen for himself while condemning similar votes for Ramsay reveal, that as with disputed elections, double standards are nothing new.

Unless one of the members of the select committee held a law degree, it is difficult to even imagine an average citizen could have drafted the committee report, especially overnight, as it appears to have been done. What seems more likely is that a Legislative Council legal representative either directed the writing of the draft or wrote it on behalf of the committee.

The documents referred to as supporting the findings of the report are available on the Florida Memory website, all thirteen of them and can be downloaded. But be prepared to decipher difficult-to-read hand-written cursive script. It is for that reason that transcripts of them were not prepared for this article. See

<http://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/347635>

⁴ Ibid, pp. 16-18