



WALTON

RELATIONS & HISTORY

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Walton County Heritage Association

February 2023



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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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 2023. Donor logos are also shown on the attached Donor page in the monthly newsletter.

Annual Member/Sponsor Application 2023; See attached.

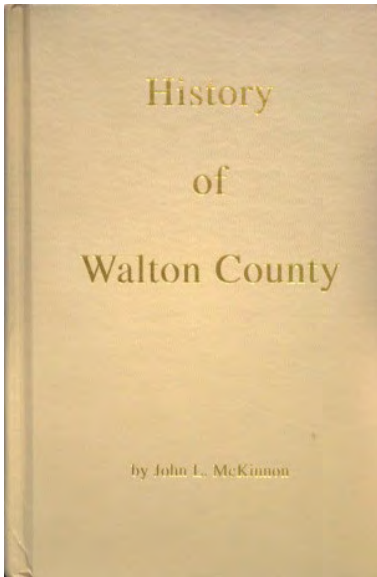
Member Benefits:

- 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

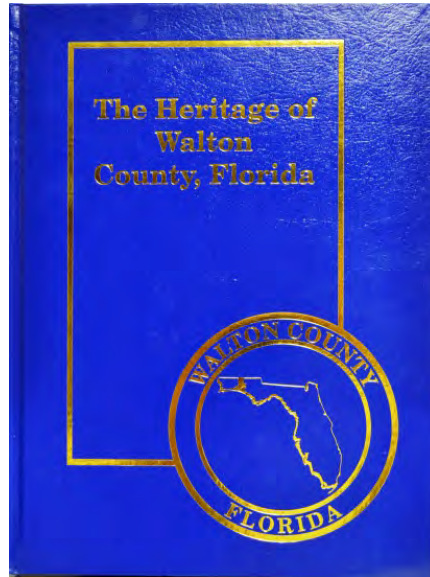
Our most popular books



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 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>



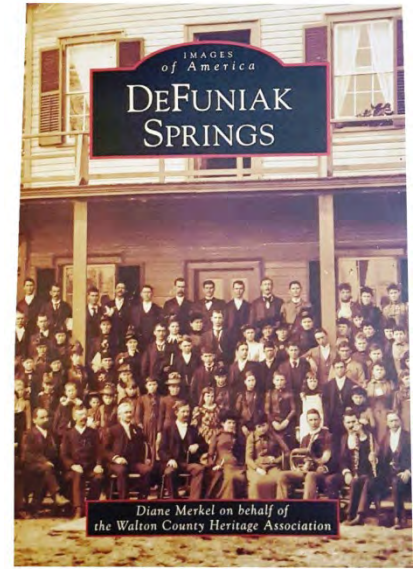
The Heritage of Walton County, Florida. Item code **B13.**

Price: (Reduced) \$40.00

Tax: 2.80

Shipping: 8.00

Total by mail **\$50.80**



Images of America, DeFuniak Springs. Item code **B06.**

By Diane Merkel. Price, including tax,

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1140 Circle Drive
DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435

Customer Name: _____

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Qty	Description	Item Code	Price Each*	Amount
	The Heritage of Walton County, Florida	B13	50.80	
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Sorry, credit cards not accepted. Please send check or money orders only. Do not mail cash. Please allow two weeks for delivery.



Walton County Heritage Association, Inc.

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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 (any amount in excess of that number) 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, or donation, please contact us.

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OUR SPONSORS for 2023

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

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Rose Rogers, in memory of Doug Rogers (\$200.00)
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(None at present time)

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 2023. 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.

THE PINE LOG POET

By
Sam Carnley

Pine log was the name of a place probably unfamiliar to most people in Walton County. I know about the area because it is where I grew up and knew the place and its people well. It is now known as Children's Home Community, the name which replaced the older Pine Log as it fell out of favor and faded from memory.

Pine Log seems to have originated from a little country school named after the creek it sat near in the north-west part of the county. Reverend George M. Carnley, my paternal great grandfather, established the school before 1900 and initially called it "Carnley's," as the Walton County School Board records show. The School Board appointed him supervisor of the school until he relocated from the immediate vicinity. After that, local residents renamed it Pine Log School and it continued operating until about 1915.

As I grew up there I had absolutely no interest in its history and cared nothing about it until I found myself advanced in age and began wondering about it enough to actually research it. I learned that the name "Children's Home School," first appeared in in 1907, also as documented by school board records. Over time, that became the community's name more commonly used than Pine Log and younger generations lost all knowledge of the former name.

The name has not completely disappeared from history though, thanks to the little newspaper in nearby Florala, Alabama, known as the Florala News. According to the paper, J. P. McNeil, a resident of Pine Log, began reporting on activities there about 1909 and the paper published them beginning on April 29 of that year. That is the earliest date of record I have found, although I have no way of knowing if any records from an earlier date could be missing.

It is probably close to the earliest date however, because J. P. McNeil moved into the area about 1904. Walton County deed records show he acquired forty acres from Stearns and Culver Lumber Company on June 24th of that year. The deed described the property as located in the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section 27. As the map appearing later in this article depicts, McNeil lived about a mile east of Pine Log Creek, close enough to make him an authority on goings on in the community.

As time passed, McNeil began calling himself the Pine Log Poet because that was the form in which he wrote his articles and the paper published them. But his writings were more than just whimsy. Many of them pointedly addressed issues of the day, and on occasion, reflected prejudices as well. His first two poems in this article are examples.

The first, "A Hymn," pokes fun at Billy Taft (President William Howard Taft, who succeeded Theodore Roosevelt as president in 1909). Taft supported the right of workers to unionize, but not strike. McNeil, who probably felt anything but love for unions, mocked him in his poem by joking about the farmers union meeting at Pine Log, about as likely a scenario as hell freezing over.

The line in the poem about the gold bug seems to refer to species of the Scarab Beetle which attack grain and garden crops on which country people heavy depended for survival. When he writes "the lightning bug can't thunder as much," he may have suggested that bug did not do as much damage as the gold bug. The "Tarpin Bugs," he mentions in the last two lines apparently refer to the Terrapin Bug, another insect which inflicted considerable damage to garden vegetables.

In his next article, titled "Pine Log News," (by the News Poet, J. P. McNeil), what we now call prejudice comes out, although not viewed as that at the time. Again, the thrust of this poem is cynicism directed at the then present and past presidents of the U. S. Soon after his term ended in 1909, former president Theodore (Teddy) Roosevelt embarked on the liner Hamburg enroute to Africa, safari bound.

The reader can draw his or her own conclusions about some of the language in the poem as I have drawn mine. My job is to present history as written, not so we can erase it, but learn from it so as not to repeat it. The references to Africans, guns and elephants, of course, relate to events and sights encountered on a safari. By birds that don't set, but hatch in the sand, he probably means ostriches, which according to those who profess to know, lay their eggs on bare ground to be incubated by the hot sun.

In the last two stanzas, he pokes fun at the U. S. congress and President Taft for authorizing the digging of the Panama Canal which began during his administration and finished in 1914. He concludes that no one can explain what consequences will arise by digging the canal, but what weighs most heavily on the minds of folks in Pine Log is the need for rain on their fields and gardens.

Most of McNeil's poems were published in his name, but a few were not. Some were published in the names of pen names, presumably of other writers, such as "The Dixie Traveler," and "A Piney Woods Hoosier." In his article, the "Hoosier," mentions a sermon preached at New Light Church by a "Rev. G. W. Cornley. The article was dated 17 June 1909. The Reverend was actually my great grandfather, George M. Carnley, who established the school that later became Pine Log.

Some of the articles were published as "Route 2 News," in reference to the local postal route from the Laurel Hill post office located in neighboring Okaloosa County, the closest one to Pine Log then, and remains so today.

Whether written by McNeil or others, the articles are replete with names of relatives and friends familiar to me from the time I lived there. The Busbees were a large family who lived literally on the banks of Pine Log Creek. My father's mother was Busbee. Dudley Chipley Cawthon, a son of the well-known W. J. D. (Uncle Bully) Cawthon, married one of the Busbee girls.

The Bruners were another familiar name. A member of that family is credited with naming Childrens Home. The Childrens Home School and church are mentioned a number of times. Their locations changed many times over the years and in some instances, those mentioned were not the ones I remember because they came and went before my time.

I attended first grade in the fall of 1948 at the last school standing in Childrens Home. In January 1949 when I turned six years old, I moved on to Paxton and remained through graduation in 1961. About a year after I left the Childrens Home school it was sold off and partially torn down. The part that remained eventually burned down one cold winter night, leaving it nothing but a memory of my early life.

In a *Floral News* article published July 1, 1937, McNeil wrote an article titled "Pine Log Creek Has Some Visitors This Week." It was part narrative and part poetry. The narrative told of his granddaughters, Bertha Garrett and Katherine Story, visiting from Chicago. The poem dealt with a new grist mill being built on Pine Log Creek.

He wrote a second article in poetry form about the visit of his granddaughters, which the paper published on 16 September 1937. Headed "Pine Log News, Dedicated to Pine Log's Summer Visitors," it began "Three pretty little girls," in reference to his two granddaughters and a third young lady who accompanied them on the visit.

Appearing in the paper the same day was a poem written by granddaughter, Bertha Mae Garrett, Chicago, Illinois. Titled "Dedicated to the Pine Log Poet," it paid tribute to her beloved grandfather and gave a detailed physical description of him so complete as to almost form an image of him in the mind of the reader. In a few short weeks, Bertha would find great consolation in having written that poem to him.

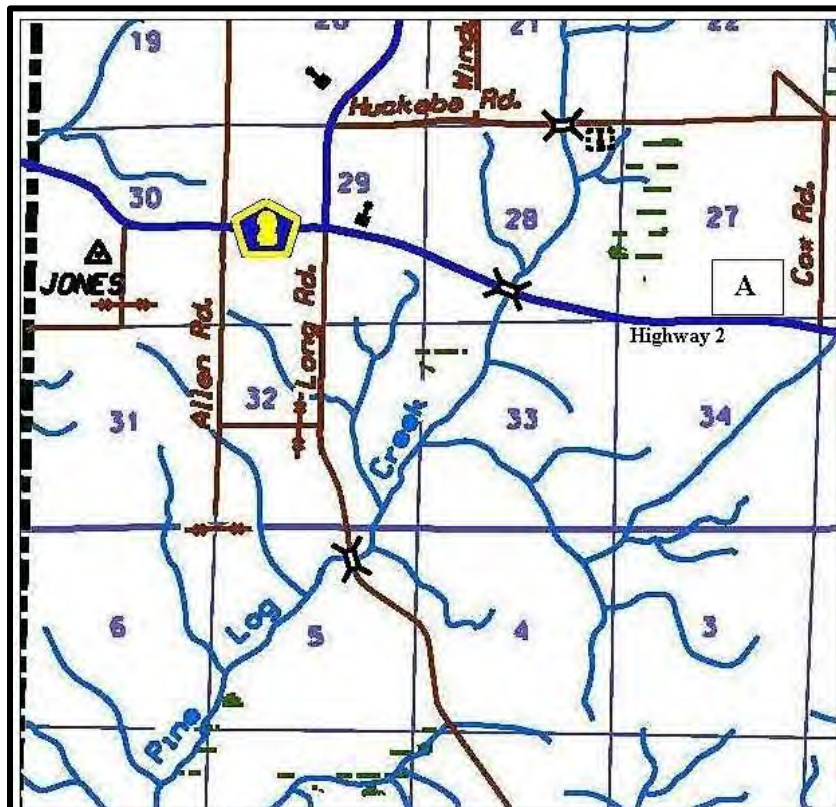
In the 14 October 1937 edition of the paper appeared the headline "John P. McNeill Dies Suddenly." So ended the life of the Pine Log Poet. He would write no more, but what he had written remained as his legacy, for which the descendants of all those people he wrote about owe him a debt of gratitude. If not for him and other writers like him, and the *Floral News*, there would be no history of Pine Log and Childrens Home.

The last in this collection of Florala News articles does not identify its author. Although it is dated prior to McNeil's death, it is not possible to tell if he wrote it. Titled "Childrens Home Notes," and subtitled "Delightful Club Meeting Enjoyed Tuesday," it tells of a meeting of the Pine Log Woman's Club, something else about Pine Log I had never heard of. I am thankful however, to whoever wrote it because it names many people I knew.

Included were Mrs. Frank (Grace) Dixon whom I knew quite well. We called her Sister Dixon and she attended Childrens Home Church along with my mother, my three sisters and myself. Also included were John, Albert and Percy Allen. I picked cotton for John a few times, one of which was the first and only time I picked a hundred pounds during my short cotton picking career.

Percy married Thelma Carnley, a cousin of mine and their oldest daughter, Carolyn and I were close friends. Percy drove the bus I rode during most of my time at Paxton High School. One of John's daughters and sister of Percy, Mae Hazel, married another cousin of mine. He was Lloyd Carnley, brother of Percy's wife, Thelma. Others mentioned who were familiar to me were Alonzo Weeks and John Hurst. Alonzo was a son of Harmon and Caledonia Carnley Weeks, a sister of my grandfather, John Carnley. John Hurst was a son of George Hurst, who raised a large family in Childrens Home.

The article also tells of several of the people at the meeting swimming in Pretty Pond. That is another place I knew well. It was a beautiful place and I enjoyed swimming there many times.



A: Approximate location of J. P. McNeil property in 1904 (SE ¼ of SE ¼, Section 27). Located about a mile east of Pine Log Creek bridge on State Highway 2. U. S. Highway 331 is about two and a half miles east of the property. Paxton is about six miles north and Florala, Alabama is about seven miles north. In 1904, none of the roads pictured on the map were paved or named. This is a modern Walton County Highway map created many decades after McNeil's time.

Sam Carnley, 2/26/2023

A Hymn.

Editor Florala News:

This hymn is to be sung at the next meeting of the Farmers Union at Pine Log:

Summer time has come at last
The sky is getting blue,
The catfish they are in the swim
And we will have a stew.

The bumblebee is in the air
We hear him as he flies,
The gopher he is on the burn
With tearful looking eyes.

The berries they will soon be ripe
We'll pick them by and by,
If flour don't get out of site
We'll make a little pie.

The gold bug gobbles up the wheat
And corners on the grain,
The lightning bug can't thunder much
But gets there all the same.

Oh 'Billie Taft I know you 'restrong
Come help us up the hill,
And put these little tarpin bugs
High on that tariff bill.

—J. P. McNeil.

Pine Log News.

(BY THE NEWS' POET, J. P. MCNEIL.)

Dear editor a word I will say
The Hanburg has carried our Teddy away
Where is he gone, Oh where can he be
The papers all say he's over the sea.

He's over the Jordan, he's safe in the land
Where birds don't set, but hatch in the sand,
The people out there, they don't mind the weather
For money and men play ball together.

The African features there's some that is fair
When fashions are scarce and not much to wear
But to see one wild, way out in the plain
No doubt would bewilder a cow-boy's brain.

Their picture is ugly as ugly can be
Their hair kinks up like a black-gum tree
When they hollow and sing they open their mouth.
Like these down here that vote in the South.

Now friends, out there, don't fool with a gun
Or the sights will get hot and melt in the sun,
When shooting at bear be careful with trigger
The ball might miss and kill up a nigger.

What is their faith and how do they do
Do they eat things row or make it in stew,
Do they ever jump up and hollow and shout
And kick up the dust like an elephant's snout?

Congress is working, it's members are well
And Bill with shovel is in the canal
With sleeves rolled high he gives us a whoop
And says, Oh boys, bear down on the scoop.

They are throwing up dirt and piling it high
And w'll work right on till oceans are dry,
What then will happen we cannot explain
But farmers will wonder, Oh why don't it rain.

The Florala News
29 Apr 1909, Thu · Page 1

The Florala News
06 May 1909, Thu · Page 1

Death of Paul Jones.

Paul Jones, Mr. Editor, was at one time a favorite brand of whisky down here on Pine Log. The following verses are dedicated to his sorrowing friends. Perhaps there are some of them now in Florida:

Paul Jones is dead; he struggle for breath—
With jury supreme they put him to death,
High up in state they dug him a grave
And wreathed the mound like one of the brave.

A word right here might not be amiss,
To those of his friends who gave him a kiss.

His talk was loud, it favored the troth
The young would listen as well as the youth.

He walked through streets, he rode on the ranch/
He lay on the floor and sat on the bench;

Deep bruises and scrrs were seen on his face
When the jury came in to render the case.

His passion was great his manner was might,
Just blow in his face and you'd have him to fight.

He'd tear up the flags that cover the free
And tackle the whales that swim in the sea.

The mother sat weeping, her int'rest was great
While the trial went on high up in the state.

The widow came next: "Your Honor," she said,
"I'll tell you of children that's crying for bread."

The judge lent over and smelt of his breath
And said to the jury: "he's worthy of death,

His life is so checkered with colors of blood,
He ought to have drowned in the time of the flood."

Laurel Hill, R. F D R No 2

Mr. Editor—I wish to give the readers of our famous paper a few dots of interest from this part of the wiregrass region, Pine Log. The health of this community is not as good as we would wish to report. The indisposed at this time are Mrs. Burlison, Mrs. Lassiter and Mrs. Harrison, also Mr. T. R. Bradly returned home from Paxton very sick.

This is the 9th of June and the farmers are delighted to see such fine prospects of a good crop. The corn is fine and the cotton is equally as good, pinders and velvet beans are growing off nicely. The people are smiling at the fine tomatoes, cucumbers, quashes beans, cabbage and peas which the gardens are affording at present.

All right Mr. Editor the farmers will have the cotton ready for the new cotton mill, just let her come.

Thos. Busbee has accepted a position with Stearns & Culver Lumber Co.

J. C. Braddy has accepted a position surveying for the Jackson Lumber Co.

Andrew Busbee is completing a new house and we believe he will marry if he can get some old maid to runaway with him.

Farmers are pushing at present to capture general green.

Well, well Uncle Sam is a powerful uncle for he has found us out and has granted a free mail route, Uncle Sam thinks a lot of his Florida nephews and nieces.

Logging is the order of the day at present in our community. The log camps will move to Alabama about July 1st.

Rev. G. W. Cornley peached an interesting sermon at New Light Church 1st Sunday at 11 a. m.

A Piney Woods Hoosier.

The Florida News

10 Jun 1909, Thu · Page 4

The Florida News

17 Jun 1909, Thu · Page 2

Route 2 News.

Rain! rain!

Our farmers are pretty well up with their work and when they see corn silks they are in good heart because they know that Mary will be ready to fry and boil a few.

Our fair sex are somewhat busy getting ready for the 24th.

Mr. W D Bruners little child is quite sick.

Mrs. Burlison is much improved at present.

T R Braddy is tarrying awhile with his brother, D D Braddy in Florala.

The sewing machines are rattling and the irons are heating. We suppose it is because the girls are expecting to catch a beau on the 24.

Jack Burlison and J S Braddy made a flying business trip to Florala Tuesday.

Mr. Editor you are eordially invited to come down little later to eat melons with the Pine Log citizens.

The little grand daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S L Braddy is spending some time with them.

W D Bruner went to town Tuesday on business.

Some of the log camps are moving this week to Ala.

While the farmer works his crop in a faithful way let Pine Log citizens work up our society with a faithful heart.

We notice that the pine gum is not flowing into the box very fast.

We wish two or three men like Mr. Tillis would come through our section of the country and put down a railroad as it is very much needed.

The Florala News

24 Jun 1909, Thu · Page 4

From Pine Log

Now Teddy, my friend, I will give you the news,
I will put it in prose or rhyme if you choose
The people seem well; I mean as to health,
But somewhat feeble when speaking of wealth.

The farmers are fighting by night and by day
Trying to run the panic away.
Our soldiers are brave, they know not defeat
With plow shares for weapons they'll never retreat.

That panic you know that came in the fall
Gave us a jar upside of the wall,
Physician was summoned, prescription was read—
Just cut out the meat and feed him on bread.

Our pulse are normal, slight fever on brain
We may soon need the doctor again
The medicine is low, it's down in the vile
I think we are better, we are able to smile.

The sun is streaming right down from the sky,
We are saving some berries for the Fourth of July
I don't know yet just what we will do
We may kill the rooster and fix him in stew.

A pity to kill him, the boss of the yard,
But times down here are getting so hard
We want to rehearse on the mind of the youth,
The men whose words were burning with truth.

Please send us some fruit to flavor the pie
We want to fix up for the Fourth of July,
Most anything in the way of desert
A mess of your fresh I don't think would hurt.

You had better pack up and hurry back home
They have cut up tariff clean down to the bone.
It can't hardly breathe, it's bleeding and sore
It won't be worth a cent any more.

J. P. M.

The Florala News

24 Jun 1909, Thu · Page 4

This is Teddy's Reply to the Pine Log Man.

With tears in eyes I read your letter
I hope by now that times are better,
It almost give us all the blues
To here such sad distressing news.

Am glad to know you are getting on fine
But think you cranky when writing in rhyme.
Just hitch up the mule and tell him to go
And try to beat panic to the end of the row.

If doctor should come to see you again
He better prescribe for water on brain,
Don't be like the man with beam in his eye,
But call up neighbors and slice up the pie.

The farmers they murmer we hear them complain
They call on the preacher to pray for a rain,
While others stand up and cuss up the weather,
And say they are ruined forever and ever.

John D. Rockey with a bag of gold
Can't please the people to save his soul,
He might give some as much as they could toat
And then they would hollow just like a billie goat.

You men in Dixie don't make such a dust
Just keep on diging and wear off the rust,
Raise you some grub, don't fool with the cotton,
And then the bad laws will not be so rotten.

You democrats hollow expansion in trade,
But when the time comes you crawl in the shade,
Consistency brother is always the best,
It will lighten the panic and give you a rest.

Your party is cankered, I need not explain,
You better save the rooster for the next campaign,
Just let him live on, don't mess him in stew,
And try to teach the youth the false from the true.

A word or too more, I will tell you good bye,
Now try to keep straight on the foruth of July,
You ought to be honest at work or at play,
And you'll feel better on election day.

J. P. Mc.

The Florala News

08 Jul 1909, Thu · Page 1

Congressional News From Pine Log

The good time is coming, it's
nearly in sight,
Republicans tell us the tariff is
right

The democrats say we'll never
agree
While stars and stripes hang
over the free.

The Populist rises from slumber
and dream
And says their party will soon
be supreme.

The prohibition feature is next
on the stage
And says a vigorous war we
will wage.

When will these parties that's
marching in sight
Lay down their creeds and vote
for the right.

If this ever happens down here
on the creek,
I will give you the mule and
write you in Greek.

Now Tariff reformers quit watch
ing the dome,
Your fodder is ripe, you had
better go home,
Fry to pull some and stack it
away
And have it on hand on a rainy
day.

There's no use in staying you
cannot agree,
For some of your party is over
the sea
They make big speeches and try
to delay
But always on hand when draw
ing their pay.

Now members of congress we
welcome you home
Your names are written high
upon the dome;
Don't injure your lungs, stop
blowing your horn
And try to pull fodder and
gather your corn.

Kind regards now, best wishes
to all,
I will write you again some
time in the fall.

J. P. M.

The Florala News

12 Aug 1909, Thu · Page 2

Route 2 News.

EDITOR NEWS:—

The farmers of Route 2 are pulling fodder but on account of so much rain can't save much.

J D Burlison reports some open cotton.

There is much noise in our community as the Stern & Culver log camps have moved near by.

We are sorry to report that our friend, John Meakes happened to a bad accident that of getting his hand mashed up.

S L Braddy is visiting his son, D D Braddy in Florala.

W A Busbee made a flying trip to Laurel Hill Saturday.

J D Burlison and Chipley Cawthon went to Florala Saturday on business.

The new mail route we find to be a great advantage especially when fodder is ripe.

T K Braddy is spending awhile with home folks.

Rev. Edenfield, pastor of Children's home church was present Saturday night at which the ordinances of the Lord's supper and the washing of feet was carried on. The pastor side tracked and Rev. Bruner spoke very forcibly, using for his text Matt. 3: I, 2. He emphasised some essential and beautiful facts about repentance, convincing, convicting and converting.

We have a flourishing school at Pine Log under the management of Mr. Moore.

Some of our hustling farmers are eating new corn bread. Is it early enough?

Owing to the cool nights and rainy days the mosquitoes are picnicing.

That's all.

The Dixie Traveler.

DOWN ON PINE LOG

The people down here are all in a stew,

A wondering and thinking what Congress will do.

They are working on tariff and shaving it down,

The Democrat's lobby and look with a frown.

There's tariff on Sugar and duty on rice,

And bacon's so high we don't know the price.

The crops now gathered and mortgage unpaid,

They say we are lazy. Get out of the shade.

Here's luck to you, Hoover, keep watch on the dome,

Don't let them lobby you out of a home.

When bums are crowding too thick at the gate,

Just give them a Maddax and let them dig bait.

Be careful when fishing, just bait your hook right,

And come down to Dixie where suckers will bite.

When troubles and treaties are crowding your desk,

Just come down to Walton and take you a rest.

Our wardrobe is empty. Our cubbard is bare,

But the Good Book tells us to never dispare.

We haven't much money, but rich in the clime,

And possom and tater makes it sublime.

The donkey is lagging, he ceases to bray,

He hasn't felt well since Election day.

Now nature has blessed me with blessings of since,

But all the green pastures are over the fence.

—J. P. McNEILL

The Florala News

19 Aug 1909, Thu · Page 2

The Florala News

05 Dec 1929, Thu · Page 1

REPLY TO PINE LOG POET

My clerks they are busy and
haven't got time,
To answer your letter, or reel
you a rhyme.

The farmers they murmur
We hear them complain,
When Weather is dry, they
pray for a rain.

Now down there in Dixie,
there's a mottled up crew,
When you pass them the hash,
they holler for stew.

My mind is delighted, to think
of your clime,
I read in the paper about the
moonshine.

If the old brinnet cow is failing
in milk,
Just wear cotton hose and cut
out the silk.

When plowing the donkey just
look straight ahead,
And pray to the Lord for bacon
and bread.

When fighting your battle,
don't falter and flee,
He helped old Moses cross over
the sea.

He will help you in trouble; he
will come to your aid,
If you will get the old donkey
just out of the shade.

When the donkey is wheasing
and ceasing to bray,
Perhaps it would help him to
give him some hay.

When floods are threatening
your houses to float,
Just take up your pencil and
write me a note.

You men down in Dixie just
try to keep cool,
I'll loan you some money or
send you a mule.

His years they are heavy; he's
lacking in speed,
Just give him good treatment
he will help you succeed.

I think of old Handy stretched
out on the bunk,
If he needs any Christmas, I'll
send him a hunk.

The Florala News

12 Dec 1929, Thu · Page 1

THE POET'S DREAM ON BANK OF PINE LOG CREEK

Dear Hurbert I'll write you,
The farmers look grim;
And most of the renters,
Are bad on the rim.

The banks they are busted,
And squandered the cash;
No labor in sight,
To pay for the hash.

The veterans are wondering,
Just what you will do;
And farmers in Dixie,
Are looking so blue.

They talk about labor,
And talk about rest;
And cannot decide
Just which pays the best.

Please write and advise us,
And give us your view;
Just how much salt
To put in the stew.

I often remember,
The days of the past;
When Hurbert said: boys
We'd all better fast.

The world was smoky,
As smoky could be;
And bum shells were busting
All over the sea.

The war is all over,
The world is at peace;
Now give us a biscuit,
And a spoonful of grease.

The Florala News

31 Jul 1930, Thu · Page 4

THE POET'S DREAM

Dear Hubert old chumy,
I'm thinking of thee;
While pine-log creek
Runs on to the sea.

I know your labor
Is bound to be great,
While holding with grip,
To helmet of state.

I'd like to be with you,
And help you survey,
The boys, they tell me,
You're very good pay.

A job like that
I don't think is bad,
It would cheer up kiddies,
And help the old dad.

It would help old patches
That's gone to decay,
And make us feel better
On Thanksgiving Day.

Our business is stranded,
We can't move a peg;
If rag-Jim don't help us,
We'll soon have to beg.

We have a log cabin,
And lots of good air;
Try shape up your business,
And come to the fair.

Our climate's delightful,
And neighbors are good;
Just plenty of water,
But short on the food.

The Florala News

13 Nov 1930, Thu · Page 1

PINE LOG NEWS

If you will tickle
Our Pine Log soil
You'll be rewarded
Well for your toil.

Put up some stakes
And fix some rows
And try to shun
All future woes.

Let spring restore
Your faith and hope
You'll have no need
For old Dr. Dope.

Just have your plans
All cut and dried
And then go forth
With stately stride.

Now if you know
Your business right
You are justified
In feeling bright.

Just work your farm
From East to West
And try to make
It yield its best.

Now farmer friend
Just think and read,
And post yourself
On soil and seed.

—J. P. McNeill

The Florala News

21 Jan 1937, Thu · Page 4

PINE LOG NEWS

Pine log is humming

**Just sure as you're born,
We are chopping out cotton
And working out corn.**

We work right on

**Through sunshine and rain,
And train our mind
To never complain.**

We live in contentment

**Wherever we be,
And let our troubles
Drift on to the sea.**

We try to shun evil

**That gets in the way.
Now try it old buddie,
I think it will pay.**

Our cabin looks dusty

**It's made of round poles,
But we feel like a king,
One wearing his gold.**

When we look out on nature,

**Our thoughts grow sublime,
And we don't give a suzy
If we haven't a dime.**

The sun is still shining

**High up above
We ought to be happy
With hearts full of love.**

Don't bury your talent

**Down deep in the earth,
But roll up your sleeves
And be of some worth.**

—J. P. McNeill.

The Florala News

27 May 1937, Thu · Page 4

PINE LOG CREEK HAS SOME VISITORS THIS WEEK

Three young girls, Bertha Garrett, Katherine Story of Chicago, granddaughters of the Pine Log Poet, J. P. McNeill, and their friend, Dorothy Kretschmer, also of Chicago, are visiting the Poet this week.

They've drunk from the famous Fountain of Youth on the Poet's place and slipped down pebble hill.

The girls enjoy the homespun humor and philosophy of the Pine Log Poet and listen very attentively to it. Just the other day the Poet predicted a rapid progress in the history of Pine Log with the building of the power plant and mill up the creek.

They are fixing the creek
To grind up the corn
And things will be humming
Just as sure as you're born.

They are digging up the dirt
Both early and late
When they get the dam fixed
We will all irrigate.

J. P. McNeill,
Editor of Pine Log News.

The Florala News

01 Jul 1937, Thu · Page 2

PINE LOG NEWS

Dedicated to a couple on Pine Log
who are planning a matrimonial ali-
ance.

Hand in hand
And heart to heart
We'll sail life's seas together
We'll eat corn bread
'Til we are dead
Regardless of the weather

We'll build a home
Somewhere in Rome
Like lovers ought to do
And work the earth
For all its worth
To make the kids some stew.

Now Freddy dear
You need not fear
I'll treat your daughter right
If she decides
--o beat my hide
She may get up a fight.

My name is Thad
I don't get mad
At gossip in the air
Nor ramp and vamp
And tear my pants
When the weather is not fair.

Mrs. Freddy dear
Don't have no fear
Nor frowns upon your face
You ought to know
That tales will grow
Just traveling out in space.

—J. P. McNeil, Poet of Pine Log.

The Florala News

15 Jul 1937, Thu · Page 2

PINE LOG NEWS

THE FIRST PSALM VERSIFIED

Blessed is the man
That walketh not
Where the violent sinners
Lay their plot.

Don't hang around
With some old guy
Who is not fit
To live or die.

Just try to shun
All those who scorn
And you'll be blest
Sure as you're born.

Just try your best
To live upright
And you'll be blest
Both day and night.

You'll be just like
A green bay tree
That's planted off
Down by the sea.

It's leaves will grow
And not decay
And you'll be blest
From day to day.

The ungodly
Are not so
They're like the chaff
When the wind doth blow.

He tells us plain
What road to take
And how to shun
That burning lake.

P. P. McNeil, Pine Log Poet.

The Florala News

19 Aug 1937, Thu · Page 2

Pine Log News

Dedicated To Pine Log's Summer Visitors

Three pretty little girls
With brown curly hair,
Came down South—
Where the sun shines fair.

They rode on the train—
And then on a bus,
Soon chartered a wagon
That wasn't worth a cuss.

They all went to church
By the light of the moon,
And heard a man say:
"Beware of your doom."

The preacher told them
The things they should know;
But on the way home
They caught them a beau.

William and Peter—
I think was their names.
Soon love cords were burning
Almost to a flame.

The winter is coming;
It may blow away—
Or else it could last
'Til the Judgement Day.

J. P. McNeill,
Pine Log Poet.

The Florala News
16 Sep 1937, Thu · Page 4

DEDICATED TO THE PINE LOG POET

There is a man
Down by a creek.
Everybody listens
When he starts to speak.

He is large of stature
Has eyes of blue

When he sits down to write
He writes about you.

His hair is white
His whiskers are gray
He rises in the morn
At the break of day.

He drove his car
Just over the hill
I didn't think it would
But now I know it will.

He wears his specks
Down on his nose
And gets on his car
As soon as it rolls.

He writes about cattle
Horses and men
And hits the nail on the head
Every now and then.

Bertha Mae Garrett,
Chicago, Illinois.

The Florala News
16 Sep 1937, Thu Page 4

John P. McNeill Dies Suddenly

Writer Of Rural Poems
Taken By Heart At-
tack Early Wednesday.

Death, due to a heart attack, came suddenly, and removed from a quiet and peaceful moral life, John Patterson McNeill, who, for a quarter of a century or more, was a weekly contributor of rural poems to The Florala News, under the title of "Pine Log News" He was 71 years old, born in Broadway, N. C., May 25, 1866.

Shortly after his marriage to Miss Clarisa Ann Patterson in Jackson Springs, N. C., they moved to Jessup, Ga., where they resided for eight years, going from there to Geneva, Ala., thence to Walton county, Florida, near Florala, where he lived until his death.

Ten children were born of his first marriage, six of whom are living. His first wife died in 1930 and in 1931 he married Miss Mae Johnston, who survives him

His genial nature and amiable disposition endeared him to a wide circle of friends and the respect of all who knew him.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Mae Johnston-McNeill; three sons, Oscar and Lawrence McNeill, Florala, and Wilbur McNeill, Chicago; three daughters, Mrs. Olis Storg and Miss Myrtle McNeill, Chicago, and Mrs. J. D. Harper, Laurel Hill, Route 2; two brothers, M. J. and Duncan McNeill, Broadway, N. C., three sisters, Mrs. John Ragland, Miss Salhe McNeill and Mrs. Margaret Crosson, of Broadway, N. C.; five grandchildren, Bertha Mae Garrett, Katherine Storg, Delbert Storg, Chicago, Ill., Douglas Harper and Joice Anne Harper, Laurel Hill, Route 2.

Funeral services will be held at Clear Springs church Friday morning at 10 o'clock, Rev. L. W. Carleton officiating. Burial will follow in church cemetery. Shepherd in charge.

o CHILDREN'S HOME NOTES o
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o o o o o o o o o o o

**Delightful Club Meeting
Enjoyed Tuesday**

The Pine Log Woman's Club met at the home of Mrs. Frank Dixon, Tuesday afternoon. Business being attended to, a delightful hour was spent in social chat, during which the hostess' two charming daughters, Misses Ella Mae and Louise, assisted by Misses Lillie Hurst, Marie Maloy and Christine George served the guests delicious refreshments and iced tea.

Among those enjoying this delightful affair were Julia and Martha Price, John, Albert and Percy Allen, Mrs. R. S. Suggs, Mrs. Mary Maloy, Mrs. Lee Bryant, Mrs. Vassie Hall, Mrs. Josephine Paul and Miss Eloise McGriff, county home demonstration agent.

The young people met at Mrs. Dixon's home Tuesday night to rehearse their program for the night of July 10. After rehearsal many games and contests were enjoyed by Misses Christine George, Ella Mae and Louise Dixon, Marie Maloy and Messrs. Glen Hall, Fred Price, David Bryant, Cecil Keyser, John D. Zorn, Robert Lee Weeks, Alonzo Weeks, Elem Qualls and J. Frank Dixon.

— —
Miss Fanny Jay Condrey of Laurel Hill, is spending sometime with Miss Myrtle Agerton.

— —
Rev. Rogers is conducting a revival at the Pentecostal church.

— —
Mrs. Bob Weeks and family of Liberty, spent the week-end with relatives in this community.

Miss Frances Price has returned from an extended visit to Birmingham, Ft. Deposit and Montgomery.

Mrs. Julia Price is spending the week-end in Birmingham, Ala., with Lieutenant and Mrs. Vane.

Rev. S. F. Commander filled his regular appointment at the school house Sunday afternoon at three o'clock.

Mr. Lee Locke and children, of Central, attended services at the school house Sunday afternoon.

Misses Myrtice Commander and Coralie Harvell spent Sunday afternoon with Misses Ella Mae and Louise Dixon.

Rev. S. A. Thompson and family spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Pate.

Misses Marie Maloy, Christine George, Ella Mae and Louise Dixon, Messrs. Fred Price, John D. Zorn and J. Frank Dixon enjoyed a nice swim in Pretty Pond Wednesday night.

Fred Price, John D. Zorn, David Bryant and Miss Christine George were visitors Saturday night at the home of Mr. J. F. Dixon.

Mrs. Virginia Wilder accompanied by little Brue and Sheila, visited her sister, Mrs. J. F. Dixon.

Mr. Robert Coe, of Boston, Mass., will conduct a 2 weeks' Bible school at Children's Home school house beginning July 29. Every one is cordially invited to attend.

The West Florida Young Peoples Christian Endeavor will hold their conference at Children's Home school house Aug. 9-10-11. Every one will be welcomed. So come with a well-filled lunch basket.

Mr. Connie Jones and family, of Frostproof, Fla., have been visiting relatives in this community.

Mr. John Hurst, who is in Niceville C. C. C. camp, spent the past week-end with homefolks.