



WALTON

RELATIONS & HISTORY

Volume 14, Issue 4

Walton County Heritage Association

March 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
Phone: 850-401-2060

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

Email: heritagemuseum@brighthouse.com

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Cover Design: Sam Carnley

Newsletter Cover Collage Photos

Clockwise from top left:

1. **Darlington, Florida, early 1900s, Courtesy of Baker Block Museum, photographer unknown. Edited by Sam Carnley.**
2. *Henderson-Mathis turpentine still in Glendale or Gaskin.* 1904. Black & white photoprint, 4 x 6 in. State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory. <<https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/42107>>, accessed 28 June 2017 by Sam Carnley.
3. **William Lewis (Luke) Hurst Family, Fleming Creek/Clear Springs area, north Walton County, ca 1894, from “The Heritage of Walton County, Florida,” p. 190.**
4. **Old Paxton High School, “1961-62 Paxtonian” Year Book, photographer unknown. Edited by Sam Carnley**
5. Walton County Heritage Museum, photo and editing by Sam Carnley.
6. Gladys D. Milton (1924-1999), Midwife, Flowersview/Paxton, photo by her daughter, Maria Milton. Also in “**The Heritage of Walton County, Florida,**” p. 249, and the **September 2018 Newsletter** at <http://www.waltoncountyheritage.org/GenSoc/NL2018Sep.pdf> Edited by Sam Carnley.
7. Lake Jackson, South Side, in Paxton City Limits, photo and editing by Sam Carnley.
8. Paxton Water Tower, Paxton, Florida, photo and editing by Sam Carnley.
9. Old Freeport School, constructed ca 1908, burned 1943. Photo from “**The Heritage of Walton County, Florida,**” p. 45. **Photographer unknown. Edited by Sam Carnley.**
10. *Floralia Saw Mill Company's engine number 3 - Paxton, Florida.* 1907. Black & white photonegative, 4 x 5 in. State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory. Photographer unknown. <<https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/146972>>, accessed 7 September 2019 and edited by Sam Carnley. [Built in 1873 and Originally owned by New York, Ontario and Western Railroad Company as engine number 60; then owned by Southern Iron and Equipment Company as engine number 568 in 1907; then owned by Floralia Saw Mill Company as engine number 3 on March 3, 1907; returned to Southern Iron and Equipment Company and number changed to 915 on March 13, 1913; then owned by Louisiana Saw Mill Company as engine 50 in May, 1913.]

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.

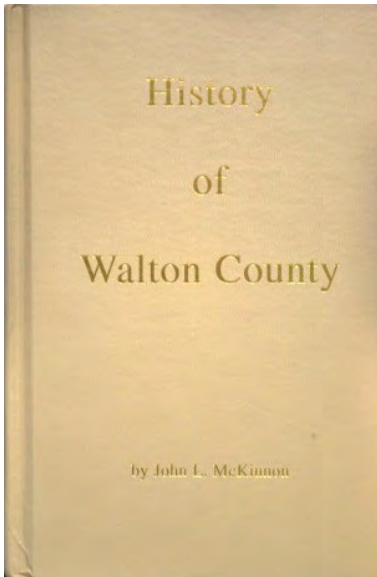
Member Benefits:

- 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

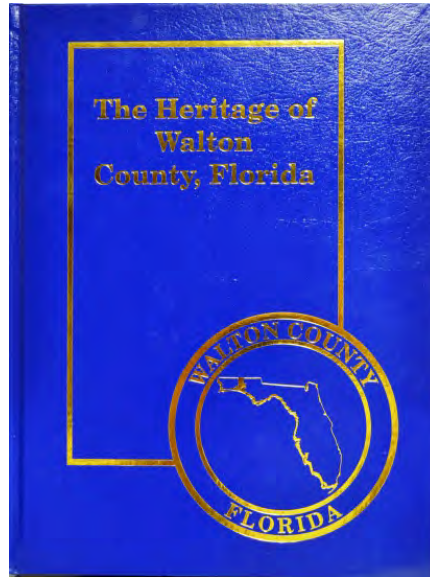
Our most popular books



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>



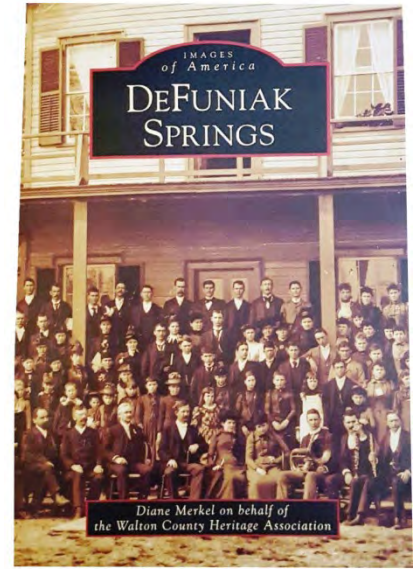
The Heritage of Walton County, Florida. Item code **B13.**

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,

\$23.53.

MAIL ORDER FORM

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

Customer Name: _____

Address: _____

Ph./Email: _____

Quanty	Description	Item Code	Price Each*	Amount
	The Heritage of Walton County, Florida	B13	50.80	
	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.



Walton County Heritage Association, Inc.

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

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

Email: HeritageMuseum@bighthouse.com

ANNUAL MEMBER/SPONSOR APPLICATION 2023

Name:

Individual/Family _____

Sponsor/Business/Company _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Member/Sponsor Category:

() Individual \$25.00, () Family \$40.00, () Sponsor \$100.00, () Silver Sponsor \$500.00, () Gold Sponsor \$1,000.00, () Platinum Sponsor \$2,000.00, () Additional Gift \$ _____ * Total Enclosed \$ _____ *Gift earmarked for: _____

Our Mission

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

1. To promote the preservation and restoration of buildings and other landmarks of historical interest within Walton County;
2. To maintain the Walton County Heritage Museum to preserve the heritage of Walton County for the education and enjoyment of current and future generations by collecting, preserving, and exhibiting artifacts and information from the time of its original inhabitants to the present;
3. To foster and enhance the development, education, and sense of history which is unique to Walton County; and
4. To secure cooperation and unity of action between individual citizens, businesses, and other groups as may be necessary to fulfill these purposes.

* Additional gift of over \$2,000.00 (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.

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

OUR SPONSORS for 2023

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

SPONSORS (\$100-\$499.00)

Rose Rogers, in memory of Doug Rogers (\$200.00)
Craig Bowen (\$100.00)
David Bludworth (\$300.00)
Grace L. Marse (\$100.00)
Sally Merrifield (\$100.00)
George & Margaret Little (\$100.00)
Marie Hinson (\$100.00)

SILVER SPONSORS (\$500 to \$999.00)

(None at present time)

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

(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.

EALUM

By
Sam Carnley

This month's newsletter article is a continuation of places in Walton County few of its residents have ever heard of. Last month's article featured Pine Log, later known as Children's Home in the north of the county. Ealum was another obscure place little is known about. It began as a post office established in 1889 near today's community of Liberty, a few miles north of DeFuniak Springs on U. S. Highway 331.

The individual whose name it bore seems to have been John Ambrose Ealum, born in Alabama, but migrated to Walton County by about 1888. A deed bearing that date shows he acquired forty acres from the Pensacola & Atlantic Railroad Company identified as the Northwest ¼ of the Northwest ¼, Section 26, Township North, Range 20 West.¹

Its location on the 2006 General Highway Map of the county is in the northwest corner of section 26, at the point where U. S. Highway 331, County Road 1084, Williams Road and Big Swamp Creek all come together. That is also precisely where the little present-day community of Liberty is depicted on the map. Since Liberty sits on the same spot once occupied by Ealum, people are correct when they say the former replaced the latter.

Although the post office continued from 1889 to 1914, John Ealum does not appear to have remained there as postmaster for the duration. Deed records show that in 1905 he bought a lot in Glendale, and remained there until his death in 1938. He appeared on the Walton County U. S. census of 1900 as a resident in Limestone. In 1910, the census found him in Sandy Creek, and in 1920, in Glendale. He last appeared on the census in 1930 enumerated in precinct 3, with no place name identified.

The fact he seemed to appear in different locations is probably due not to his moving a lot, but the names of the census enumeration districts changing as populations grew. According to his Florida Death Certificate, he died in DeFuniak Springs of bronchial pneumonia, with Glendale listed as his residence and the local Gum Creek Cemetery as his place of burial.

Ealum first became a census enumeration district in 1900, also in 1910, again in 1920 and last in 1930. The fact that it maintained a population sufficiently large to justify designation as a census enumeration district made it less obscure than Pine log, which never rose to that status, but the two places had something in common. Like Pine Log, the Florala News regularly published articles of local interest for Ealum, thereby preserving its history for posterity.

Beginning about 1904, the Florala News articles enable us to stitch together, in a manner of speaking, the history of Ealum. That year, we learn that an important business and employer of the community is the naval stores industry when it is announced that "T. J. Hall, a turpentine operator in Ealum Fla. was here Tuesday." That article and a selection of others appearing on following pages, include family names with long histories in the county.

Names like Miller, Jones and Straughn harken back to early settlers of the north part of the county. The Millers are connected by marriage to the William Cawthon family who settled south of McDavid's Pond in the mid-1830s, later becoming Lake Jackson, then Ghentsville from 1850 to 1858 and today's Paxton, from about 1902 to the present.

¹ P & A RR Company to John A. Ealum, Deed Book # 6, page 301, Walton County Courthouse, DeFuniak Springs, FL.

S. K. (Sherrod Koonce) Miller, a farmer from Ealum visited Florala on business according to a 20 October 1904 Florala News article. On 4 May 1905, the paper announced that W. R. Turner of Falco would be going to Ealum to shear sheep. We learn from this the importance that farmers of the county once placed on sheep as a part of the livestock on which they depended for survival. That dependance was so great in the early settlement of the county that it led to the eradication of the county's indigenous wolf population.

I first learned of the settlers' battle against the wolves at an early age when a member of the Children's Home Cawthon family to which I am related showed me an ancient muzzle loading rifle handed down through the generations once used in shooting wolves to protect the sheep.

Later in life I learned more about that battle from John L. McKinnon's "History of Walton County." It tells how the settlers, exasperated by a sly old wolf's ability to evade hunters, finally managed to trap the animal and put a bell on his neck. They then released him to go out and rebuild his pack. When hunters out in the woodlands heard his bell, they rode to the sound and shot all the pack except him. He would then repeat his pack collecting, the hunters would go out and shoot them all except him, and so on. Eventually all of the wolves in the county were shot out except for the one old wolf. The story ends with someone reporting they happened up on the old animal, scrawny with age, when he ran out of an abandoned cabin in the woods, never to be seen again, nor any others of his kind ever in the county.

In a May 30, 1907 article, we learn of the county's efforts to improve transportation in a report that the county commissioners were building a new steel bridge across Big Swamp Creek near the Ealum post office. In two other articles it is revealed that Ealum had a mill, presumably a water powered grist mill, which went unnamed in the articles other than "The Ealum Old Mill," and "Ealum's Mill." The former appeared in an article on 20 April 1916 and the latter on 17 November 1910.

The paper announced on 17 November 1910 that S. K. (Sherrod Koonce) Miller of Ealum killed a deer in his neighborhood. In 1910, J. M. Straughn and N. O. Straughn, both of Ealum, announced plans to relocate near Florala. Also, on 21 April 1910, J. W. Caldwell told of the upcoming Universalist services at Ealum, Cluster Springs Church, on the 4th Sunday in April at 10:30 A. M. That church is now located on county highway 1084 a few short miles northeast of today's Liberty.

In the 27 October 1910 edition of the paper appeared the following:

Our independent telephone system, says a Glendale correspondent in DeFuniak Herald, is rapidly spreading. We now have connection with Paxton, Florala, and Ealum and expect to get connection with Geneva, Gaskin and several other places real soon. Mr. Heath is very busy at work on it this week.

On 26 October 1905, it is revealed that a Civil War veteran made his home in Ealum. Identified as Columbus Stapleton, an old Confederate soldier who had lived there for 12 years, but had only recently visited Florala for the first time in his life.

In an article dated 14 December 1905, the paper announced a family reunion in Gordon, a few miles north of Ealum. It told of the Miller children gathering to celebrate the 72 birthday of their elderly mother, Elizabeth. As the Florala News had only begun operations within a couple of years previously, this article represented the first of many to recognize her annual birthday celebrations which continued until she reached the age of 101 in 1934.

Born in 1833 to William Cawthon and Nancy Elizabeth Langston in what is now Houston County, Alabama, she would grow up, marry and raise a large family after the family migrated to Walton County, Florida

about 1837. She married Lewis Miller before 1850 and bore him 12 children before his death in 1876, after which she never remarried.

Unlike Elizabeth Miller, John Ealum lost little time in remarrying after his wife died in 1921. Although he no longer resided in Ealum, the paper occasionally reported on his activities in its Glendale section. An article dated 19 October 1922, for example, announced the surprise marriage of John and Mrs. Silas. Mrs. Mary Jane Silas became a widow on the death of husband, John Benjamin Silas, in 1920. She, at age 65 and John Ealum, age 72, became man and wife on October 5, 1922.

Happenings in Ealum were sometimes reported by other newspapers but not The Florala News. The Pensacola News Journal for instance carried an article about a killing in Ealum not reported by the Florala paper. The heading of an article in the Pensacola paper dated 25 February 1910, Wednesday, P. 2, read as follows: "Walton County Farmer Killed." It told of Ben Silas shooting his son-in-law, Wes Nixon, who Silas found under his house late at night. Nixon was the husband of Silas' daughter, but they had separated and the daughter was living with her parents in their home at Ealum at the time. As noted above, Ben Silas was the deceased husband of Mary Jane Silas, whom John Ealum married in 1922.

In an article dated 12 October 1922, Thu. P. 6, the Florala News reported that Monroe Ealum and John Ealum along with their families attended a party at Dock Silas' on Friday night. Monroe and John were son and father, and Dock was a son of Jane's. Perhaps they threw the party in celebration of the newlyweds.

John Ealum himself ran afoul of the law in 1924. The Pensacola News Journal reported in an article dated 24 July of that year: "Two Arrested In Liquor Searches." It told of the arrest of John Ealum, age 70, "a prominent citizen of Glendale," being caught by a federal agent at the moment he busied himself in lighting a fire under the [moon shine] still. The arresting officers also took Lewis Laird of Okaloosa County into custody at the still.

On 12 December 1934, the Florala News heralded "Mrs. Betty Miller's 101 Birthday Party." It may have been her last birthday party because she died on 3 February, 1936, at the age of 103. The party took place at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Jessie Jones, near Heath, Alabama, with a large crowd in attendance. Eight carloads from Florala were there. The article went on to extoll the history of Elizabeth's father, William Cawthon and his 24 children from four marriages.

As with Pine Log, if not for the Florala News, and occasionally the Pensacola News Journal as well, there might not be a history of Ealum, its people and environs. For those of us who love history, we extend our deepest appreciation to these papers for their roles in preserving our heritage.

E. Powell and J. A. Goodwin went to DeFuniak Monday after a load of steel. They had a hard time at the Ealum old mill working for two hours.

The Florala News, 20 April, 1916, Thu. P. 1

Horace Jones, of Ealum, Fla. was here Friday of last week.

The Florala News, 28 December, 1905, Thu. P. 1

S. K. Miller of Ealum, Fla., killed a deer in that neighborhood Monday last.

The Florala News, 17 November 1910, Thu. P. 2

Columbus Stapleton, of Ealum, Fla., was in the city one day this week. He is an old Confederate soldier and has lived at that place 12 years and it was his first visit to Florala.

The Florala News, 26 October 1905, Thu. P. 1

Universalist services at Ealum, Cluster Springs church, on the 4th Sunday in April at 10:30 a. m. J. W. Caldwell.

The Florala News, 21 April 1910, Thu. P. 4

Our independent telephone system, says a Glendale correspondent in DeFuniak Herald, is rapidly spreading. We now have connection with Paxton, Florala, and Ealum and expect to get connection with Geneva, Gaskin and several other places real soon. Mr. Heath is very busy at work on it this week.

The Florala News, 27 October 1910, Thu. P. 4

Walton county Commissioners are having a steel bridge built over what is known as Big Swamp, near Ealum postoffice.

The Florala News, 30 May 1907, Thu. P. 5

T. J. Hall, turpentine operator, of Ealum, Fla., was here Tuesday.

The Florala News, 4 February, 1904, Thu. P. 5

W. R. Turner who has been making Falco his home, has gone to Ealum, Florida, where he will spend some time shearing sheep.

The Florala News, 4 May, 1905, Thu. P. 3

Mr. Koonce Miller a good farmer from Ealum, Fla., was attending to important business here on Wednesday.

The Florala News, 20 October 1904, Thu. P. 5

J. M. Straughn of near Ealum's Mill, Fla., has located near Florala. We would like to see this section settled up with such hard-working, debt-paying farmers as the Straughn brothers.

The Florala News, 17 November 1910, Thu. P. 4

Mr. N. O. Straughn was here Saturday from Ealum and informs us that he purchased a home near Florala and expects to move there with his family in about two weeks. He expressed regret at leaving the Ealum neighborhood, where he has many warm friends, and it is a safe supposition that the good folks of Ealum regret to lose him and his family as residents of that community.--DeFuniak Herald.

The Florala News, 27 October 1910, Thu. P. 1

Dr. A. H. Miller.

Dr. A. H. Miller, who has resided for the past seven years at Falco, reached Florala Tuesday afternoon with his family, spending the night with his brother-in-law, Dr. Adams of East Florala. The doctor is traveling in his automobile and is on his way to Millville, Fla., where he will in future reside.

The doctor belongs to an old and numerous family, ten children living to be grown, three of the number being doctors—two physicians and one dentist. He moved to Falco about seven years ago from Florala.

Dr. Miller called just before his departure for his new home and subscribed for THE FLORALA NEWS. He requested that we express thus publicly his thanks to the good people of Falco and surrounding country, for their kindness to him during his residence among them. The doctor declared that no finer people ever lived than those of Falco and Florala, and there will always be a warm place in his heart for the numerous friends he is leaving behind.

In speaking of the past, the doctor said that his mother came to this section 73 years ago, and has resided near Lake Jackson, (then known as McDavid's Pond) ever since.

A beautiful custom in honor of the aged mother, is regularly observed by the family, that of gathering at the home of some one of the children and celebrating her birthday, the last event of the kind being held at the home of Dr. Miller at Ealum, Fla., where the mother led in dancing an old Virginia reel.

The best wishes of numerous friends attend the genial doctor in his new field of labor, and while we regret to lose him from this section, we congratulate the good people of Millville upon their good fortune in securing so valuable an acquisition to their citizenship

The Florala News, 23 Feb., 1911, Thu. P. 3

Mrs. S. A. McDaniel was the recipient of the sewing machine for being the head of the largest family. There were 17 children and grandchildren. The second largest head of a family applying and registering for the machine was S. B. Price, of Ealum, Fla., whose family numbered 16.

The Florala News, 27 June, 1907, Thu. P. 1

Mrs. J. B. Jones of Heath, Ala., came down to attend a family reunion, which took place at the home of her brother, S. K. Miller of Ealum, Fla., last Monday. This family gathering is held every year as a birthday anniversary in honor of their mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Miller, who is 77 years old. This is one of the oldest and most respected families in this section and these annual gatherings are always attended by each member of the family, when possible, as well as numerous friends and acquaintances. THE NEWS trusts that the aged mother may live to occupy the seat of honor at these enjoyable gatherings for many years to come.

The Florala News, 15 Dec. 1910, Thu. P. 3

Mrs. Betty Miller's 101 Birthday Party

Mrs. Betty Miller's birthday anniversary, marking her 101 years of life was celebrated Wednesday at the home of her youngest daughter, Mrs. Jessie Jones, near Heath, Alabama. It was attended by hundreds of relatives, descendants of the Miller and Cawthon families of antebellum fame. Eight carloads attended from Florala, and others came from every section of the country.

Mrs. Miller's father, came to Alabama from Georgia in 1839, when she was only six years of age, and settled at what is now Florala, and she has been a continuous resident of this section ever since. She is the mo-

John Ealum, Sr., and Mrs. Silas surprised their many friends here Sunday afternoon by getting married. All wish them much happiness.

The Florala News, 19 October 1922, Thu. P. 6

Monroe Ealum and family of Glendale, Fla., and John Ealum and family, also of Glendale, attended the party at Dock Silas' Friday night.

The Florala News, 12 October 1922, Thu. P. 6

Singing lesson of 45 minutes conducted by S. K. Miller of Ealum, Fla., 15 minutes; by D. C. Allen 15 minutes and by J. M. Dauphin of Florala, Ala., 15 minutes.

The Florala News, 29 August 1907, Thu. P. 8

section ever since. She is the mother of ten children, eight of whom are living, the eldest being Dr. R. L. Miller of Florala, and the youngest, Mr. Griffin Miller, also of Florala. Mrs. Miller's father, William Cawthon, who was a noted and wealthy cattle dealer and stock raiser, was the father of twenty-four children. He was married four times.

Those who attended the birthday anniversary, say that it was one of the most enjoyable occasions ever attended. Food and the good things for the appetite were in super-abundance, and everybody enjoyed themselves immensely. The anniversary cake was baked in Florala, a mention of which may be seen elsewhere in this issue.

The Florala News, 12 December 1934, Thu. P. 1

WALTON COUNTY FARMER KILLED

BEN SILAS SHOTS HIS SON-IN-LAW, WES, NIXON, WHOM HE FOUND UNDER HIS HOUSE LATE AT NIGHT.

Special to the Journal.

Floral, Ala., Feb. 22.—Ben Silas, a Walton county farmer, last night shot and killed Wes. Nixon, his son-in-law and neighbor. The killing occurred at Ealums's mill, and the home of old man Silas. Nixon married Silas's daughter and they were separated. According to information received here the woman had gone to live with her father. Nixon visited there, spent the evening and presumably left the place.

Part of the family had retired when Mr. Silas arose from bed and said he believed evedroppers were about. He took his shot gun and went out around the premises, looked under the house and found Wes Nixon, according to his story, and after repeatedly commanding him to come out, which he would not do, and punching him with the shot gun, he fired a load of shot into his body, killing him.

Silas went two or three miles over the neighborhood, admitted the killing to several, and said he was going to DeFuniak and give up to the officials.

TWO ARRESED IN LIQUOR SEARCHES

Well Known Men of Okaloosa and Walton Counties Held On Booze Charges.

DEFUNIAC SPRINGS, July 23.—(Special to The Journal).—John Ealum, about 70, prominent citizen of the Glendale neighborhood in Walton county, and Lewis Laird, of Okaloosa county, were arrested today by Federal Prohibition Agent Whitehead on charges of violating the prohibition laws.

Ealum was brought to DeFuniak Springs, while Laird, who faces charges of possessing two large stills on Shoal river, was placed in the Okaloosa county jail at Crestview. Whitehead was assisted in the raids by Deputy Sheriff Wooten, of Walton county, and Deputy Summerlin, of Okaloosa.

The federal agent says he found Ealum ready to start a fire under the still, which was also brought here. A quantity of mash was destroyed.

United States Marshal Peter Miller, of Pensacola, arrived tonight and will escort Ealum and Laird to Pensacola tomorrow morning.

Arrest of Ealum caused somewhat of a sensation here, for the aged man was widely known and prominently connected.