



WALTON

RELATIONS & HISTORY

Volume 15, Issue 4

Walton County Heritage Association

March 2024



PAXTON
FLORIDA

Walton County Heritage

Museum

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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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.

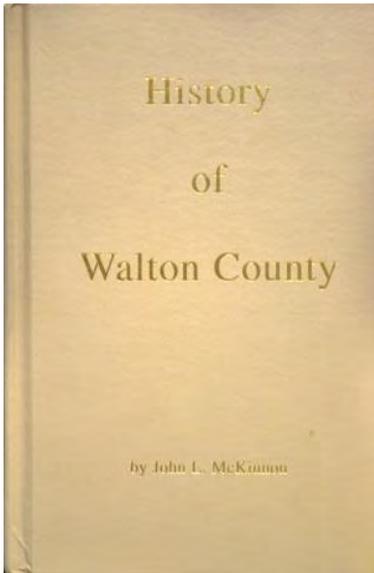
Member Benefits:

- 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

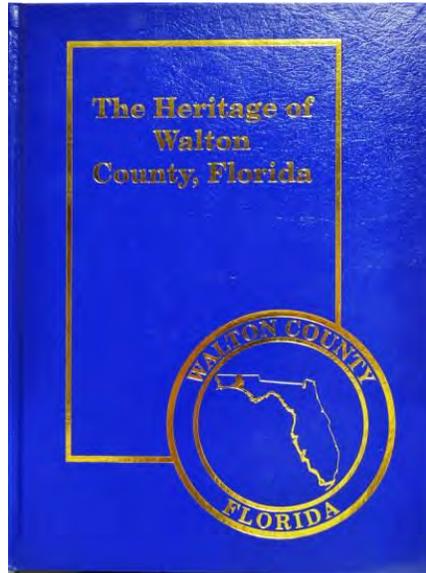
Our most popular books



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>



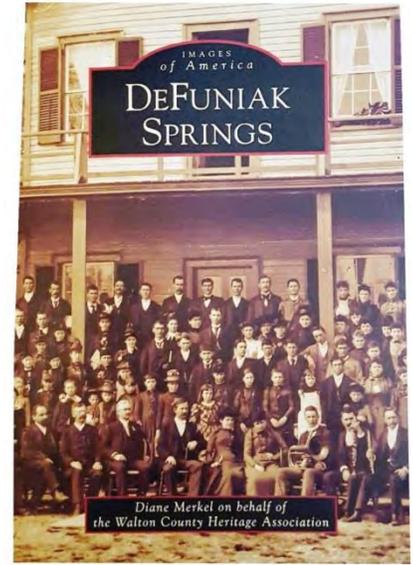
The Heritage of Walton County, Florida. Item code **B13.**

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.

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1140 Circle Drive
DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435

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Qty	Description	Item Code	Price Each*	Amount
	The Heritage of Walton County, Florida	B13	50.80	
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*Price includes tax at 7% and shipping of \$8.00 per item.

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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 recent years. 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 up-keep 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.



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 2024

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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.

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A Note From the Editor

This month's newsletter article is a departure from our previously announced plans to publish each chapter of the New History of Walton County as it is finished. On March 15, it was my honor to deliver the keynote speech of the 2024 Chautauqua Assembly at the Presbyterian Church in DeFuniak Springs. The topic was Walton County Genesis consisting of a prehistoric section, followed by historic sections on Spanish and British histories of Florida, all of which touched on Walton County in some way. Only a limited number of people were able to attend the Chautauqua event, so this month's newsletter article is on the historic portion of my presentation for those not attending the Chautauqua Assembly. We hope you find it both enlightening and enjoyable reading. As always, in the interest of making our articles as factual as we can to the extent of our knowledge, please let us know of any errors, mistakes, etc. you find in them. Thank you.

Sam Carnley

From WCHA President, Marie Hinson

January kicked off our 2024 membership dues renewal month and we encourage you to continue your generous support of the Walton County Heritage Association, Inc. as in the past. Please see our Annual Member/Sponsor Application for 2024 elsewhere in this newsletter for renewal options. Whatever level of member or sponsorship you choose is very much appreciated and we thank you.

**¹Chautauqua Assembly Key Note Speech
By Sam Carnley, March 15, 2024**

A. First Spanish Period

1. In 1513, Juan Ponce de Leon discovered Florida, beginning its First Spanish historic period which would span 250 years.

2. Alvar Nuñez Cabeza de Vaca touches on Santa Rosa Sound, Sep. 30, 1528.

Another Spaniard, Panfilo De Narvaez, followed Ponce De Leon in attempting to explore and settle Florida in 1528. Due to storms, Indian attacks, starvation, and just plain bad luck, his flotilla of 5 ships with 300 men and 42 horses came to a disastrous end in which all but 4 men died. After wandering lost for 8 years, the men found their way to Mexico, in 1536.

One of them, Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca, later wrote an account of the expedition which he published in 1542 after returning to Spain. In the account, he wrote of skirting the Florida Gulf Coast in make-shift barges searching for drinking water and food. Along the way, they passed just off shore of the geographic areas that later became the present-day counties of the panhandle. About September 30, 1528, he wrote of landing on a small island in search of drinking water, but found none. While there a powerful storm came up preventing them from leaving for several days. Without any fresh water available on the island they became so thirsty that they drank salt water. Five of the men died as a result.

Some historians believe the landmarks described by Vaca in that event were the Gulf shores of today's Walton and Okaloosa counties.

3. Captain Guido de Lavazares describes East Pass and Choctawhatchee Bay, 1558.

In 1558, while sailing along the panhandle coast, Captain Guido de Lavazares described a bay thought to be the Choctawhatchee.

4. Apalachee Indian militia expedition against Chisca Palisade, 1677.

In the mid-1670s, Spanish Franciscan friars had established a string of missions in Indian villages stretching from St. Augustine to the site of today's Tallahassee. **Apalachee** Indians

inhabited the latter area and the church in their principal village was called Mission San Luis. In **1676 and 77**, unknown hostiles began attacking it and surrounding villages. They came at **night** to hide their identity. Spanish Army Captain, Juan Fernandez de Florencia, commanded a squad of **infantry** garrisoned at the mission.

The Apalachee leaders asked him for help against the night raiders. But he had other **priorities** he considered more urgent and **dismissed** the request. Left with no other alternatives to stop the attacks the Apalachees **resolved** to take care of the matter **themselves**. They learned through **informants** that the **Chiscas** were the perpetrators and occupied a **palisaded** village several days march to the **west**. Deciding to mount an expedition against them, the Apalachees raised a **militia** of just under 200 men. On **September 2, 1677** they set out in search of the palisade.

After a march of 18 days, they found it, defeated its defenders and burned it to the ground. Casualties to themselves included 5 dead and 40 wounded. Lingering at the site a few days to replenish their provisions and attend their wounded, they began the return trip to San Luis where they arrived on **October 5, 1677**, 33 days after leaving it.

Shortly after their return they gave a verbal **report** to Captain **Florencia** on which he prepared a written narrative. From the landmarks they described, the location of the palisade seems to have been on the east bank of **Big Alaqua Creek** where it joins **Little Alaqua Creek** a short distance **north-west** of present-day Freeport.ⁱ

5. Marcos Delgado, 1686.

In **1686**, **Marcos Delgado** undertook an expedition supposedly to the Mississippi River but ended it long before getting there. Leaving **San Luis**, he crossed the Apalachicola River near today's Town of **Chattahoochee** and continued on to **Calistoble**, known now as **Blue Springs** northeast of Marianna in Jackson County. He continued northwest into today's **Holmes County** and crossed into present-day Geneva County, Alabama in the vicinity of Choctawhatchee and **Pea Rivers**. Near the latter river, he reported **chestnut** trees so **thick that two men could not encircle them**. At one point in the expedition, he reported seeing a number of **buffalos**.

6. Ayala Expedition, 1693.

In 1693, **Governor Don Laureano de Torres Y Ayala**, led an expedition from San Luis to Pensacola Bay. He assembled a string of pack horses with Apalachee Indian wranglers and **25** infantrymen for the expedition. In total, it numbered **one hundred and twelve** persons and **seventy-six** horses. On **June 8, 1693**, he set out from San Luis toward Pensacola Bay where he would **rendezvous** with the ship of **Admiral Andres de Pez** awaiting his arrival there.

Accompanying him were Friars Rodrigo de la **Barreda** and Pedro **Galindez**. Friar Barreda and Ayala **recorded** their observations along the way in **journals**.

From June **8th**, the expedition marched for **seven** days crossing the future counties of **Leon, Gadsden, Jackson and Holmes**. It arrived in the latter county on the **15th** at the Choctawhatchee River a short distance **south** of today's Florida state **line** with Alabama. Probably at about where today's **highway 2** bridge crosses the stream.

Realizing they needed a boat to cross the river, which they did not have, they cut down a cypress tree and fashioned it into a dugout canoe. Working from the 15th to the 19th, they finished it and put it in the river. On the morning of the 20th, they ferried over loads of pack horse goods, harnesses and saddles, with **many** trips required to **get** everything across. After ferrying the men over, which also took **numerous** trips, they **swam** the horses over to **complete** the crossing.

Before **leaving** the river, Ayala ordered **four** Indians to remain there and **guard** the canoe in case the expedition **returned** the same way and needed to use it **again**. Neither Ayala nor Barreda recorded any details of the canoe. That is **unfortunate** because of they had it might have been **identified** as the canoe later found on the river as follows:

Reportedly, the **largest** dug-out canoe found in **North America** was found near the **mouth** of Choctawhatchee River in **1965**. This canoe, with a small section of one end broken off, was **46** feet long. It was displayed at the Barrett's **Store** in Point **Washington** for some time and was later **bought** by the owner of the Indian Springs Museum at **Tallulah Falls**, Georgia. In **1971** it was on **display** in a museum in **Michigan**. (Harold Gillis, "Flint Chips.")

A canoe of this description is what Ayala would have needed to transport cargos of a seventy-horse pack train and over a hundred men across the river in an expeditious manner. Recent **efforts** to locate the canoe have thus far been **unsuccessful**.

Continuing on west of the river, the expedition camped the evening of the 21st in a chestnut grove on a creek. In describing the site, Barreda wrote, "we found a large number of **sturdy** chestnut trees. If they had been in season we would have gathered many nuts." That was the same area where Delgado reported seeing chestnut trees in 1686. Similar to his describing those he saw as **thick**, taken to mean trunks large in circumference, Barreda described those he saw as **sturdy**, taken to mean the same thing. Presumably, they both meant **large** trees.

Ayala and Barreda calculated the distance traveled from Choctawhatchee River to the creek as between **13 and 15** miles. **Darlington** is about that distance from the river on **present** day Walton County maps. Also appearing on the map in that **area** is a Chestnut Creek.

It joins Limestone Creek which then flows into Pea River a short distance north of the Florida state line in Geneva County, Alabama. Could this chestnut creek be the same place Ayala camped on June 21st, 1693? The descriptions of landmarks Ayala and Barreda recorded lack the

accuracy to say with certainty it's the same creek, but **circumstantial** evidence for it seems strong, given that Delgado also reported **large** chestnut trees in the **same** vicinity.

Leaving Chestnut creek the following morning, the expedition took a southwesterly direction possibly carrying it between today's New Harmony and Cluster Springs. It exited the southwest corner of the county near where Pond Creek joins Shoal River. A short distance north of that point in today's Okaloosa County is the little community of Dorcas where William A. McCallum owned a farm.

In 1880 while plowing in his field, he struck an object buried in the dirt. When he dug it up, it appeared to him to be an Indian tomahawk. He took it home where it remained in the family until inherited by his grandson, Martel.

But its construction of what appeared to him as bronze led Martel to question the tomahawk assumption. It seemed unusual to him because he had never heard of Indians making theirs from anything but stone. After asking around and showing it to a few people, he learned it might be a bronze Spanish battle axe.

The word got out and Ira Brock, a reporter from the Pensacola News Journal, paid Martel a visit and wrote an article about the object. The article, with a photo of the relic, appeared in the February 26, 1967 edition of the paper. Martel recalled that his father always told him to keep it in the family, but he didn't do that. Sometime after it appeared in the newspaper, he donated it to the Smithsonian Institution where, presumably, it now remains.



Judging from its photo in the newspaper, it was a Spanish Halberd. Many European armies used them as weapons for centuries, which brings the narrative back to the Ayala expedition of 1693 and whether or not it might have been the source of McCallum's artifact. As previously noted Governor Ayala's expedition included 25 soldiers.

He also wrote of a "stock of powder and bullets," indicating the soldiers carried firearms. Those weapons were far superior in winning battles and had made halberds obsolete. Although no longer used as a weapon, by the 18th century, the halberd had come to symbolize the rank of infantry sergeant. As serving no other purpose than that, it was cheaply made of bronze with no sharpened edges and lacked the strength needed for a weapon. This fits McCallum's halberd, both as he described it and as it appears in the paper.

Every soldier had his own symbol of rank, the private his pike, the corporal his partizan and the officer his espartoon. The symbols and ranks seem to have been more or less the same throughout European armies in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Given all these facts regarding the characteristics of halberds and their purposes at given points of time and place in history, it's not a stretch to suggest that a sergeant among Ayala's infantry carried one and lost it for McCallum to plow up two centuries later.

After passing through the future Walton County where Dorcas was located before 1915 when Okaloosa came into existence, Ayala continued on to Pensacola Bay which he reached in early July. Along the way he reported seeing buffalo as Delgado had many years earlier.

B. The British Period, 1763-1783

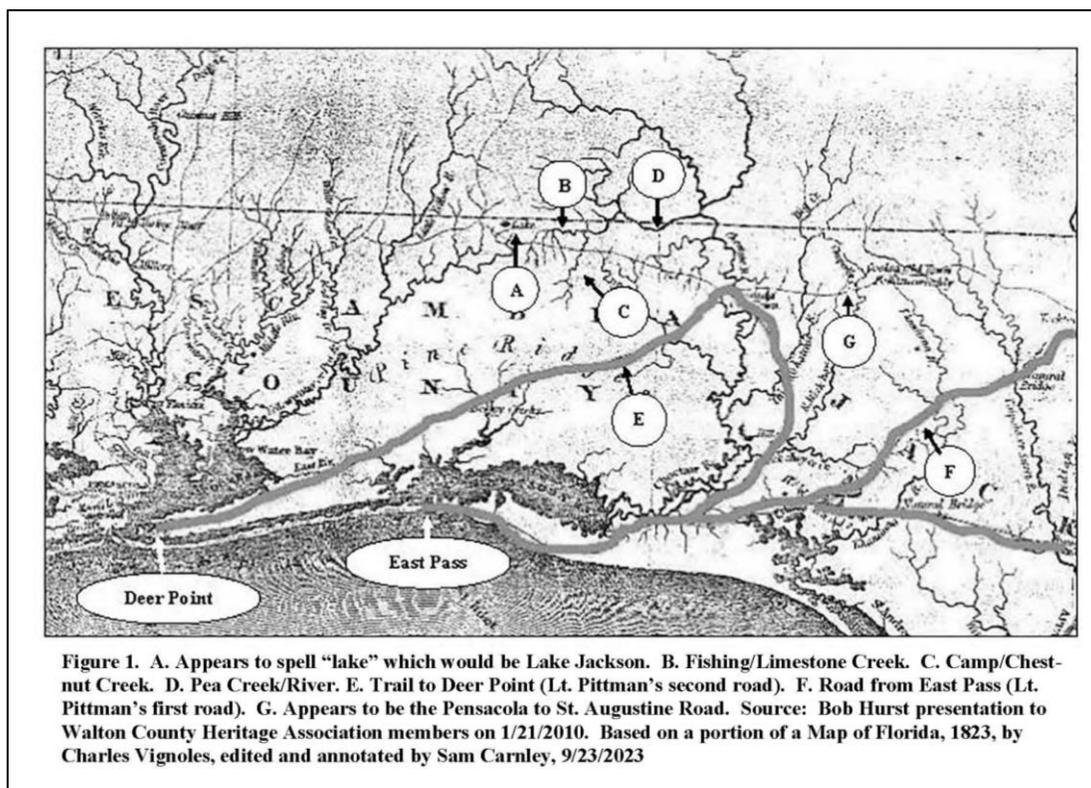
In 1756, Spain and France went to war with Britain in a European conflict known as the Seven Years War. At the same time France and its Indian allies fought Britain and the American colonies over disputed territories near colonial boundaries. The Americans called it the French and Indian War because that's who they fought. Britain and the Americans prevailed and in the treaty ending the war in 1763, Spain, having sided with France, lost Florida to the British.

As one of its first acts after acquiring the territory, Britain divided it into East and West Florida, with capital cities in St. Augustine and Pensacola. About 1767, Lt. Ph. Pittman, of the British military reported on roads then existing between Pensacola and "Fort Apalachy." Known today as San Marcos De Apalachee, the fort is now a state park in St. Marks, Florida. He described two roads leading to it from Pensacola.

The first one he described is paraphrased as traveling by boat from Pensacola to Choctawhatchee Bay through Santa Rosa Sound to the eastern end of Santa Rosa Island and landing on the far side of the Island's East Pass, where Destin is now located. A road ran east from there approximating the route of today's Highway 98, passing through south Walton County towns of Miramar Beach, Santa Rosa Beach and Point Washington.

It then turned northeast, passed over Econfina Creek and continued on to Chipola River. There, it headed east following roughly the path of today's Highway 20 across the Apalachicola River near Blounts Town. Continuing on east to a point below Tallahassee, it turned south to St. Marks.

His description of the second road, also paraphrased, began at Pensacola and crossed the Bay by boat to Deer Point, now Gulf Breeze in Santa Rosa County. It ran east about 25 miles around the south side of today's East Bay, then turned northeast. It passed between today's Crestview and Niceville, ran past DeFuniak Springs and on to where today's Highway 2 bridge crosses the Choctawhatchee River. Its path to that point is depicted on **Charles Vignoles Map of 1823**.

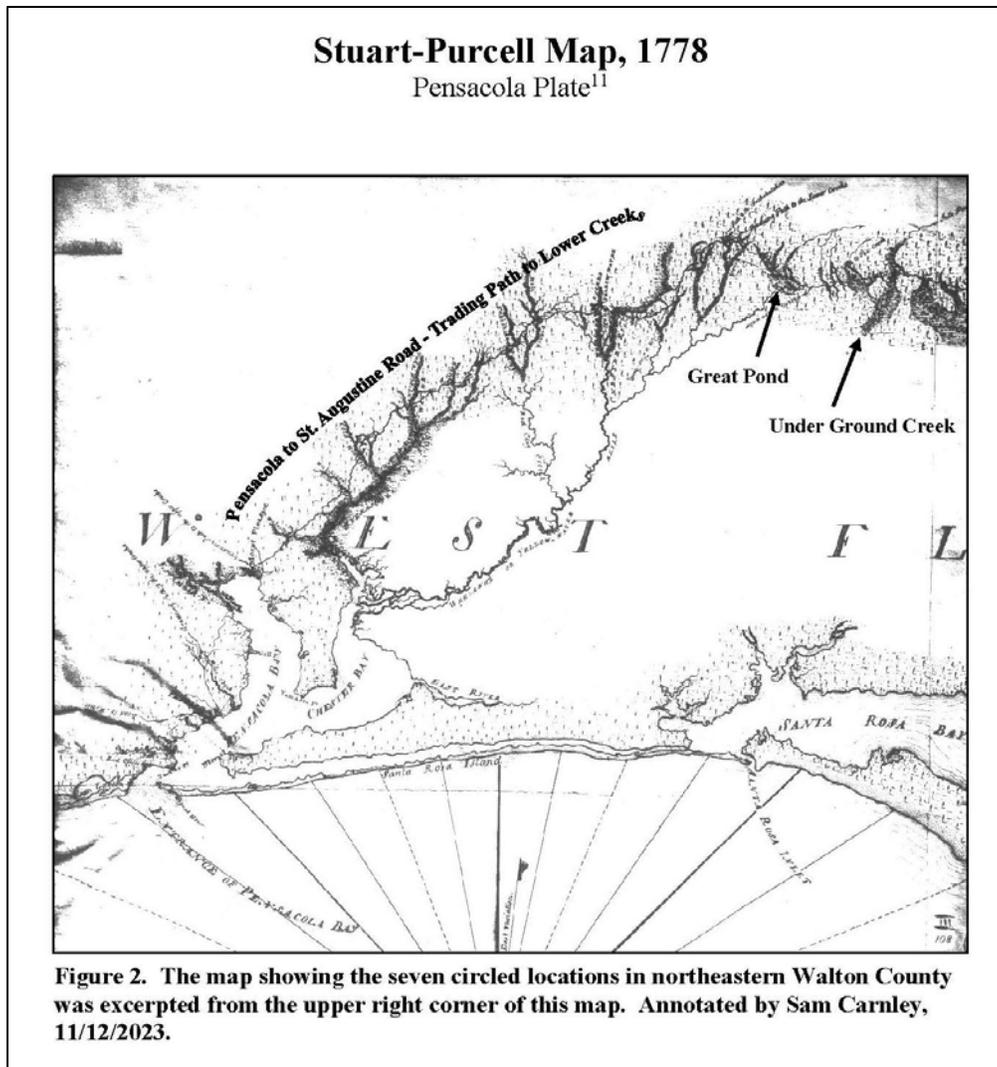


At the Choctawhatchee, it joined the path followed by the Pensacola to St. Augustine Road which continued east across the Chattahoochee River at Neals Landing in Jackson County and on to Tallahassee. From there, it went south to St. Marks where the fort was located.

In 1778, the British commissioned Joseph Purcell to prepare a map of the “Pensacola to St. Augustine Road.” It departed Pensacola heading north and crossed the Escambia River. Continuing northeast, it passed between today's Laurel Hill and Svea (Sweer) in Okaloosa County. Five miles later it passed the “Great Pond,” obviously today's Lake Jackson. A few miles after

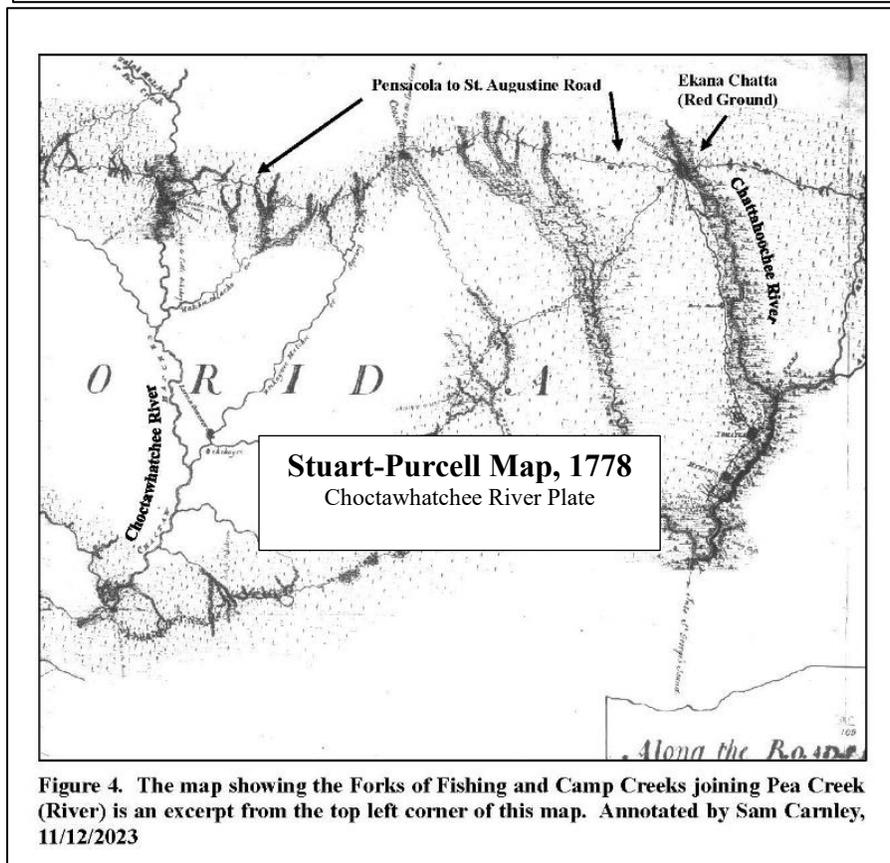
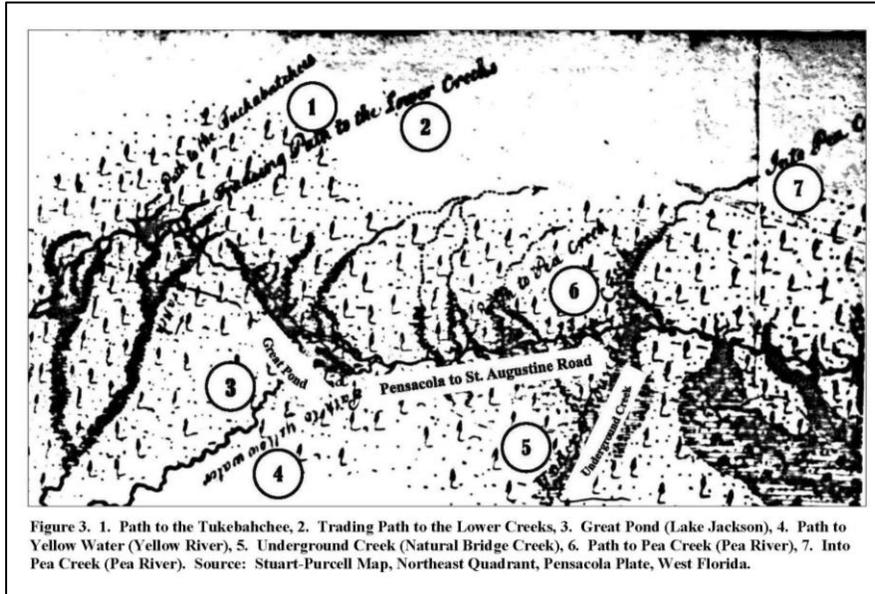
that it crossed the “Underground Creek,” which could only be Natural Bridge. Next in its path was a stream called “Fishing Creek.”

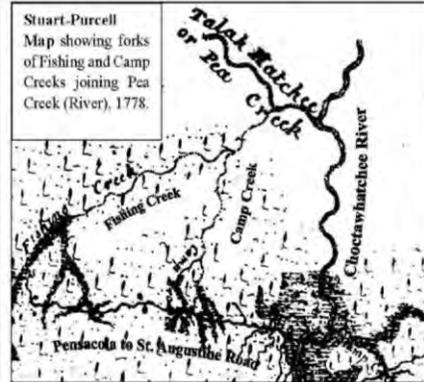
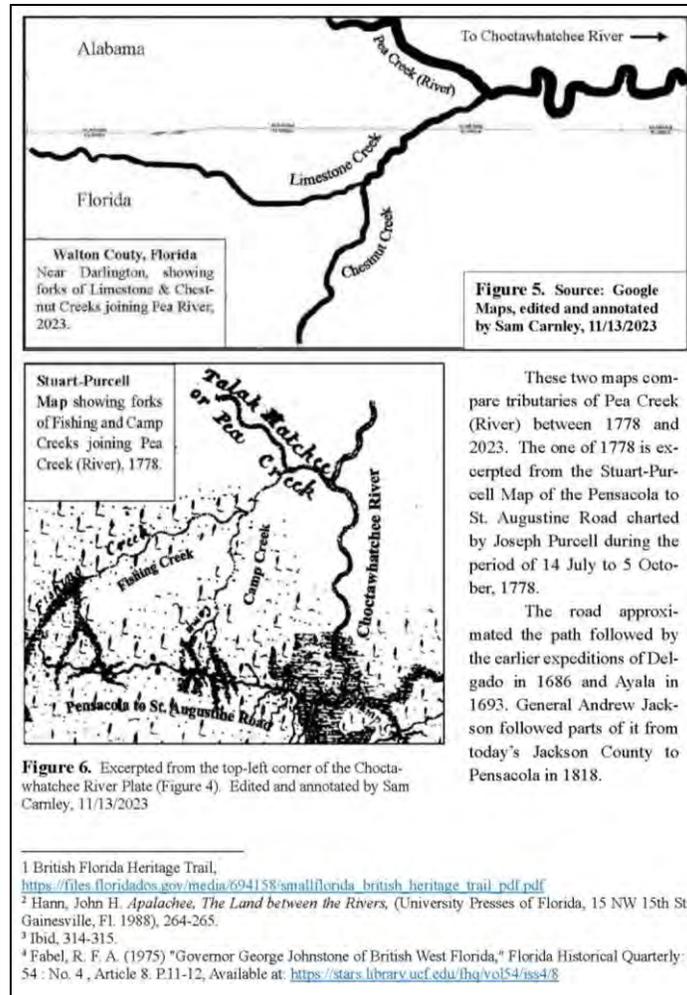
It corresponds closely with Limestone Creek on modern day Walton County maps. A stream the road reaches next is labeled “Camp Creek,” which appears to correspond to Chestnut Creek on the later map. It flows into Limestone Creek, which in turn, flows north into Geneva County Alabama and joins Pea River.



Continuing east, the road crossed Choctawhatchee River, then traversed today’s counties of Holmes and Jackson, following the same path as today’s Highway 2, as noted earlier. The Purcell map shows a village at the Chattahoochee River crossing identified as Ekana Chata, or “Red Ground.” That name seems to have later become synonymous with parts of the Pensacola to

St. Augustine Road. General Andrew Jackson followed the section of it from the Choctawhatchee River to Pensacola in 1818 and according to some historians that was the Red Ground Trail.





These two maps compare tributaries of Pea Creek (River) between 1778 and 2023. The one of 1778 is excerpted from the Stuart-Purcell Map of the Pensacola to St. Augustine Road charted by Joseph Purcell during the period of 14 July to 5 October, 1778.

The road approximated the path followed by the earlier expeditions of Delgado in 1686 and Ayala in 1693. General Andrew Jackson followed parts of it from today's Jackson County to Pensacola in 1818.

Figure 6. Excerpted from the top-left corner of the Choctawhatchee River Plate (Figure 4). Edited and annotated by Sam Carnley, 11/13/2023

¹ British Florida Heritage Trail,

https://files.floridados.gov/media/694158/smallflorida_british_heritage_trail.pdf.pdf

² Hahn, John H. *Apalachee. The Land between the Rivers*. (University Presses of Florida, 15 NW 15th Street Gainesville, FL 1988), 264-265.

³ *Ibid.*, 314-315.

⁴ Fabel, R. F. A. (1975) "Governor George Johnstone of British West Florida," *Florida Historical Quarterly*: Vol. 54: No. 4, Article 8: P.11-12, Available at: <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/fhq/vol54/iss4/8>

C. Second Spanish Period, 1784-1821

Jackson's foray into Florida occurred during the second Florida Spanish period, 1784 to 1821. During the Revolutionary War, Spain secretly allied with the American colonies against the British. When the Americans won, the treaty ending the war in 1783 gave Florida back to Spain as its reward for helping the Americans.

Spain showed its gratitude for the return of Florida by inciting Indians against settlers in Georgia and Alabama. Then, when they returned to Florida after the attacks, Spain gave them sanctuary. General Andrew Jackson put an end to that in 1814 when he defeated the Red Stick Creeks at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend on the Tallapoosa River in Alabama. But a few escaped and regrouped in Spanish Florida to continue causing problems for American settlers.

In December 1814, Jackson marched his army to New Orleans to head off a British invasion on the Gulf Coast. But hearing of British attempts to incite Red Stick Creeks in Pensacola, he marched his army there to quell that disturbance.

The Red Sticks fled before he got there, but his plans to pursue them changed when he learned the British invasion of New Orleans was imminent, necessitating his speedy return to meet that challenge. Not wishing to leave the Indian problem unresolved however, he dispatched Major Uriah Blue with a force of 1000 men to deal with the Indians.

Although the Major put forth his best effort to carry out the mission, multiple challenges worked against him, resulting in his ultimate failure. The unusually cold and rainy December weather, a chronic shortage of provisions and long, exhausting marches wore down his men almost to the point of collapse. Not helping matters was an evasive enemy who always seemed one step ahead of him in tracking them down.

The frontiersman, Davey Crocket, a volunteer in Blue's unit, wrote in his memoirs of the many privations the men suffered during the campaign. He recounted the long march from the vicinity of Pensacola in search of the village of Chief Holmes east of the Choctawhatchee River. In getting there, they probably followed a portion of the Pensacola to St. Augustine Road skirting the northern edge of the future county of Walton.

The men were half-starved having not eaten for several days, and looked forward to finding food at the Indian village. Much to their disappointment, however, on reaching it, they found it deserted and devoid of anything edible. That was about the point when Major Blue admitted defeat and departed Florida, leaving the Indian matter unsettled.

It remained so until events in 1817 set off the First Seminole War. In November of the year U. S. Army Lt. Richard Scott commanded a barge carrying over 50 people traveling up the Apalachicola River near today's Town of Chattahoochee. Hundreds of Red Stick Creek Indians ambushed the barge, killing and scalping most of those on board, with only seven of them managing to escape. Consequently, President James Monroe ordered General Jackson back to Florida to punish the Creeks responsible for the massacre.

Jackson returned to Florida in 1818. In mid-April, he marched down the east side of the Apalachicola River laying waste to a number of Creek villages encountered along the way and seizing the Spanish garrison at Fort St. Marks. Returning to Fort Gadsden on the river he planned on soon going home to Tennessee. His plans changed though, on hearing that the Spaniards in Pensacola had given refuge to a number of the Red Sticks he sought. Resolutely infuriated, he decided to march there, intent on teaching the Spaniards a lesson, which he did.

He crossed the river near Toryea State Park into today's Jackson County. From there he followed the route taken by the Ayala Expedition of 1693 to the Choctawhatchee River and entered today's Walton County in the vicinity of Darlington, just as the Ayala expedition had 125 years earlier.

But whereas Ayala turned south of Lake Jackson and crossed Walton County to the southwest, Jackson kept north of the lake and skirted its southwest side where he camped for a

short period before continuing on to Pensacola, likely via the Pensacola to St. Augustine Road, also known as the Red Ground Trail as previously noted.

The General's campaign against the Indians in Florida soon led to Spain ceding it to the United States as a new territory. In 1821 he returned to Pensacola as the U. S. commissioner to receive the territory from Spain and remained long enough to set in motion those events culminating in the formation of its government and its first two counties.

End of Chautauqua Presentation