



WALTON RELATIONS

Volume 1, Issue 2

Walton County Genealogy Society

November 2009

Genealogy Computer

The **Chautauqua Cyber Club** (CCC) generously donated a computer for use by Genealogy Society members. The computer is located on the desk in the research area of the Walton County Heritage Museum and has many tools that will be useful for genealogy research, including the program “Family Tree Maker,” donated by **Wayne Sconiers**.



The CCC (www.waltonccc.org) helps its club members who have computer questions and problems, but its main mission is “people helping people” through community service. For many years, CCC members have provided computers to those who are homebound and to adult students pursuing a higher education. The donation of the computer to the Genealogy Society will certainly help many genealogists. Thank you, CCC members!

Genealogy Society Meeting

The next meeting of the Genealogy Society will be **Saturday, November 14, at 10:00 at the Museum**. We will have a regular business meeting followed by a discussion of our progress with the Magnolia Cemetery Project. Please join us.

The Magnolia Cemetery Project is well underway thanks to some very enthusiastic volunteers. We discussed the project at our October meeting and adjourned to regroup at the cemetery to make sure the volunteers understand the project and their roles in it. We will always welcome more help and new ideas, so feel free to contact us at any point.

Wayne Sconiers has prepared an excellent layout of Magnolia Cemetery that is available in the Walton County Genealogy Society section of www.waltoncountyheritage.org. If you have ever had trouble figuring out where a block or lot is, you will love it! The subdivision (S/D), block, lot, and grave numbers for burials can be found on the City of DeFuniak Springs’ website at www.DeFuniakSprings.net.

Genealogy: How to Get Started

By Wayne Sconiers

President, Walton County Genealogy Society

Gather the easy fruit first.

Talk to your parents, grandparents, and other relatives. Record your conversations either with a tape recorder or, if possible, with a video camera. You will never regret this even if this all you do.

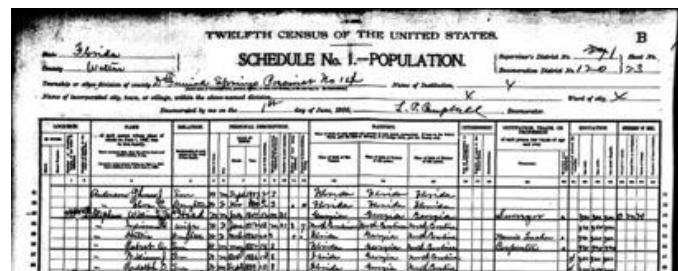
Start writing down the family line. Use an ancestral or pedigree chart and a family group sheet, gathering complete names and as much information as you can, such as:

- dates born and where;
- dates died, where, and how;
- burial locations and how to get there; and
- children and who they married. Do not forget to ask if they know the maiden names.

Write down any important events or stories about each and every person. Do not forget to ask to see pictures and family bibles; get copies of all. Be sure to get the dates of the pictures, if possible, and who is in them.

Now start researching.

Look at the census records for where they lived, thus proving the information gathered. Do not forget to look at neighboring families in the census. You will probably find other relatives.



1900 Census for Precinct 14, DeFuniak Springs

Visit the cemetery. Document the information on the tombstones, verifying dates, and look for relatives buried close by.

Look up marriage records. Don't just look at the date. There may be some other information you could use, such as variations in names, who signed for permission if they were underage, witnesses, etc.

Search land records in the county where they lived. A lot of land was sold within the family.

Death records from where they died contain a wealth of information, such as how they died, their parents, etc.

Wills in the county where they died may provide a list of children, grandchildren, locations, and sometimes comments about them.

Look at social security death indexes.

Look at registrations for the draft, Civil War lists, voting lists, and old newspapers in the area where they lived.

Look into a genealogy program to store the information you have collected. Programs offer you the ability to organize and share your information with others in a multitude of ways, such as charts, reports, photos, medical trends, and the entire database if desired.

Join the Walton County Genealogy Society to share tips and tricks and where to look on the Internet for free information and family data. You might find someone who is researching the same family line.

Have fun! You are in for many surprises, and you will get to meet a lot of great people.

Resources

In each issue of “Walton Relations,” we will list some resources for you to try. Some will be familiar to you, but we hope some will be new. For the first four in this series, please see the previous issue of *Walton Relations*, which is available at www.waltoncountyheritage.org.

5. Check with associations to which your ancestors may have belonged. These include churches, clubs, veterans groups, and lodges, all of which may be able to provide background information for your search.

6. Census data. After 1840, the Census collected age, place of birth, occupation, personal wealth, education, spouse, children, hired hands, and immigration information. Copies of the original decennial census forms from 1790 - 1930 are available on microfilm for research at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in Washington, D.C., (www.archives.gov), at NARA regional centers, and at select Federal depository libraries throughout the United States.

7. Naturalizations records.

For Pre-1906 Naturalizations:

Contact the State Archives for the state where the naturalization occurred to request a search of state, county, and local court records. Contact the NARA regional facility that serves the state where naturalization occurred to request a search of Federal court records.

For Naturalizations after 1906:

After 1906, the courts forwarded copies of naturalizations to the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). Naturalizations from Federal Courts are in the NARA regional facilities for the Federal courts for their area. For more information about those records, see www.archives.gov/genealogy/naturalization.

Medical Terminology

By Diane Merkel

Years ago, my husband Chuck researched the life of an Army officer who died in 1876. The cause of death listed on his death certificate was “Congestion of the Brain” with a secondary cause of “Intemperance.” Chuck consulted a physician friend, who also enjoys researching the Indian Wars period, and they consulted a book, *A Treatise on the Practice of Medicine* by George B. Wood ((Philadelphia: Lippincott, 1858), for a better understanding of the medical terminology of that time. They determined that the officer died of *delirium tremens*, better known to us as the DTs, induced by the withholding of alcohol from the officer who had a long history of heavy drinking. Physicians now know to withhold alcohol gradually to avoid such a result.

Genealogists oftentimes encounter archaic medical terms. Here are a few online sources to consult when a cause of death baffles you:

- longislandgenealogy.com/OldMedical.html
- loricase.com/old-medical-terms.html
- fentonhistsoc.tripod.com/id121.html

A source that may be of special interest to Walton County genealogists is “Sickness and Death in the Old South,” which is available at tngenweb.org/darkside/medical-terms.html.

Early Newspapers of DeFuniak Springs

The Baker Block Museum has microfilm of early newspapers available for viewing in its library and some transcriptions on its website, bakerblockmuseum.org/earlynews-dfs.htm.

Thanks to **Michael Strickland**, items from *The Breeze* and *The Herald* will soon be available on our website, starting with 1910. Thank you, Mickey!

On the Bookshelf

Here is a partial listing of resources available for use at the Museum:

- 1880 United States Census and National Index (CD set)
- 1885 Florida State Census, Wakulla County
- *“Can’t Never Could” and Other Stories to Grow-up By* compiled by Julia Cadenhead
- *Clan Morrison* compiled by Anita B. Harris
- DeFuniak Springs City Directory, 1993
- DeFuniak Springs City Directory, 1994/95



- *The Heart and History of Holmes County with Glimpses of the Panhandle* by Anna Paget Wells and Geraldine Kryder Clemmons
- *John Smith Families of Holmes and Walton County*
- *McLeods of Early Walton County, Florida with Allied Families* by Carlos J. McLeod
- RootsWeb Guide to Tracing Family Trees
- *Sconiers Family of Walton County* by Alto Wayne Sconiers

Cemeteries Update

Last month’s newsletter had a partial list of Walton County cemeteries. **Butch Lawrence** of Gaskin wrote to let us know that Gaskin Cemetery is a community cemetery and it is not affiliated with the Gaskin First Baptist Church. The cemetery is directly behind the church, so it is easy to understand why there is some confusion, but the church does not own it.

Tom McNeill of Shalimar wrote to remind us that about half of the Florala, Alabama, Greenwood Cemetery is located within Walton County, so we will add that to our list of cemeteries to survey in the future.

Janet Miller, who lives in San Antonio but has deep roots in Walton County, sent a lot of information about her family members in Magnolia Cemetery and a mystery for us to solve along the way. Thanks, Janet!

Thanks to everyone who sent encouragement for the cemetery project and the newsletter!

From the Walton County Heritage Association page on [Facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/WaltonCountyHeritage):

There will be a cemetery cleaning at the Children’s Home Cemetery Nov. 28th beginning at 9:00 am. If anyone can come out to help, it will be greatly appreciated.... This is the weekend after Thanksgiving and what a wonderful way to work off the extra piece of Pumpkin Pie – and maybe meet distant cousins you never knew you had!

Walton County Heritage Museum

Wednesday-Saturday, 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM
1140 Circle Drive, DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435
850-951-2127

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www.WaltonCountyHeritage.org

“Walton Relations” is a publication of the Walton County Genealogy Society. Wayne Sconiers, President. Distribution is encouraged! For more information or to submit an article, please email its editor, Diane Merkel, at WaltonCountyHeritage@cox.net or call 850-897-4505.