



WALTON RELATIONS

Volume 3, Issue 9

Walton County Genealogy Society

August 2012

Free Genealogy Help

The Walton County Genealogy Society now offers free genealogy lessons every Wednesday at the Walton County Heritage Museum.

Genealogy Society President **Wayne Sconiers** is accepting appointments for one-on-one research assistance. Wayne will share his genealogy expertise and answer your questions. Beginners can have an in-depth discussion about how to get started with family research and how to record the information both on paper and electronically. He will help you further your research by locating online Internet assets. You will also be able to look at the Walton County genealogical database which currently has 48,000+ people. This database represents 12 years of research and contains most descendants of the early settlers of Walton County.

Openings are limited and on a first-come basis, so do not wait. You can email Wayne at waynesconiers@embarqmail.com or call him at 850-859-2207 to make an appointment. You do not need to be a member of the Walton County Heritage Association to take advantage of this offer, but we hope non-members will consider joining.

WCGS Meeting

The Walton County Genealogy Society will not meet this month. The next meeting will be Saturday, September 8, at 10:00 AM.

Journey Stories

Walton County has a display at the Smithsonian Institution's "Journey Stories" exhibition at the Panhandle Pioneer Settlement in Blountstown (Calhoun County). Other counties that contributed displays are Calhoun, Gadsden, Liberty, Wakulla, and Washington. The exhibition is open Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 10:00 AM until 5:00 PM through Saturday, August 25. For more information about the exhibition, see www.museumonmainstreet.org/journeyStories/index.html.

Walton County Heritage Museum

Open Tuesday - Saturday: 1:00 - 4:00 PM
1140 Circle Drive, DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435

850-951-2127

www.WaltonCountyHeritage.org

WaltonCountyHeritage@cox.net

The Palmera Yearbooks

Yearbooks contain a goldmine of information for genealogists by providing glimpses into the school years of our ancestors. We have several yearbooks from Walton High School and Palmer College, and we would like to expand our collection. If you are willing to donate a yearbook, please contact Wayne Sconiers.

The following "Alumni Notes" and "An Alumni Roll" are from the Palmer College yearbooks for 1926, 1927, and 1928. They provide valuable information about what some alumni did after graduation.

Alumni Notes [1926]

Four of our girls of the graduating class of '25 we find at Florida State College for Women at Tallahassee: Mabel Peaden, who completed the Junior College work at Palmer, and Helen Cawthon, Hume Hinesley and Ola Peaden, members of the Senior Academy Class.

William Sellars, better known as "Taxi," is in the turpentine business with his father.

At Washington and Lee University we find Luther McKinnon, who is a member of the Junior class.

Leo Andrews is managing his father's mercantile business in Ponce de Leon, Florida.

Jack Le Maistre, who was valedictorian of the graduating class of last year, is upholding his reputation in the University of Michigan.

Dan Hughes is manager of the Ford agency in Laurel Hill, Florida.

We find Macon Manley working for the Standard Oil Company in Graceville, Florida.

Bill Rigell holds a responsible position in the Millville Electrical Company of Millville, Florida.

Lulu Murphry is preparing herself for a business career at the business school of Marianna.

Those of the Senior Academy Class of last year who are continuing their work in the Junior College of Palmer are: Ethel Penton, Elizabeth Post, Ophelia Campbell and Burton Townsend.

Raymond Wickersham, a graduate of Palmer College in the class of '21 and a graduate of Washington and Lee University in the class of '23 is doing post-graduate work in the Harvard School of Commerce.

—Mrs. R. M. Brice, '24

An Alumni Roll [1927]

At the University of Florida we find Walton Flournoy and Alva Gillis who are continuing their studies.

At the Woman's College in Tallahassee we find Helen Cawthon, Ethel Gainer, Hume Hinesley, Dorcas Hodge and Hilda Simmons.

At W. and L. [Washington and Lee] we find Luther McKinnon and Ralph Wickersham.

At Davidson we find Henry and James Elliot.

At Maryville College we find Elizabeth Post and Sue Spencer.

At Presbyterian College we find Civil Sessoms.

At Michigan we find Jack LeMaitre.

At Emory we find Gene Richardson.

Mayo Ferdon is in business in Crestview.

Willie D. Douglass is in the newspaper business in Crestview, also.

Henry Campbell is in business in Dundee, Fla.

Clyde Coons is in the Frigidaire business in Daytona Beach, Fla.

At Daytona Beach, Florida, we also find Pauline and Mary Cuthill Tervin, Carriemae Campbell and Marjorie Ward teaching.

At DeLand, Annie McDonald and Louise Jackson are connected with the county schools.

Mary Burke is in the insurance business in DeFuniak Springs, Florida.

Emma Bell McKinnon is teaching at Holt, Florida.

Sadie Wickersham and Berla Sutton are members of the Walton Hi faculty at DeFuniak.

Bernice Sutton holds a position with W. E. Parish & Co. at DeFuniak.

Hazel Campbell is secretary to the superintendent of county schools at DeFuniak. "

John McKinnon holds a position with the Sherrile Oil Co. at DeFuniak.

Margaret Sowell and Roy Harris have positions with-the First National Bank at DeFuniak.

Palmer Campbell is in the post office at Gallagher.

Landrum Cawthon has a position in the Cawthon State Bank at DeFuniak.

Allen Kemper and Farrar Martin are in the U. S. Naval Academy.

Gayton Post has a position with the Florida Road Department.

Neil Currie has a position with a chemical company in Ohio.

James Vaughan has a position with the Bell Telephone Co. at Atlanta.

Franklin Tervin has a position with the Pan-Am Oil Co.

Bessie Tervin is a member of the Palmer faculty.

Lucile Tervin has a position with the Record Printing Co. at St. Augustine.

John L. McDonald is in the drug business in DeFuniak.

Leo Andrews is in the Ford business at Ponce de Leon.

At Harvard we find Raymond Wickersham in the Business College.

—JOHN LOCKEY McDONALD.

Alumni Notes [1928]

The graduates of 1926 and 1927 who have remained at Palmer are Mae McCall, Ellis Jones, Angus Wickersham, Melville Jennings, Franklin Tervin, Myrtle Kyle, Allison George, Kemper Jennings, Gwendolyn McKinnon and Barbara Campbell.

Among those completing their courses at other colleges are Bobby D. Woodward, at Emory; Patricia Askew, at Auburn; Carrie Daffin, at Mitchell College.

At the Woman's College in Montgomery, Ala., we find Catherine Bullard and Willer D. Sellars.

The Florida State College has claimed quite a few of our recent graduates. They are Marjorie Pauline Kastler, Winifred Sessoms, Ethel Penton and Nola Mann Sanders.

Besides James and Henry Elliot at Davidson we also find Robert and Hall Daffin.

Raymond Wickersham, after graduating from Palmer, Washington and Lee and taking two years work at Harvard, decided that there was still something else for him to learn, so he is at the University of Michigan this year, where we also find Jack and George LeMaistre.

We have two graduates pursuing a lawyer's course. They are Eugene Richardson, at Lebanon, and Walton Flournoy, at Georgetown University.

Among the graduates of last year who have entered the working world are Margaret Murphree, who is in the office of the County Judge, and Howard Storrs, who is employed at the Breeze Office.

Mildred Edwards has entered training as a nurse in Atlanta.

Marion Fullerton has just completed a business course at Campbell Institute.

Among the Palmer graduates of recent years who are teaching are Mary Leigh Vaughan, at Quincy; Marion Rawls, at Sneads; Wilma Simmons, at Arcadia, and Berla Sutton, Wilfred Simmons and Ranna Savage, at Walton High School.

—ALICE MAY BROWN, '22.

1940 Census Index

Thanks to **Lillian McLean** for passing along this information from Randall J. Seaver of Genea-Musings. The full post can be viewed at www.geneamusings.com/2012/07/1940-us-census-comparisons-summary-and.html. Mr. Seaver did a study of 200 index entries for the 1940 Census, comparing Ancestry.com, a subscription service, with FamilySearch.com, which is free. The following are his conclusions.

- 1) Indexing census records is a difficult task because of the informant's knowledge (or lack thereof), the enumerator's attention (or lack thereof) and handwriting skills (good to poor), and indexer's attention and skills.
- 2) A 12% error rate on FamilySearch shows the imperfections of the indexing process — but it is about one half of the 23% error rate on Ancestry.com.
- 3) The two indexers plus an arbitrator process on FamilySearch appears to work better than whatever process that Ancestry.com employs (a single indexer? Volunteer or paid? English speaking? Located where?).
- 4) In order to find target persons, a researcher will have to employ all available census indexes and use all of their "tricks of the search" to find the most elusive persons.
- 5) My recommended search strategy is to use the FamilySearch index with the target name, then try wild cards, age, birthplace and residence filters to try to find the elusive targets. If a searcher cannot find their target on FamilySearch, then do the same type of search on Ancestry.com.

My standard search is with exact names, but I use wild cards and the filters very early in my search efforts. I know that many given names and surnames can be misspelled because of the problems with informants, enumerators and indexers, so I try to use wild cards for capital and lower case letters that look like other letters. For the "Seaver" surname, it's not unusual for me to try sea*, *ver, *vers, ?eaver, se*er*, ?e*er, ?e*ers, etc."

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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.