



# WALTON RELATIONS

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Walton County Genealogy Society

August 2013



## **Who Are They?**

These unidentified gentlemen were found in the files of the Walton County Heritage Museum. Unfortunately, there was no identification attached to the photograph. The cardboard frame around the photograph is stamped, "Hope Cawthon, De Funiak Springs, Fla." If you can identify either of the people in the photograph, please contact us.

## **Heritage Festival**

The Walton County Heritage Association will celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Saturday, September 21, from 9:00 AM until 6:00 PM, with a Heritage Festival around the Lakeyard. We are planning a variety of activities to entertain people of all ages and interests. More information to come!

## **No August WCGS Meeting**

The Walton County Genealogy Society will not meet this month. Please plan to join us at the Museum on Saturday, September 14, at 10:00 AM for our next meeting.

## **Lakewood Cemetery Trip**

Members and friends of the Genealogy Society met at the Britton Hill marker in Lakewood on the morning of Saturday, June 8. What a great day! We located several landmarks in Lakewood but could not locate the Lakewood Cemetery. After stopping several area residents as they were driving down the road, we finally got the answer from Rev. Tucker Aplin who was kind enough to lead us to the cemetery – just over the state line in Alabama! We feel certain Lakewood residents are buried there, but we need to do more research.

We hope to tour Lakewood again in October and include visits to Paxton and Flowersview. If there is enough interest, we may make it a bus trip, so please let us know if you would consider such a trip.

### **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](http://www.WaltonCountyHeritage.org)

[WaltonCountyHeritage@cox.net](mailto:WaltonCountyHeritage@cox.net)

## A Legacy Worthy of Preservation, Part II

By Annie Ruth Campbell

The following is the second part of a presentation given to the Walton County Heritage Association on April 15, 1993. Heritage has a copy of Mrs. Campbell's handwritten notes but, unfortunately, the last line of each page was not copied so some sentences are unfinished. Those sentences are noted as "[missing line]" in the transcript. If we locate the original notes, we will make the entire presentation available. The first part of the presentation appeared in the June 2013 issue of *Walton Relations*.

### Argyle

Descendants of Alonzo Jackson help keep his legacy alive by [missing line] Miller reunions. He was very literate and operated a store. Other families in the Argyle community included the Neals and the Gipsons. They are now looking forward to the celebration of the 101<sup>st</sup> birthday of Lula Jackson Neal next month. She is the daughter of Alonzo.

Thomas Jordan, formerly of DeFuniak Springs, was the first black member of the town's police force. He later joined the county sheriff's staff.

Argyle is the site of a congregate housing facility operated by David and Doris Laird Johnson. Doris' father, the late I. E. Laird, owned the Laird Funeral Home in DeFuniak Springs.

New Bethel A.M.E. is one of two churches in the community. Farther south is Macedonia Baptist Church, established in 1886.

Descendants of Henry Goode, the Gipsons and Jacksons have kept their legacy in tact to pass on to future generations.

### Eucler Valley/Campbellton/Knox Hill

Early known residents of Eucler Valley included John Jack Campbell, William Caswell Campbell, William Anderson and "Bob" Russ. The Anderson and J. J. Campbell families were united through the marriage of Hannah Eunora Anderson and C. J. Campbell. W. C. Campbell owned and operated a saw mill powered by a steam boiler.

Descendants of these four men included many DeFuniak Springs residents and former residents whom many of you know personally. They include the following: Clyde A. Russ, retired Walton County educator and at one time the owner of a Park Street dry cleaning establishment; Billie Russ Delelog, Administrator of the Senior Employment Program in Florida and Alabama, whose office is located in the Professional Building on East Baldwin Avenue; and A. O. Campbell, retired school administrator and a DeFuniak Springs City Councilman who was elected in 1975. Included also are many present employees of the Walton County District School system.

As students, most of these descendants were school educated at one-room schools in the Knox Hill, Campbellton, and Euchee Valley communities. Some of them remain especially active in their individual churches and in an organization which promotes the upkeep of the Pleasant Grove Cemetery.

The Pleasant Grove Presbyterian, organized in 1923, and St. John Baptist are two churches in the area with present active memberships.

Within recent years, the Anderson, John Jack Campbell, and the William C. Campbell family reunions were organized.

### **Red Bay**

A roll call of well known families in the Red Bay community would probably begin with the Phillip Russ family, followed by descendants of Rueben Wilkerson and Colin Jackson.

Their influence has molded the shape of the community by religious activities, businesses, and participation in school related activities over the years. Phillip Russ III does large scale farming in addition to holding down a regular job at Eglin Air Force Base. His son, Phillip VI, is a progressive A.M.E. minister who also works full-time in a secular job. Other fourth generation Russes are employed in the Walton County School System.

Rueben Wilkerson operated a general store. His son, Henry T. Wilkerson, after principalships at the Red Bay Elementary School and at Chapel Hill School, assumed the administrative role at the Tivoli School Center in 1951.

Mitzi Jackson, an outstanding Walton football player, later played at Auburn University. Other Jackson and Russ family members are prominent in the work of the Mt. Olive A.M.E. Church in Red Bay.

The Wilkersons are involved in lay leadership of the Church of Christ, which is also located on Highway 81.

The Robert Paul family also deserves mention. The William Paul family in DeFuniak Springs has connections with this group. The janitorial service which William owns and operates is an example of the business acumen so many of the men and women of this particular area have exhibited over the years.

The Paul and Russ family reunions are well organized and held on a regular basis.

I am aware that there are many more individuals who have not been included in this presentation. I have enough notes left over to fill several more pages. Perhaps at a later date, this project to develop a documented, more complete history of blacks in Walton County can be undertaken by a larger group of Heritage Association members with enough time allotted to do the job.

## **Websites You May Have Missed**

Birmingham Public Library – Many Waltonians have links to Alabama and may find the Library’s Databases section helpful. The Genealogy section has databases such as “Alabama Episcopal Church Registers,” “Obituary Index: Birmingham Area Newspapers,” and “WPA Index to Alabama Biography.”

GenDex Genealogical Index – Search almost 6,000 databases containing over 31 million names linked to family history websites. You can also submit your family website for indexing.

GenealogyInTime Magazine – This online magazine boasts it is the “world’s most popular online genealogy magazine and one of the world’s largest free genealogy websites.” It offers a free newsletter and free genealogy search engine. It has lots of research tips and tools.

JSTOR Register & Read – Register & Read Beta offers free, read-online access to individual scholars and researchers who register for a MyJSTOR account. Register & Read includes approximately 1,200 journals from more than 700 publishers that were previously available only through university libraries. The Florida Historical Society is collaborating with JSTOR to digitalize its publications. A recent search for articles about Walton County returned “Origins of the County Names in Florida,” “The Selection of Tallahassee as the Capitol,” and “A Matron of the Revolution” about Dorothy Walton, the mother of George Walton, Jr., for whom our county is named.

Mocavo Genealogy Blog – Mocavo is a subscription site, but its blog by Michael Leclerc is free and contains great tips and genealogy news updated frequently. If you enjoy reading genealogy blogs, be sure to check Family Tree Magazine’s “Top 40 Genealogy Blogs in 2013.” They are divided into “Good advice,” “Tech support,” “Gravestone matters,” “Heritage help,” “Shop talk,” and “Story time” with short descriptions of each so you can easily decide if a blog will be of interest to you.

ScotlandsPeople – If you have Scottish ancestry, you will want to visit this website. It is a subscription site, but its “Free Search Records” section does a nice job of explaining Scottish inheritance law and coats of arms.

### ***Creek by Blood: A Last Gathering of the Creek Peoples at Oak Grove in Okaloosa County***

By Nathan A. Chessher with Julia Cadenhead

As the book cover says, “You may be surprised to know there was a significant migration of the Creek People into present day Okaloosa County, FL, and that many of their descendants remain here.” The book can be purchased for \$20 plus shipping costs from the Baker Block Museum by sending this form with your payment: [bakerblockmuseum.org/book\\_gifts\\_order\\_form.pdf](http://bakerblockmuseum.org/book_gifts_order_form.pdf).

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