



WALTON RELATIONS

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Walton County Genealogy Society

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Photograph donated by the late Roy McLeod.

Who Are They?

This photograph of Louisville and Nashville (L&N) railroad workers was taken in 1929. The first two men on the left have not been identified. The other three are (middle to right) Alex Powell, George Powell, and Horace Brooks. If you can identify the other two men, please contact us.

Question:

At our January Genealogy Society meeting, we discussed precincts within enumeration districts in federal censuses. Were census precincts the same as voting precincts?

WCGS Meeting

The Walton County Genealogy Society will meet on Saturday, February 9, at 10:00 A.M. at the Walton County Heritage Museum. We hope to see you!

January's Photograph

Last month's "Who Are They?" photograph taken at the Koerber plant prompted responses from **Maveen Bruner** and **Michael Strickland**. The woman standing on the right has been confirmed as Ola Hobbs Shaw. The man to the right in the back may be a Mr. Rushing from Euchee Valley, but his first name is unknown. It is thought the man to the left in the back favors some of the Burgesses in this area, but we have not been able to confirm that. We welcome any additional information.

Walton County Heritage Museum

Open Tuesday - Saturday: 1:00 - 4:00 PM
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Origins of Community Names – Part II

By Margaret Wooten

The following is the second part of a transcript of an undated cassette tape that was apparently recorded during a Walton County Heritage Association meeting many years ago. We welcome additional information or comments that we will pass along in March issue of *Walton Relations*. See Page 4 for additional notes.

Freeport has really two tales to it. Freeport was named Freeport according to my mother when her grandparents came here they didn't have any salt. They would take their oxen carts and go down to the gulf and boil water. When you boil a gallon of water you get about $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of salt. They would spread the salt out they had to have salt to preserve the meat and of course to salt their food and when they would spread that out on sheets and let it dry and then they'd put it in a keg or barrel and put it on their ox carts and carry it back and they would boil enough down. They'd stay down there sometimes for a week or two weeks at a time in order to get enough salt to take care of the family's preserving the family's meat and also so that they could salt their food with it. That was the only place they could follow the Indian trail and go down to the gulf and not have to pay a fee to get to the gulf. Now if they went to other places along the beach there, people who owned the land would charge them a fee so they called that Freeport because they could go there anytime they wanted to and boil and get them a supply of salt. Now Mr. Harvey Casey and I were good friends. You remember he used to be at the ice -- he owned the ice plant there in Freeport. Harvey says that this is the tale that was told him by his parents. He said that back whenever Freeport had ships coming in and bringing cargo for the people who lived inland, they'd go there to the freight office and they had little freight storage rooms and in those storage rooms they put whatever people had ordered with their names on it, but there was this keg that had lost its name and of course the keg was full of wine or they called it port back in those days and he said that the name got lost and so the freight manager decided he would just let the people come and get a drink out of that keg so he told them and they had back in those days they had gourds and tin cups was about all there wasn't any glasses he said, so the people -- the word got around that if they'd come with their cups they could get a glass of free wine or free port, and it got its name because of free wine there.

Bruce was named after Mr. Bruce who was a surveyor. Now Mr. Bruce surveyed all over Walton County. He was a first surveyor they had here in Walton County so far as I've read.

Red Bay is named Red Bay because of the red bay trees growing around the community and I think that community has always been of interest to me because they have several churches there but the churches just have church on one Sunday and then all the people in Red Bay -- they might go to the Methodist church one Sunday, then they'd go to the Baptist Church on the next Sunday, and so forth but those people have always -- and they cooperate -- have their dinners on the ground planned together so they can all worship together. We all worship the same God.

Seagrove Beach was named Seagrove Beach because of the trees growing right down almost to the water. People who owned land there often have left -- I believe it's -- native dwarf magnolias and other dwarf plants growing there just so that it -- I don't know the last time I was there it was still a lot of trees still growing -- but it's because of the trees growing right down near the water.

Rock Hill is a community that you would pass through as you went down to the beach. And Rock Hill was named Rock Hill because it has so many rocks on the hill. There's quite a few people live in that little community.

Oakwood Hill is out near on 90 and is called Oakwood Hill because the settlers there -- the oak trees growing there.

Now Alaqua or Pleasant Ridge community is the one that I grew up in. And my grandparents and my great grandparents came there to settle and they lived at Midway, Alabama, and after the war the carpetbaggers came down and took all their furniture and everything they had and they'd take their animals and they'd just steal things from them and just run them off so to speak from their property, so my grandpa Henderson and my grandpap Stafford met in the Civil War. They both lived there at Midway, so they followed the Indian trail and, as they followed this trail with their oxen carts and their wives, they had to take a broad ax and cut down the trees along the way so they'd get their ox carts over it. And they kept coming and the reason they came here to Florida was that at that time it was just a territory and they would let them -- the government was letting them homestead land here. I think you could homestead 100 acres for \$1.25 -- I believe was quoted to me as a child -- and so my parents settled here on this creek called Alaqua Creek, and it's interesting to me the name of that, Alaqua. Alaqua by one tribe was called Broken Pitcher. Evidently one of the Indian maidens had broken a pitcher when she went there to get water. And another tribe called it Muddy Water because the water there's [tank?] acid in the tree roots and it is not clear -- it's not what you would call -- it's not real mud but it's just tinted. So my parents settled here in this community called Alaqua. Of course another name for that same community is called Pleasant Ridge. My grandpap Stafford gave the land to build where they could build that church -- use some of the land that he had got when he homesteaded -- and gave it to the community to build a church and also for a cemetery. The reason he gave the land, he said, "My oldest two children in my family died of cholera famine," they called it back then and they had to be buried at Steele Church. That was the only, nearest cemetery. So Grandpap Stafford wanted his offspring to be buried on his soil, he said. So he gave the land at Pleasant Ridge.

Douglass Crossroads is named Douglass Crossroads because of a man named Douglass. I used to get quite a few good workers to come and help me hoe the daylilies from Douglass Crossroads.

Limestone is called Limestone because of Limestone Creek. There is a limestone bottom in the creek.

Pleasant Grove is called Pleasant Grove because when they were building the church, they were sitting on the shade of the trees there and thought, "Isn't it nice, the shade of these groves," so they named the church Pleasant Grove.

Sandy Creek was named --it's a church over nearby -- and it's called Sandy Creek because that's the name of the creek nearby.

Cluster Springs -- I've already explained what happened there.

Portland was named Portland because that's where the freight used to be. They had freight where boats would come in and it was on the creek there where they could come in and put in port and people would come and get the stuff from the freight house.

Choctaw Beach was named Choctaw Beach for the Chattahoochee [*Choctawhatchee*] River and so they named that the Choctaw Beach.

Knox Hill community was named after the teacher Mr. Knox and he had an academy there and then later he named it Eucheeanna though because of the Euchee Indians and he had a daughter named Anna, so that's why we think of Knox Hill and Eucheeanna almost the same community.

Argyle was named Argyle after a stockholder who owned the turpentine still there and they would ship the turpentine north on the railroad and it was a landing place for them to stop and pick up the turpentine at Argyle and it was named after him.

Blue Mountain of course was named Blue Mountain because of the beautiful blue water there at Blue Mountain, and then Eden I understand was named after a man by the name of Mr. Dunallen but they called it Duneden.

Now I'm sure there are other communities that I haven't mentioned, but those were the ones that come to mind.

Since the publication of Part I of Mrs. Wooten's presentation, an undated document was found in the files of the Walton County Heritage Association called "Community Name Origins as told by Margaret Wooten to Lola Clause and Jennell Raley Griffin." Much of the information is the same as published in Parts I and II with the following exceptions, which are presented as they appear in the document as is the biographical sketch of Mrs. Wooten.

Lockhart: Mr. Lockhart owned a turpentine still in the area.

Paxton: named for stockholder of turpentine still – also owner of lumber mill when the turpentine trees were cut.

Glendale: named for son, put Dale on it for "beauty" of place. Glen Beech was head of lumber company – Dale means "community". *[In Part I, Mrs. Wooten stated Glendale was named for the son of Mr. Rogers of Beach-Rogers & Company. **Rose Rogers** and other members of the Rogers family have confirmed there was no one named Glen in their family, so Glendale was likely named for Mr. Beach's son. - DM]*

Red Bay: because of color of stream.

Ponce de Leon: explorer looking for "fountain of youth".

Choctawhatchee: Indian word meaning "moving water".

Gum Creek: named for trees in the area, Sweet Gums/Black Gums.

Big Swamp: because there are so many in the area.

Shoal River: sandbars in the river.

Turkey Creek: early settlers found turkeys nearby.

Chipley: named for man who worked for the L & N Railroad.

Tallahassee: means "old field".

Margaret Henderson Wooten

Born at the head of Pea River in Alabama. When "carpet-baggers" came, they took all property. So they (family?) loaded carts and took an Indian Trail to Alaqua.

One family named Stafford lived on one hill and the Hendersons lived on the another *[sic]* in Alaqua. Margaret Wooten's mother, Winnie Stafford, married Richard Henderson at age 17. He was 21 years old. County seat was Alaqua. Pleasant Ridge Church is center of community. Margaret is one of twelve children born to Richard and Winnie Henderson. She started teaching in Gaskin in 1935 and retired in 1975.

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