



WALTON RELATIONS

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Walton County Genealogy Society

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Photograph courtesy of the late Lou Taylor

Who Are They?

This photograph was taken at the Henry Koerber chicken processing plant, which was on Highway 90 east of DeFuniak Springs, during Family Day in 1957. They are wearing shirts with the Purina brand checkerboard pattern that Mr. Koerber adopted as his company's symbol. By all accounts, he was very kind to his employees, and they were very loyal to him. If you can identify any of the people in this photograph, please contact us.

WCGS Meeting

The Walton County Genealogy Society will meet on Saturday, January 12, at 10:00 A.M. at the Walton County Heritage Museum. We hope to see you!

Florida Chautauqua Assembly

This month's Florida Chautauqua Assembly promises to be the largest and best yet! The Museum will be open extra hours during Chautauqua, including Friday morning, January 25, and Sunday afternoon, January 27.

There are many sessions that will be of interest to genealogists, so you will want to review the schedule. Of specific interest will be the session with **Wayne Sconiers**, "Are You Related to a Famous Chautauqua Speaker?" That session will be on Saturday, January 26, at the Museum from 10:45 A.M. until noon. Tickets are \$8.00 and can be purchased in advance online or that morning at the Chautauqua Hall of Brotherhood, 95 Circle Drive.

Walton County Heritage Museum

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

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Origins of Community Names – Part I

By Margaret Wooten

The following is a transcript of an undated cassette tape that was apparently recorded during a Walton County Heritage Association meeting many years ago. It has been lightly edited only for clarity in an attempt to preserve Mrs. Wooten's speech patterns. She had a beautifully rich Southern accent, and it is hoped that this transcript accurately represents her presentation. We welcome additional information or comments that we will pass along in February issue of *Walton Relations* along with the second part of the transcript. – DM

You lean back and get comfortable and I'll get closer to you. This is the origins of the names of the communities here in our county.

Paxton is in the north end of the county and, of course, is right near, just one mile this side of Florala. Now Florala of course gets its name because it was right on the border of Alabama and Florida. That's why it's called Florala.

[Apparently, something happened to the tape. The last dozen words were spoken by someone else, presumably at a later time.]

My goodness. *[Some words apparently erased.]* . . . and a lumber company so the people working there gave it the name of Paxton. Now nearby is also -- as you know -- there is Lake Jackson. Now Lake Jackson was called the Pond by the early settlers that came in -- when they came in on the ox carts -- and they called it the Pond. Then -- when Andrew Jackson and his troops camped there around Lake Jackson -- then they changed the name to Lake Jackson. It's interesting that the men who worked for Mr. Paxton -- they were quite a few colored people and they called it Flowers Quarters because Mr. Flowers was the -- I'd say he was -- the boss man over those men and because he was the head -- his name was Flowers but today they've changed it. They had a lot of -- when I was teaching at Paxton back in the 1940s it was known as Flowers Quarters and -- we had quite a few colored children come in from that community. But anyway, Flowers Quarters has changed its name to Flowersview. And, of course, we know Gladys Milton, who was a midwife, has put it on the map.

Then think of the community -- come on down 331 and you come to Liberty community. Now Liberty community was just a small farming community, and my sister taught at a school there called Chestnut way back in the -- around the turn of the century. But when the men were building Liberty school they said they were sitting around the fire when they had -- chilly afternoon -- when they had the building about finished and they were discussing among themselves -- that was in the WPA days -- what should they call the name of the school and some of them said, "We have freedom in America. Why not call it Liberty?" And so Liberty got its name from those men who were sitting around the fire.

Then Cluster Springs is also the name of a Baptist church right near Liberty. It's interesting to me it got its name because there were five or six or seven springs coming out of the hillside there and now and people -- whenever they would come to church -- would go down to those springs and they had gourds back in the early days where they used to get a drink of cool water from those springs, and they called the church Cluster Springs because there's a group. Now they have built a dam and there is a pond where those springs flowed out. Now think of Pond Creek. To me, as I told you, as the early settlers came through they named what we call Lake Jackson -- they called it the Pond. Well, Pond Creek flows out of Lake Jackson and the community of Pond Creek is built right near where Pond Creek flows into Shoal River.

Mossy Head -- I used to go to school at Mossy Head and back in those days a head means the beginning of a stream and there was a spring there and on those magnolia trees there was moss and along some, along the oak trees too there was Spanish moss hanging down, so they called it -- because it was the beginning of a stream -- they called it Mossy Head because the moss which hung down from the trees.

Another little community that used to be where the trains would stop to get water called Bear Head. Quite a few people live there now and that's near where the Boy Scout camp is. That is called Bear Head, and my father used to tell the story, laugh about it, he said that he was with a group of men as they went hunting, and there was a young 16 year old boy that had gone hunting with them, and he was so proud because he had his first gun and at this spring -- it was a lot of water flowed through this spring -- came out this alley where they got -- they pumped it up for the tank where the trains used to get it -- but a bear came while that boy was getting him a drink of water there and the bear didn't do anything papa said but really hug him but he said he threw his gun down and so they named that Bear Head because it was the beginning of a spring and also the boy was hugged by the bear.

Gaskin is a school where I taught -- the first few years I taught -- and I just enjoyed that community so much, but Gaskin -- when I first started teaching there -- they had piles of turpentine tins and turpentine boxes where we would hang on the trees sometimes those cups, the turpentine cups, were sealed there. And it got its name because a man that owned that turpentine still was named Gaskin.

Then another community nearby Gaskin is Darlington. Now Darlington was named after a Mr. Darling who had a turpentine still and later I understood he had a lumber mill there. But Mr. Darling's family moved up and I know I visited them later on. They moved up into Alabama and some of the Darlings are still living.

Now Glendale is another little community that was from the turpentine and the sawmill business. Beach and Rogers had a sawmill and Mr. Rogers had a son named Glen and they had their main headquarters out in that little community and it was just a lovely little community, Mr. Rogers thought, so he named his son Glendale [*Glen*] so he gave the community the name Glendale because it was -- dale means a little community -- and named it after his son, so that's how Glendale got its name.

Of course, all of you know that DeFuniak Springs was named DeFuniak Springs after the fellow who -- if I understand it -- I've heard that he was a flagman on the L&N Railroad, others said he was part owner of a railroad, Mr. DeFuniak, but it's interesting to me that "Springs" was added because of the lake, of course. My grandpap Stafford, when he first moved down here way back in the 1800s, he would go hunting around that spring and it was almost level ground. Then because of the limestone foundation it sank down and made a round lake and, if you'll notice over to where the northeast corner, there's where the stream flowed out but, back in his day, he went hunting there and he killed deer around that spring and the deer would give a bear [?]. That was one of his favorite hunting places when there was a spring there before they ever gave it -- the Chautauqua people moved in and -- they gave it the name DeFuniak Springs. Of course, it's supposed to be one of the roundest lakes in the world.

To be continued.

Woodlawn Cemetery

Michael Strickland advises that the Woodlawn Baptist Church Cemetery that was noted in the November issue of *Walton Relations* is listed on Find A Grave as First Baptist Church of Woodlawn Cemetery.

Websites You May Have Missed

About.com Genealogy offers basic information and tools for genealogy, but even old pros will find items of interest. Its Genealogy Search Online section offers listings of digital databases.

Family Tree Magazine offers issues of the magazine for download, both on an individual issue basis (\$6.99) or annually (\$19.96 for seven issues). The website offers free forms in its Research Toolkit section, as well as Cheat Sheets and a listing of its 101 Best Websites. If you are confused by terms such as “third cousin once removed,” the Relationship Chart will help you figure it out!

JSTOR (Journal Storage) was originally a licensed service for libraries, museums, and academic institutions. It now offers some content for free to the public, including U.S. journals published before 1923. The Register & Read feature allows free access to some more current articles for researchers who register. You cannot download the articles, but you can read them online. A search for “DeFuniak Springs” brought 210 results, including articles titled “The Library, the Chautauqua, and the Railroads in DeFuniak Springs, Florida” and “The Chautauquans and Progressives in Florida.” The first offers only an abstract of the article and cannot be purchased, but the latter can be read for free online.

NARations is the blog of the United States National Archives. There are many categories of postings, such as “Tech Tuesdays,” which explores the use of technology at the Archives. The “What Are You Working On Wednesdays” section has interviews with various staff members of the Archives across the country. “Family Tree Friday” may be of particular interest to genealogists as it explains their genealogy-related collections in detail and tells how to access and use them.

People of Medieval Scotland offers a new database that may be of particular interest to those with Scottish ancestry. It is a database of all known people in Scotland between 1093 and 1314!

Walton County History Fair

The Walton County History Fair will be held at the Walton County Fairgrounds on Saturday, March 16, 2013, from 9:00 until 3:00. Once again, the Walton County Heritage Association is teaming up with the Walton County Fair Association and the Chautauqua Cruisers to provide a day of family-friendly fun. There will be antique tractors and cars on display and the tractor pull competition will take place on the track at the back of the fairgrounds. The History Fair will be inside the building, and we expect to have the building filled with friendly people who have interesting displays. **Wayne Sconiers** will again have a large display, and he will have his genealogy records available for you to explore. Other popular displays will return, including **Scott Clary**'s collection of historic local postcards, **Bruce Cosson**'s “History Detectives” display of artifacts and documents, and **Beckie Buxton**'s Freeport history display.

Please consider sharing your family treasures and history with others by reserving a table. Participation is free and is open to any individual, church, school, or organization. For more information, see the application.

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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.