

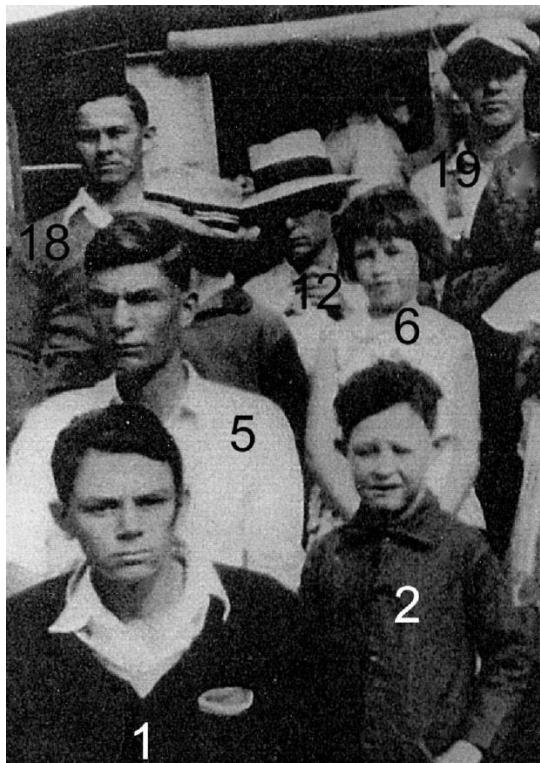


# WALTON RELATIONS

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Walton County Genealogy Society

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**Who Are They?**

**David Bludworth** donated a photograph that was taken in front of a school bus in Argyle in the 1930s, and this is one segment of it. David was able to identify his family members, and Hazel Cotton Pope was able to identify some others. 1 and 2: both unknown; 5: Ed or Lloyd Strickland; 6: unknown; 12: Ernest Cotton, Hazel's father; 18: John Frank Bludworth, Sr., David's father; and 19: unknown. If you can identify the unknowns, please let us know.

## WCGS Meeting

The Walton County Genealogy Society will meet at the Museum on Saturday, September 14, at 10:00 AM. Bring your Walton County research questions and see if you can stump **Wayne Sconiers!** You do not need to be a Heritage member to come.

## 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. There will be entertainment for people of all ages and interests. See our website for more information.

## Lakewood Field Trip

We heard from quite a few people who are interested in visiting Lakewood and Paxton, so we are planning the trip for Saturday, October 26. We will provide more information next month.

## **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)

# **Joseph Carnley of Walton County, Florida**

**By Sam Carnley of Bascom, Florida**

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1. **JOSEPH CARNLEY** was born about 1825 in Monroe County, Alabama. He died on 22 August 1884 in Walton County, Florida. He married (1) **ROSANNA CARNLEY**, daughter of George Carnley and Elinor (Unknown) on 04 May 1842 in Pike County, Alabama. She was born about 1825, probably in Pike County, and died there about 1845. He married (2) **MARY ANN STEPHENS** on 18 March 1846 in Pike County. She was born date unknown, probably in Pike County. She died between 1848 and 1849, probably in Walton County, Florida. He married (3) **MARY MURPHY** about 1849 in Walton County. She was born on 16 August 1818 in Roanoke, Stewart County, Georgia, and died about 1910 in DeFuniak Springs, Walton County, Florida.

Joseph (photo, right) was the youngest of the nine children of Lewis Carnley Sr. and his wife, Lovisa. Estimates of his birth year range from 1823 to 1825 based on his age shown on census records. In 1850, he appeared as a head of household on that year's U. S. census of Walton County, Florida, at the age of 27. At that age and year, he would have been born in 1823. On the U. S. census of the county in 1860, he age was 35, indicating a birth year of 1825. On the censuses for the county for both 1870 and 1880, his age was shown as 55. Obviously, the 1870 age should have been 45, making it consistent with 1860 and 1880. The four censuses taken together suggest that he was probably 25 rather than 27 in 1850, and that his probable birth year was 1825.



Where he was born can be inferred from where his father, Lewis Carnley Sr., lived in 1825. Land records of Monroe County, Alabama, show that Lewis bought property there in 1819. He still lived there as of the U. S. census year of 1830. It is therefore highly likely that Monroe County was Joseph's birth place.

The records first identified him by name when he married Rosanna Carnley, his first wife, who was a cousin. As evidenced by marriage records, they wed in Pike County, Alabama, on 4 May 1842. The date of their marriage raises the question of whether or not their first child was born out of wedlock. Her name was Isabelle and she married John Barlow. She died in Laurel Hill, Okaloosa County, Florida, on 26 June 1924, at the age of 83 years, 4 months and 7 days. According to her death record, she was born 9 March 1841, which predated her parent's marriage. Either she was born out of wedlock or her birth year in the Florida death records was incorrect.

Joseph's age at the time of his marriage to Rosanna, based on the above estimates of his birth year, was about 17. He next appeared in the records when he was identified as an heir in his deceased father's will dated 7 November 1843. On 26 July 1844, Rosanna gave birth to George M., their second child.

There may have also been a third child, Charity, born in December 1845. Evidence of this is: First, Joseph married his second wife, Mary Ann Stevens, on 18 March 1846. Apparently, Rosanna had died, most likely due to complications of child birth. Second, she was still living as of 1 September 1845 as evidenced by the appearance of her name on a list of her deceased father's heirs recorded on that date. Third, Charity, age 4, appeared in Joseph's household on the 1850 Walton County census, which gave Alabama as her place of birth. The enumeration date of the census was 29 November of that year. If Charity turned 5 in December following the census enumeration date, she would have been born in December 1845. That fits a scenario

in which Rosanna died as a consequence of the child's birth between 30 November and 31 December 1845. If born in early 1846, Charity would have turned 4 in early 1850, also a scenario that fits.

She could not have been Mary Ann Steven's child because, barring a premature birth and assuming Mary Ann conceived on her wedding date, it would have taken until mid December for the pregnancy to go full term. In that case, the child would not have turned 4 until after the census enumeration date of 29 November 1850.

Joseph next appears (with the surname " Carnline") on a list of his deceased father's heirs dated 1 February 1847. The following 11 October, his name is on a list of "Distributive Shares of Real Estate," identifying two 40 acre parcels of property he inherited from his father's estate. On 5 November, pursuant to a court order against him in favor of Mathias Snider, administrator of his late father's estate, the Sheriff sold before the courthouse one of the two properties he inherited. Joseph's brother Lewis purchased it with a high bid of \$5.00. On 30 November, Joseph and wife, Mary (Ann Stevens), under the name "Carnala," sold the remaining 40 acre parcel he inherited to William Kelly for \$100.00.

The 1850 census is the first known record placing Joseph in Florida. His wife on the census was identified as Mary, but she was not Mary Ann Stevens. She was Mary Murphy, born 16 August 1818, in Roanoke, Stewart County, Georgia. Joseph married her in Walton County in 1849. In addition to Isabelle, George, and Charity, there was a fourth child, Malinda, in Joseph's household in 1850. As shown on the census, her age was 2, and she was born in Florida. Her age indicates she was born in 1848, and that she was the daughter of Mary Ann Stevens as Joseph did not marry Mary Murphy until a year later. It can also be inferred from this that Joseph and Mary Ann Stevens moved to Florida shortly after he sold his last parcel of land in Pike County on 30 November 1847.

His move to Florida made him the first Carnley to settle there. A tradition among his descendants as to why he left Alabama was that he fled to escape something, but no one knew what. The only adverse circumstances about him in the records involved the court ordered auction of his inherited land and its purchase by his brother Lewis at a price which, even then, was a steal. The circumstances culminating in that outcome are unknown, but such events can cause ill will and rifts in a family. That may have happened with Joseph, arousing in him an aggrieved urge to put distance between himself and the offending family member or members, depending on who he believed was for or against him.

The next record placing him in Florida was the probate records of his deceased mother, Vicey ( Lovisa). The probate court appointed his brother Lewis administrator of her estate and, between October 1851 and February 1852, Lewis petitioned the court for the sale of Vicey's land. In identifying where each of her heirs resided, the petition stated that Joseph was a citizen of the State of Florida.

On 14 March 1853, Lewis submitted to the court a list of the distributive shares of Vicey's estate to her heirs. Each heir listed was to receive 118.94 and 2/3 dollars. On 16 March, Joseph signed a receipt evidencing he received payment of his share. He signed with a very legible signature rather than with his mark, indicating he was literate enough to at least write his name. Presumably, he had to return to Alabama to claim the money. Whether he ever returned after that is unknown. On 28 May 1855, he appears on that year's tax list of Walton County under the last name " Carley" as the owner of 80 acres of land. On 1 December 1857, land patent number 13388 was issued to him for the land he owned as shown on the tax list. The description given for the land was the NE 1/4 of the NE 1/4, section 10, township 2, north, range 20, west, and the NW 1/4 of the NW 1/4, section 11, township 2, north, range 20, west, containing 79.98 acres.

The location of the property as shown on a Walton County map dated January 1992 is about five miles southwest of DeFuniak Springs and about a mile south of the Highway 280 bridge over Bear Creek. Alaqua

Creek runs along the southern boundary of the property, and it appears to lie just inside the current boundary of Eglin Air Force Base Reservation.

In 1860, Joseph appears on the census enumerated for the Eucheeanna post office. His age is 35, and place of birth is Alabama. Also listed is Mary, his wife, age 33; daughter, Isabelle, age 17, born in Alabama; son, George M., age 16, born in Alabama; daughter, Malinda, age 11, born in Florida; daughter, Mary Jane, age 8, born in Florida; Louis J., age 6, born in Florida; John L., age 4, born in Florida, and daughter, Martha Ann, age 3 months, born in Florida. Charity, who appeared on the 1850 census at the age of 4, is absent on the 1860 census, the enumeration date of which was 25 June 1860.

Still living in Walton County in 1870, Joseph's household on the U. S. census for that year included himself, age 55 (correct age should have been 45), Abel (based on the age of 45 shown for this person, she appears to have been Joseph's wife Mary; it is unknown why she was identified as Abel, which sounds like the name of Joseph's oldest daughter Isabelle who would have been about 27 at the time), Mary J., 20, Lewis, 18, John, 16, and Annie, 12. Absent were Isabelle, George M., and Malinda. Isabelle and George had married, but it is unknown what became of Malinda.

The place of enumeration of the 1870 census was not identified, but certain of Joseph's neighbors on that census were also on the 1880 census. The place of enumeration for the latter was Election District 5, which encompassed Paxton, about 25 miles north of Joseph's property on Alaqua Creek. It thus appears that he had moved from that property which he likely sold. That can not be verified, however, because the courthouse in Eucheeanna burned in 1885, destroying all deeds and other records it housed.

His household on the 1880 U. S. census included himself, age 55, Mary S., age 52, Martha Ann, age 20, and J. W. Pendleton, his grandson, age 4. This was the last census on which he appeared as he died in 1884 at about the age of 59.

According to information on a family group sheet prepared by Hazel Carnley Monk, Joseph and Mary Murphy's great granddaughter, he died 22 August 1884. Mrs. Monk identified Mary Murphy's Bible as the source of that information. She disclosed, however, that the Bible and other family records were destroyed in flooding when Hurricane Camille struck Mississippi in 1968.

Joseph's probate records on file at the County Judge's office in DeFuniak Springs reveal the Probate Court granted letters of Administration of his estate to his son L. J. (Lewis Joseph) on 3 September 1884. The records do not give the date of his death, so the Bible date is the best available even though it cannot be verified.

The family group sheet gives Pinegrove Cemetery in DeFuniak Springs as Joseph's burial place. A search of Walton County cemeteries near DeFuniak Springs failed to turn up one by that exact name, but a Piney Grove cemetery was found nearby. Joseph's name does not appear on a "FindaGrave" list of headstones at that cemetery. His grave may be unmarked, or he may be buried elsewhere. It is worth noting that the earliest burial listed for the cemetery occurred in 1920, some 40 years after Joseph died. The preparer of the family group sheet may have confused cemetery locations. Joseph's son, John Luther, his wife, and several of their children are buried in Pine Grove Cemetery located at the Pine Grove United Methodist Church in Jackson County, Mississippi. Joseph almost certainly is not buried there because John Luther did not move to Mississippi until after 1900.

It is more likely that he was buried at Miller Community Cemetery near Paxton. Braxton Bragg Miller, Alex McSwain and Lafayette Cawthon were listed as Joseph's neighbors on the 1880 census. These individuals owned property in the vicinity of the cemetery as evidenced by land records from the Bureau of Land Management, General Land Office. Following Joseph's death, the Probate Court appointed them appraisers of his estate. When they died many years later, they were buried at the cemetery and their graves are marked. Joseph's son, George M., who died in 1914, is also buried there in a marked grave. It is,

therefore, reasonably certain that Joseph resided in the vicinity and with that being the closest cemetery, his burial there would make sense.

Insight into Joseph's life can be gained from examining his probate records. On 16 September 1884, court appointed appraisers, Bragg Miller, A. McSwain and Laf. Cawthon certified their appraisal of Joseph's property. It included 75 head of sheep, 6 head of cattle, a mule, a yoke of oxen, a wagon, 25 head of hogs, 45 bushels of corn, 300 pounds of blade fodder, a patch of sugar cane, a patch of sweet potatoes, a set of farming implements, a gun, household and kitchen furniture, and improvements on public land. The total value of all that he owned was estimated at \$399.25.

The improvements on public land is the most telling item on the appraisal. Valued at \$50, they probably included his house, a well, a corn crib with stalls, and fencing. Those were the typical structures of the subsistence farming lifestyle of the majority of Walton County settlers at the time. His house was probably a log cabin or wood framed house of rough sawn boards. In either case, the building materials came from the Long Leaf Southern Yellow Pine, in plentiful supply in Joseph's day.

But it was all built on unsold land belonging to the government. That put Joseph at risk of someone buying the property out from under him and dispossessing his family of their home. He bought the first land he lived on in Florida. It is unknown why he failed to purchase the land on which he lived during the final years of his life. By not doing so, he left his widow to face dispossession by probate law, forcing her to move in with one or the other of her children. A Mary Connelly (Carnley), age 100, b. Georgia, appears in the household of Izabelle (Isabelle Carnley) Barlow, in Laurel Hill, Florida, on the 1910 U. S. census. As Isabelle was her step daughter, Mary may have lived with her after Joseph died.

As a gesture of sympathy, or possibly in recognition of her dower, the appraisers set apart a portion of Joseph's estate for his widow. It included bed clothing, a clock, a trunk, three chairs, and kitchen furniture valued at \$45.50. That was small comfort considering that the improvements on public property, including her home, were allowed to be sold.

R. L. Miller purchased them for \$50.00 and also paid \$133.20 for 72 head of sheep; \$1.15 for a sweep, grind rock, coffee pot and table; \$1.25 for a spinning wheel and a brown sow; \$6.65 for 12 hogs and 3 pigs; \$9.50 for a claim of hogs; \$3.00 for a claim of sheep and potato patch; \$25.60 for 32 bushels of corn; and \$1.15 for wagon wheels and a parcel of onions.

L. F. Fountain paid 25 cents for a bell and a strop. B. H. Hart bought a plane and an auger for 85 cents and four head of hogs for 60 cents. B. D. Miller bought a potato patch and a syrup barrel for \$5.65. A grubhoe, hand saw, and looking glass went to Daniel Gohagan for 90 cents. Mrs. Mary Gordon bought two pair of sheep shears, a bread tray and 250 lbs. blade fodder for \$1.80.

L. J. Carnley purchased a wagon, a white cow and calf, a frosty cow and calf, a spade, an iron wedge, a pair of scales, a chisel, a gun, a table cloth, a sifter, 9 pigs and 2 other hogs, and 12 bushel measure (corn?) for a total of \$51.10.

Alexandr. McSwain purchased a cow and calf for \$14.00. John L. Carnley bought a yoke of oxen, a mule, remnant of nails, a bell, a frying pan and a black sow for \$41.70.

C. Miller bought a black sow, remnant of plows, a padlock, a sweep and plow stock, a hammer, a shoe last, a bed stead and mattress, another black sow and a heel pin, at a total of \$4.85.

L. F. Cawthon bought a shovel, plow and gear, a square, auger and table, and knives, forks and an ox yoke for a total of \$2.50. Georgianna Miller bought a spider kettle and oven for 50 cents.

The total cash received for the sale of everything Joseph owned was \$356.25. The value of the items set apart for his widow of \$45.50 added to the cash balance made a grand total of \$401.75, just a few dollars more than the amount certified in the appraisal of \$399.25.

Judge Daniel McLeod approved, certified, and recorded the report of sale on 24 November 1884, officially bringing to a close the administration of Joseph's estate.

Notes for ROSANNA Carnley:

Rosanna's age when she married is harder to pin down because she did not survive until the 1850 census, which would have given her age. On the 1840 U. S. census of Pike County, the household of her father, George Carnley, included four females. Two were in the 5 to 10 year old range, one was in the 10 to 15 age range, and the fourth was between 30 and 40. The older female was probably George's wife. Through the process of elimination, it thus seems likely that Rosanna was the one in the 10 to 15 range. She was two years older in 1842, which indicates she was somewhere within the range of 12 to 17 when she married.

Her father died in Pike County in 1843. Administration of his estate was still in progress as of 1 September 1845. One of his probate documents recorded on that date named his heirs, including Rosanna, wife of Joseph Carnley. The following spring, on 18 March 1846, Joseph married Mary Ann Stevens. It is presumed that Rosanna died between those dates.

Joseph Carnley and Rosanna Carnley had the following children:

- i. ISABELLE CARNLEY was born 9 March 1841. She died in Laurel Hill, Okaloosa County, Florida, on 26 June 1924, at the age of 83 years, 4 months and 7 days. She married John Barlow, place and date unknown.
- 2 ii. GEORGE M. CARNLEY was born on 26 July 1844 in Pike County, Alabama. He died on 12 June 1914 in Walton County, Florida. He was buried at Miller Community Cemetery near Paxton. He married Martha Ann Lassiter about 1865 in Walton County. She was born in Alabama on 15 February 1845 and died in Walton County 30 August 1936. She was buried at Miller Community Cemetery beside George in an unmarked grave.
- iii. CHARITY CARNLEY was born about 1845 in Pike County, Alabama. She died between 1850 and 1860 in Walton County, Florida.

Joseph Carnley and Mary Ann Stephens had the following child:

- iv. MALINDA CARNLEY

Joseph Carnley and Mary Murphy had the following children:

- v. MARY JANE CARNLEY was born on 20 August 1850 in Free Port, Walton County. She died on 7 April 1931 in Santa Rosa County, Florida.
- vi. LOUIS JOSEPH CARNLEY was born in 1852 in Free Port, Walton County, Florida. He died in Walton County in 1924.
3. vii. JOHN LUTHER CARNLEY was born on 23 May 1855 in Freeport, Walton County, Florida. He died on 26 January 1929 in George County, Mississippi. He married Queen Abbigale Thomas on 23 December 1880 in Westville, Holmes County, Florida. She was born on 26 September 1863 in Cerro Gordo, Holmes County, Florida. She died on 26 June 1948 in Biloxi, Mississippi.
- viii. MARTHA ANN CARNLEY was born in 1857 in Free Port, Walton County, Florida.
- ix. THOMAS CARNLEY was born in 1859 in Free Port, Walton County, Florida.

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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](mailto:WaltonCountyHeritage@cox.net) or call 850-897-4505.