



# WALTON RELATIONS & HISTORY

Volume 8, Issue 7

Walton County Heritage Association

June 2017

## C. S. V. Jones Revisited

By Sam Carnley

Last month's newsletter featured an article on the placement of a new stone marker on the grave of Walton County pioneer Alaqua Reverend C. S. V. Jones at Euchee Valley Presbyterian Church Cemetery. The article included group photos of the participants in the event but did not identify them all.

Following the publication of the newsletter, we received correspondence from Mr. Jim Martin, organizer of the event thanking us for publishing the article and requesting that we publish his letter and revised photos identifying the individuals included in the photographs.

In view of the level of interest the event drew, we are happy to accede to Mr. Martin's wishes and his letter and updated photos appear in this newsletter.

We hope that this "personalization" of the newsletter, while at the same time presenting genealogical and historical information with Walton County roots, will further encourage and enhance its wider dissemination, which is one of our major goals.

## Upcoming Reunions

No reunions scheduled for the immediate future have come to our attention and our Museum E-mail service is still down making the Reunions page of the WCHA website unavailable. We apologize for any inconvenience and hope to have it back in service in the not too distant future.

<http://www.waltoncountyheritage.org/genealogy.htm>

## Featured Article

The featured article this month comes from "**The Heritage of Walton County, Florida**," a book dedicated to the histories of the families and places of the County and is available for purchase in the Depot Museum. Plans are to feature from time to time selected stories from the book in future newsletters. This month's article, the first from the book, is on "**Sheriffs of Walton County, Florida**," and includes Michael Vaughn, the first to hold the office during the period 1827-30 through Ralph L. Johnson, elected in 2000.

### Walton County Heritage Museum

Open Tuesday – Saturday, 1:00 – 4:00 PM  
1140 Circle Drive, De Funiak Springs, FL 32435  
(Phone number and website are currently being updated and will be listed when finalized. In the meantime address all correspondence to [wsamuelcarnley@gmail.com](mailto:wsamuelcarnley@gmail.com), or 850-209-3778)

## **C. S. V. Jones Event Revisted**

Letter and Photos with Revisions Submitted by Jim Martin  
(Edited by Sam Carnley to fit within newsletter format)

May 19 2017

Walton County Heritage Association & Museum  
1140 Circle Drive, De Funiak Springs, FL 32435  
Attention: Mr. Sam Carnley, Mr. Bruce Cosson and board members,

Hello:

Please extend my thanks to Mr. Sam Carnley for his photographs he took at the grave marker Dedication ceremony for the Rev Charles Shepherd Vincent Jones at Euchee Valley Presbyterian church, April 8 2017. I have received from Mr. Bruce Cosson a printout of the write up and the Photos published in your May 2017 newsletter. Please again let me thank all of you for publishing and publicizing this event.

Enclosed please find a submission giving complete names and corrected names of participants and guests at the ceremony (See photos, next page). Mr. Carnley and I both departed quickly before we secured full data on names of persons in the photographs. The minister at Euchee Valley who attended is Rev. Henry Irvine, in the photo on the left wearing blue coat and tie. The name on the church sign reads Rev John B. Erthein. I never met him and I have no explanation for the two different names. Perhaps in your next issue you could consider republishing the photos with these additions and corrections.

Again, thanks to Mr. Sam Carnley and Mr. Bruce Cosson for their dedication, support, encouragement and cooperation in this historically significant event not only for my family but for the folks in Northwest Florida and Southeast Alabama interested in documenting, preserving and bequeathing our rich heritage of family, community, state and regional history of churches and pastors and their invaluable and irreplaceable legacies to us.

I have enclosed copies of my photos and text of the event that I placed on my facebook page. Feel free to place them in your files for future researchers and visitors. I look forward to sending you plenty more data on my Vaughan and Jones ancestors who settled and lived in Walton and Holmes County, Florida and Dale, Geneva, Coffee, Covington and Henry Counties in Alabama.

Thanks to all of you, board members, volunteers and staff, for your continued and tireless efforts to preserve and bequeath our endlessly fascinating local and regional history.

Generationally yours,  
Jim Martin  
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## C. S. V. Jones Event Revisted

Photos with Revisions by Jim Martin.

(Edited by Sam Carnley.)

**(L to R):** Rev. John Irvine, pastor, Euchee Valley Presbyterian church w/ his daughter; Rev. Henry Martin, pastor, Alaqua Methodist church; Mr. Dan Owens, Director, Walton County Public Library System; Nelva Dean Jones, grandmother of Josh Jones, mother of Nikki Jones Vaughan; Josh Jones; Jarrett Sniezko, son of Nikki Jones Vaughan; Scott Vaughan, husband of Nikki Jones Vaughan; Nikki Jones Vaughan and her granddaughter, Evelyn (Evie) Sniezko, 6th great grandchild of Rev C.S.V. Jones; Rachel Helms Simmons, daughter of George Helms and granddaughter of Augathee Jones Helms; Tim York, son of Martha Jones York, 5th great grandson of C.S.V. Jones; Mrs Augathee Jones Helms, mother of George Helms; George Helms, 5th great grandson of Rev. C.S.V. Jones; June Vaughan Jordan, 5th great granddaughter of Rev C.S.V. Jones, daughter of Evelyn Jones Vaughan, sister of Augathee Jones Helms; Denise Jordan Grogan, daughter of June Vaughan Jordan and Bobby Jordan. **(Additional info and Photo by Jim Martin, 4th maternal great grandson of Rev Charles Shepherd Vincent Jones - April 8 2017.)**



In the photo at left of the four descendants carrying the marble grave marker, they are George Helms in light shirt and white cap; Jarrett Sniezko, dark shirt on right; in front of him in striped shirt, Josh Jones; Tim York, obscured behind Josh Jones; all are 5th generation descendants;. beyond Tim in white shirt and cap, Jim Martin, 4th generation descendant; beyond George Helms in light blouse, Patricia Seuss Burgess, representing Alaqua Methodist church congregation; lady carrying baby behind George Helms, Nikki Jones Vaughan, 4th generation descendant holding her granddaughter, Evelyn "Evie" Sniezko, b. September 2 2016, 6th generation descendant; lady holding camera behind Nikki, Rachel Helms Simmons, daughter of George Helms, 6th generation descendant; behind Rachel, Nelva Dean Jones, mother of Nikki Jones Vaughan; behind Mrs.

Jones, Rev. Henry Martin, pastor, Alaqua Methodist church, founded by Rev. Charles Shepherd Vincent Jones in 1827. (Additional info provided by Jim Martin. Photo by Sam Carnley)

## Sheriffs of Walton County, Florida

Edited by Sam Carnley

("Ed. Notes" in [Brackets] are as published in the book)

### **1827-30: Michael Vaughn (Vaughan).**

A map of West Florida in the 1827 book, "A View of West Florida," shows the Vaughn Settlement at the head of Alaqua Creek in the Euchee Valley, Walton County. The narrative states that the creek is navigable for fifteen miles up to the Vaughn Settlement. According to census records, Michael Vaughn, first sheriff of Walton County, FL, was descended from a pioneer family that emigrated from Scotland. They first appear in the census with an entry for Michael Vaughn Sr. being born in c.1770, son of Richard Vaughn of VA, in Presbyterian home on a farm in Charles City County, VA. In c. 1790, Michael Sr. married a Miss Powell (no Christian name available) and in c.1791the couple migrated to Copper Hill, Maggie Valley, SC. In 1792 they had a son, James, born at Copper Hill and in c. 1796 Michael Jr. was born in the same location. Then, in 1804, they had a daughter, Nancy, born there, too. And, in 1805, another son, Abner Powell Vaughn was born. In 1812, James Vaughn enlisted and served in the War of1812, but nothing else is known of his military career. Then, in 1814, at Copper Hill, SC, James married Rebecca Jones (may have been related to Dr. Edmond Jones who married James' sister Nancy Vaughn). On Oct 4, 1815, James Vaughn and Rebecca Jones had a daughter, Mary (Polly) Vaughn, born to them in SC. In 1816, the Michael Vaughn (Sr. /Jr.?) family migrated to GA and then to Dale County, AL, in 1818. About the same time (1818), a son was born to James and Rebecca Jones and named Michael Vaughn.

About 1821/1822, the James Vaughn family moved from Dale Co., AL, to the Euchee Valley in Florida, settling at the head of Alaqua Creek. Soon after their arrival, Rebecca Jones Vaughn, first wife of James Vaughn, died (killed in Indian War according to cemetery records at McDuffie Cemetery in NW Holmes County, FL.). Then, in 1823, James (son of Michael Vaughn Sr.) and Nancy Anderson (dau. of Angus and Katherine Anderson) were married in Euchee Valley, FL. [Ed. Note: This event was also reported to occur in 1825]. In 1826, Angus Vaughn was born to James Vaughn and Nancy Anderson. In the same year, James was appointed Justice of the Peace in Walton County, FL. It also states that Daniel Vaughn, son of James and Nancy Anderson Vaughn was born in 1827 in Euchee Valley; and that David Vaughn, son of James and Nancy Anderson Vaughn was born in 1827. In the Florida Territorial Papers, under the List of Appointments, it shows Michael Vaughn as Sheriff of Walton County. Then, in 1828, Michael Vaughn was nominated Quartermaster of the 8th Regiment and James Vaughn was elected Judge. Also, listed in the voting records are indicated the presence in Walton County of: A. P. Vaughn, James Vaughn, Michael Vaughn Sr., and Michael Vaughn. In 1829, Michael Vaughn Jr. appears on the list, too, and an Abner P. Vaughn. All names mentioned appear on the1830 census for Walton County.

### **1830-34: Alexander McKenzie.**

His tenure in office was Jan. 2, 1830-1834. John L. McKinnon listed his family as the twelfth to pioneer in Walton County. An Alexander McKinzie (sic) shows up on the 1830 census for Walton County. In the 1860 census there is a Nancy McKenzie, age 51, born NC, living in Walton County with a 17-month old son, Randle. No mention made of husband. Alexander McKenzie shows up on the June 8, 1860, census for Knox Hill in Walton County, Florida, as head of house-hold, age 49, from Georgia. Living with him is Sarah J., age 49, from North Carolina, as wife; James C., age 14; Margaret, age 12; Sarah, age 9; Ann, age 7; and Alexander D.B., age 5. This very well could have been the sheriff listed although this would have made him to be age 19 at the time he was elected/appointed to the office of sheriff. This may not be out of line though, considering Michael Vaughn was young, too.

### **1834-36: A. Bellamy; 1836-40: Daniel McLeod; 1840-42: Alexander Campbell;**

### **1842-40: Giles Bowers.**

At Home in Euchee Valley, Giles Bowers was born on June 6, 1814, in the Colleton District of North Carolina. He was married to Christian McKinnon, daughter of Col. McKinnon. He served as sheriff of Walton County, Florida from March 1, 1842, through January 1, 1844. He was the sixth sheriff of the county. He died on January 15, 1876, and is buried in Euchee Valley, Walton County, Florida. "The Bowers home was a large two story wood structure made from sawn and dressed heart pine and cypress lumber. It faced north and had two large brick (probably hand made on the property) chimneys. The foundation pillars were also made of brick. At one time, it had either been painted white or whitewashed with lime. There were real (workable) shutters on all the windows. The shutters were painted green. There was a large breezeway running through the center of the bottom floor of the house. The two large chimneys featured

large fireplaces in both the upstairs and down stairs section (4 fireplaces). The roof of the house was covered with sawn cypress shingles. On the front side (north side) of the house there were four large windows on each level and also (I believe about the same number on the rear (south) side of both levels. There was a wide front porch on the upper and lower levels of the front of the building. Both the upper and lower porches had ornately carved railings about 3 1/2 to 4 feet high on the edge of the porches. In the rear there were two short porches on the west section of the house (one upstairs and one downstairs). The staircase leading to the upper level was located in the downstairs living room (parlor) in the southwest corner of the parlor. The large parlor was located on the east (downstairs) section of the house."On the backside of the home was located the kitchen and dining room which was a separate building from the "Bighouse." There was a "dog trot" platform about 3 feet wide and about 8 feet long that connected the back porch to the kitchen and dining room. There was no overhead covering (roof) above the dog trot. The cooking and dining room (out- side) was a two-room building about twenty feet wide and thirty feet long. The dining area was separated from the cooking area and there was a double chimney between the two rooms. The cook room was on the south end of the building. It was equipped with a large cooking fireplace with iron hooks hanging down to attach cooking utensils. The same size fireplace within the dining room was used to heat the room, and keep the prepared food warm.

There was a 12 inch well (water well) located in the northeast corner of the dining room. The curbing of the well was terracotta pipe, and the well bucket was made of cedar and was about 10" wide and 3 feet long with a leather flap valve in the bottom of the bucket. "On the front of the dwelling house there were eight (8) square wood columns about 10 x 10 inches in diameter that ran from the edge of the upstairs front porch to the flooring of the downstairs front porch. These columns were painted green to match the shutters. There were rocking chairs on the front porch, and also a spinning wheel in the breezeway. "The stable (barn) area was a two room log building constructed of round pine logs. There were shed rooms all around the log section. The Bowers Home was located in a grove of water oak trees which can be seen in the aerial photo (unavailable at this writing). The yard of the house was fenced with "fancy" wire fencing and the fence post and gate was made from carved wood. It was painted white. Sometime in the late 1930's Carl and Samuel Campbell bought the Bowers Home and tore it down, and with the usable lumber constructed two (simple) homes for themselves. It is such a shame that this beautiful old home (built before the Civil War) could not have been preserved and restored."

**1844-46: William W. McCallum; 1846-47: Enos Evans;  
1847-49: Anthony Hartley Brownell.**

Sheriff Anthony H. Brownell was born in 1808 in North Carolina and died in Holmes County, Florida, in 1884. He was the son of John Brownell (b. June 20, 1778, in Virginia; d. Jan. 29, 1876, in Hillsborough County, FL) and Mary Hartley (b. July 27, 1781, in North Carolina; d. Feb. 14, 1873, Hillsborough County, FL). He had only one known sibling, a sister, Frances Angeline Brownell (b. July 22, 1812, in North Carolina; m. George Owens Brown; both Frances and George are buried in Hudson Hill Cemetery in Holmes County, FL). The family arrived in Walton County, FL, in 1845, coming from Muscogee County, Georgia, where John Brownell was a farmer, and his son Anthony was a merchant. John Brownell did not stay long in Walton County; he and his wife, Mary Hartley, moved on and eventually settled in Hillsborough County, FL, where they are buried.

**1849-53: William W. McCallum.**

According to the WCSO Sheriff McCollum assumed office on Feb. 6, 1850. Source No.56 verifies that this sheriff was Wm. W. McCollum and was qualified on 23 Feb. 1850. The US Census is an amazing document; the one prepared in 1850 probably raised as many questions as it answered. The pages available for the Walton County area of Florida that year showed that the overwhelming majority of heads of household were farmers. A closer inspection revealed a few blacksmiths, teachers and merchants and one peddler. There were no politicians, policemen or military listed as such and, unfortunately, no sheriff. The proper form of the family name of the Walton County Sheriff that year was "McCollum" as specified by the WCSO and verified by the U. S. census. In 1850, there were three McCollum families living in Walton County-and two William McCollums. One of the Williams was living with an 87 year old Mary McCollum. Both William and Mary were born in North Carolina and Mary may have been William's mother or his grandmother. William was 45 years of age and his occupation was listed as 'peddler'.

**1853-57: Alexander C. Monroe; 1855-1857: A.C. Monroe  
1858-60: John C. Campbell.**

Sheriff Campbell's tenure ran from 1855 to 1861. He enlisted at Quincy in the Sixth Florida Infantry on Mar. 15, 1862 and died in Richmond, KY, on Jan. 1, 1863, after being accidentally shot.

**1861-65: W.W. McCollum.**

In 1861 a number of men refused to organize a company of volunteers (militia) for any purpose other than home defense. At that, a group of women organized the Venetian Guards and offered to go anywhere to fight in defense of their liberties.

**1865-67: J.L. Campbell.**

**1868-72: Samuel Rutan.**

Sheriff Rutan was born on July 20, 1819, in Paterson, NJ, the son of John Rutan (b. 1792, d. ?) and Catherine Coon (b.1796, d.?). John and Catherine were married in 1813 in the First Presbyterian Church of Paterson; they had eight children: Elizabeth, John, Jane, Samuel, Maria, Joanna, Aaron and Annie. It is not known how or when Samuel arrived in Florida but he was listed as a farmer in the 1850 census and living in Dale County, AL. Samuel married (1). Eliza Williams (b.1814/17, d. 1910), she was from Georgia and the widow of James Mallette, and they were living in Dale Co., AL, between 1839 and 1865. James Mallette was the business partner of Samuel. There is no further information on Eliza Williams but at some time before 1868, Samuel moved to Florida and became Sheriff of Walton County. In 1873, he married (2). Mary Elizabeth Taunton (1841-1918), a school teacher from Elba, Coffee County, AL. After his tenure as sheriff, Samuel Rutan was in the grocery business in Walton County in the Freeport area of today. In Samuel's time, the region was known as LaGrange, as it is upstream from LaGrange Bayou. His home was located between Four mile Creek and Lafayette Creek. Samuel died on March 25, 1910, and is buried at the Hatcher Church of God Cemetery in Freeport.

**1872: Calvin McDonald; 1872: John A. McLeod; 1873-77: Neil Campbell; 1877-78: James H. Rice; 1878-81: W.B. McLeod; 1881: Joseph Malary; 1881: J.W. Campbell; 1882: Malcolm D. McLean; 1883-89: J.C. McSween; 1889-94: John A. McLeod.**

WCSO records show Sheriff John A. McLeod taking office on Jan. 8, 1889. On Feb. 13, 1890, A little over a year after McLeod became Sheriff; Deputy US Marshal W.B. Saunders was killed just outside of Quincy in Gadsden County, FL. According to Prof. W. Wilbanks (Forgotten Heroes: Police Officers Killed in Early Florida, 1841-1925), Saunders was "shot through the neck, a pistol ball, probably .48-caliber, having entered the left side of the throat near the jugular vein and came out just back of the right ear." In describing the killing Prof. Wilbanks writes, ". . . In northern Florida in 1890, many Democrats had been convicted in federal courts of election fraud as there were continuing efforts to disenfranchise blacks so that whites could regain control of local government from Republicans. "Though federal troops had left Florida in 1877 with the end of Reconstruction, the federal government, through its Dept. of Justice and federal marshals, continued to prosecute Democrats for trying to deny blacks the right to vote...Democratic newspapers in Florida derisively called the federal marshals 'blackguards' indicating the efforts of the marshals to safeguard the rights of the blacks. The hatred (of the locals for) the federal government and its marshals was so intense that many marshals feared for their lives when required to go into Democratic strongholds (like Quincy in Gadsden County) to enforce the law ..." Such was the scenario when Saunders left Defuniak Springs by rail to go to Quincy Feb. 1, 1890, to pick up a black prisoner at the Gadsden County Jail. For some reason, Saunders took a ride in the country with two Quincy men, on the afternoon of Feb.13. It was at this time that Saunders was killed. The two men with him would not talk about what happened except to deny that they had shot him, and say that they had not seen the shooter. In the 1890's, Saunders had made his home in Defuniak Springs, and Maude Saunders was his daughter. She taught in Walton County Schools, one of which in Defuniak is named in her honor.

**1894-98: M. Manning.**

Sheriff Manning was appointed to office on November 20, 1894.

**1898-1909: John William Campbell.**

Sheriff Campbell assumed office on March 6 1898. "John William Campbell was the youngest son of Alexander Campbell and Nancy McPherson. He was born at Knox Hill, Walton County, Florida, on Oct. 25, 1849. He received his education at the Knox Hill Academy. In 1884, he became the timber or trespass agent of the Pensacola and Atlantic Railroad Company, which later merged with the Louisville and Nashville Railroad. After working for the railroad for a number of years he served as a deputy US Marshal in the Northern District of Florida. In1898, John William Campbell became the Sheriff of Walton County, an office which he held until 1909. John William Campbell was accidentally killed by a passenger train at the L&N Depot in Defuniak Springs, Florida, on April 30, 1927." [Ed. Note: With permission of Mark Campbell Currenton].

**1909-16: J.M. Bell.**

Sheriff J. Murdock Bell assumed office on Jan. 5, 1909, according to records at the Walton County Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Bell died on July 27, 1916, at John Hopkins Sanitarium in Baltimore, Maryland. About June 4, 1915, a little less than a year before Bell's death, Deputy Sheriff Dennis Lynch, working out of Mobile, AL, made a trip to Santa Rosa Beach aboard the paddle wheeler Charles E. Cessna to investigate reports of illegal liquor being sold aboard. After buying and drinking a beer, he took the bottle ashore and held it as evidence. All the ship's officers were arrested and charged with violation of the state prohibition law.

**1916-17: J.B. Cawthon;****1917-33: Thad Bell.**

Bell was severely injured while enforcing the law in 1931.

**1933-37, 1939-41: Sheriff Monroe H. Prescott**

Sheriff James Costello Prescott was a son of Hugh and Margaret. Nothing is known about his life in DeFuniak Springs other than he married Loudella Radford on May 21, 1889, and they had six children. One of those children was Monroe H. Prescott who was destined to become a two-term sheriff of Walton County. Sheriff Prescott was born in DeFuniak Springs, Florida, on Oct. 26, 1890. His family and friends during his life referred to him as "Uncle Roe." "Uncle Roe married first Lena Mae Sharp but nothing else is known about her. Family documents say that Uncle Roe had three children: one set of twins born in 1908, who did not survive long, and one son named Ernest Monroe. In 1958 Uncle Roe was living at 205 East Nelson Avenue (US 90) in DeFuniak Springs with his wife and family. His occupation was listed on his Voter Registration Card as Policeman; he was 5'7" in height, weighed 195 lbs. and had a fair complexion with blue eyes and gray hair. After his second term as sheriff (1939-1941), Uncle Roe built a tire repair shop between his home and present day Firestone store to recap tires during WWII. . . On her voter registration card, the second Wife of Sheriff Prescott was listed simply as "Mrs. M.H. Prescott." According to Prescott family documents, her name was Mary Ruth Simmons and she was born in Leavenworth, KS, on June 18, 1893 and died on Oct. 5, 1964, in DeFuniak Springs.

**1937-38: D.C. Adkison.**

Sheriff Daniel "Dorrie" Clayton Adkison was born in 1897 in Walton County, FL, but throughout his professional career he was known as D.C. Adkison. It is not known where he received his education but he obviously ran a law office prior to becoming sheriff as there are many legal ads in the local new paper with his name on them as attorney. He was descended from an authentic Florida pioneer family that apparently arrived about 1867 when his grandfather, Thomas Jefferson Adkison came into the area and settled in the community near present-day Pleasant Ridge.

Thomas Jefferson Adkison was married twice, and it is mostly due to these two unions that there is some local question about the correct spelling of the family name [see entry for Sheriff Celia Adkinson]. Thomas Jefferson's first wife was Sarah Mills, (b. 1824) and she had three children: James Littleton, Roxie Ann and Susan Missouri. Sarah apparently died sometime before 1849 when Thomas Jefferson married his second wife, Susan Pardue Kelly (b. Aug. 15, 1831). Susan and Thomas produced ten children; one of these (Jason Davis Monroe Adkison, b. Sep. 25, 1861) was the father of Sheriff D. C. Adkison.

Jason's proper name was "Jason Davis Marion Sampson Love Degustas Charles Monroe Adkison," and he married Annie E. Infinger about 1884. Jason and Annie had six children: Emanuel W., Loduska, Macolm (sic) Monroe, Gussie, Carl, Daniel "Dorrie" Clayton and Marion Arnie. Daniel Clayton (D. C.) became Sheriff after he had served in the U. S. Army as Pfc. in the 326 AMB Co., 82nd Div. He married Celia Jernigan of a prominent Pensacola family.

On Aug. 13, 1937, it was reported that Eugene Campbell, convicted of armed robbery in Pensacola in July and sentenced to 20 years vowed he "would get the man who shot him" at the time of his arrest. That man was in Defuniak Springs . . . in August Eugene escaped from a prison camp near Dunnellon and was located in the Defuniak Springs area shortly after. Campbell was tracked by Sheriff Adkison and a posse to the Three Way Service Station west of town . . . (the rest of the article was missing . . .)

On Sep. 30, 1937, Sheriff Adkison states that he will enforce the new anti-slot machine law and will confiscate all machines he finds.

In Oct. 1937, Dan Webster was reappointed Town Marshal of Defuniak Springs, the county seat, after a hard-fought election campaign with Mr. W. S. Allison, where in the Aug 13, 1937 primary both men received 228 votes for a

dead tie.

On Oct. 14, 1937, it was reported that Sheriff Adkison and Deputy Curtis Miller tracked and captured an escaped prisoner near Geneva, Al, a distance of over 25 miles from Defuniak Springs, as the crow flies. The sheriff says the jail is insecure-there is no fence and contraband is easily passed to the prisoners.

On Oct. 29, 1937, it was reported that Mrs. H. Smith, sister of Mrs. D. C. Adkison, was injured in a car accident in Pensacola . . .

On Nov. 12, 1937, there appeared in a local new paper a legal ad run by D.C. Adkison, Attorney for a client,...(was this permitted while sheriff?)

On Dec. 24, 1937, there was a 'Merry Christmas' ad in the local paper from Sheriff D.C. Adkison. On Mar. 25, 1938, Frank McLeod and Currie Mitchell were arrested by Sheriff Adkison for cattle stealing.

Fatally shot in the line of duty in 1938. On Apr. 7, 1938, the following appeared in a local newspaper: "Sheriff Adkison and Frank Hendrix were shot and killed at the home of Constable James Neal last night. No particulars are obtainable, but it is stated that earlier in the afternoon Neal had arrested a relative of Sheriff Adkison with a load of liquor, and it is presumed that the shooting was the outgrowth of this. Neal was arrested and placed in jail in the city hall. A Coronor's (sic) jury will meet this morning to investigate the case. [Ed. Note: Frank Hendrix was employed by the State Road Dept. as a truck driver; James Neal was the Defuniak Springs Constable. State Attorney E. Dixie Beggs was assigned to conduct the investigation.]

On April 8, 1938 (or thereabouts) a coroner's jury was held to investigate the deaths of Sheriff Adkison and Frank Hendrix. The verdict of the jury was that Adkison and Hendrix came to their deaths at the hands of (Constable) Neal and ordered him held to the May term of court, on a charge of second degree murder. When arrested by G.A. Pate, Neal said, "They came out to get me, and I had to do it."

Deputy Curtis Miller stated that Neal brought in Marlin Adkison, brother of the sheriff, charged with having liquor in his possession. He had a tag (?) belonging to the sheriff. The sheriff told Marlin that he had "ruined him, as people would believe that he was behind him in his whiskey business." A pistol found on the fender of a car at the scene of the shooting was initially identified as belonging to Sheriff Adkison but later Deputy Miller said the pistol was found about 10 feet from the body and that it belonged to him (Miller). He said Adkison borrowed it when he went to Jacksonville the week before, and had not returned it. On Apr. 14, it was reported that Sheriff Adkison and Franklin Hendrix were buried. The funeral for the sheriff seemed to be the largest extravaganza of its kind in Walton County. Adkison was buried at 11 AM at Pleasant Ridge and Chief Deputy Curtis Miller was pall bearer. Sheriff Rex Sweat of Jacksonville and Sheriff Bob King of Lee County were in attendance. Sheriff King was the president of the Florida Sheriffs Association at the time. At 3 PM of the same day Franklin Hendrix was buried at Ebro and Deputy Curtis Miller was again in attendance.

On Apr. 28, 1938, it was reported that there will be an election for sheriff of Walton County. Names on the ballot include W.E. Munn, Monroe Prescott and J.W. Weeks. On May 5, it was reported that the election was held but a runoff is required between Prescott and Weeks. On May 26, the runoff results reveal that Prescott won the election with 2668 votes versus 2219 for Weeks. The local newspaper writes that "this was the cleanest election yet but still it was reported that votes for Prescott were 'bought' for \$2 each." On May 12, 1938, a list of the members of the Grand Jury was published. It included the following: Tyler Williams, W.J. Parish, H.M. Day, Wade Bishop, V.B. Hutchinson, Dan Anderson, E.G. Grant, A.C. Daughtry, Mason Collingsworth, W.J. Cosson, J.G. Mauldin, Gaston Prescott, Fisher Peters, Cecil Chesser, Geo. Dixon, Porter Rushing, Harold Mitchell, W.J. Dawkins. The Judge was A.G. Campbell.

On May 19, 1938, the results of the Grand Jury that investigated the deaths of Sheriff Adkison and Franklin Hendrix were revealed. The Grand Jury returned "no true bill" against James Neal. The statement released was "We deplore the lax enforcement of liquor laws in our county and the presence here of houses of ill-fame. We are convinced that if the law enforcement officers will exert some effort to put an end to these violations that much good can be accomplished. We urge them to do so.

### **1938: Mrs. Celia Adkinson**

The following article appeared in a local newspaper on Apr. 21, 1938: "Walton County has a lady sheriff. A telegram received Friday (Apr. 15) announced that Mrs. Celia Adkison, widow of the late D.C. Adkison, had been appointed sheriff to succeed him, and will serve until after the general election in November. Mrs. Adkison is a woman of splendid Christian character, a prominent worker in the Baptist church, and with mental qualifications far above the average. If it is possible for a woman to satisfactorily fill the position, one would have to go far to find one better fitted. She is the second woman in Florida to be appointed to a similar office, the other being the sheriff of Okeechobee County who was appointed on the death of her husband. "Appointed by Gov. Cone on April 18, 1938, ad interim, to replace her husband; she served out her term and did not seek reelection. She was the second female sheriff in Florida history. In

June 1938, it was reported that Gov. Cone says 'marble machines are slots and must go; cigarette machines, too. On June 2, 1938, it was reported that Sheriff Celia Adkinson was in Jacksonville to confer with Sheriff Rex Sweat. . . She also took time to review a parade in which her son participated.

Sheriff- Elect Prescott went to Tallahassee to talk with Gov. Cone-Mrs. Adkison was supposed to resign but has not done so as yet-the gov. cannot appoint Prescott until she does. Several offers and counter-offers were made including offering Mrs. Adkison the position of Chief Deputy under Prescott; then Prescott was offered the position of Chief Deputy under Adkison; both offers were rejected. More to come.

Sheriff Adkison reports that gambling in Walton County has ceased-The Breeze says it has just moved over the line to Holmes County. . .

On June 9, it was reported that Celia Adkison to serve as sheriff until the Nov. elections but Gov. Cone is still submitting proposals to solve the impasse. . .

On June 17, 1938, it was reported that Sheriff Adkison had conducted a roundup of bootleggers including Dewey Downs, C.F. Adkison, Emma Infinger, Hun Hamilton, Leslie Hamilton, Acey Infinger, Ralph Taylor, A.M. Couisson, C.A. Lang, Cliff Hodge, Jack Suggs, Herman Suggs, Mattie Bruner, Avery Infinger, Fred Adkinson, Graham Ward, Vernon Elmore, E. L. Shulis, A. R. Holley and Martha Nowling.

On June 23, Sheriff Celia Adkison and the bootleg roundup are in court . . . newspaper editorial congratulates Celia but says she only got the minnows- the big fish are stillin business...

On July 3, 1938, it was reported that J.W. Bullard was found dead in his home on the Circle under mysterious circumstances.

On July 7, Chief Deputy Curtis Miller resigns; special session of the county court will be held to try those arrested by Sheriff Adkison in the roundup last week. . .

On July 28, it was reported that Gov. Cone is seriously ill. . .

On Aug. 4, it was reported that Sheriff Adkison is vigorously enforcing traffic laws and causing much griping from motorists. . .

Aug. 11...Gov. Cone still seriously ill; diagnosis is coronary thrombosis...

Sep. 15...a grand jury was empanelled to investigate gambling in private homes...on Sep. 22 it was reported nothing was found to substantiate this claim. . .

On Oct 13, a dynamite explosion blew out the dam and wrecked the grist mill at Liberty, the site of the old John McCullough Mill...an investigation revealed no further evidence of foul play. . .

On Oct. 27, County attorney Gillis says that Monroe H. Prescott will become sheriff as soon after the canvas of votes in the Nov. election as his bond is approved and commission issued. . .

Nov. 17 election results were: 145 votes for Mrs. Celia Adkison; 1469 votes for Prescott; and 856 votes for W.H. Hobbs an editorial in the local paper calls for new sheriff to pursue open gambling, bootlegging, flaunting of prostitution in the juke joints along the highway...

### **1939-41: M. H. Prescott**

It was reported that the jail capacity was 30 beds. Second term (1939-41) appointed by the Governor. Defeated by Robert E. Gatlin

### **1941-42: Robert E. Gatlin**

Sheriff "Bob" Gatlin was the son of "Sion" Gatlin. Sion was the eldest son of Harmon S. Gatlin and Martha Ann Henderson (b. 17 May 1847 and d. 2 Dec. 1880). Harmon and Martha reared their family in Geneva County, AL (formerly Henry County). Martha was the 11th child of Richard William Henderson (b. 23 Oct 1806 In SC; d. 15 Jan. 1883; buried Eight Mile Cemetery between Gaskin, FL, and Florala, AL) and Cinderella Hutto (b. 11 Nov. 1812; d. 3 Feb.1887; buried Eight Mile Cemetery). Richard William and Cinderella lived and reared their large family near Eight Mile Creek a rea in Henry County, AL. They had 15 children.

On or about April 15, 1942, Sheriff Bob Gatlin and Deputy Jack Bodiford, A.G. Douglas, and County Attorney Thos. D. Beasley, were called to Tallahassee by Governor Holland. According to a report filed by the Associated Press, who had a reporter present at the meeting: "Thomas Vanderveen of Delavan, Wis., a property owner and winter visitor to Walton County, located in West Florida, charged that Bodiford, a 38 year old, six-foot, 200-pounder, slugged him with his fists and had him locked in jail without any charge or warrant after questioning him about his citizenship. Vanderveen described himself as being 52 years old, five feet seven inches tall and weighing 140 pounds. He made his charges in a letter to Gov. Holland and did not come here in person."Bodiford said he treated Vanderveen with courtesy until the man 'cursed me' and kicked me and then I knocked him down. He said others in the Walton County jailhouse placed the man in jail in the absence of Sheriff Gatlin, 'to keep him from hurting anybody or getting

hurt.' He said Vanderveen came to the court house and started the trouble after he had been questioned the night before. The reason for the meeting was to resolve certain actions which the governor had resorted to in response to Vanderveen's letter. Initially, Gov. Holland had removed Deputy Bodiford from duty. Sheriff Gatlin protested that the Gov. was usurping his authority and that he (Gatlin) would resign before he accepted that action. After some apologies all around, evidently the matter was resolved to the satisfaction of all parties.

On May 21, 1942, it was reported that Sheriff Bob Gatlin arrested Chunk Brown and wife in the Nebo neighborhood of Defuniak for illegally selling liquor.

On July 16, 1942, it was announced that W.J. Richards is the Marshall of Defuniak Springs. On Aug. 6, 1942, it was announced that the new jail on the NE corner of the county courthouse is finished. The 65x91 sq. ft. building is capable of housing 38 prisoners in a secure environment. Built to the highest standards it was a county Works Progress Administration project. The old jail will be dismantled for metal content and salvage scrap.

On Thursday, Nov. 19, 1942, it was reported: Sheriff Gatlin Meets Death In Line Of Duty-Walton's Law Enforcement Officer Killed By Negro Bootlegger. But few deaths in Walton County in recent years have caused the universal and widespread regret and sorrow that was occasioned shortly after the noon hour Thursday by the news that Sheriff Robert E. Gatlin had been shot and killed by Alfred E. Snipes, 39-year-old negro bootlegger, to whose home Sheriff Gatlin and Deputy Sheriff Curtis Miller had gone with a search warrant looking for illicit liquor. Sheriff Gatlin was killed by a shot from one of the officer's (Gatlin's) revolvers, fired by Snipes. Following this, the deputy (Miller) was badly beaten about the face and head by the Negro, who received three bullet wounds. Snipes made his escape and remained hidden for 36 hours, surrendering at that time to members of the road patrol, who with a posse of several hundred townspeople, assisted by 50 members of the home defense unit of Marianna, had been searching the negro section of East Defuniak for the killer...

Since the death of the sheriff and the wounding of the deputy left Walton County with no law enforcement officers, the matter was immediately taken up with Gov. Holland, who instructed the road patrol of West Florida to take over, which it did at once under the direction of Highway Patrol Director J.J. Gilliam of Tallahassee, who came immediately to Defuniak Springs, picking up members of the patrol as he passed through successive counties on his way to Walton. Added to these were more than two score members of the home defense unit of Jackson County, who were directed by the gov. to come to DeFuniak and aid in the search. Several hundreds of DeFuniak citizens, acting in conjunction with the road patrol and the Jackson County home guard unit, formed a number of independent posses which searched every Negro home in the East End...

[Ed. Note: Snipes was apprehended and arrested about 11 o'clock Friday night by a posse composed of Highway Patrolman W.T. Stevens and Okaloosa County Sheriff Isle Enzor among others. After the arrest, according to newspaper accounts, Snipes was taken directly to the state penitentiary at Raiford. The date of this killing apparently was Nov. 12, 1942.]

#### **1942-45: Aubrey McDonald**

On Thursday, Nov. 19, 1942, it was reported: "Folks, meet the new sheriff-governor names successor to Sheriff Robert Gatlin". Within forty-eight hours after the untimely death of Robert E. Gatlin, who had served Walton County as its Sheriff for almost two years, Governor Holland named Aubrey McDonald of DeFuniak Springs as his successor. "The county's new (law) enforcement officer went over to Tallahassee Monday, and was given his commission while there, but did not take the oath of office until the following day, which he did Tuesday, and he is now official in that position.

"This paper believes that Mr. McDonald will make the county an efficient and capable sheriff, an opinion in which it is believed a large majority of the people will agree, and that the governor made no mistake in naming him. "The new sheriff is a native citizen of the county, a long-time resident of Defuniak Springs and has a host of friends here whose best wishes go with him in the duties of the office which he takes over. The Herald believes that Aubrey McDonald will make Walton County a good sheriff.

#### **1945-53: Curtis Ralph Miller**

Sheriff Curtis Ralph Miller (1945-53 and 1957-61) In memoriam: Curtis Ralph Miller was a native and life-long resident of Walton County, Florida. He was born in Bruce and on May 10, 1928, he married Mary Kathryn Lassiter. At the time of his death he resided on the Freeport Highway south of Defuniak Springs with his wife and two children: Reba Fay and George Ralph. He died on March 21, 1977, and was preceded in death by his parents (George Washington Miller [b. Feb. 25, 1872; d. Dec. 24, 1952] and Laura Rebecca Ward [buried Black Creek Cemetery]); two daughters, Frieda Ray Miller [b. Aug. 20, 1937; d. Feb. 27, 1941 due to accident], and stillborn Nov. 14, 1935; and one son, died at birth, Dec. 31, 1930.

**1953-57: Theron Aubrey McDonald**

Sheriff McDonald began his second term as sheriff on Jan.6, 1953. He was born in Defuniak Springs, FL, on Oct. 6, 1910, to Charles Lovel McDonald and Bertha Virginia Garrett. He was educated in the public schools of Walton County, FL. He married Leola Ingram, a native of Walton County, on April 2, 1932, and they had nine children (see Pioneers of Walton County). He was a member of WOW and the Odd Fellows. He previously served two years as Sheriff by Appointment. He also served as a member of the FHP as Motor Vehicle Inspector, and as Inspector State Board of Conservation...

**1957-61: Curtis Ralph Miller**

Sheriff Miller was born in Walton County, May 10, 1907: He was connected with the Wainwright Shipyard in 1943, until he assumed the office of sheriff in Jan. 1945. He was also engaged in farming and stock raising. He is married and has two children. He served as deputy sheriff under four different sheriffs.

**1961-70: Howard "Andy" Anderson**

Sheriff Anderson was born on Aug. 13, 1911, in Walton County, Fl., one of nine children born to William Alexander Anderson (b. June 1880; d.1958; buried Magnolia Cemetery) and Mary Evans (b. 1884; d. 1939; buried Magnolia Cemetery). Wm. Alexander and Mary Evans were married in Defuniak Springs on Oct. 19, 1904. Young Andy was educated in the public schools of Walton County. He married Ethyl Cornelia McDuffie on Oct. 20, 1935 by Rev. W.H. McNeal, and they had one daughter they named Sylvia. Prior to his election Andy owned and operated a Gulf service station and an appliance store on the corner of Nelson Avenue and Eighth Street in Defuniak Springs; later he was the Gulf Distributor. At one time, he and his brother Dub operated a grocery store across the street from the Walton County Library on the site of the old hospital. Other public offices he has held include City Councilman Fire Chief (19 years) of Defuniak Springs, and Trustee of Walton County Farmers' Market. He is a member of the Methodist Church, Masonic Lodge, Odd Fellows Lodge, and Kiwanis (past president).

**1970-77: Lehman Shelby "Sam" Campbell**

Sheriff Campbell was born on July 14, 1907, in Newton, Dale County, AL, the son of William Alfred Campbell and Amanda Alice Scott. He was educated in the public schools of Dale County, AL, and graduated from high school there. Prior to his election he was a merchant and self-employed in the construction and salvage businesses in Walton County. His home was 12 miles N of US 90 on SR 231 in Walton County. He was 6 feet tall and weighed 185 lbs. He had a ruddy complexion with brown eyes and black hair.

Sheriff Campbell married Elizabeth Lenoria Beasley on Aug. 2, 1925, in Pinckard in Dale County, AL. Elizabeth's father was James F. Beasley and her mother was Margaret Courtland; they were both born and buried in AL. Sheriff Sam Campbell and Elizabeth Beasley had four children: James Lehman Campbell, Virginia Dare Campbell Pridgen, Lydia Catherine Campbell King, and Myrtice Carolyn Campbell Dixon. This was a very religious and political family. Son James became a Minister of the Gospel; daughter, Virginia Dare married Lelan Sam Pridgen and they both became county commissioners of Walton County; dau. Lydia Catherine Campbell married James Eugene King; they became Clerk of the Courts and Supt. of Schools, respectively, in Walton County. Daughter Myrtice Carolyn married William Caylor Dixon of the Childrens Home Community in 1955. After earning a degree in education she taught in the Walton County School system for many years. Following his term as sheriff, Sam Campbell went on to become a State Representative.

**1977-80: Jessie Aubrey Carter, Sr.**

Sheriff Carter began his tenure with the office of sheriff in Walton County, Florida on January 4, 1977. Sheriff Carter was born on March 27, 1936, in Panama City, Bay County, FL. Both maternal and paternal branches of his family tree came from sturdy pioneer stock. All of his ancestors were outdoors people who were engaged in the honorable professions of commercial farming, forestry, logging and fishing. Jessie attended public schools in Bay County at the Millville Elementary and Parker Elementary and then at Wewahitchka. Leaving school in the eighth grade, he enlisted in the US Army in 1953 and took his graduation from high school by GED. Sheriff Carter was trained as a paratrooper with the 11th Airborne Division at Camp Campbell, KY, then sent overseas to Japan with the 508th Airborne Battalion. During a parachute jump he was severely injured and had to have his kneecap surgically removed. During recovery, he met his wife, Sue Mann, in Texas and they were married in Dallas on March 1, 1958. Jessie was medically discharged from the Army on March 11, 1958. After discharge from military service

due to the extent of his injury, and the Carters returned to Florida where Jessie began his law enforcement career as a Wildlife Officer ( Game Warden) with the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission which lasted until 1976. It was then that he was approached by a group of concerned citizens in Walton County and urged to enter the election as their candidate for sheriff. He did so and was successful. His commission from the governor is dated December 2, 1976.

At the time there were only 10-15 members of the new sheriff's posse. One of Carter's first acts was to get approval for more deputies and newer vehicles. Among the first to be hired was future 20-year sheriff Quinn McMillian who swore that he would never oppose Jessie in an election-until the next one came along. Jessie hired him any- way proceeded to coach him in the nuances of law enforcement. You might say Carter taught Quinn how to and succeed him at the same time that he was improving the county law enforcement posture.

A conscientious man, Carter took his election to office seriously and attended many classes to improve his own law enforcement skills. At home, he has a wall completely covered with certificates and awards, too many to include in a narrative of this nature, but impressive nonetheless.

Jessie's tenure in office was busy as he fulfilled his promise to the voters to rid Walton County of the illicit traffic in drugs. Things were going well-until the election. McMillian had been working behind Jessie's back and defeated him in the next election, and the one after that. Unfortunately, Jessie's time in office ended in 1981 when he lost his bid for reelection. He remained active in the law enforcement career area after retiring from the sheriff position when he formed and operated his own private investigation business. In the year 2002, Jessie Carter and Sue Mann Carter are at home in Defuniak Springs, Florida. They have three children: Jessie Jr., Eddie, and Cathy.

In the election year of 2002, former Walton County Sheriff Jessie still seems overwhelmed by his previous political career. Admittedly it was a short run-only one term; four meager years-but it was significant in Walton County history. Jessie had few political aspirations of his own and had to be prodded by local businessmen to run on a reform program. Sheriff Carter's mandate when he won the election was to clean up the sheriff's office.

### **1981-2000: Quinn A. McMillian**

Sheriff McMillian born on Aug. 15, 1940, in Walton County, FL, and kin to the late Sheriff D.C. Adkison, who was killed in the line of duty in 1938, received his commission on January 6, 1981. He was educated at Walton County High School; Okaloosa-Walton Jr. College, Crime Scene Evidence Technology School and Police Standards & Training School; St. Petersburg Jr. College, Homicide Investigation School; Washington-Holmes Area Vo-Tech School, Breathalyzer courses. He is married to Rebecca. Career duty assignments include Military, US Army, 1963-65; Walton County SO, deputy and investigator, five years. In 1986 a new jail for Walton County was completed at a cost of \$3.2 million; it was designed to accommodate requirements for 10 years with 101 beds. On Aug. 22, 1996, it was reported that the WCSO new two- man Traffic Enforcement Unit is now at work. Deputies Joe F. Howell and Jimmy Macon and their motorcycles compose the unit-which is dedicated solely to enforcement of traffic regulations. A motorcycle unit was previously operated for over six months last year, but funding was discontinued. The unit proved to be more than self-supporting. On Nov. 6, 1996, it was announced that Sheriff McMillian, 56, a native of Defuniak Springs, has won re-election over challenger Republican A. "Art" McLellan. McMillian has been with the WCSO for more than 20 years, having started as a road deputy under Sheriff Jessie Carter. He and his wife, Rebecca, have been married for 20 years and have two children. The annual salary for Walton County sheriff is \$76,803.

### **2001: Ralph L. Johnson**

Sheriff Johnson was elected in 2000 and received his commission on Jan. 1, 2001, but then Sheriff McMillian changed his date of retirement, so Johnson received another commission dated Dec. 31, 2000. Sheriff Johnson was born in Defuniak Springs on July 25, 1953. He attended Okaloosa-Walton Junior College, AS Criminal Justice; FSU, FL Highway Patrol Academy, and numerous law enforcement training courses. His wife's name is Lou Ann. His career prior to being elected sheriff includes a seven-month tour of duty with the Coleman, Sumter County, FL, Police Dept. in 1974 and then the FHP from 1974 to 2000 until his election to the office of sheriff of Walton County. Honors & Affiliations: nominated Law Enforcement Officer of the Year; American Police Hall of Fame, recognized by American Federation of Police and Concerned Citizens and Nation Chiefs of Police (2002) for marijuana eradication; member Masonic Lodge 225.

Ed. Note: The Supervisor of Elections in Walton County was established as a constitutional office in 1958. This was gubernatorial election year instead of presidential election year. Ever since the elections for this office has been held in a gubernatorial election year. All voting records prior to 1958 are kept in the County Archives and were not

available for this research in the year 2002.

Sources: *Florida Sheriffs: A History 1821-1945*, by WW Rogers & JM Denham, 2001; "A *Rogue's Paradise*: by James M. Denham, 1997; *The Florida Sheriff; Yearbook of the Florida Sheriffs Association 1958*, *The Breeze*, Defuniak Springs, FL; *Voter Registration Records*, Defuniak Springs, FL; *The Herald*, Defuniak Springs, FL Personal interview with Jessie A. Carter; *Genealogy Report; Carter-Cannington Family; House of 3D's, Daughtery, Dady\_ & Delvillar*, 809 NW 2n Ave., Mulberry, Flonda, 33880; *Henderson Chi ps; Edited by Margaret H. Wooten; Published by John Wayne Wooten; Northwest Florida Daily News; Fort Walton Beach, FL; Forgotten Heroes: Police Officers Killed in Early Florida, 1841-1925;* by Prof. W. Wilbanks, 1998; *Pensacola News- Journal, Escambia County, FL; Early Settlements Around Hogtown Bayou, an unpublished, undated, booklet by Wilfred "Chick" Huettel; Florida Territorial Papers, Jan. 19, 1827; Census Records.*

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# Walton County Heritage Association

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**2017**

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