



WALTON

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Walton County Heritage Association

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WALTON COUNTY HERITAGE ASSOCIATION, INC.

OFFICE LOCATION

Walton County Heritage Museum, (Old Train Depot)
Hours: Open Tuesday – Saturday, 1:00 – 4:00 PM

Postal Address

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Newsletter Cover Collage Photos

Clockwise from top left:

1. Darlington, Florida, early 1900s, Courtesy of Baker Block Museum, photographer unknown. Edited by Sam Carnley.
2. *View of a turpentine still in Glendale or Gaskin*. 1904. Black & white photoprint, 4 x 6 in. State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory. <<https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/42107>>, accessed 28 June 2017 by Sam Carnley.
3. William Lewis (Luke) Hurst Family, Fleming Creek/Clear Springs area, north Walton County, ca 1894, from "The Heritage of Walton County, Florida," p. 190.
4. Old Paxton High School, "1961-62 Paxtonian" Year Book, photographer unknown. Edited by Sam Carnley
5. Walton County Heritage Museum, photo and editing by Sam Carnley.
6. Gladys D. Milton (1924-1999), Midwife, Flowersview/Paxton, photo by her daughter, Maria Milton. Also in "The Heritage of Walton County, Florida," p. 249, and the September 2018 Newsletter at <http://www.waltoncountyheritage.org/GenSoc/NL2018Sep.pdf> Edited by Sam Carnley.
7. Lake Jackson, South Side, in Paxton City Limits, photo and editing by Sam Carnley.
8. Paxton Water Tower, Paxton, Florida, photo and editing by Sam Carnley.
9. Old Freeport School, constructed ca 1908, burned 1943. Photo from "The Heritage of Walton County, Florida," p. 45. Photographer unknown. Edited by Sam Carnley.
10. *Floralia Saw Mill Company's engine number 3 - Paxton, Florida*. 1907. Black & white photonegative, 4 x 5 in. State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory. Photographer unknown. <<https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/146972>>, accessed 7 September 2019 and edited by Sam Carnley. [Built in 1873 and Originally owned by New York, Ontario and Western Railroad Company as engine number 60; then owned by Southern Iron and Equipment Company as engine number 568 in 1907; then owned by Florala Saw Mill Company as engine number 3 on March 3, 1907; returned to Southern Iron and Equipment Company and number changed to 915 on March 13, 1913; then owned by Louisiana Saw Mill Company as engine 50 in May, 1913.]

The **Walton County Heritage Association, Inc.** is an 501 (C) 3 Florida Not for Profit Corporation Recognized by the IRS as a Public Charity Organization for Tax Deductible Donations.

The Walton County Heritage Association was organized for four main purposes:

- To promote the preservation and restoration of buildings and other landmarks of historical interest within Walton County;
- To maintain the Walton County Heritage Museum to preserve the heritage of Walton County for the education and enjoyment of current and future generations by collecting, preserving, and exhibiting artifacts and information from the time of its original inhabitants to the present;
- To foster and enhance the development, education, and sense of history which is unique to Walton County; and
- To secure cooperation and unity of action between individual citizens, businesses, and other groups as may be necessary to fulfill these purposes.

The Association depends upon the support of its members and the business community to accomplish its goals. Annual dues are \$25 for individuals, \$40 for families and \$100 for corporate memberships.

[Click here](#) for the Individual Membership Application

[Click here](#) for the Corporate Membership Application

Member Benefits:

- **Automatic** membership in the **Walton County Heritage Museum** and the **Walton County Genealogy Society**.
- **Invitations** to Quarterly Members Meetings
- **Discounts** on Special Events
- **The Museum Research Center:** Members get free copies of documents and use of the Genealogy Society computer when the Museum is open.
- **The Museum Gift Shop:** Members receive discounts on books, special publications, postcards, photographs, CDs, DVDs, videos, and gift items.
- **Free subscriptions** to the WCHA Newsletter and Journal.

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2019 President's Report

By Marie Hinson

We would like to thank all of our members for their continued support by joining and renewing their memberships each year. The WCHA has 69 memberships so you can see without your support and the support of our Board of Directors and volunteer Docents, we could not keep the museum open and free to the public.



The WCHA continues to support our mission in preserving the History of Walton County. The WCHA is continuing to work with “Main Street, DeFuniak Springs”. We have rotating exhibits in the museum to promote continued visitation. The museum had guest speakers at our January, April and July Members’ meetings. Continuing our tradition... our October Members’ Meeting and Membership was a History Fair at the DeFuniak Springs Community Center. Thank you to everyone who set up booths for the event. There was a “Pick your Soup” lunch for everyone. The event was a great success.

We have opened the museum to private tours to the military, churches and out of town groups. We extended museum hours and had Caboose tours for special events held by the City of DeFuniak and other local organizations.

Check us out on Facebook and our Webpage “Walton County Heritage Association”. We have added Instagram this year to share our history. You can see parade photos on our Facebook page. We have 1,885 People following our page and received 1,779 Likes.

The WCHA participated in the Florida Chautauqua where we sponsored a Performance Tea this year. We extended museum hours during the Smithsonian Small Town America exhibition. We were in the Mardi Gras, 4th of July and Christmas Parades. We Sponsored the Lucky Duck at Lakefest. We also participated in Trick or Treat around the Circle. This year, coordinating with Main Street Christmas events, we read “Polar Express” on Saturdays, through December 21.

Volunteer Hours recorded: 1,387. This is a record number and we could not continue without our volunteers.

Visitor sign-in for 2019 was 3,322. This is a new record and we can see an increase in out of town visitors.

Facebook reached 2,200 people reviewing our post.

Our Genealogy Society is continuing their work copying records at Clary Glenn and assisting individuals.

The Board of Directors is looking forward to 2020. Please come to visit and invite your friends. Thank you for your continued support.

Marie G. Hinson, President
Walton County Heritage Association

Stories From Walton County's Past

Transcribed and Edited by Sam Carnley

The following stories are from the book, "The Heritage of Walton County, Florida," available for purchase at the Walton County Heritage Museum. They tell of resources and occupations once common in the county that no longer exist but are a part of the county's heritage worth preserving for future generations. Although transcribed and edited as needed for inclusion in this article, the stories are copied verbatim and the persons submitting them for the "Heritage Book" are fully credited.

Sheep Herding in Eucheeanna

James Lee (Jim) Lindsey was my father-in-law. He was born 11-08-1919. These are the memories he shared with me on 8-26-02.

In the early 1900s, several families in Eucheeanna owned herds of sheep. Jim was a very young boy, not old enough to go to school. "My daddy didn't own any of the sheep but the shearing operation was set up next to our house. I was very close to one of the men that owned sheep. His name was Jim Howell, he was my buddy. Some of the other owners were Arch McCallum, John Bowers, his son Cawthon and John McSwain."

Jim explained that he would know when the sheep were coming long before he could see them because you could hear the whips popping. Each herder would carry a long whip as he rode alongside the sheep on horseback. They popped the whips over their heads to keep them moving.



James Lee Lindsey

Sheep shearing would always be done in the spring, allowing the animals to grow another coat of wool before winter. "This operation was very exciting to me," Jim expresses. "I would run jump up on the fence when I heard the whips popping and wait for the huge herd to come into sight. There would be miles of sheep, so many you couldn't see the end. My job was to open the gate as they came near."

All the sheep were free roaming in the woods where First American Farms is located now [August 2002]. The land had not been cleared at that time and there was no stock law so everyone was free to allow their sheep to feed on the natural growth. The owners would know their sheep by their own personal markings. In the spring all the men and their sons who were old enough would get together for the round up. They would drive all the sheep into the Sheep Pen. Once all the animals were in, they would cut out about 1/3 of the group and head them north by way of the old wagon trail road that ran from Freeport to Eucheeanna. This trail is barely visible now but its location has been marked with a sign, "Old Eucheeanna Road," off North Jackson St. in Freeport. The herd crossed Rock Hill Road and traveled up McKinnon Bridge Road to Jim Howell's old house located in Eucheeanna next to Spurgeon Lindsey's home-site. Mr. Jim Howell was also the owner of part of the herd.

Mr. Howell had fixed up this old house for shearing. He had a long table set up so four or five men could shear at the same time. The sheep were placed on the table with their feet tied together. Their heads were tied to a stake that was driven through a hole in the table. The sheep had no choice but to

enjoy their hair-cut. They sheared each one by hand with hand-held shears.¹ “I would climb up on the fence around the table so I could see better,” Jim remembers with a warm nostalgic look on his face.

After all the shearing was done the sheep were turned out and they would all go back to the woods by themselves. The men would then go back to the sheep pen and get another batch.

The wool was stored in an old barn out back. Large burlap bags about four feet long were used to bag the wool. The owners had some means of knowing how much wool each man had. Then the bags were taken to DeFuniak Springs and shipped to market by train.

Submitted by: Charlot Lindsey, 230 E. Indian Creek Ranch Rd., DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435.

Sheep Herding Baker



Charlie Garrett’s “baker” on display at the Walton County Heritage Museum. Photo by Sharon Grenet.

This story is about a “baker,” used for baking bread, biscuits, etc. when camping [commonly known as a Dutch oven today]. This particular baker belonged to Charles Wyatt Garrett and was used when Charlie Garrett and his brother-in-law, Charlie McDonald went out to herd and shear their sheep. At the time of its use, approximately 1910-1920, Charlie Garrett and Charlie McDonald were sheep ranching south of DeFuniak Springs. Sheep were spread from their respective farms south of DeFuniak Springs, FL to Freeport, FL on the open range.

At the time of Charlie Garrett’s passing, the baker was inherited by his elder daughter, Audrey Garrett Rushing. Mrs. Rushing specified that after her death, the baker should be placed in some location to record Walton County history. The baker is now placed in the Walton Museum, in care of the Walton County Heritage Association, located

on Circle Dr. in DeFuniak Springs, FL.

Submitted by: Charles Rushing and Charlotte R. Gaspers.

Turpentine Notes From Walton County

J. O. McLean ran the turpentine still in Freeport at one time, it is said. He had two daughters, Cleo, who lives with her daughter, Mrs. Peck Cawthon near De Funiak, and Ioma Mae McLean Brown (Mrs. George William), who lives in Freeport.

The Captain Fritz was a coastal steamer built in Mississippi. It was one of the larger boats. Its capacity was great enough to hold 375 barrels of resin.

In 1903 the population of Freeport was 1,187 according to the Florida Gazetteer, and listed among the businesses was Johnson and Brothers Turpentine.

Plowden Weston Richardson was in charge of turpentine farm business in Freeport from 1900-1907. Quoting from a letter received from Ann Sommer on 19 Sep. 1993, “My grandfather, P. W.

¹ See demonstration of shearing sheep by hand, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CnzpPH2phsY>. Accessed 1/12/2020.

Richardson, operated a turpentine still in Freeport, and his brother, Julius Byron Richardson, was the stiller. I believe that this still was owned by another brother, David E. Richardson, and was located on land owned by Walton Land and Timber Company.”

According to “A Study of Walton County,” by M. M. Blount, “Forests were a source of another important industry, the turpentine industry.” There were as many turpentine stills as there were sawmills. Colored people were brought in to work in the turpentine industry and the raw gum was brought in to Freeport to be made into rosin and turpentine. These were then loaded on boats and carried to Pensacola. Many of these boats were sailing schooners.

B. A. Lindsay had a turpentine still in Portland in 1918.

The DeFuniak Springs Breeze, April 28, 1910 [reported], “The Fritz Sinks at the Wharf, (Freeport). The steamer Captain Fritz added another chapter to the string of accidents that has attended that craft lately when she filled and sank at the wharf at Freeport Saturday night. She was loaded with rosin and tied up overnight, scheduled to leave early Sunday morning for Pensacola. There was a full tide when she tied up, and during the night as it fell—the starboard side rested on the bottom, and she listed to port until the water ran in over the deck and in the hatches—filling the hold, and she rested on the bottom with the deck awash. The cargo was transferred to the Geneva and the water pumped out last Sunday night.”

The Breeze 08 Dec 1910 [reported], “J. A. McCormack who has been with Adams Bros. for several years past has resigned and will have charge of a new turpentine place which he, with J. S. McCaskill Co., will open up near the Alex Blount place on the Portland Road.”

[Following the above was reported], “Activity in the turpentine industry having been lessened in this section from the fact that it had been followed as long as it was profitable, the saw mill operation has furnished employment for a number of people that would likely have had to go elsewhere.”

The Breeze 10-21-1915 [reported], “*The Magnolia* (a sailing schooner out of Point Washington) has gone up the river after rosin.”

[The Breeze] 1-18-1914 [reported], “*The Magnolia* had the misfortune to lose part of her load of rosin in the East River, but recovered most of it.”

[From] The DeFuniak Herald 03 Aug 1916, “*The Fritz* has been up at Black Creek the last two Saturdays after Gum.”

The Gulf Lumber, Land & Development Co. was formed in 1910, with offices at Point Washington and Santa Rosa. N. McGuire and Wm. M. Wilson were the chief officers and stockholders. Others helping to organize were: Wm. J. Rouse and Wm. Pettis. Plans call for the firm to deal in sawmilling, timber, turpentine and steam boating.

[The] WPA reports [that], “The Forests yield lumber and naval stores products,” p. 133, Report of Manufacturing in Florida, 1937, Department of Agriculture, North West Florida, Tallahassee.

“In 1937, one naval store plant employed an average of 25 workers.” [According to] A commission of Agriculture Report on Manufacturing in Florida, p. 53.

[In] 1907-08 Walton Land and Timber Company operated a still in Portland that was still there through 1911-1912.

[In] 1918, B. H. Lindsay, according to the Gazetteer, was operating a turpentine still in Portland.

[According to the] 1925 Gazetteer, D. S. Sellars was operating a turpentine still in Portland.

[The] 1911-1912 Gazetteer [reported that], Walton Land and Timber Company had a naval stores business in Bruce, Florida.

Black Creek Turpentine Company General and Naval Stores was operating in the 1920s.

By the late 1920s, naval stores clearly became the dominant industry replacing lumbering. There were at least two stills at Santa Rosa and four at Portland.

In Santa Rosa, a turpentine operation was established sometime prior to 1925 by L. G. Stringer.

During the first two decades of the century, the coastal area was still linked to Pensacola via water transportation. Sawn lumber, turpentine, and vegetables were shipped to Pensacola by schooner and steamboat.

Compiled by: Beckie Buxton (Used with permission).

Turpentine

It is said that when the white man came into the northern part of Florida, they found thick forests, predominately long-leaf southern pine, which was to become Florida's greatest natural resource. At the time of the 1924 Agricultural Census in Florida, some 35,000,000 acres of pine forests were under cultivation.

From the late 1800s until after the turn of the century [1900], the annual output of lumber in the state was chiefly yellow pine. Tourism was almost nonexistent in the northern part of the state, but to the occasional visitor, little could be seen except for the trees scarred by "cupping" for turpentine. The resinous sap of the tree was extracted by chipping off the bark in narrow strips, beginning a few inches above the ground and exposing a larger face of the sapwood from time to time as the operation went on. Cups of metal or earthenware were placed at the lower end of these incisions, and the gummy sap flowed into them. For a single turpentine still, hundreds of thousands of trees will be tapped in this fashion to provide gum (known as "dip" or "crop," depending upon the method of its removal from the tree). Trees were turpentine for only five or six years before they were regarded as worthless for further turpentine operations. A single "crop" of cups numbers 10,000, so that when a turpentine operator spoke of having ten crops under operation, it meant that he had 100,000 pine trees tapped for turpentine.

The turpentine stills were crude structures located in the depths of the pine forests. Crews of men traveled the forest continuously emptying the cups into barrels, and as the barrels were filled, they were collected by wagons and hauled to the still. The crude gum, as it came from the forest, was emptied into a huge boiler, from which spiral pipe led to the vat in which the turpentine was to be collected. As the gummy matter was brought to the boiling point, the turpentine was given off in the form of a steam vapor and passed through the coiled pipe. A stream of cold water flowing around the coils condensed the vapor, which dripped into the vat as pure spirits of turpentine. The twigs, bark and dirt which rose to the surface of the boiling mass were skimmed off, and the remaining liquid was drawn off into barrels, in which it rapidly solidified into resin. If the process sounds similar to a whiskey still, that's because it is!

A by-product of the pine forests and turpentine industry were the naval stores. Their stock included supplies for the men who worked the stills (and their families). Resin and turpentine were the products commercially identified as “naval,” from their use in the building and repairing of ships. Turpentine found its chief market among the manufacturers of paints and varnishes, while resin was used in the manufacture of hard soaps, paper, and a variety of items for daily use. The value of Florida’s output of naval stores was estimated to be approximately \$20,000,000 a year.

The Florida pine is full of resin, especially its roots and the lower portions of the trunk, and it torches quickly, a characteristic prompting the local name “lightwood” or “lightered.” It is sometimes called “fatwood,” “fat lightwood,” and sometimes “fat lightered.”

“The pine forests will vanish under the pressure of settlement and the demand for farms and homes, on the one hand, and under the increasing lumbering operations of the saw-mills on the other. How long it will be before the pine forests are denuded no one can estimate. It takes thirty-five years for the long-leaf pine to grow to a size which makes it profitable to saw it into lumber.”

“In 1910, the Florida National Forest was established, consisting of two units of about half a million acres in all. The smaller unit, the Ocala Forest, lies in the middle of the Florida peninsula; the larger unit is in the counties of Walton, Okaloosa and Santa Rosa. Within fifteen years of its establishment, government foresters developed and introduced methods of extracting turpentine over a long period of years, without impairing either the growth of the trees or their ultimate usefulness for lumber. It is now commercially practicable and profitable to carry on turpentine operations on the same trees for thirty-five years, beginning when they are five or six years old.”

Source: Florida in the Making by Frank Parker Stockbridge and John Holliday Perry, 1926; from the Beckie Buxton Collection, Freeport Public Library.



Turpentine still in Glendale or Gaskin, Walton County, Florida, 1904.²

² *View of a turpentine still in Glendale or Gaskin.* 1904. Black & white photoprint, 4 x 6 in. State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory. <<https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/42107>>, accessed 12 January 2020.

Photos of Turpentine Industry Related Items.

Examples of the items pictured below are on display at the Walton County Heritage Museum in DeFuniak Springs, Florida, located at 1140 Circle Drive, in the old railroad depot.



Herty system in use for collecting turpentine from pine trees in northern Florida using clay (terra cotta) cups, circa 1936. Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naval_stores_industry#/media/File:CupGutterSystem.jpg



Herty turpentine cup, made of clay. The hole is for nailing to a pine tree. Source: <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?title=User:Bubba73&oldid=363860969>



Metal turpentine cup; By Bubba73 (Jud McCranie) - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=35444480>



Antique turpentine hack blade or hook. It was used to cut the “V” shaped marks in the side of the tree as shown in the photo at top-left. The “V” shaped marks are permanent and are called a “cat face.” Source: <https://www.worthpoint.com/worthopedia/antique-turpentine-hack-blade-tar-1784881577>