



WALTON RELATIONS

Volume 1, Issue 3

Walton County Genealogy Society

December 2009

Genealogy Printer

Thanks to the generosity of some of our members, the Walton County Genealogy Society has a new high-quality printer attached to its new computer. No Walton County Heritage Association funds were used for this purchase. The printer can scan and print documents and photographs. Members of the Genealogy Society are permitted to use both the computer and the printer, but we ask you to be selective with printer use because of the high cost of ink. You may make ten copies free per visit. If you make more than that, we ask that you donate five cents per page at the front desk. All donations will go into a special fund to purchase ink and paper. Letter-sized paper is available at the computer desk but, if you want to use legal or photograph paper, you will need to bring your own.

Walton County Heritage Museum

Wednesday-Saturday, 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM
1140 Circle Drive, DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435
850-951-2127
www.WaltonCountyHeritage.org
WaltonCountyHeritage@cox.net

Genealogy Society Meeting

The next meeting of the Genealogy Society will be **Saturday, December 12, at 10:00 at the Museum**. We will have a regular business meeting followed by a discussion of our progress with the Magnolia Cemetery Project. Please join us.



The **Walton County Heritage Museum** will have extended hours on **Saturday, December 5**. It will be open from **9:00 AM until 5:00 PM** to coincide with the annual **Tour of Homes** and the **Festival of Trees**. We encourage you to come tour the museum, enjoy our holiday decorations, and see all of the genealogy materials we have collected. As always, admission will be free, and donations will be appreciated.

Genealogy: It's All About Sharing

By Wayne Sconiers

President, Walton County Genealogy Society

I would like to introduce you to some ideas about future articles that we would like to place in our genealogy newsletter. If you would like to submit something, feel free to email me at waynesconiers@embarqmail.com or call me at 850-859-2207. Email is preferred since I do not take good notes.

Reunion Notices

This area will be set aside so you can post a notice about your upcoming reunion. If you would like your reunion to be listed here, you should contact us right away so that it can be listed early enough to get the word out. Be sure to give us enough details so the right family can easily get there on time with the right stuff.

Military Spotlight

We would like articles about our heroic military. Be sure to mention the medals involved and the particulars of that heroic action. Include a photo if you can get one. If you would like to share your story about someone in your family, a loved one, or just a friend, we will place it in our Walton County Military Heroes book. That book will be located in the museum on our genealogy bookshelf. We will, as space permits, place articles about them in our newsletter. Be sure to submit yours right away.

The **Pilot Club** produced a book that lists all known Walton County military participants in World War II. That book is on display in the museum's military exhibit and an additional copy is available for research on the genealogy bookshelf.

Pioneer Corner

We want to collect family stories about our Walton County Pioneers. We will place all stories in a special book located in our genealogy bookshelf. Anyone in the area before 1900 is considered a pioneer ancestor. We are not looking for a genealogical dissertation, but we are looking for an engaging story about their family, relatives, work, neighborhood activities, and the day to day efforts to survive in the newly developing Walton County. Do not wait; get yours in right away. We will place these stories in our newsletter from time to time.

Lost Ancestors

If you have hit that brick wall on one of your ancestral lines, then submit your question here. Be sure to submit enough information to help jog someone's memory about your loved ones. Be sure to include your name and contact information, including your email address, telephone number, and mailing address. (If you do not want all of that information published, just let us know and we will respect your wishes.)

Walton County Genealogical Database: one of a kind ancestral tree

We are working to compile a complete ancestral database of Walton County residents. We have most of the ancestral lines with their descendants who settled in the county in the 1800s. If you would like to see if your ancestral family is already documented, contact me at waynesconiers@embarqmail.com. The most fascinating thing about this database is the resulting list of your relations. You may be in for some surprises!

Military Spotlight: Julian Mitcheom

By Wayne Sconiers

Private Julian Henry Abraham Mitcheom was the child of Joshua and Hattie Missouri Nowling Mitcheom. He was born in DeFuniak Springs on 10 October 1921. The Mitcheom and Nowling families are Walton County Pioneer families, arriving in the 1850s and 1880s. The roots of these families run wide and deep in this area. The family was living at 1111 Orange Avenue, West End, DeFuniak Springs, Florida, when Julian enlisted in the Army on 20 June 1940. After Julian's death in France during battle, the following Western Union message was sent to the family: "The Secretary of War desires me to express his deep regret that your son Private Julian Mitcheom was killed in action on fifteen July in France letter follows." Later a card followed, "General Marshall extends his deep sympathy in your bereavement. Your son fought valiantly in a supreme hour of his country's need. His memory will live in the grateful heart of our nation." Julian was buried overseas in a U.S. cemetery, referred to as Ste. Mere Eglise #2, about twenty miles southeast of Cherbourg, France. He was later disinterred and buried in his parents' cemetery lot in Magnolia Cemetery in DeFuniak Springs. The following newspaper article describes the heroic actions of this Walton County Military Hero.



Private Julian Mitcheom awarded Silver Star, Oak Leaf Cluster and Purple Heart

With the 4th Infantry Division in France. Private Julian Mitcheom, son of Mr. Josh Mitcheom, Route 1, DeFuniak Springs, Florida, who was killed in action while serving with the Fourth Infantry Division in France, has been posthumously awarded the Silver Star and Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star "for gallantry in action." He was also awarded the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in his death on 15 July 1944.

Pvt. Mitcheom earned the Silver Star when he disregarded enemy fire to enter a German pill box and persuade the enemy soldiers to surrender. On this occasion, he was cited for his action, "which permitted his company to press its advance without further loss of time and without fear of further casualties from that emplacement."

A citation which accompanied the Oak Leaf Cluster stated: "Pvt. Mitcheom, while on duty as a runner came upon a group of American soldiers being attacked by a Tiger tank. Seeing the difficulty that his comrades were having attempting to disable the tank, Pvt. Mitcheom obtained a bazooka and with the assistance of another man, climbed on top of a hedgerow. A well aimed shot disabled the tank, but the return shot from the tank's 88-mm gun killed Pvt. Mitcheom.

"By his courageous action, above and beyond the call of duty, he enabled the anti-tank force to knock the tank out of action and the platoon to hold the field, stopping the charge of the enemy."

"The high quality of courage, initiative, self-sacrifice, determination and devotion to duty displayed by Pvt. Mitcheom were in keeping with the finest military traditions and reflected great credit upon himself and the military service."

Resources

In each issue of "Walton Relations," we will list some resources for you to try. Some will be familiar to you, but we hope some will be new. For the first seven in this series, please see the previous issues of *Walton Relations*, which are available on the Genealogy Society page at www.waltoncountyheritage.org.

8. Cemeteries. Headstones will give dates and possible family names. If you cannot visit personally, check www.findagrave.com.

9. Libraries. Newspapers (especially obituaries, birth and marriage announcements) and books on local history will often be goldmines of information. Many libraries and archives have online access. You will also find genealogy information in larger libraries, such as the Allen County Public Library in Indiana (second largest genealogical collection in the country) and the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah.

10. Genealogy message boards. Search online for "genealogy message boards" and join several. You may get answers to your questions while helping others with theirs. Be sure to visit the message boards at FloridaBiographies.com. All of the Walton County History Detectives questions and answers are posted there.

11. Military records. You might start with the National Archives and Records Administration, www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel, but be sure to search for the military member's unit also. Hundreds of websites are devoted to specific battles, platoons, squadrons, etc. Check veterans' burial locations at the VA website, gravelocator.cem.va.gov/j2ee/servlet/NGL_v1.

My Favorite Websites

Part One - By Wayne Sconiers

www.waltoncountyheritage.org/index.htm
www.waltoncountyheritage.org/genealogy.htm
Walton county museum and genealogy pages - lists meetings, events, etc.

www.bakerblockmuseum.org
North Okaloosa Historical Association in Baker

<http://susdl.fcla.edu/fh/>
Florida Heritage Collection - cool historical pictures, Florida history

www.kindredtrails.com/FL_Walton.html
Walton County, Florida, Genealogy

www.genealogy.com/community.html
Message boards, Family Home Pages, etc.

www.linkpendium.com/genealogy/USA/AL/Henry
Henry County, Alabama, Genealogy and Family History. Can access others states and counties.

<http://maps.live.com/>
Map search for locations and businesses by category

www.heritagequestonline.com
Join and access Heritage Quest - online census records - free

www.defuniaksprings.com
News, DeFuniak Springs info, etc.

www.ancestry.com/search
Free surname and county forums. Must pay to access census, family trees, other genealogical data.

www.gencircles.com/globaltree/gosearch
Free genealogy search

www.electricscotland.com/familytree/index.htm
Scottish info and family info

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www.WaltonCountyHeritage.org

"Walton Relations" is a publication of the Walton County Genealogy Society. Wayne Sconiers, President. Distribution is encouraged! For more information or to submit an article, please email its editor, Diane Merkel, at WaltonCountyHeritage@cox.net or call 850-897-4505.