



WALTON RELATIONS

Volume 1, Issue 7

Walton County Genealogy Society

April 2010

2010 History Fair

The 2010 Walton County History Fair was a great success. The attendance was estimated at about 600 people, many of whom visited the Walton County Genealogy Society tables that were manned by **Wayne Sconiers** and **Anita Harris**. In addition to handouts and displays, Wayne had his laptop and a large monitor there so that people could view their families' records on the spot. Many great connections were made, including a meeting between Wayne and one of his distant cousins who had traveled from Pensacola to enjoy the History Fair.

The Walton County Genealogy Society welcomes opportunities to "take our show on the road." If you are a member of a local group that invites speakers or has appropriate events, please let Wayne know and we will do our best to tailor a presentation to your event. He can be emailed at waynesconiers@embarqmail.com.

Wayne is also pleased to meet with people at the Walton County Heritage Museum to review his database of records with them. A brief consultation with him will probably save you hours of research!

Genealogy Society Meeting

The next meeting of the Genealogy Society will be **Saturday, April 10, at 10:00 at the Walton County Heritage Museum**. We will discuss our ongoing cemetery projects and our outreach to the community through lectures and training sessions. Please join us!



Governor Catts' Family Plot at Magnolia Cemetery

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

Cook's Corner: Cooking My First Greens

By Joan (Ray) Godwin of Hastings (St. Johns) Florida

I really loved the cooking story in the March 2010 Walton County Genealogy Society Newsletter! I have a cooking story for you.

I am not from Walton County, but my husband, William C. Godwin, was born June 17, 1934, in Mossy Head to William L. and Indiana McBroom Godwin. We were married October 23, 1983, in Palatka, Florida.



Above is a photo of us then and a photo that was taken of us at our 25th Anniversary in October 2008.

When we first married I could cook, but I had NEVER cooked fresh greens. When we had them at home my Mama (an absolutely WONDERFUL cook) always cooked them and I didn't feel the need to learn. One day WC (a real country boy) came home from work one evening with a huge armful of mustard greens with the stems still intact and very dirty!

I didn't even know where to start. Mama and Daddy lived in North Carolina at the time so I got on the phone with her the next morning and asked, "What am I supposed to do with these things?" Mama said "Well, Honey, first you cut off the stem ends, then you have to put them in some water in your sink and wash them really good – at least 3 times since they are so dirty. Wash each leaf one at a time."

Okay – I cut off the stem ends, piled this huge pile of mustard leaves in my sink, and ran water to the top of the sink. There wasn't much room for water because there was so much mustard, but I filled the sink as full as I could. Then I took each leaf from the top of the pile, one at a time, and sloshed them up and down in the water – one, two, three – and laid each leaf in the other side of the sink.

I had put the bacon and some water in the pot (a big pot) and had that cooking some while I "cleaned" the greens. I chopped the leaves and put them in the pot as I could when they cooked down. I got the cornbread ready and everything smelled and looked wonderful when WC got home from work. We had my daughter and his nephew living with us, so we all sat down at the table that evening. We each got a big bowl of greens and some cornbread and took our first bite. CRUNCH!! There was so much sand in the pot we couldn't even finish that first bite. Everyone spit out that mouthful and we had something else for supper. I've cook many a pot of all kinds of greens since then, but I can guarantee they are washed better!



Military Spotlight: Elton Dewey Peacock

FORMING UP THE FAMED RAINBOW DIVISION

The famed 42nd Infantry Division's history began when the United States entered into World War I. Hastening to mobilize, the War Department created a division composed of handpicked National Guard units from 26 states of the Union and the District of Columbia.

Destined to rise to the rank of General in World War II, then Colonel Douglas MacArthur was instrumental in forming the Rainbow Division and was one of its early commanders. MacArthur stated, "The 42nd Division stretches like a rainbow from one end of America to the other," and the news media liked that colorful reference so well, the Division nickname was born.

The 42nd Division sailed from Hoboken, New Jersey, on October 18, 1917, bound for direct combat in France. They were the fourth American combat unit to forge their way to the frontline in March 1918, where they remained in almost constant contact with the enemy for 174 days.

During its time in France, the 42nd Division participated in six major campaigns and incurred one out of every sixteen casualties suffered by the American Army during the war. [Above information is sourced from the 42nd Infantry Division homepage by permission.]

Elton Dewey Peacock (left, in 1917) was born in Dale County, Alabama, but enlisted at Laurel Hill along with his brother William. He joined the Army Air Service before the war. After the war, he related that he was assigned to drive officers from location to location and that, by virtue of being so close to the action, he was exposed to mustard gas three times on the battlefields of Argonne and Chateau-Thierry.

After the war, Pvt. Peacock returned to Souther Field near Americus, Georgia, where he completed his military service. By 1930, he had moved to Chicago, Illinois, and gone into the transportation and delivery business. He formed a partnership with a war buddy named Michael Halloran to operate the A-No. 1 Special Delivery Service in Chicago, which he did for about ten years, later selling his interest to the Walden brothers.

Elton Peacock married Bernice Walden, a native of Walton County, in 1933; they had no children. He was described as a gentleman who maintained the military bearing he learned at a young age. Because he was an experienced driver, he used to drive between Chicago and DeFuniak Springs in record time, a distance of over 900 miles without an overnight stay. He would stop at some greasy spoon every couple of hours and tell the waitress to "chisel me off a cup of coffee," referring to the stiff brews often found in those roadside cafes.

About 1939, he developed lung disease, which his wife attributed in part to the mustard gas he was exposed to during the war. The harsh winters up north soon forced him to return home to Walton County.

In 1941, he sought treatment at Bay Pines Veterans' Hospital, near St. Petersburg. Ironically, it was there that he received a letter from the War Department not long after Pearl Harbor, advising him to return to active duty even though he was over 40 years old and ill. He was able to prove his disability and returned to the hospital where he remained until his death in 1946. He is buried in the Bay Pines National Cemetery.

After the Great War, a Commendation from President Woodrow Wilson was granted to Private E. D. Peacock who 'Served with Honor in the World War and Was Wounded in Action.'

Are you curious about the military service of one of your ancestors? Try looking up their unit history if you know it. Also, Footnote.com has records of Civil War muster rolls and medical records that tell quite a story, but be sure to look for alternate spellings because many of these records are sketchy. You will be surprised what you may learn!

Janet W. Miller writes of her uncle Elton, whose service and sacrifice in WWI was always mentioned with pride by his widow.

Ten Reasons to Join a Local Genealogy Society – Part 2

By Kathleen W. Hinckley, CGRS; reprinted from Genealogy.com

Part 1 of this article appeared in the March 2010 edition of *Walton Relations*.
You can read it on our website at www.waltoncountyheritage.org/genealogy.htm.

6. I gained an appreciation of other local societies. While abstracting or indexing Colorado records, I realized that volunteers in Ohio or Denmark might be indexing some records pertinent to my own ancestry. Genealogists helping one another in this manner is one of the most significant gifts we receive within this unique hobby.

7. I gained experience in using a new record type. I volunteered to be the "society genealogist" which meant I answered Colorado research inquiries. Many of the questions could be answered through city directory research. Since my ancestors were mostly farmers, I did not have experience with this record type. Had I not volunteered to answer the society's mail, I may never have learned the value of directories.

8. I developed leadership skills. As an active and involved member, you will ultimately be given opportunities to participate in the leadership of the organization. While serving on committees and board member positions, I developed skills that would be valuable in future state and national leadership roles.

9. I did not find a cousin, but someone else did. I'm always amazed at the odd connections that are made at meetings. For example, someone will casually mention they are researching the Watson family in Kentucky. Another member will answer that they are too. After comparing notes, they discover they are related six generations back into time. Believe me, it happens more often than you may think. Members will also find others researching the same geographical area and can help each other with resources, etc.

10. I developed lifelong friendships. Common interests create friendships, and I have gathered many through genealogical connections. Can you imagine what it might be like if you didn't have an understanding genealogical friend to call when you make a major discovery or solve the problem you've been working on for several years?

Beyond the Local Society

The personal benefits of joining a local society are quite different than reasons to join out-of-state or other types of genealogical organizations. When you cannot attend local meetings, the obvious benefit is receiving the society's publications. One of the primary goals of local societies is to index, abstract, or transcribe local records and publish the results in their journals and/or online.

If you have roots in Wood County, West Virginia, for example, you may want to join the Wood County Genealogical Society in order to receive notice of their publications and projects. And just because you do not reside in Wood County, does not necessarily mean you could not participate in extraction projects. Some non-local members participate by using microfilm or photocopies of records.

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Walton Relations is a publication of the Walton County Genealogy Society. Wayne Sconiers, President.
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at WaltonCountyHeritage@cox.net or call 850-897-4505.