



WALTON RELATIONS

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Walton County Genealogy Society

June 2011

Cemeteries Update

Michael Strickland has been busy with FindaGrave.com! That website lists 75 cemeteries in Walton County, so it is an excellent resource. Each listed cemetery is linked to a list of interments. By clicking on a person's name, you can often find biographical information and photographs.

Michael recently added interments for New Home Cemetery to FindaGrave, including photographs of each gravestone, but there are several cemeteries listed in our records that have not been located, such as

- Pryor Cemetery – Darlington
- Old Indian Cemetery – Turquoise Beach
- Carson Still Cemetery

FindaGrave has a photograph of Mount Olive Cemetery in Red Bay, but no interments are listed. On the other hand, Bay View Cemetery lists the interment of Curtis T. Ezell, but no location is given for the cemetery. There is still a lot of work to be done.

If you have any cemetery information, please consider sharing it on FindaGrave.

WCGS Meeting

The next meeting of the Walton County Genealogy Society will be **Saturday, June 11, at 10:00 AM** at the Walton County Heritage Museum. The Genealogy Society will not meet in July or August.

Reunions - Saturday, June 11

Cosson Family Reunion at the Harry Cosson home in Alaqua. No contact information has been submitted.

Nelson Family Reunion, 10:00 AM at the DeFuniak Springs Community Center. For more information, contact Marie Rhodes at 850-892-5255.

Walton County Heritage Museum

Now Open Six Days a Week!

Monday through Saturday, 1:00- 4:00 PM
1140 Circle Drive, DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435
850-951-2127

www.WaltonCountyHeritage.org
WaltonCountyHeritage@cox.net

ELI WRIGHT IN THE CIVIL WAR

By Wayne Sconiers

A friend of mine recently set me a copy of some stories about the Civil War from the book *Personal Narratives of Events in the War of the Rebellion*, Fifth Series, 1894-99, published by the Soldiers and Sailors Historical Society of Rhode Island. The story of interest started in Chapter 3, page 96, "From Andersonville to Freedom" by Charles Smith. It is a story about three Union Army soldiers who escaped from the Confederate Army. Their plan was to head south using the rivers to get to Choctawhatchee Bay and into the Gulf to catch a Union ship back home to the North. It is an eye opening account about how hard life was during those years for the soldiers captured. It tells of their escape and their trip to the Bay and the help they received when they got to the Freeport area in Florida. Sometime in 1885, A.A. Crandall who was one of the Union Soldiers wrote to those back in Freeport who had helped them get to their ship so they could return home. The letters written back to him were my greatest find.

Near the end of his story was a letter from my Great-Great-Great Grandfather Eli Wright and his wife Polly Byrd Sconiers Wright. Another letter was from George Reddick. Both letters are at the right. The book is now in the public domain and available through [Google Books](#) on the Internet.

It just goes to show you never know when or where your next discovery about your ancestors will turn up.

EUCHEE ANNA, Fla., Aug. 16, 1885.

MR. A. A. CRANDALL.

DEAR SIR: Your letter at hand. I am the man you seen when you were down here and I live eight miles north of where I lived when you seen me. George Brown is dead. He was trying to murder a young man and he knocked him off the boat in the Gulf of Mexico and he drowned. Mr. Thomas Reddick is in Jackson County if he is still alive. I will inquire and see if I can find his Post Office. Please write me where the other two men are and how they are getting along. I would be glad to see you and them if you can come and see me I would be very glad. I am getting very old and have nearly lost my eyesight which makes it difficult for me to work. I will close

Yours Truly,

ELI WRIGHT.

P. S. Brown has no children.

My wife says write her a long letter for she wants to know how the young man got after he left the house.

POLLY WRIGHT.

Send your letter in care of Walker Bowers."

Letter No. 2.

FREEPORT, Oct. 7, 1885.

MR. A. A. CRANDALL.

DEAR SIR: I seen a letter from you making inquiry of Reddick that seen 3 men here in 64. I can say to you that I set 3 men across alaquaw bayo the last of the war they said they had

got out of prison and wanted to get home one of them was a doctor I carried 2 of them over and came after the other for my boat was small an I could not take them all at once they gave me six dollars in Greenbacks an one of them said he wanted to give me more but would remember me as long as they lived they told me that they kep their money in a ball of thread my Father was with me we was working in some potatoes on the bayo Father stayed on the beech with one while I carried 2 over Father told them how to get to old man Eli Wrights an he would direct them how to get to east pass where the Yankes was they wrot our names down when I carried the last one over I was 15 years old then thats all I recollet about it now.

Respectfully yours,

GEORGE W. REDDICK.

My post office Freeport Walton County Florida."

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