



WALTON RELATIONS & HISTORY

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"SERVING"

Its meaning in the 1860 U. S. Census of Walton County, Florida

By Sam Carnley with Mark Curenton

Single young men on the 1860 census of Walton County, Florida ranging in age from 15 to 20 are listed as "Serving" in the occupation column. One possibility that comes to mind of what that means is membership in the 1860 militias of the county although the definition of "Serving" in the census instructions does not include military related occupations, but limits it to domestic related duties for pay.¹

As the instructions, which appear on page 2 state "The members, or inmates, of a family employed in domestic duties *at wages* (emphasis added) you will record as "servants," or "serving," or "domestic," according to the custom of the vicinage (vicinity)."

The occupations of wives and daughters of 15 and up in households on the census were routinely listed as "domestic," although it is highly unlikely they served in that capacity for wages as specified in the instructions. Even the inclusion of those of age 15 deviated from the instructions, which explicitly state "over fifteen years of age."

(Cont'd on page 2)

Upcoming Reunions

We are pleased to announce that the WCHA website is back on line, and the reunions page can be accessed at the link below. Following are upcoming reunions we are aware of:

Burgess - Last reported was on 4 Sept. 2010, for next one contact Jerry Burgess at 850-956-4292.

Ingalls/Wilder - Last reported was on 26 Sept. 2009, New Hope Comm. Center, Hwy 163 north of Hwy 2, Westville. No present contact info.

Kirkland - Sat. Sept. 30, 2017, Gene and Betty Harvey's home, 2072 Pin High Drive, Pensacola. Contact 850-485-2633.

George - 50th annual, Sat., Oct. 14, 2017, Tillman's Compound, 808 SW Charles Terrace, Lake City, Fl. Contact Tillman George, 386-288-8778, or 386-752-5196; Margean Bryan, 863-514-5530; Emilean Clemons, 863-528-2196. Related families - Busbee and Carnley.

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

Walton County Heritage Museum

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"SERVING"

It's meaning in the 1860 U. S. Census of Walton County, Florida.

By Sam Carnley with Mark Curenton

(Cont'd from page 1)

In view of this, it appears that census enumerators did not always adhere strictly to the instructions in identifying occupations, but sometimes applied their own interpretations instead. The term "service" or "serving," in this country, or the south at least, "according to the customs," etc., has long been associated with military service, and is why the use of the term in the census may have indicated militia service as those were the only military-like organizations in existence at the time which were exclusive to young men of the ages specified.

10. Profession, Trade, and Occupation.—Under head 7, entitled “*Profession, occupation, or trade of each person over fifteen years of age,*” insert the specific profession, occupation, or trade the individual being enumerated is reputed to follow. The proprietor of a farm for the time being, who pursues agriculture professionally or practically, is to be recorded as a farmer; the men who are employed for wages by him are to be termed farm laborers. The members, or inmates, of a family employed in domestic duties at wages you will record as “servants,” or “serving,” or “domestic,” according to the custom of the vicinage.

A mechanic who employs others under him is to be termed differently from the one employed. The first is a master mechanic, and should be termed “master mason,” “master carpenter,” &c., as the case may be, and you should be very particular in designating the employers or master mechanics from the workmen or employed. Where persons (over 15) are learning trades or serving apprenticeship, they should be recorded as “apprentices,” with the name of the trade whereunto they are apprenticed. The employment of every person over 15, having an occupation, should be asked and recorded. In every case insert the kind of labor and nature of apprenticeship.

When the individual is a clergyman, insert the initials of the denomination to which he belongs—as Meth. for Methodist; R. C. for Roman Catholic; O. S. P., Old School Presbyterian; P. E., Protestant Episcopal; or other appropriate designation, as the case may require. If a person follows several occupations, insert the name of the most prominent. If the person should be a teacher or professor, state the character of the occupation, as teacher of French, of common school; professor of mathematics, of languages, of philosophy, &c. In fine, record the occupation of every human being, male and female, (over 15,) who has an occupation or means of living, and let your record be so clear as to leave no doubt on the subject.

Listed in the table below are 28 such individuals randomly selected between pages 39 and 57 of the 65 pages of the 1860 Walton County census accessed on the LDS familysearch.org website.¹ No attempt was made to determine the total number of these individuals on the entire census, but based on the average number found on the 18 pages yielding the 28 names, the total estimated number would be approximately 100 (65 pages divided by 18 equals 3.62 times 28 equals 101.36), which falls within the range of a company of troops, typically numbering from 80 to 250. Mark Curenton of Apalachicola has investigated this question even more thoroughly, and identified approximately 132 men listed in this manner. He suggested that his number may even be understated due to a lack of clarity he noted in some listings. What service for pay, domestic or otherwise, as defined in the census instructions, could this number of single young men have been involved in if not something military related?

¹ Walton County, Florida 1860 census

<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-GBFW-LMH?i=49&cc=1473181>, accessed 8/3/2017, by Sam Carnley.

<u>Ct.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Occupation</u>
1	John M. Stagner	16	Serving
2	Daniel Stagner	20	"
3	Tryfadelias Bell	17	"
4	George Bell	17	"
5	Francis Bell	15	"
6	Robert West	18	"
7	Nixon West	16	"
8	John Smith	15	"
9	Mathew Bedsole	16	"
10	George Wright	18	"
11	Richard Clary	20	"
12	Wm. P. Clary	16	"
13	Daniel Morrison	17	"
13	Ivan Robins	17	"
15	Joseph Walden	15	"
16	Olin Bradshaw	18	"
17	Woodard Bradshaw	15	"
18	Willey Nichols	19	"
19	Zachariah Cutts	19	"
20	Henry Blount	15	"
21	George Carnley	16	"
22	Charles Campbell	15	"
23	Christopher Howard	15	"
24	Robert Garret	16	"
25	Wm. Turner	15	"
26	Henry C. Canon	18	"
27	James Cockcroft	15	"
28	Reason Kirkland	17	"

According to information Mark provided in the November 2014 edition of the Walton Relations newsletter, elections were held for militia officers on May 7, 1860.² There were thirteen of these men, none of whose occupations were listed as "Serving" on the census enumeration which followed in June of that year. The status of militias in Walton County then is unknown, but units were in existence across the state as indicated by the following:

Florida maintained a dormant enrolled militia of twenty-one regiments arranged in two divisions, and a fairly active Volunteer Militia. A correspondent to the *New York Military Gazette*, writing from Jacksonville on 20 December 1859, described the militia of Florida as being "in a very sorry condition, in fact we have no such thing." He hoped a better day was about to dawn since the governor had warned the legislature on the subject. There was a "young and promising company in this city" which he hoped could be the nucleus

² Mark Curenton, *Voluntary Militia Companies in Walton County*, (Walton Relations, Vol. 6, Issue 2, November 2014), 3-4, <http://www.waltoncountyheritage.org/GenSoc/NL2014Nov.pdf>, downloaded 8/5/2017 by Sam Carnley

of a battalion. But first he felt it would be necessary to vacate all of the existing militia commissions, since the officers who held them were that in name only.

Uniformed companies existed in all the larger towns of the state throughout our period and until the Civil War. *No register of these has been found* (emphasis added), but a report of the Adjutant General indicates there were about 40 companies active in 1860. The Florida laws of that year fully recognized these Volunteer companies but no attempt was made to gather them into higher commands. Among the better known commands were the Marion Artillery of St. Augustine, the Gadsden Light Artillery of Quincy, the Jacksonville Light Infantry, and the Pensacola Guards.³

In July 1860 a family feud led to near anarchy in Calhoun County, requiring the intervention of a battalion of 150 militiamen to quell.⁴ The disturbance became known as the "Calhoun County War of 1860." According to Jackson County Historian, Dale Cox, the militia involved was from Jackson County, which was ". . . finally ordered out and marched into Calhoun County to put down the fighting."⁵ The 1860 Jackson County census was conducted during June, July and August. The pages enumerated during July were perused to determine the existence of any residents whose occupation was listed as "Serving," a possible indication of militia duty, but none were found. Neither were there any others appearing related to militia duty. The enumerators of the county's census used the occupations column very sparingly, and primarily for heads of household, with very few listed for other family members. Occupations were descriptive in nature, such as farmer, laborer, overseer, etc.⁶

The occupations column of the Washington County census for that year was even more sparingly used, so much so that the majority of pages perused were left almost blank. Occupations included farmer, mechanic, clerk, engineer, fisherman, etc., but none for serving or other references to the militia.⁷

A perusal of selected pages of the 1860 Santa Rosa County census yielded results similar to those of Jackson and Washington Counties. Occupations were shown primarily for heads of households with other family members left blank. Examples of terms used included mechanic, farmer, farm laborer, sawyer, laborer, timber hewer, ox driver, miller, etc. Again, none were listed as "serving."⁸

The results of the foregoing exercise were not statistically based because scientific sampling methods were not used and conclusions drawn may not be reflective of the censuses as a whole. What is obvious though, is that in comparison to other counties, the Walton census

³ N. J. Sekela, *AME Chapter 25, Florida*, www.njsekela.com/reference/ame/AME%20Ch%2025%20Florida.pdf, downloaded 8-4-2017 by Sam Carnley.

⁴ George C. Bittle, *Florida Prepares for War, 1860-1861*, [The Florida Historical Quarterly Vol. 51, No. 2 (Oct., 1972)], 143, https://www.jstor.org/stable/30149773?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents, downloaded 8/5/2017, by Sam Carnley.

⁵ Dale Cox, Jackson County, Florida Blog, Wednesday, January 23, 2008, <http://twoegg.blogspot.com/2008/01/calhoun-county-war-of-1860.html>, downloaded 8/5/2017 by Sam Carnley.

⁶ Jackson County, Florida 1860 Census <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9YBT-3WX?i=56&cc=1473181>, accessed 8/5/2017 by Sam Carnley.

⁷ Washington County, Florida 1860 Census, <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-GBFW-22D?cc=1473181>, accessed 8/5/2017 by Sam Carnley.

⁸ Santa Rosa County, Florida 1860 Census <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9BFW-KYJ?i=12&cc=1473181>, accessed 8/5/2017 by Sam Carnley.

enumerator(s) may have misconstrued, misapplied and over used descriptive terms entered as occupations and left unresolved the meaning of the word "serving." Something sufficiently unusual about this select group of residents brought them to the census takers' attention. Was the intent to convey their membership in some organization such as the militia, or was it, as Mark has suggested, just a peculiarity of the Walton County census taker? The answer may never be known.

The McDade Pond Myth

By Sam Carnley

Histories of Florala, Alabama, of which there seems to be more than one, typically identify the Town's Lake Jackson as previously known as McDades Pond, which it actually was for decades. The story told of the name is that a McDavid settled south of the lake in Walton County, Florida, where he operated a grist mill on a nearby creek. The lake became his namesake as evidenced by John Lee Williams who in 1827 identified it as McDavids Pond in his book, "A View of West Florida."⁹ Supposedly, the Lake's name later became McDade because McDavid changed his name to that.¹⁰ Records relating to the McDavid family name however, reveal that to be a myth. The McDavid in question may have been Richmond T., who first appeared on the Walton County U. S. census of 1830 as a resident of the eastern part of the county.¹¹ Today, Lake Jackson is in the western part of the county, but in 1830, Walton was bordered on the west by Escambia County and on the east by Jackson County, and the lake was actually in the eastern part of the county as it then existed.

No evidence has been found indicating a McDavid ever owned any land in Walton County as early as 1830 when they first appeared on the county's census. There were three families of that name on the census and they included Richmon T., John and David. According to ancestral file data from the LDS website familysearch.org, a John Allen McDavid was born "1 May 1774 Greenville, S. C. and died 30 April 1838 in Walton County, Florida, (where he was) buried at Oak Grove Cemetery in Baker, Okaloosa County, Florida." He married Nancy Acker and their children were:

Richmond Terrell McDavid, 1805-1871, m. Sarah McCaskill
Mary A. McDavid, m. Jeremiah Sevell (Sevell was Postmaster of Almirante P. O. as of 5 May 1828)
David McDavid, 1857-?
Melinda McDavid, m. Jesse Mims
Joel Acker McDavid, 1799-1854, m. Margaret Earle
Lucinda McDavid, m. Abner or Joab Gaines
John Allen McDavid (Jr.), m. Samantha Horn (Eli Horn was postmaster at Almirante as of 25 November 1846. Possibly the father of Samantha.)

John Allen is said to have:

. . . moved to Alabama from S.C. In the Appointments of County Officers, he is listed as a Constable in Dec. 22, 1815. Census of 1816 shows him in Clarke County with wife and eight

⁹ John Lee Williams, *A view of West Florida*, (L. R. Bailey, Printer, Philadelphia, 1827), 83

¹⁰ Mike Hinson, *History Florala Alabama*, <http://www.oocities.org/floralabama/>, downloaded 7/29/2017 by Sam Carnley

¹¹ "United States Census, 1830," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XHPX-5BP> : 18 August 2015), Richmond T Mcdavid, Walton, Florida, United States; citing 73, NARA microfilm publication M19, (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.), roll 15; FHL microfilm 6,711.

children. He later moved to Walnut Hill, FL and then to McDavid, where he ran an inn. He is reported to be in Washington County, AL in 1814.¹²

Insufficient evidence has come to light to determine whether John Allan McDavid from familysearch.org and John McDavid on the 1830 census were the same individual. The one on the census could have been either John Allen Sr., or his son of that name, John Allen Jr., and since there were three McDavids on the census, it is not clear which became the lake's namesake. A John McDavid was postmaster of Almirante P. O. as 26 October 1835 and 27 July 1840. This could not have been John Allen in 1840 because he died in 1838, so the post master was possibly his son, John Allen Jr.

The prime candidate of McDavids Pond renown however seems to be John Allen's son, Richmond T., who left Walton County after 1830 and settled on 40 acres in Santa Rosa County he acquired through an original entry cash sale dated 20 August 1834.¹³ Anyone familiar with the fact that Santa Rosa did not come into existence until 1842 may find a land acquisition in that county dated before then as curious. An examination of the patent issued for the property reveals the county name was not stated, but it was in that part of Escambia later becoming Santa Rosa. The land description identified it as the SE 1/4, SE 1/4, T2N, R27W containing 39.92 acres. His name on the patent is clearly, McDavid, confirming he had not changed it as of that date. Further confirmation comes from the 1840 census identifying him as R. T. McDavid, which placed his residence as "East of Escambia River, Escambia, Florida Territory, United States."¹⁴

Still by the name R. T. McDavid he resided in Santa Rosa on the 1850 census.¹⁵ His age was 44, (calculated birth year 1806), he was born in South Carolina and was a miller by occupation, which confirms his involvement with a grist mill as alleged in the Florala history. His wife was Sarah (McCaskill) McDavid, age 45, also born in South Carolina. Children were: Joel, 20, b. in Florida, and worked as a miller; James, 18, born in Florida, also a miller; Richmond, 15, Florida, miller; John, 13, Florida, no occupation; David, 11, Florida; Henry, 9, Florida; Daniel and Elizabeth (twins), 3, Florida; and Margaret, 18, Florida. Margaret's age was the same as James' and although not indicated on the census, they apparently were twins also, unless one of their ages was erroneously stated on the census, which is distinctly possible. The previously mentioned History of Florala identifies three of the sons of the McDavid for whom the lake was named as John, Joel and Henry, all of whom are listed in the household of R. T. above further confirming him as the McDavid in question. The 1850 census also included a slave schedule for R. T. McDavid, showing that he owned several slaves.¹⁶

¹² The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, "Pedigree Resource File," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/2:2:94H7-KZF> : accessed 2017-08-15), entry for John Allen McDavid, submitted by jhirs2732587

¹³ McDavid, R. T., https://glorerecords.blm.gov/details/patent/default_pf.aspx?accession=FL0100_.360&docClass=STA

¹⁴ "United States Census, 1840," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XHBF-G3B> : 24 August 2015), R T McDavid, East Of Escambia River, Escambia, Florida Territory, United States; citing p. 28, NARA microfilm publication M704, (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.), roll 36; FHL microfilm 6,712.

¹⁵ "United States Census, 1850," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MFH6-ZH7> : 12 April 2016), R T McDavid, Santa Rosa county, Santa Rosa, Florida, United States; citing family 287, NARA microfilm publication M432 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.).

¹⁶ "United States Census (Slave Schedule), 1850," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MV8V-6J2> : 29 July 2017), R T McDavid, Santa Rosa county, Santa Rosa, Florida, United States; citing line number 40, NARA microfilm publication M432 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.); FHL microfilm 442,885.

According to info available on the LDS familysearch.org website, the T. in Richmond's middle name stood for Terrell.¹⁷ His son Joel Alexander, the oldest of the nine children appearing on the 1850 census, was said to have been born in Florala, Covington County, Alabama, on 16 July 1830,¹⁸ whereas the 1850 census gave Florida as his place of birth. Florala did not exist then, but the reference to it in the genealogy record places his birth in the immediate vicinity and he was probably born in his parent's home south of the lake on the Florida side of the state line.

Joel was only 3 or 4 when his family moved away from the lake and he probably had no memories of it at the age of 20 as he appeared in his father's household in 1850. In 1852, his father, identified as Richmon T., acquired another forty acres in Santa Rosa County by cash sale original entry.¹⁹

On the 1860 U. S. census of Santa Rosa County, he is misidentified as K. T. McDavid, 55 years old, a farmer by occupation, and born in South Carolina. His wife was Sarah McDavid, age 55 and born in South Carolina. Children, all born in Florida, were: Richmond, 22; John, 21; David, 18; Henry C., 15; Daniel, 12; Elizabeth, 12; and William, 9.²⁰

In 1870, R. T.'s post office was Milton, Santa Rosa County, Florida. His age on the census was 65, birthplace was South Carolina and he was a laborer by occupation. His wife Sarah was also 65. Children still in his household were Richmond, 30; Henry, 24; Daniel, 22 and William, 18.²¹

R. T. died the year after the above census and was buried at Coon Hill Cemetery in Santa Rosa County where his wife and many of his children were also buried, all by the last name of McDavid. The birth and death dates inscribed on his headstone are Dec. 3, 1805 and Jun. 27, 1871, respectively. His name on the headstone is R. T. McDavid. His first name however, is shown on the Find A Grave website as Richard, which is obviously an error, because numerous other records have established it as Richmond.²²

Coon Hill Cemetery is also the final resting place of R. T.'s oldest son, Joel Alexander, who during his lifetime, seems to have made a quite name for himself. During the Civil War he was a member of the 15th Confederate Calvary attached to the Confederate post at Pollard, Alabama. After the war he made his home in Santa Rosa County where he appeared on censuses as head of household from 1870 to 1900. On the 1870 census his occupation is given as laborer, but in 1880, he is identified as a mill owner. Milling was his occupation when he first appeared on the census in 1850 as a member of his father's household. It thus appears that he made his living at that trade for much of his life. There is even a McDavid Creek in Santa Rosa County in the vicinity of the 40 acres Joel's father R. T. acquired

¹⁷ The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, "Pedigree Resource File," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/2:2:94H7-KZF> : accessed 2017-08-15), entry for John Allen McDavid, submitted by jhirs2732587

¹⁸ The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, "Pedigree Resource File," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/2:2:S1YR-FGY> : accessed 2017-08-15), entry for Joel Alexander /MCDAVID/.

¹⁹ McDavid, Richmon T., Patent Detail,

https://glorerecords.blm.gov/details/patent/default_pf.aspx?accession=FL0220.105&docClass=STA

²⁰ "United States Census, 1860", database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M6CS-Y9Q> : 12 April 2016), K T Mc David, 1860.

²¹ "United States Census, 1870," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MNZJ-9G3> : 12 April 2016), Richmond Mc David in household of R T Mc David, Florida, United States; citing p. 32, family 270, NARA microfilm publication M593 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.); FHL microfilm 545,632.

²² "Find A Grave Index," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVVZ-TZZF> : 13 December 2015), Richard Terrell McDavid, 1871; Burial, , Santa Rosa, Florida, United States of America, Coon Hill Cemetery; citing record ID 12328241, Find a Grave, <http://www.findagrave.com>.

through a cash entry sale in 1852 as previously noted. Whether the McDavids had a grist mill on the creek, or it was named after them simply because they lived near it is unknown.

No records have been found showing Joel ever acquired any land through original entry in Santa Rosa County. Quite possibly he acquired property through warranty deeds in the county, or inherited it from his father, but deed records of the county were not searched for purposes of this article to determine that. He did however acquire over a thousand acres in neighboring Escambia County Florida through original entry cash sales. He purchased the first 480 acres in 1882 and another 640 acres in 1889.²³ In spite of his extensive land holdings in county, he never appeared on any of its census records during his lifetime.

Notwithstanding his absence in the Escambia County census records, the county's unincorporated community of McDavid is said to have been ". . . named after Joel McDavid, a *founding resident of the community* (emphasis added) . . . about 1883."²⁴ From this it is inferred that he lived there between the Santa Rosa County censuses he appeared on in 1880 and 1900 and seems to have returned there to live after 1900 where he apparently died on 16 June 1907.²⁵ His family returned him to Santa Rosa County and laid him to rest at Coon Hill Cemetery near Chumuckla. Due to its obliteration on his headstone, his death date is erroneously shown as January 19, 1919 on the FindaGrave website. His widow, Sabra Williams McDavid died in Pensacola on 9 January 1919 and was buried at Coon Hill.

His son Wiley Joel, who was born 18 December 1874 in Santa Rosa County and died in 1964 in Escambia County, was serving as the county's tax assessor located at the courthouse at the time he completed his WWI draft registration card on 12 September 1918.²⁶ His last name on the card is clearly McDavid.

Wiley Joel's records and those of his family before him show that contrary to claims otherwise, his grandfather, R. T. McDavid never changed his name to McDade and neither did later generations of his descendants down through Wiley Joel. John Lee Williams correctly identified McDavid's Pond in 1827 but the name was erroneously changed in the records due to carelessness, laziness, or complacency on the part of those recording it, and the McDade myth persists today in references to the history of Lake Jackson.

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²³ McDavid, J A, https://glorerecords.blm.gov/details/patent/default.aspx?accession=FL0450__.096&docClass=STA&sid=0ibr54kn.vu3

²⁴ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/McDavid,_Florida

²⁵ The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, "Pedigree Resource File," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/2:2:3H5S-1Z5> : accessed 2017-07-29), entry for Joel Alexander /MCDAVID/.

²⁶ "United States World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K35H-VCJ> : 12 December 2014), Wiley Joel McDavid, 1917-1918; citing Escambia County, Florida, United States, NARA microfilm publication M1509 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.); FHL microfilm 1,556,854.



Walton County Heritage Association

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2017

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