



WALTON

RELATIONS & HISTORY

Volume 9, Issue 9

Walton County Heritage Association

August 2018

AN ACT OF KINDNESS TO THE ENEMY

Submitted by Wayne Sconiers

Edited by Sam Carnley

In 1864 near the end of the Civil War, three Union soldiers escaped from a Confederate POW camp and passed through Walton County hoping to get passage home to the north on a Union blockade ship anchored off Walton County in the Gulf of Mexico. Risking accusations of aiding the enemy two Walton County families assisted the men in their escape efforts. A. A. Crandall, one of the soldiers, later wrote a letter to each of the families thanking them for helping them escape. The families were those of Eli Wright and George W. Reddick. Eli Wright was the second husband of Elizabeth (Polly) Byrd Sconiers, widow of Wayne Sconiers' ancestor, James Sconiers who died between 1843 and 1850. Polly, aka Mary Wright, first appeared in the household of Eli on the 1850 U. S. census of Holmes County, Florida. Crandall's letters to them were not available, but transcripts of their letters in reply to Crandall were obtained by Wayne who kindly made them available for the newsletter and they are reproduced verbatim on the following page.

Upcoming Reunions

INGALLS/WILDER: The last known reunion was on 26 September 2009 at the New Hope Community Center on Highway 163 north of Highway 2 in Westville. No current contact info. available.

BURGESS: The last reported reunion was on 4 September 2010, the Saturday before Labor Day, at the Darlington Baptist Church on Highway 2, west of Darlington. Contact Jerry Burgess at 850-956-4292 for info.

MONK: The last known reunion was 12 September 2009 at the Civic Center on Highway 83 in DeFuniak Springs. No current contact info. available.

KELLY: The last known reunion was on 17 October 2009 at the Indian Creek Baptist Church. No current contact info. available.

CAMPBELL/MCLEAN: Reunions are held annually on the third Saturday of October at the Eucheanna Schoolhouse. No contact info. available.

DAY: Reunions on last Sunday in Oct. annually at Eucheanna Community Center. Contact Diane Day at 850-892-2343 for more information.

For a complete listing see the Reunions page at the following link:

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

Walton County Heritage Museum

Open Tuesday – Saturday, 1:00 – 4:00 PM
1140 Circle Drive, De Funiak Springs, FL 32435
850-951-2127

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

Euchee Anna, Fl., 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 had 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

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 Yankees was they wrot our names down when I carried the last one over I was 15 years old then thats all I recollect about it now.

Respectfully yours,

George W. Reddick

My post office Freeport Walton County Florida.

SCONYERS/SCONIERS FAMILY HISTORY

By Wayne Sconiers

Edited and Transcribed

By Sam Carnley

Editor's Note: This is another in the series of articles based on family stories found in the book, "The Heritage of Walton County, Florida."

William Sconyers

The Sconiers family was located in Walton County by the late 1850s [as evidenced by the William Sconiers of Walton County, Florida who received patent number 11999 dated 7/1/1857 for 79.97 acres described as the E1/2 of the NE1/4, township 2N, Range 19 W, Section 30. Its location on the Walton County road map is about a half mile southwest of the Cosson Road Bridge over Sconiers Mill Creek. He however, seems to have been the son or grandson of the earliest known Walton County Sconyers ancestor.] Their roots were from Ireland and they passed through North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama. William Sconyers was the earliest known ancestor of the Sconiers residing in Walton County. He was born about 1750, according to Maryland Sconiers, of Irish decent. By 1771 William was on the [Patriot] militia muster rolls in Dobbs County, North Carolina. It is believed he fought in the



Figure 1. Replica of the Moores Creek Bridge, Pender County, North Carolina. The ancestors of two Walton County families fought each other at this bridge in an early battle leading up to the American Revolutionary war. Photo downloaded from WIKIPEDIA, "Moores Creek National Battlefield," by Sam Carnley, 8/14/2018.

famous Battle of Moores Creek Bridge. This ten minute battle was decisive for the newly-forming government of the United States. The British needed to overthrow the rebellious government. They convinced the Scots of Western North Carolina to raise an army to defeat the Eastern Carolina rebels. The Scots in this part of North Carolina were British Loyalists. The battle was fought and lost by the British sympathizers and had far reaching effects on the peoples of the new country. This defeat resulted in disappointing attempts to raise armies from loyalists living in America. [An account of the battle reads as follows:

Loyalists, mostly Scottish Highlanders, many of whom did not have muskets and were wielding broadswords, expected to find only a small Patriot force on February 27, 1776. Before the arrival of the Loyalists, the Patriots removed the planks from the bridge that crossed Moore's Creek. After removing the planks of wood, they smeared the remaining crossing beams with lard. This forced the Loyalists to cross the bridge in single file. As the Loyalists advanced across the bridge, Patriot shots rang out and dozens of Loyalists fell into the creek below, including their commanders. At the time, the creek was an estimated six feet deep. One commander, Lieutenant Colonel Donald McLeod, died in the battle. Another commander was Colonel Allan MacDonald, the husband of Flora MacDonald of Highland lore who aided Bonnie Prince Charlie following the Jacobite defeat at Culloden Moor in 1746. Stunned, outgunned and leaderless, the Loyalists either surrendered or retreated in confusion. Wagons, weapons and British Pound sterling worth more than \$1 million by today's value were seized by the Patriots in the days following the battle. This dramatic victory ended British authority in the colony and greatly influenced North Carolina to be the first colony to vote for independence. The Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge, coupled with the Battle of Sullivan's Island near Charleston, South Carolina, a few months later, were the first open conflicts of the American Revolution. Both ultimately led the Thirteen Colonies to declare independence on July 4, 1776.^{1]}

What was so interesting about this particular battle was the fact that Alexander McLeod, a [Loyalist] Scot of Western North Carolina, and William Sconyers fought in the same battle but on opposite sides. Later, their descendants, Susan Sconiers and Neil McLeod from Walton County would marry. Tax records exist which show the tax William had to pay the British. The British had control of the colonies and needed money and food to support their troops. They collected a required tax to support the war effort even from those who were not so sympathetic. William had to pay his taxes in bushels of Indian corn. His tax of five bushels was collected in 1780 as part of a provisions tax in Captain John Granger's District, Dobbs County, North Carolina. This payment was food for the troops and done this way since the colonists had very little money.

William had three sons while in North Carolina. They were John, Richard and William. The Sconiers' move to greener pastures kept them heading south. They next show up in Beaufort, South Carolina in 1800 and 1820. It is thought that William Sconyers of Dobbs County probably died there. John moved on to Georgia where he established his family. Many of his descendants are still in the area around Swainsboro, Georgia. Richard also went on to Georgia establishing his family in and around Burke County. The Sconyers' family travels carried them through Beaufort County, South Carolina. Then on through Burke and Montgomery County, Georgia during the Georgia land lottery drawings. They finally settled in Dale County, Alabama. William had two sons and two daughters in route to Montgomery County, Georgia. They were all living together according to the 1820 census of Montgomery County, Georgia. By 1830 William, Allen, James and James Sconyers were living in Dale County, Alabama. Now the question arises: is the second James (our Walton County ancestor) a son

¹ Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Moores_Creek_National_Battlefield&oldid=84270927" 7. on 8/14/2018 by Sam Carnley

of William or is he a son of his brother John? James married Elizabeth Byrd and had the following children: John Jackson, William Franklin, Mary Ann, Susan Jane and Narcissus Sconyers.

John Jackson was born 9 December 1831 in Dale County, Alabama. [In 1850, John, age 19, appeared in the household of his step-father, Eli Wright on that year's census of Holmes County, Florida.] John resided in Walton County by about 1857 (according to the voting registrations). In 1860, [at age 29,] he was living with his sister and her husband, Marshal Justice, [whose household was enumerated on the census in the Eucheeanna post office district.] He married Nancy Emmeline Jordan between 1870 and 1875. She was the daughter of William and Lucretia E. Jordan. John had about 120 acres of land behind Alaqua/Steel Church in Alaqua. They had two children. William M. was born on 6 January 1876 and James Maryland on 5 February 1879. Nancy died in childbirth with James Maryland. She was buried in Gibson Cemetery in Alaqua near the place where they lived. John, lacking in the skills of motherhood [needed in raising his two young sons,] moved in with his mother [and step-father in whose household he appeared on the 1880 census enumerated for election district # 10. John's age on the census was 57.]

[John's brother,] William Franklin married Sarah Jane Turner and also lived in Alaqua raising six children. William built the old grist mill on Sconiers Mill Creek. It ground up corn for flour and feed for the cattle. William sold it to his son William Warren, who then sold it to the Germans who rebuilt and added a sawmill. As of July 2001 it was still standing. Mary Ann [John's sister,] married Marsahl Justice and had no children. [Another sister,] Susan Jane married Neil Bethune McLeod [descendant of Loyalist Alexander McLeod, Battle of Moores Creek Bridge,] having eleven children. [And sister,] Narcissus married James Godwin and had one child.

It is believed [John's father] James died soon after 1843 when Narcissus was born. Elizabeth (Polly)

Name: Eli Wright
 Event Type: Census
 Event Year: 1850
 Event Place: Holmes county, Holmes, Florida, United States
 Gender: Male
 Age: 40
 Race: White
 Race (Original):
 Birth Year (Estimated): 1810
 Birthplace: Georgia
 Household ID: 18
 House Number: 18
 Line Number: 28
 Affiliate Name: The U.S. National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)
 Affiliate Publication Number: M432
 Affiliate Film Number: 58
 GS Film Number: 6714
 Digital Folder Number: 004193083
 Image Number: 00532

Household	Role	Sex	Age	Birthplace
Eli Wright		M	40	Georgia
Mary Wright		F	30	Alabama
John Sconiers		M	19	Alabama
Mary Ann Sconiers		F	15	Alabama
Susan Sconiers		F	12	Alabama
Louia Wright		F	12	Alabama
Nancy Wright		F	9	Alabama
Narcissus Wright		F	9	Alabama

Citing this Record
 "United States Census, 1850," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MFHD-22T> : 12 April 2016), Narcissus Wright in household of Eli Wright, Holmes county, Holmes, Florida, United States; citing family 18, NARA microfilm publication M432 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.).

Byrd Sconiers remarried Eli Wright and had moved to Holmes County, Florida by 1850. [Her name on the censuses from 1850 to 1880 was Mary Wright.] The name Sconyers was now spelled Sconiers. Before 1860 they had moved on to Walton County, Florida and had Elizabeth's [Mary's] mother [Elizabeth Bird] living with them. They [Elizabeth/Mary and Eli Wright] had no children [of their own] but raised Eli's nieces Louisa and Nancy and one nephew, Alexander. In addition, they raised Matthew Clark and George Stanley (no known relation). After John Jackson's wife died in childbirth, she [Elizabeth/Mary] raised his two boys, William and James Maryland Sconiers.

Request for Information

Philippe Oszuscik of Mobile, Alabama is looking for former band students of Walton High School between 1948 and Spring 1951 who have annuals with pictures of the band. Philippe will also like to hear about amusing events that Josef Oszuscik (band leader) and the band attended or occurred at school. Please email photos to Philippe at oszuscik@att.net. He will appreciate it and thanks you in advance.

Figure 2. Familysearch.org index of 1850 Holmes Co. Florida U. S. census of Eli Wright household showing the name of his wife as Mary. That is the name shown for her on the censuses of 1860 through 1880 as well. Downloaded and edited by Sam Carnley, 8/15/2018.

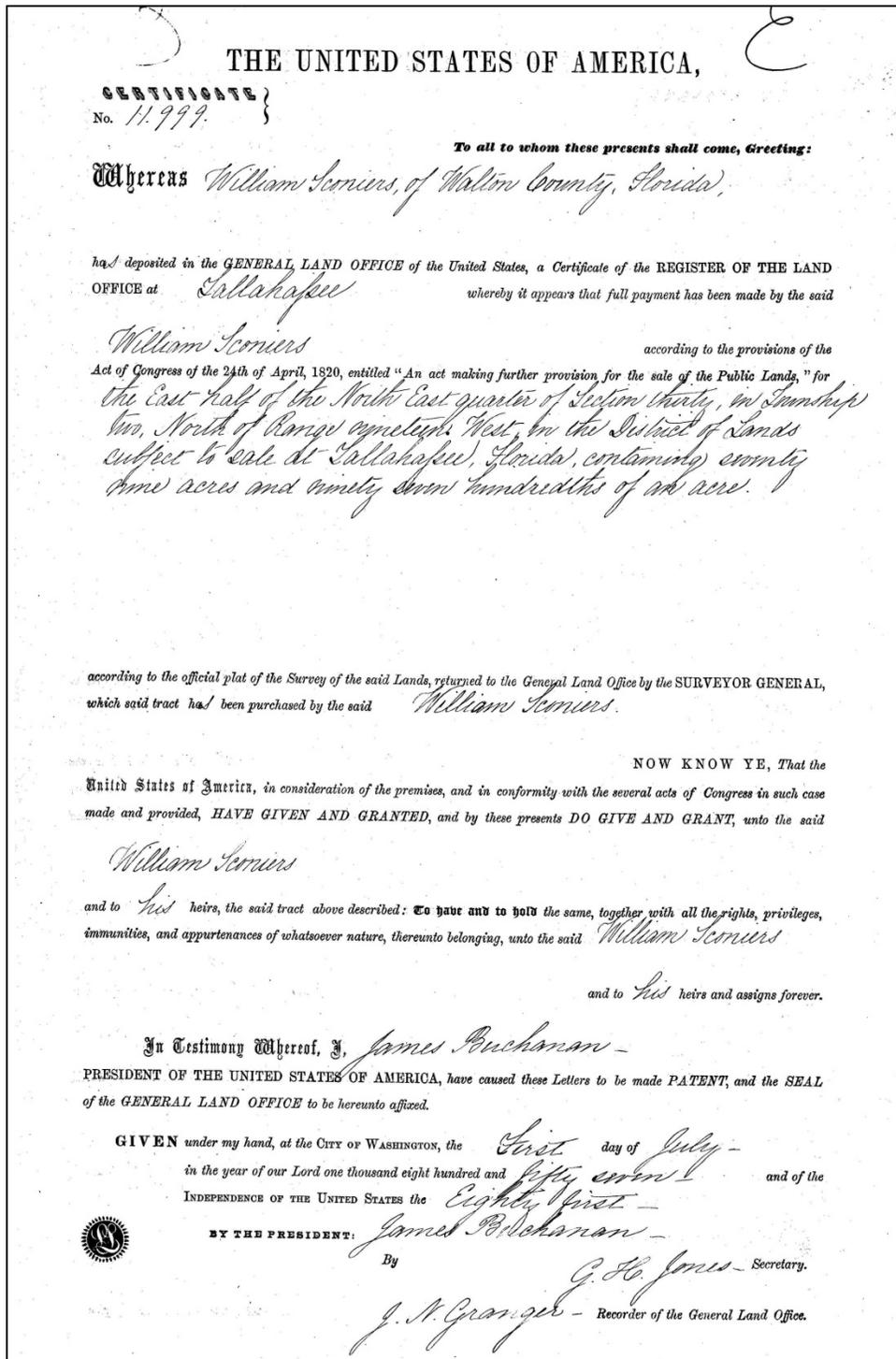


Figure 3. Image of Walton County, Florida Patent No. 11999 issued to William Sconiers 7/1/1857 for 79.97 acres. Downloaded from https://glorerecords.blm.gov/details/patent/default.aspx?accession=FL0250__401&docClass=STA&sid=5ncbrz0.x4a and edited by Sam Carnley , 8/15/2018.



Walton County Heritage Association

Membership in the Walton County Heritage Association includes
Membership in the Museum and Genealogy Society

2018

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM as we are updating our records

Membership Benefits:

The Museum Research Center:

Members get free copies of documents and use of the Genealogy Society computer when Museum is open to the public.

The Museum Gift Shop:

Members receive 10% discounts on books, special publications, postcards, photographs, CDs, DVD's Videos and Gift items.

Membership is on a calendar year basis. Those paying in November or December will be members during those months as well as the next calendar year..

Walton County Heritage Association annual dues: Single - \$25.00 Family - \$40

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State** _____

Zip: _____ **Phone** _____

Email: _____

Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift to the Walton County Heritage Association:

		Individual, Family	
_____ \$ _____	Dues	\$25.00 \$40.00	
_____ \$ _____	Other Cash Donations		Total Enclosed \$ _____

- I would like to volunteer at the Walton County Heritage Museum
- I have genealogy information I would like to share with the Genealogy Society
- I would like to talk with someone about how to get started researching my family tree
- I have artifacts or photographs I wish to donate or loan to the Museum

**Please mail your check and this form to
Walton County Heritage Association
1140 Circle Drive**

De Funiak Springs, FL 32435

Thank You!

All membership dues are tax deductible.