



WALTON RELATIONS

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Walton County Genealogy Society

March 2010

Cemetery Project

We recently learned that the City of DeFuniak Springs has purchased software for the purpose of updating its database and recording all of the burials in Magnolia Cemetery. Once complete, the information will be available online and include photographs of the gravestones. Since members of the Genealogy Society were doing essentially the same thing, we have decided to table our Magnolia Cemetery project in favor of other cemeteries in the county. So far, four people have volunteered to “adopt” cemeteries:

- **Black Creek – Diane Merkel**
- **Caney Creek – Suedelle Wilkerson**
- **Otter Creek – Jim McRae**
- **Sandy Creek – Wayne Sconiers**

Adopted cemeteries will be mapped and thoroughly inventoried, and all gravestones will be photographed. If you are willing to adopt a cemetery near your residence, please email WayneSconiers@embarqmail.com. No experience is necessary, and your payment will be the satisfaction of knowing you have helped the families of those buried in your adopted cemetery as well as future genealogists.

No Genealogy Society Meeting

The Walton County Genealogy Society will not have a meeting in March because we will be participating in the **Walton County History Fair** on our regular meeting date, March 13, from 8:00 AM until 7:00 PM. Come and see us!



Robert, son of Jackie Cochran, at Magnolia Cemetery

Walton County Heritage Museum

Wednesday-Saturday, 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM
1140 Circle Drive, DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435

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www.WaltonCountyHeritage.org

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Ten Reasons to Join a Local Genealogy Society – Part 1

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

Genealogy in Community

Even if your ancestors didn't live where you do, joining a local genealogical society can be a lot of fun and help you in your research. Find out how to sharpen your skills and make colleagues in the hobby.

"But my ancestors are not from this area, so why should I join the local genealogical society?"

Are you guilty of this "why should I join" attitude? I know I was several years ago when I moved to Colorado. My ancestors were from Minnesota, Ohio, New York, Denmark, and Sweden. None of my ancestors were gold miners or pioneers who may have trekked across the Rocky Mountains. So I, too, wondered why I should join the Colorado Genealogical Society.

Eventually, someone convinced me to attend a meeting of the local society. Little did I know that my life as a genealogist would never be the same. I found a group of passionate family historians who were eager to share their experiences and knowledge. It did not matter that our ancestors were from different parts of the world. In fact, most members did not have Colorado roots.

So why, you ask, did a simple genealogical society membership impact my life as a genealogist? Here are ten reasons:

- 1. I was no longer alone.** Until I discovered the network of local genealogists, I was researching within a vacuum. I had no idea there were more than 300 genealogists within a few miles of my home. I could now share my passion with other like individuals. More important, I plugged into a network that alerted me to the latest products, news, and educational opportunities locally and nationwide.
- 2. I learned new research skills.** The guest speakers at monthly meetings and annual workshops taught me how to prepare a research plan, how to evaluate evidence, and techniques to discover new sources.
- 3. I learned how to evaluate genealogical software.** One of the most frustrating decisions for a genealogist is deciding upon the right software for their specific needs. Our society created a Computer Interest Group and sponsored educational seminars and hands-on learning workshops. Without their guidance and instruction, I would have floundered within the world of computer genealogy.
- 4. I improved my skills in reading old handwriting.** My personal research included transcribing old documents, but until I became involved in a society project, I didn't realize that my skills were elementary.
- 5. I learned from other members.** Our society encouraged members to share their latest breakthrough or discovery at our local meetings. This sharing was not only fun, but gave me ideas on how to solve my own brick wall research problems.

[To be continued next month]

Genealogy on TV

NBC: "Who do You Think You Are?"
Fridays at 7:00 PM Central

The first episode, featuring Sarah Jessica Parker, is [available online](#).

March 12: Football great Emmitt Smith

BYU Television: "The Generations Project"
Mondays at 9:00 PM Central

A new reality series that helps those who have questions about their family history investigate their own identities by walking in the shoes of their ancestors. [Watch the latest episode online](#).

Pioneer Corner: The Dried Lima Bean Disaster of 1917

By Janet Walden Miller

Not too long before Grandma Laura Walden died, my Aunt Mae experienced her first cooking disaster as a novice cook of 16. She related this story to me one day when we were visiting and reminiscing the ‘good ole days’.

I had just told her about reading a book called *Prairie Kitchen Sampler* where an old wood stove figured prominently in a cooking disaster. The author tells of being a young pioneer bride who was cooking on a wood stove in a log cabin in the Nebraska wilderness. She had prepared several fried chickens for the crew that was bringing in the corn harvest that year. She accidentally dropped the loaded platter while removing it from the warming shelf of the stove. Chicken fell all over the floor and when she realized there wasn’t time to prepare more chicken, she just had to re-plate it and serve it with a guilty smile.

Aunt Mae said a similar thing happened to her when she was just learning to cook. Her mother Laura was in bed with pneumonia and asked her to cook something for her father to take for lunch at the sawmill. Grandma thought a pot of white lima beans would be the easiest meal to prepare and explained the method to her oldest daughter. Dutifully, this young cook picked over the dried beans, washed them carefully and put them in a pot on the old wood stove.

Well, one of the chief difficulties in cooking over a wood stove in those days is that the stove is hottest when the wood is burning the fastest

and the temperature slowly goes down as the wood burns down. Cooks in that day had to plan their meal preparation carefully, to cook first the items that needed the most heat and cook last the delicate things that needed lower heat or longer simmering time. And they had to know where to position the pot with respect to the fire box and when to add more wood to keep a fire going.

So, you can see that cooking dried beans might be a tricky thing for a novice as they will fall apart and get mushy if cooked at too high a temperature. Things were going along swimmingly until the end when young Mae took the lid off the pot and discovered what she thought were little worms floating in the broth. She was mortified! Not only had she failed her sick mother, but she couldn’t possibly serve lima beans to her father with worms floating in them!

Well, the happy end to this story is that there weren’t any worms in the lima beans but, since they had cooked at too high a temperature, the beans had split open revealing the “worms” which were nothing more than the embryos of future bean plants.

I don’t know if Papa ever learned about his young daughter’s cooking disaster but I’m sure he probably went off to the sawmill with a syrup bucket full of lima beans and cold cornbread and counted himself a lucky man that he had a brave daughter who could step up and help her family when needed.

On the Bookshelf

Thanks to the generosity of **Judy Cadenhead**, we have two new excellent resources available in our genealogy bookcase at the Walton County Heritage Museum:

Crowder Chapel & Cemetery: An Early History – Compiled by Julia Cadenhead and Barbara Moore. This material will be available at the Crowder reunion next October. More information later.

Walton County Tidbits – Compiled by Iva Griner Pacini and Ruth Griner Cadenhead. Fabulous photographs, articles, and “tidbits” covering much of the county and many of the older families.

Online Family Trees

By Wayne Sconiers,
President, Walton County Genealogy Society

When you start your family research online, there is an enticement from many research sites to put your family tree online, which is not a bad idea since there are some great benefits. You can easily share your research with family, friends, and others even if they are not members and have no genealogy software, and the research site makes it very easy to build your tree, attaching everything to your families. The problem with this approach arises when you decide to move your tree somewhere else.

Many people start online and never build a tree on their own computer. I know it becomes very easy to continue to do this online and tie your family member to the many records available, such as census records, marriage records, war records, etc. But now let's say you no longer want to pay that fee to belong to that company for research purposes, thus you decide not to renew your subscription. You now become what is called a guest member with limited capability. Yes, you can continue to add people, stories, and photos and you can still invite people to view your file, but you can no longer view all those sources you spent many hours attaching to persons within your tree. So now you decide to download your file. The way you can download this file to your computer will be as a GED file. GED files are text only files. The result is that any photos, voice recordings, charts, or books linked to those sources will not download. The sources you have added from the Internet, such as census records, only download with just basic information. The additional information you placed with those records must be recreated, but now you can no longer view the original source. The data you might lose could be important details, such as the family house number, who lived next door, where someone was born, discrepancies with dates, etc.

So, faced with so many challenges putting your tree and all of the additional information onto your computer, you decide to continue your subscription. Hmmm . . . just what they wanted you to do.

My suggestion is to make your personal computer the home of your family tree and upload your family tree online so you can enjoy the ability to share with family, friends, and other researchers. There are plenty of family tree database programs but decide which one you like before you add pictures and voice recordings. Do not let your family tree reside **only** online.

There are family tree programs that can be downloaded for free. Both of these are good:



<http://www.familysearch.org/eng/default.asp>



<http://www.legacyfamilytree.com/DownloadLegacy.asp>
(basic standard edition)

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at WaltonCountyHeritage@cox.net or call 850-897-4505.