



WALTON RELATIONS

Volume 6, Issue 8

Walton County Genealogy Society

June 2015

New to Our Library

The Walton County Genealogy Society recently purchased some volumes from the Pea River Historical & Genealogical Society in Enterprise, Alabama.

- Coffee County Cemetery Records
- Coffee County Marriage Records
- Byrd History and Related Families
- The Gillis Family in the South

They also sent us the 2014 edition of "Pea River Trails," their annual newsletter. All of these are available for your use while in the Walton County Heritage Museum.

Genealogy Meetings

The Walton County Genealogy Society will not meet during the summer but will resume meeting in September. In the meantime, please feel free to send us articles and questions. We always look forward to helping people with their research.

Walton Relations

There will not be a newsletter in July. Publication will resume in August.

July Reunions

See our [Reunions](#) web page for contact information.

- **Adkison/Adkinson Family:** Usually meets the 4th Saturday in July at the Community Center in DeFuniak Springs. Contact Charles or J.W. Adkison
- **Butts Family:** Usually meets on or around the 4th of July.
- **Danley Family:** Usually meets the 4th Saturday in July at the New Harmony Community Center. Contact Audrey Danley Hobbs
- **Gaskin Community:** Usually meets the 2nd Saturday in July at the Community Center in DeFuniak Springs. Contact Glenda Sims Arrant or Cheryl Sims Alberson
- **Manning Family:** July 9-15 in Atlanta, Georgia.
- **Slay Family:** Saturday, July 11, at the Chautauqua Hall of Brotherhood in DeFuniak Springs. Contact Marie Holly if you will attend.
- **Wilkerson Family:** Saturday, July 11, at the Shriner's Lodge, Hwy. 90 West in DeFuniak Springs. Contact Don Wilkerson.

Walton County Heritage Museum

Open Tuesday - Saturday: 1:00 - 4:00 PM
1140 Circle Drive, DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435

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The Holtons of Wisconsin, Part 2

Compiled by Barbara Pascoe of Earlysville, Virginia

Edward Dwight Holton was the first sheriff of Milwaukee, served as a member of the Wisconsin State Assembly, and enjoyed success as a merchant, railroad promoter, and banker before he first visited DeFuniak Springs. According to Florida Chautauqua Association Historian and Archivist Robert Daniel, Holton was one of the men who joined Wallace Bruce in buying out William Chipley, Thomas Wright, and Charles Banfill from the original Florida Chautauqua Association in 1888. It cost Bruce and his associates \$1,500 each to buy out the old association members, after which they formed the new association. At the time, the Florida Chautauqua Association owned 12 buildings and 30 cottages so, according to Robert Daniel, "E. D. Holton was more than a Chautauqua supporter; he was a part of Wallace Bruce's group he put together to save the Florida Chautauqua." – DM

The following excerpts are from a collection of writings by Lucinda and Edward D. Holton recording their visits to DeFuniak Springs and the Chautauqua. Part 1 can be read in the May 2015 issue of Walton Relations.

In 1888, Edward Holton wrote another letter to The Evening Wisconsin:

March 30. . . I am just completing my stay of four months from the cold of our Northern climate. . . . Well, we take quarters at the Chautauqua Hotel, where we abided last year, an airy, well-lighted public house. A change of landlords has such improved the table and better keeping. The cost of board for myself and wife [for] fuel, lights, and service included is say \$25 per week. . . .

During the [past] summer a cyclone swept over this section and felled twenty lusty pine trees in Pinery Park. . . . Jack McQuella and his son, Henry, and Uncle Hartwell Catin . . . were called into service and their time for several weeks was applied to grubbing, chopping and clearing up in a handsome and tidy manner, Pinery Park. . . . Calling to my aid young carpenter in the neighborhood the finishing touches were given to the barn and three coats of red paint, with white trimmings made it look very shiny. . . .

I have transplanted this past winter about 100 of these [magnolia] trees superintending their excavation and their planting. I expect they will live and grow . . . but if the fifty trees which I have planted in front of Pinery Park, along Wisconsin Avenue. . . . One of De Funiak's citizens has bought there and distributed this winter for planting in that immediate neighborhood between five and six thousand fruit trees. The La Comte pear . . . flourishes with great luxuriousness in this locality, and very large numbers have been planted. . . .

The session of the Chautauqua Assembly continues four weeks this season under the admirable management of D. Gillette, of Cincinnati. First class teachers and lecturers were on hand and we took two very large 'Bridal Wreaths', two roses. . . .

Numbers of Northern people have adopted this place as their winter home and built them residences. . . . Ernst Von Baumbach, my old and valued neighbor in Wauwatosa . . . was induced to try this climate. . . . He has purchased property with the view of making it his winter resort.

The Louisville and Nashville Railroad affords direct communication. Its service is only fair. . . . I can step on a sleeper at De Funiak at 8 P.M., be at Montgomery the next morning, at Nashville at evening, and crossing the Ohio at Evansville will be in Chicago in the morning and at Milwaukee at eleven.

A third source for references regarding Edward and Lucinda's trips to DeFuniak Springs comes from the Family Journal of Edward and Lucinda Holton, which was begun in 1846 shortly after they were married with the last entry occurring shortly after Lucinda's death in 1909. This journal's recordings were at times contemporaneous with an event such as a family picnic but at other times were recorded as much as a year after the event.

[Lucinda wrote:] We rented our house furnished for one year. . . . [F]irst going to Washington [D.C.] where Edward attended a meeting of the National Board of Trade to which he was a delegate [from the state of Wisconsin]. Were presented with the Board to President Cleveland. . . . From there we started south, stopping at Old Point Comfort and Savannah for a few days. And then visiting the prominent resorts in Florida.

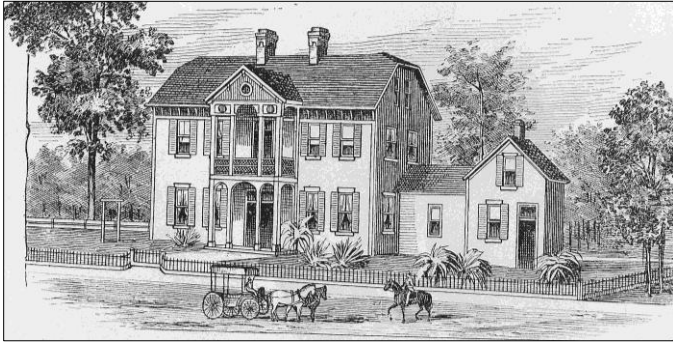
[At the end of 1886, she again wrote:] . . . Left Morrystown for Florida; traveling through Maryland and Virginia. . . . We reached Pensacola on the sixth day. . . . We came to De Funiak Springs where the Florida Chautauqua holds a winter session. Here we settled down for the winter.

[Edward wrote in the fall of 1887:] A sale was completed October 1887 . . . of our beautiful home stead "Highland Home" consisting of 38 acres of land. . . . Upon a family conference this summer . . . it was agreed . . . since nobody was occupying . . . and since they [Edward and Lucinda] go to warmer climes for half the year . . . the estate had better be disposed of. . . . Late in November we left home for Florida via Nashville and Pensacola reaching De Funiak early in December. . . . In Feb. the Florida Chautauqua opened its session which continued for one month.

[Lucinda wrote in November 1888:] . . . [L]eft home for Florida; . . . we made a stop at Ashville in North Carolina, a delightful resort too. Reached our winter home in De Funiak Springs Florida the latter part of Jan 1889 and remained through the winter. . . .

[1890 entry:] January De Funiak Springs, Florida. . . . We left home the last of November 1889. . . . We have taken possession of our new house which fronts upon the lake and has a pleasant outlook. . . .

We have been in Florida about two months and the weather has been like May and June. Last week we made an excursion to Ericha Suna for shrubs. We found an old deserted plantation from which we took two very large "Bridal Wreaths," two roses and two "Cape Jessamines." . . . They were safely brought to "Lake View" and with great care planted. . . .



“Lake View,” also known as “Springside,” as it appeared in an 1892 promotional pamphlet for the Florida Chautauqua. The house is now known as “Magnolia House.” [Sketch courtesy of Robert Daniel; Diane Merkel photograph.]

[March 24, 1890, Harriett Holton Robertson, daughter of Edward and Lucinda wrote:] Today in this land of balm and sunshine they are rocking in Dick’s boat down on the pretty lake, dressed in midsummer clothing. . . . I find my dear parents domiciled in their new home in this strange land. The house (which we have christened “Springside” because on the banks of De Funiak Springs) is a commodious plain airy house built this past year. It is painted cream color with dark green blinds and stands among the pine trees facing this most charming little lake or spring as it is thought to be, since it has no apparent outlet or inlet. . . . I have had a delightful visit here . . . and had a real season of intellectual feasting (in connection with the Chautauqua assembly which has been session here). . . .

[In April 1890, Lucinda wrote:] A superb morning; summery and warm; flowers coming out in profusion; one rose bush has 100 buds. We are beginning to pack preparatory to leaving for the summer home. Have all the morning training the roses and Jessamine upon the porch. We leave here on the 29th.

[Edward wrote in October 1890 that his granddaughter, Mary James:] . . . will accompany us to De Funiak Springs, Fla. next month where we have our winter home. . . .

[Lucinda wrote on December 26:] . . . [W]e are preparing to close the house, for the winter as we leave for Florida on the 28th. . . .

The following is the last entry mentioning DeFuniak Springs in the family journal transcribed from a newspaper obituary:

. . . [O]n April 21 1982 at Savannah GA. While on the return journey from his winter retreat at De Funiak, Fla., to his home in Milwaukee, Edward Dwight Holton, having been suddenly stricken with disease, passed from earth into the life of eternity.

The property was sold to settle his estate sometime in 1892 or 1893 and the sale was handled by the executor Orrin Wood Robertson, Edward’s son-in-law, through an agent in 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.