



WALTON RELATIONS

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Walton County Genealogy Society

January 2016

History Detectives

By Diane Merkel

It's time to get to work, History Detectives! Below are some requests for help we received recently. The full question on the Message Boards can be viewed by clicking the link in each query. You can see the full list of past queries in the History Detectives section of our website. Please let me know if you can provide answers or if you have questions by writing to WaltonCountyHeritage@cox.net.

78. I am assisting with research of the Four Mile Point area of Santa Rosa Beach. Some of the names being researched will be very familiar to you, but I am currently only interested in their connections to Walton County south of the bay. If you have any photos, documents, articles, or books that may help, please contact me as soon as possible.

- Clara and George Rusbridge
- Henry Reddick (I have his book, thanks!)
- Charles E. Cessna
- R.E.L. McCaskill
- Ettie Jernigan
- William I. Stinson
- Mary T. Bushnell
- Dorothy Coffeen (daughter of Bushnell)
- Winthrop Rockefeller

79. A gentleman would like to know the history of the land where the old Gaskin turpentine mill once operated. It was originally owned by the McNeill family.

80. A woman would appreciate receiving obituaries for her Sullivan ancestors.

Genealogy Meeting

On Thursday, January 21, 2016, at 6:00 p.m., Hank Klein will return to the Walton County Heritage Museum to present, "Publishing and Enjoying Your Genealogy Work, or What Do You Do When You Have Finished Your Genealogical Research?" at the Walton County Heritage Association's Annual Meeting. This will be a combined meeting of Heritage and the Genealogy Society. If the response is favorable, we will change the meeting time for the Genealogy Society to Thursday evenings rather than Saturday mornings.

Walton County Heritage Museum

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

850-951-2127

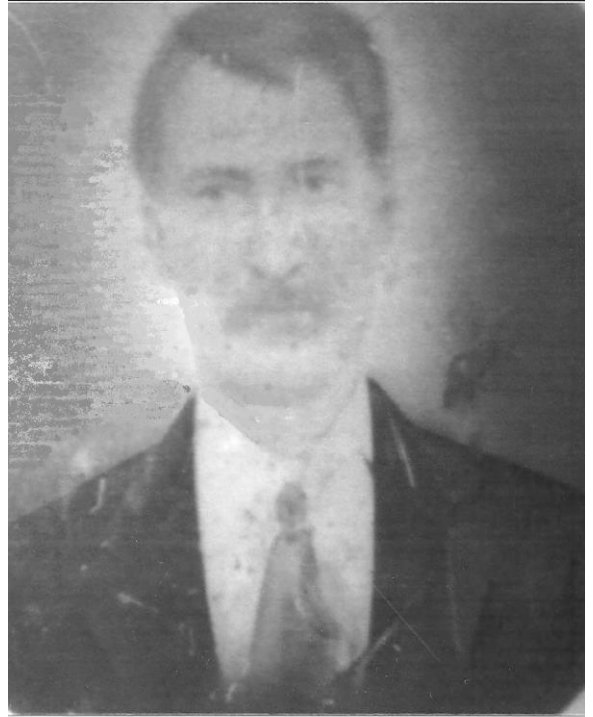
www.WaltonCountyHeritage.org

WaltonCountyHeritage@cox.net

John Wesley Carnley: A Genealogy

By **Sam Carnley** of Bascom

JOHN WESLEY CARNLEY was born 13 March 1875 in Walton County, Florida. He was the fifth child and second son of George M. and Martha Ann Lassiter Carnley. He died 7 April 1923 in Walton County, and was buried the following day at Clear Springs Cemetery, Walton County. He married Emily I. Busbee, 17 February 1901. Emily was a daughter of Andy Chanty and Sarah Elizabeth (Betty) Lassiter Busbee. John and Betty were first cousins, making Emily John's first cousin once removed.



John Wesley Carnley
13 Mar. 1875 - 7 April 1923

His children with **Emily** were as follows:

1. **Cora Carnley**, b. 1 Jan. 1903, in Walton County, Fla., d. there on 10 May 1970 and buried at New Harmony Baptist Church Cemetery, Walton County. She m. Ernest C. Brown on 18 Mar. 1921, in Walton County. He was b. 15 Jun 1900 in Florida and d. 23 Oct 1959 in Walton County. He is buried beside Cora at New Harmony Baptist Church Cemetery.
2. **Kate Carnley**, b. 5 Mar. 1905 in Walton County. She d. there on 15 May 1985, and was buried at Clear Springs Cemetery. She m. James Parmer, aka Palmer, in Okaloosa County, Florida, on 1 Jan. 1927. He was b. 16 Sep 1896 in Walton County, Florida, and d. there 11 Oct 1983. He is buried with Kate at Clear Springs Cemetery.
3. **Sarah Carnley**, b. 24 April 1907 in Walton County. She d. 10 Jan. 1970 at Eloise, Polk County, Florida, and was buried at Eagle Lake Church of Christ Cemetery in Polk County. She m. Allen B. Cawthon on 30 Aug. 1925 in Okaloosa County, Florida. He was b. 23 Feb 1907 in Walton County and died in Polk County, Florida, 28 Mar 1959. He is buried with Sarah at Eagle Lake Church of Christ Cemetery.
4. **Willie Fred Carnley**, b. 9 Sept. 1909 in Walton County. He d. 24 Jan. 1985 at Fort Mead, Polk County, Florida, and was buried at Evergreen Cemetery. He m. Jessie Rayborn, 14 Jan. 1929 in Okaloosa County, Florida. She was b. 30 May 1911 in Walton County and d. 18 Jan 1966 in Fort Mead. She is buried with Will at Evergreen Cemetery.
5. **Raymond Radford Carnley**, b. 23 Nov. 1911 in Walton County. He d. 9 July 1974 in Lake Wales, Polk County, Florida, and was buried at Lake Wales Cemetery. He m. Avie Dee George Boutwell 24 Dec. 1941, in Polk County, Florida. She first married Noah Lee Boutwell, 24 Feb. 1934, in Walton County, Florida, from whom she was divorced before 25 July 1936 on which date he married Peggy Hilton in Okaloosa County. Avie Dee was b. 30 April 1916 in Alabama and d. 19 Jul. 2001 in Lake Wales, Polk County, Florida, and was buried beside Raymond at Lake Wales Cemetery.
6. **Henry Joseph Carnley**, b. 18 Jun 1914 in Walton County, Florida. He d. 28 Apr 1983 in Lake Wales, Polk County, Florida and was buried at Lake Wales Cemetery. He m. (1) Catherine Addison May 1958 in Polk County and divorced her there in Jan 1965. He m. (2) Mae Adkins (Atkins), Feb 1968 in Polk County. She was b. 28 Aug 1930 in Altha, Calhoun County, Florida, and is still living in Polk County as of 2015.

7. **Johnnie Lee Franklin (Frank) Carnley**, b. 29 Aug 1917 in Walton County, Florida, and d. 2 Sep 1982 in Lake Wales, Polk County, Florida. He was buried at Lake Wales Cemetery. He m. Annie Bryan, 20 Feb 1937, at DeFuniak Springs, Walton County, Florida. She was b. 17 Apr 1917 and, after her death on 20 Jan 2002, she was buried at Lake Wales Cemetery with Frank.
8. **Walter Samuel Carnley Sr.**, b. 22 Dec 1919 in Walton County, Florida, d. 27 Jan 1960 of a heart attack at hospital in Valparaiso, Okaloosa County, Florida. His burial was on 30 Jan 1960 at Clear Springs Cemetery. He married Eunice Evelyn Kirkland, 4 Dec 1941, at Bartow, Polk County, Florida. Witnesses were his brother, Henry Carnley, and his cousin, Starlin Carnley. Eunice was born 14 May 1922 in Geneva, Geneva County, Alabama. She d. 23 May 2007 in Birmingham, Jefferson County, Alabama and was buried beside Walter at Clear Springs Cemetery.

Reverend George M. Carnley may have named his son, John Wesley, after the famous eighteenth century British Methodist minister of that name as Reverend Carnley was a Congregational Methodist minister himself and could have bestowed the name on his son in honor of the famed theologian. John was born, probably in his parents' log cabin on Pine Log Creek, in northwest Walton County in the area now known as Children's Home Community. In Washington D. C., Ulysses S. Grant, hero of the North, victor of the Civil War, and conqueror of the Confederacy, was president of the United States. Reconstruction, the Union imposed post war re-education and racial sensitivity training program intended to put the recently defeated upstart south in its place, was coming to an end.

It is unknown to what extent Reconstruction impacted the neighborhood where John was born, and not much is known of his life other than what is found in a few records and scant second hand information from family and others who knew hardly anything about him. The poor quality photo of him included in this genealogy is the only one known to exist. On his WWI draft registration card, dated 12 Sep 1918, he is described as of medium height and build with gray eyes and black hair. His age then was 43, and his birth date was given as 13 Mar 1875. He gave his address as 2 RFD Laurel Hill, Okaloosa, Fla., and his stated occupation was farming for himself. He signed the draft registration card as John Wesley Carnley in his own handwriting.

On the 1900 U. S. census of Walton County, he remained a member of his father's household at age 25. He was a day laborer by occupation, and it was indicated that he could read and write. On 21 December of that year, he filed a Homestead Affidavit with James A. McLean, Walton County Clerk of the Circuit Court in DeFuniak Springs. The reason he gave for filing with the Clerk of Court was that he was unable to appear at the Dist. Land Office in Gainesville, Florida, on account of the great distance and lack of funds. On 4 January 1901, the Gainesville Land Office acknowledged his application in a "HOMESTEAD" document under the signature of W. G. Robinson, Register. After marrying Emily in February of that year, he moved onto the forty acre homestead property around the 1st of March.

In a document dated 22 June 1906, John gave notice of his intention to make final proof to establish his claim to the land. He was required to provide two witnesses to prove his residence and cultivation of the property, but he named four. They were G. (George) M. Carnley, his father; W. J. (James) Pressley, his step father-in-law; Mallie (Malachi) Majors, his brother-in-law, and husband of his sister Ada; and Henry Majors, father of Mallie. He gave Stella, Fla., as the address for himself and the witnesses. Another requirement of the 22 June document was that he publish notice of his application in the *Floral News*, printed at Floral, Alabama, and designated by Henry S. Chubb of the Land Office, as the newspaper published nearest the homestead property.

Oscar R. Smith, publisher of the *Floral News*, certified that the notice was published for six consecutive weeks, beginning 16 August 1906 and ending 20 September 1906. Robert A. French, an insurance agent and notary public living in Floral, notarized the certification on 19 Dec. 1906. Copies of the "Notice For Publication," and *Floral News* certification of publication are included in John's homestead application documents.

In addition to himself, only two of the four individuals John identified as witnesses to testify in proof of his residence on the property actually did so. They were his father and stepfather-in-law, and the information they gave substantially agreed with what he stated in his "Testimony of Claimant" form. On that form, he identified himself as John W. Carnley, about 31 years old, living at Stella, Fla., and born in the State of Florida. He commenced settlement on the property as soon as he made his application and moved on it according to his best recollection about March 1901. He built a two room frame dwelling, a crib, a stable and dug a well. Along with those improvements he had about six acres under fence, all worth about \$175.00. He indicated that he had been on the property for six seasons, and that the first year he had only a garden (a "greens patch," was how his stepfather-in-law described it in his testimony). The next year it grew to about one and a half acres and afterwards to a total of six acres under cultivation. Others living there were his wife and two children, and he had resided there continuously since entering the property, having never been absent from it for any extended period of time. As to the character of the land, he described it as "Ordinary farm land, most valuable for farming." (Both his father and stepfather-in-law characterized it as "Common piney woods land," in their "Testimony of Witness" documents).

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.

Department of the Interior,
Land Office at Gainesville, Fla.,
July 16, 1906.—Notice is hereby
given that the following named
settles has filed notice of his in-
tention to make final proof in
support of his claim, and that
said proof will be made before
clerk of the circuit court at De-
Funiak Springs, Fla., on Sept.
24, 1906, viz: John W. Carnley,
of Stella, Fla., hd 30511 for the
ne¼ of sw¼ section 12, tp 4 n, r 21
w.

He names the following wit-
nesses to prove his continuous
residence upon and cultivation
of said land, viz:
G. M. Carnley, W. J. Presley,
Mallie Majors and Henry Majors
all of Stella, Fla.
W. C. ROBINSON, Register.

After occupying the land for the requisite five years, he received a homestead patent dated 25 July 1907. The patent number was 18469, for 39.89 acres described as the NE 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of section 12, township 4, north and range 21, west. The location of the property as it appears on a 1936 Walton County map was a short distance northwest of the community of New Harmony and southwest of Gordon.

In 1908, he recorded a turpentine lease to Simon Ginsburg. Its terms gave the lessee the right to enter the land and use it and the pine trees growing thereon for turpentine purposes, which included cutting, chipping and boxing said trees. Other activities authorized were the building and using of roads necessary to the management of the business. The term of the lease was for three years, to begin no later than 15 March 1908. Payments on the lease were to be \$25.00 at its beginning, and the balance when the boxes were cut at the rate of fifty dollars per thousand boxes.

The lease was still in effect in 1910 when the census of that year was enumerated. John should have appeared on the census as head of his own household, but no Carnleys can be found on the Walton County census for that year.

When the three years of the lease were up 1911, John sold the timber. He signed a timber deed to Stearns and Culver Lumber Company to harvest the timber early in the year. Then, on 7 November, presumably after the timber was cut, he sold his homestead property in its entirety to W. D. Hunt for seven hundred dollars.

To be continued next month . . .

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Walton Relations is a publication of the Walton County Genealogy Society. Wayne Sconiers, President.
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Diane Merkel, at WaltonCountyHeritage@cox.net or call 850-897-4505.