

WALTON COUNTY HERITAGE ASSOCIATION, INC.

OFFICE LOCATION

Walton County Heritage Museum, (Old Train Depot)

Hours: Open Tuesday – Saturday, 1:00 – 4:00 PM

Postal Address

Walton County Heritage Association, Inc.
1140 Circle Drive, DeFuniak Springs, Florida 32435

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Back Issues: <http://www.waltoncountyheritage.org/GenSoc/newsletters.htm>

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Newsletter Cover Collage Photos

Clockwise from top left:

1. Darlington, Florida, early 1900s, Courtesy of Baker Block Museum, photographer unknown. Edited by Sam Carnley.
2. *Henderson-Mathis turpentine still in Glendale or Gaskin*. 1904. Black & white photoprint, 4 x 6 in. State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory. <<https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/42107>>, accessed 28 June 2017 by Sam Carnley.
3. William Lewis (Luke) Hurst Family, Fleming Creek/Clear Springs area, north Walton County, ca 1894, from "The Heritage of Walton County, Florida," p. 190.
4. Old Paxton High School, "1961-62 Paxtonian" Year Book, photographer unknown. Edited by Sam Carnley
5. Walton County Heritage Museum, photo and editing by Sam Carnley.
6. Gladys D. Milton (1924-1999), Midwife, Flowersview/Paxton, photo by her daughter, Maria Milton. Also in "The Heritage of Walton County, Florida," p. 249, and the September 2018 Newsletter at <http://www.waltoncountyheritage.org/GenSoc/NL2018Sep.pdf> Edited by Sam Carnley.
7. Lake Jackson, South Side, in Paxton City Limits, photo and editing by Sam Carnley.
8. Paxton Water Tower, Paxton, Florida, photo and editing by Sam Carnley.
9. Old Freeport School, constructed ca 1908, burned 1943. Photo from "The Heritage of Walton County, Florida," p. 45. Photographer unknown. Edited by Sam Carnley.
10. *Floralia Saw Mill Company's engine number 3 - Paxton, Florida*. 1907. Black & white photonegative, 4 x 5 in. State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory. Photographer unknown. <<https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/146972>>, accessed 7 September 2019 and edited by Sam Carnley. [Built in 1873 and Originally owned by New York, Ontario and Western Railroad Company as engine number 60; then owned by Southern Iron and Equipment Company as engine number 568 in 1907; then owned by Florala Saw Mill Company as engine number 3 on March 3, 1907; returned to Southern Iron and Equipment Company and number changed to 915 on March 13, 1913; then owned by Louisiana Saw Mill Company as engine 50 in May, 1913.]

The **Walton County Heritage Association, Inc.** is an 501 (C) 3 Florida Not for Profit Corporation Recognized by the IRS as a Public Charity Organization for Tax Deductible Donations.

The Walton County Heritage Association was organized for four main purposes:

- To promote the preservation and restoration of buildings and other landmarks of historical interest within Walton County;
- To maintain the Walton County Heritage Museum to preserve the heritage of Walton County for the education and enjoyment of current and future generations by collecting, preserving, and exhibiting artifacts and information from the time of its original inhabitants to the present;
- To foster and enhance the development, education, and sense of history which is unique to Walton County; and
- To secure cooperation and unity of action between individual citizens, businesses, and other groups as may be necessary to fulfill these purposes.

The Association depends upon the support of its members and the business community to accomplish its goals. Annual dues are \$25 for individuals, \$40 for families and \$100 for corporate memberships.

[Click here](#) for the **Individual Membership Application**

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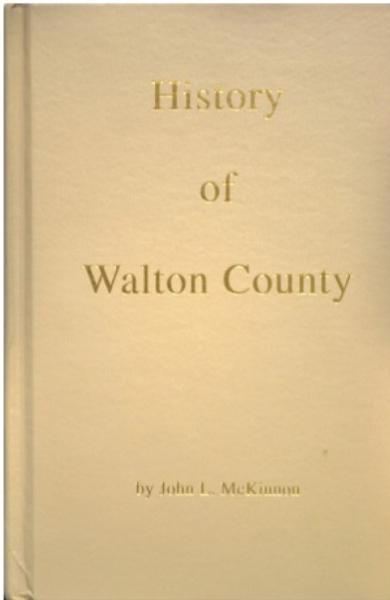
Member Benefits:

- **Automatic** membership in the **Walton County Heritage Museum** and the **Walton County Genealogy Society**.
- **Invitations** to Quarterly Members Meetings
- **Discounts** on Special Events
- **The Museum Research Center:** Members get free copies of documents and use of the Genealogy Society computer when the Museum is open.
- **The Museum Gift Shop:** Members receive discounts on books, special publications, postcards, photographs, CDs, DVDs, videos, and gift items.
- **Free subscriptions** to the WCHA Newsletter and Journal.

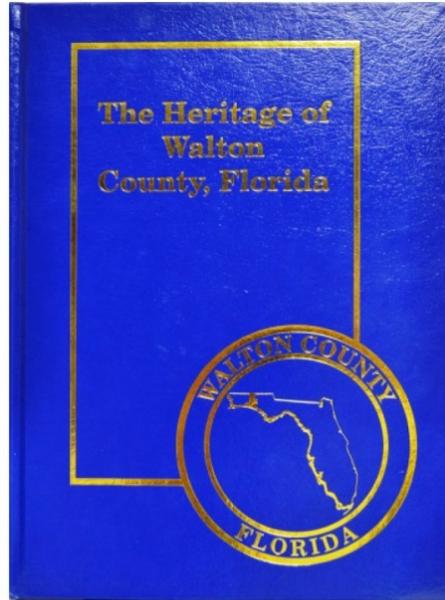
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From the Museum Gift Shop

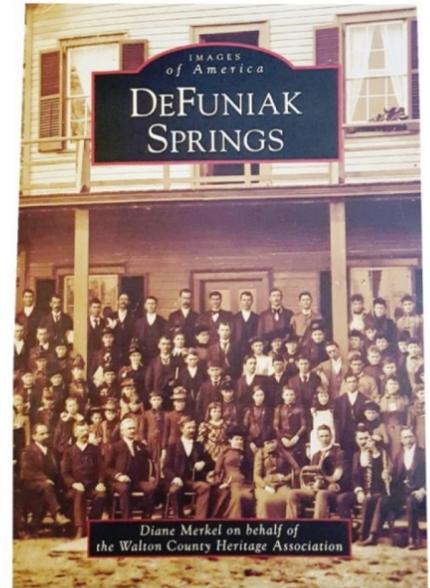
Our most popular books



History of Walton County
by John L. McKinnon. The Museum has sold out of this book and it is out of print, but it is available on line free of charge at this link,
<https://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/georgiabooks/pdfs/gb0503.pdf>



The Heritage of Walton County, Florida. Item code **B13**. History of Walton County's organizations, churches and people. Hard cover, 316 pages, indexed.
\$59.00 plus tax and shipping.



Images of America, DeFuniak Springs. Item code **B06**. By Diane Merkel. Softcover, 128 pages, 185 photos, indexed.
\$21.99 plus tax and shipping.

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From the Editor

Due to many doctor's appointments my wife and I had in the month of March 2020 I was unable to get a newsletter out for that month before it ended. Consequently, this newsletter is for that month but you are receiving it in April instead. From this point forward until the end of 2020 the newsletters will lag a month, i.e. you will receive the one for April in May, and so on for the remainder of the year. I apologize for any inconvenience and hopefully we can get back on schedule beginning in 2021.

The March newsletter features three family stories from the book "The Heritage of Walton County, Florida," on sale at the Walton County Heritage Museum. The stories are "**Rufus and Irene Sunday**," "**Zaphnath Paaneah Turner, Parts 1 and 2**" and "**Michael Vaughan**." As in past practice, we are featuring these stories in the newsletter to reach a wider audience than they would in the "Heiritage" book, because in it they are limited only to those who possess copies of the book.

Sam Carnley
April 17, 2020

Rufus and Irene Sunday

Submitted by Irene Sunday, DeFuniak Springs¹
Transcribed and Edited by Sam Carnley

Rufus Franklin Sunday and Elizabeth Irene Ray Sunday grew up in the North Walton area. They owned and operated Sunday's Grocery on State Hwy. 83 N for 35 years. These are memories of Irene Sunday that she shared with the committee of the Walton County Heritage Book.

We married on March 24, 1940. We have four children; two boys and two girls: William Franklin Sunday, Zane Woodrow Sunday, Wilma Irene Sunday Clark, and Vivian Annette Sunday Wilson. All our children went to Glendale School. They were all privileged to ride a bus.

Rufus and Irene were working in a "canning" plant in Frostproof, located in Polk County, which is about 15 miles below Lake Wales. We lived and worked there for several years until Rufus decided he was ready to move back to Glendale and farm. We purchased some land from Jackson Lumber Co. We cleared a few acres and started farming in 1949. Rufus found he liked it, so each year he would expand a little more. We were on the farm for several years. I enjoyed it there; it is the best place in the world to raise children. We farmed hogs, cows, cotton, peanuts, vegetables, and corn. We farmed about 50 acres with a mule and single plow. "Now that's real farming." The land was good and we made good crops but we just could not get ahead. We did not have a dollar to spend on such things as a pair of shoes, new clothes or anything for the house. That's the nearest we ever came to perishing to death. We sold the farm in March 1963.

I had heard that Sam Pridgen had a little country store for sale in Glendale. I studied on that for a while and I said to Rufus, "Let's go over there and talk to Sam, he has the store for sale." By then the kids were growing up and getting out of school. We decided that the two of us could take care of a store with both of us in it all the time, so we went and talked to Sam. He was in the notion to sell and we were in the notion to buy. Sam's old store was on the west side of State Hwy 83, a little block building with gas pumps out front. We purchased the old store around about 1959. I cannot remember exactly. We did not have any major problems getting started. We more or less got in there, got busy and everything just fell into place. Rufus was very good at math. He could figure in his head better than most people could. The store was so much better than being in the field where it was so hot and all the crops depended so much on the weather. It was a much better life for the two of us. We borrowed the money to buy the store and business was good so we were able to pay back the loan

¹ The Heritage of Walton County, Florida, p. 294

in a very short time. From then on, what we made was ours. We began to make progress and everything looked very favorable. We were just a little country store. As well as groceries, we sold a few clothes, shoes, feed, gas and oil. We stayed in that store 10 years and it got to looking so good to us that we built a new store across the road. Between the two stores, we stayed in the business almost 35 years. Neither of us ever regretted it. "It was the smartest move I ever talked him into."

Retiring was very hard for Rufus, more so than me. He was in his 80s but still loving it. He had to retire because he got sick with cancer and was unable to work. I stayed on working for about two weeks and I came home one night and told him I just could not run the store by myself so we locked the doors and put it up for sale.

Sunday's Grocery is now the "Hitching Post," owned and managed by Chris and Sandra Willis.

Zaphnath Paaneah Turner **(Also called ZNP, Zaf and usually Zaph)**

Submitted by Gene Jones²

Transcribed and Edited by Sam Carnley

Zaphnath is the Biblical name for Joseph (Genesis 41: 45). His name was listed as Zaphus on his marriage license. He settled in Florida in 1842. He was born 11 June 1824 in Cotton Hill, Early, Georgia.

Many of the early Florida pioneers had Indian blood, and the descendants of Zaph Turner were no exception. Chief William McIntosh of the Lower Creek Nation was half white and could trace his family back to the 1500s in Scotland. He had three wives. One of these wives produced a daughter named Catherine (Kate) McIntosh. Kate married another mixed blood named William Cousins. A daughter from this union, Sara, married Zaph Turner.

Family tradition has it that four families began to move to Oklahoma Territory from Ga., the Cousins, turners, Covingtons and Kenningtons. In west Florida at Big Creek, two miles from where Laurel Hill is located, a wagon broke down. They built a camp, found much wild game and fish and a beautiful country to live in. That ended the Oklahoma trip. All spent their lives there and are buried in Crowder Chapel Cemetery, five miles north of Mossy Head, Florida. Extracted from a letter to Dode McIntosh written by Doris T. Padgett (Another account from Matt Turner's MyFamily.com tree):

When Zaph was 17 and living in Stewart County, Georgia, he ran away from home to marry a Creek Indian girl, Sarah Ann Cousins, age 15. They left Georgia with three other related families (Kenningtons, Covingtons and Sarah's parents, William Cousins and Kate McIntosh), planning to migrate west. They crossed into Alabama at Eufaula. All the families were full or part Creek Indians and Eufaula was an Indian village (named for a sub-tribe of the Creek Nation called Eufali). The families stopped at Clayton, Barbour County, where Zaph and Sarah were married on 22 September 1841. They continued on to the fork of the Choctawhatchee and Pea rivers near Geneva, Alabama and the Florida state line. They remained there until after their daughter was born before continuing. They entered Florida and continued west, until about 2 miles from Almarante (present day Laurel Hill) near Big Creek, when a wagon wheel broke. They stopped and made camp to make repairs and liked the area so much that they decided to stay.

Zaph's father, James Turner, sent 2 freed slave couples with mules and wagons to help them get the farm started. They built log cabins and a blacksmith's shop, dammed up Big Creek and built a grist mill (the old mill site is still there). In 1876 they relocated, with sons, Frances Marion and Russell to the Shoal River, 5 miles from Mossy Head and bought an

² Ibid, 298-299

abandoned slave plantation. Zaph and Sarah lived on the south side of the river, the boys lived on the North side and they built a wooden bridge over the river, known as Turner Bridge.

Zaph and Sarah had 15 children, 13 of whom survived. They were buried at Crowder Chapel Cemetery about 3 miles from Mossy Head, Florida.

Zaph was on the Walton County tax rolls for 1855 as ZNP Turner, W-M, 55. On the 1860 census he was listed as Turner, ZH, age 36 born in GA., with wife Sara A., 34, b. GA.; son, William, 15, b. GA.; Mary A, 13, b. FL.; Francis, 11, b. FL.; John R., 9, b. FL.; Elizer, 7, b. FL. and James F., 4, b. FL. On the 1880 census he was listed as Z.N.P. Turner at Precinct 7 & 8 Walton County, FL, Head of Household, age 56. As T N P Turner he was 65 on the 1885 state census of Florida. Wife, Sarah was 60; Lerusa, 22, FL.; Lee, 18; Malone, 17; Lansen, 12; Lanahill, 7/12, g'son; Frank Robinson, 7, g'son.

Zaph's father, James F Turner was born between 1780 and 1790 in Virginia. His mother, Sarah was born 1787 in South Carolina.

Michael Vaughan

Submitted by Marla Drake Dooley³

Transcribed and Edited by Sam Carnley

Michael Vaughan was born ca 1770 in Virginia. A second spelling used by some of his descendants is Vaughn. His wife's name is unknown at this time. Records lead us to believe Michael and wife lived in South Carolina where their five known children were born. The Vaughans were with the first large group of settlers of Walton County in the 1820s. At one time in the county there was a community called "Vaughanville." Census records lead us to believe that Michael's wife died between 1830 and 1840 in Walton, and Michael between 1840 and 1850. No tombstone has been found. Their children were James, Michael, Lucy, Abner Powell and Sarah Nancy Vaughan.

1. James Vaughan was born August 1793 in South Carolina. He was a soldier in the War of 1812. He first married a Miss Jones and they had 3 children. He married 2nd Nancy Anderson, and they had nine children. Nancy was born December 24, 1803 in Scotland, [She could not have been born in Scotland because both her parents were born in Walton County] daughter of Angus L. and Sarah Katherine Broxson Anderson.⁴ James was elected in 1837 to the Legislature, and at one time Justice of the Peace in Walton County. He died in April 1881, and Nancy on May 16, 1879. They are both buried at the McDuffie Cemetery in Holmes County, with several of their children. There is an old family Bible that gave this family's information. His children were: 1. Mary (b. Oct. 4, 1815, SC) married first to Big John Anderson;⁵ second marriage in 1843 to James A. Koonce; 2. Michael (1818-1843); 3. Margaret (1821-1870) married Abner Baker; 4. Angus (1826-1908) married 1858 to Martha O. Caldwell; 5. David (1827-1859) married Elizabeth Evans; 6. Daniel (1828-1910) married Mary Ann Hayes; 7. Rachel (1831-1904) first married Mr. Winslow; second marriage to Marlin Jones Gordon; 8. Catherine (b. 1836); 9. James M. (b. 1838) married Clara McGowan; 10. Archibald (1840-1913) married 1862 to Anna C. Broxson; 11. John P. (1842-1907) married Sarah Ann Evans, and 12. William P. Vaughn (b. 1844) married Susannah Sutton Padgett.

2. Michael Vaughan was born ca. 1796, with records leading us to believe he died in the 1880s in Holmes County. His wife was Margaret (b. ca. 1805 NC), with maiden name unknown. His children fought in the War Between the States, became Florida State Senators and superintendents of schools. Michael and Margaret were the parents of five known children: 1. Wm. P. (1831-1916) married Susannah "Ann" Padgett; 2. John Angus (b. ca. 1832), married twice; 3. Rachel (b. ca. 1835), 4. Nancy (b. ca. 1837) and 5. Abner Michael Vaughan (1841-1905) married Emma Alford.

³ Ibid, 299-300

⁴ Sam Carnley, Editor, *Angus Lane Anderson Family*, WCHA, Walton Relations & History newsletter, February 2020, <http://www.waltoncountyheritage.org/GenSoc/NL2020Feb.pdf>

⁵ Ibid, 1. (killed by Creek Indians in spring 1837 at beginning of the Walton County Indian War. He was an uncle of Angus L. Anderson).

3. Lucy Vaughan was born ca. 1800. She married May 21, 1818 Laurens County, Georgia, Sylvanus Caswell (b. ca. 1798, GA.). They were the parents of eleven children and settled in the Alaqua Community of Walton. See Caswell family. Children: Dolly, Rachel, Sabrina, Celia, James Exum, James A., Michael Vaughn, Giles, Nancy Lucy and Sarah Caswell.

4. Abner Powell Vaughan was born ca. 1802. Abner was at Cowford, on the Choctawhatchee River while chasing Seminole Indians in 1836 when he was killed.

5. Sarah Nancy Vaughan was born ca 1803. She married John Edmund Jones (b. Jan. 6, 1802, S. C.), a doctor. Sarah and John had six children born in Walton County, with Sarah dying in 1836 after the birth of her last child. Their children were: 1. Mary (1825-1869) married Elias Trowell Rudd; 2. Martha (b. 1828) married J. Hosea Caloway; 3. Charles Cade (b. 1829) married Jane Chalker; 4. Rachael (b. 1831) married Jeff Irvin; 5. Rebecca (b. 1832) married Frank Reeves and 6. Sara Jones (b. 1836).