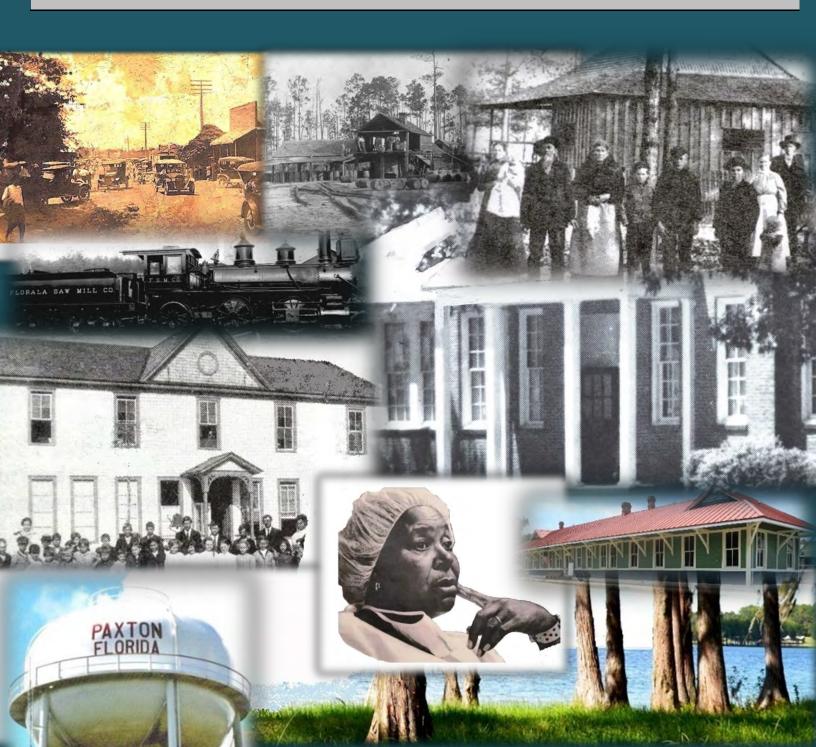


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WALTON COUNTY HERITAGE ASSOCIATION, INC.

OFFICE LOCATION

Walton County Heritage Museum, (Old Train Depot) Hours: Open Tuesday – Saturday, 1:00 – 4:00 PM

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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.
- 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.
- 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 <u>http://www.waltoncountyheritage.org/GenSoc/NL2018Sep.pdf</u> 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. Florala 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 a 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:

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- 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.

Individual Membership Application http://www.waltoncountyheritage.org/Membership2020.pdf

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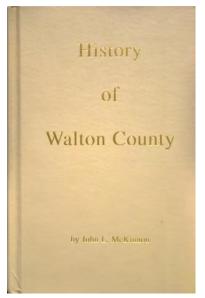
- Automatic membership in the Walton County Heritage Museum and the Walton County Genealogy Society.
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- Free subscriptions to the WCHA Newsletter and Journal.

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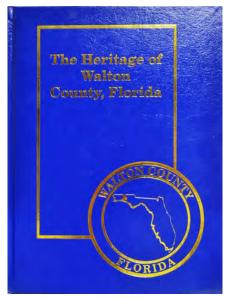
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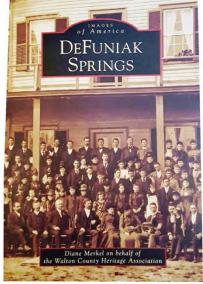
History of Walton County by John L. McKinnon. The Museum has sold out of this book and it is out of print, but it is available on line free of charge at this link, https://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/georgiaboo ks/pdfs/gb0503.pdf

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The Ayala Expedition of 1693 Revisited

By

Sam Carnley

This article includes subject matter addressed in two previous newsletters and in that sense, is a revisit of those subjects. The earliest was the September 2014 article about a 1677 Apalachee Indian attack on an enemy Indian village and a mysterious battle axe.¹ This article includes a major update on the battle axe. The second was a January 2015 article about the 1693 Ayala expedition,² of which this article serves as an update on a dugout canoe referenced in that article, in addition to the battle axe. All these stories relate to Walton County, Florida history.

In 1693, the Spanish Knight and newly appointed governor of the St. Augustine province of Florida, Don Laureano de Torres y Ayala, received a royal decree from the king of Spain to lead an expedition across West Florida from San Luis de Apalachee in present day Tallahassee to Pensacola Bay. The Franciscan priests, Friars Rodrigo de la Barreda and Pedro Galindez, would accompany him. His pack train of seventy-six horses with an escort of 30 Spanish infantry and seventy-four Apalachee Indians departed San Luis on June 7th. On the evening of the 9th, they arrived at the Palos [**Apalachicola**] **River in the vicinity of today's City of Chattahoochee. Ayala and the friars crossed the** river by dugout to the Choctaw village of San Carlos de los Chacatos on the west bank, where they slept. The following morning, the pack train crossed over and joined them at the village,³ (which stood on the **bluff overlooking today's Jim Woodruff dam, north of U. S. Highway 90 in eastern Jackson County**).

Ayala kept the expedition there the day of the 10th while he enlisted the services of five Choctaw Indians as guides. On the 11th, they resumed travel, crossing Jackson County and arriving on the 12th at the abandoned Choctaw (Chacato) village site of San Nicolas about three miles north-west of presentday Marianna. Friar Barreda recalled, undoubtedly with mixed emotions, how he had preached at San Nicolas in 1674 before dissidents opposed to his religious teaching incited a revolt that nearly cost him his life. On the 13th, Barreda, leading a squad of five infantry and twenty Indians, set out to explore and clear a trail a day in advance of the expedition. After hiking 5 leagues (about 13 miles) northwest, the party crossed a stream, probably Holmes Creek, on the morning of the 14th. Marching the rest of the day to the northwest and covering another 4 or 5 leagues (13 miles), they camped that evening, possibly in the vicinity of Smith Crossroads in the northern edge of Holmes County, about a mile south of the Alabama line.

¹ Carnley, Sam, "*The Chisca Palissade, And the tale of a Mysterious Battle Axe,*" (Walton County Heritage Assoc., Inc., Walton Relations, Volume 5, Issue 10, September 2014), 2-5. http://www.waltoncountyheritage.org/GenSoc/NL2014Sep.pdf

² Carnley, Sam, *"Chestnut Trees Knights and Priests, Once Upon a Time in Walton County,"* (Walton County Heritage Assoc., Inc., Walton Relations, Volume 6, Issue 3, January 2015), 1-3. http://www.waltoncountyheritage.org/GenSoc/NL2015Jan.pdf

³ Irving A. Leonard," *Spanish Approach to Pensacola, 1689-1693,*" (The Quivira Society, © 1939, The University Press, Albuquerque, N. M.), 211, 229-232, 266-269.

Turning west-southwest on the morning of the 15th, they encountered a swift river after a short march of a league and a half (4 miles). On determining the need for a boat to cross the stream, Barreda **ordered a "baria" tree felled from which to build one. On the 16**th, while work progressed in preparing the log for hewing into a dugout, Ayala arrived with the pack train. The boat was completed on the 19th, and launched the morning of the 20th. It made many round trips across the river in ferrying the supplies, saddles, harnesses and men to the other side. The packs were reloaded on the horses after they swam across. Ayala posted four Indians to guard the dugout until the expedition returned. Available information however, does not reveal whether the expedition returned over land, or sailed back on the vessel Ayala dispatched from the port of San Marcos (St. Marks, south of present-day Tallahassee) de Apalache to rendezvous with him at Pensacola Bay. Having overcome the obstacle of the river and before putting it behind him, Ayala named it Santa Rosa. The Choctaws mistakenly informed him it flowed into Pensacola Bay. Instead, it flowed into the bay the Spaniards called Santa Rosa, but known now as Choctawhatchee, as is the River. An article recently coming to light states:

Reportedly, the largest dug-out canoe found in North America was found near the mouth of Choctawhatchee River in 1965. This canoe, with a small section of one end broken off, was 46 feet long. It was displayed at the Barrett's Store in Point Washington for some time and was later bought by the owner of the Indian Springs Museum at Tallulah Falls, Georgia. In 1971 it was on display in a museum in Michigan.⁴

The article does not cite its sources and I have not, as of this writing, been able to determine its origin. Just short of fifty feet in length, the canoe as described is the sort of craft the expedition needed for the quickest crossing of the Choctawhatchee. An internet search for an Indian Springs Museum in Tallulah Falls failed to turn up such a museum at that location. A similar search of Michigan museums was unsuccessful in locating one that would admit to having the canoe among its collections or to knowing anything about it. Inquiries of newspapers in surrounding areas have also returned negative responses. **Could this have been Ayala's dugout?** Possibly, but the answer remains unknown as of this writing.

Proceeding west-southwest from the river later in the day of the crossing, the expedition ground to an exhausted halt after struggling one or two difficult leagues (3 to 5 miles) in building a road over a miry stretch of mud in their path. The going on the 21st was easier on firm ground over which they traveled slightly more than 4 leagues (10 miles) in the same direction as the day before. It was not the **terrain, but oppressive heat that ended that day's march. To give the men relief from it, Ayala brought** the procession to a halt at a creek in shady woods where they pitched camp. Both Ayala and Barreda remarked on the chestnut trees they saw there. Ayala only alluded to them in his comment that; **"in the woods about were several chestnut, pin oak, and pine trees." Barreda, on the other hand, seemed more** taken with the chestnut trees; **"we found a large number of sturdy chestnut trees. If they had been in**

⁴ Gillis, Harold W., *"Flint Chips, Artifacts From Walton County and Vicinity,"* (Walton County Heritage Assoc., Inc., Walton Relations and History, Volume 11, Issue 6, April 2020), 6. <u>http://www.waltoncountyheritage.org/GenSoc/NL2020Apr.pdf</u>

season, we would have gathered a good many nuts." He made no mention of any other trees as Ayala had.

The distance the expedition traveled from Choctawhatchee River at that point was about 6 leagues, or 15 miles, according to Ayala's estimates. Barreda reckoned it to be about 5 leagues, or 13 miles. Based on map mileage, those estimates brought them into the eastern edge of today's Walton County. Chestnut Creek at Darlington, 13 miles from the river and two miles into the county, correlates closely with Barreda's numbers. Did chestnut trees ever grow on the present- day creek of that name, and could it have been where the expedition camped? Again, the answer to that remains unknown.

On departing the chestnut grove encampment, the morning of June 22, the expedition, according to Ayala:

marched in varying directions as we rounded various thickets, and I traveled four leagues [10.4 miles]. After being distressed by the fact that the creek [we encountered] came from a pond of very poor and warmish water, it pleased God, our Lord, that we should discover a very excellent spring, clear and cool, and this delighted us all greatly.

Ayala did not give the direction of travel on the 22nd Neither did Barreda, who made the observation that they:

Went a little more than three leagues [7.8 miles] in varying directions, crossing creeks and bogs and getting around others, until we pitched camp by the side of a large pond of decidedly poor water. Here with the heat torturing us our Lord gave us a spring of such refreshing water that it relieved us considerably.

Using Ayala's four league estimate of distance traveled on the 22nd, the pond and spring would have been in the area of today's Cluster Springs Baptist Church which is about ten miles south-west of Chestnut Creek at Darlington. A 2006 Walton County road map shows two ponds with streams emanating from them within 2 miles or less of Cluster Springs in the south- east corner of the intersection of County Road 2A and U. S. Hwy 331 in sections 14 and 15. One pond drains into Bee Branch east of Hwy 331 and could be natural. The other, about a mile west of Cluster Springs, appears to have been dammed. But the fact that they have run-off streams indicates they are both spring fed. Looking at the map using Barreda's estimate of three leagues or 7.8 miles, south-west of Darlington reveals no landmarks fitting the description of ponds and springs. But, once again, there is no hard evidence the expedition passed through this area.

On the 23rd they started out west- northwest but were confounded after half a league when the Choctaw guide confessed to not knowing the way to Pensacola Bay. Ayala then decided to head west and west-southwest in which direction they traveled five leagues (13.0 miles) before camping. This **path seems to have taken them into today's Okaloosa C**ounty where they conceivably passed near present- day Dorcas about a mile north of Shoal River.

Fast forwarding some two centuries to the late 1800s, William McCallum plowed up in the field of his Dorcas farm a mysterious object he thought was an Indian tomahawk. Many decades later, the

artifact became a sensation when a reporter from the Pensacola News Journal published an article about it in 1967 stating the object might actually be a 16th century Spanish battle axe:

William A. McCallum went about his plowing not too much concerned about other things. Had he wanted to yield to diverting thoughts, there were many subjects to take his mind of the turning over of his soil as he plodded behind the plow. For one thing, on that day in 1880, there was speculation over whether James A. Garfield or Winfield S. Hancock would be elected President.

McCallum reined his mule to a halt after he heard the ping of the plow blade striking a metallic object in the ground. He knelt and with his hands he dug loose an object which was dirty yellow in color after he had shaken dust of possibly several centuries from it. McCallum held a thing shaped into a sweeping axe head on one side opposite a down-curved prong resembling a ditch digger's pick, of which the tip had been broken.

He laid aside his find until the time came to knock off plowing for other chores on his farm near the community of Dorcas, and he carried it to the house. "I plowed up this thing," he said, handing it to his son, Willie Douglas. "It must be an old Indian tomahawk." McCallum, whose forbears had come to this country from Scotland in 1780, never paid much more attention to the object he had uncovered and it became a doorstop in his log house. He certainly gave no thoughts to it in subsequent years, especially after Postmaster General John H. Wanamaker appointed him the Dorcas postmaster July 18, 1892. He was 81 when he died in 1931 and the family doorstop became the property of his son, Willie, who continued to refer to it as a "tomahawk."

Willie McCallum's son, Martel, now an Okaloosa sheriff's deputy of 161 North St., played with "Grandpa's tomahawk" as a child. He recalls chopping in the dirt and digging with it about the family's old home. As Martel grew, he began to question his grandfather's acceptance of the plowed-up item as an Indian tomahawk. He said all kinds of true Indian arrow heads and tomahawks had been dug up over the years on the farm, but they were all out of stone, never metal. He convinced his family that maybe they had possession of an old Spanish battle axe, because its substance was either bronze or brass.

"I'm not a scholar of Indian life and their methods of making weapons," Martel said, "but I never heard of Indians using bronze or brass." He has been the caretaker of his grandfather's farm find since his father died.

"Before my father died," Martel declared, "he gave me the axe or whatever it honestly is and told me to always keep it in the family." Needless to say, the object hasn't been used as a doorstop for years and Martel protects it carefully in his home. Friends and others who have examined the thing believe it to be a 16th century Spanish battle axe or possibly an axe used by Spaniards in trading with Indians on Northwest Florida.

Its handle was broken off about three inches below the head and Martel even **conjectures that what he has may be all that's left of a standard piece of equipment for** Spanish soldiers of the 16th century. He recalled pictures of Spaniards astride horses while they held a five or six-foot lengthy handled weapon with a head just like his possession. The prong of the object actually a continuation of the handle, also was broken off before it was uncovered and Martel thinks it may have originally been a spear. A little imagination by Martel produces a picture of the **Spanish Battle axe, if that's what it is,** being broken in combat.

The head weighs 2½ pounds and it has all the heft and cracking abilities required to open the skull of any person with whom it comes in contact. Martel said it's not inconceivable that the head was snapped off during a fight between Indians and Spaniards and was left on the battlefield.



Figure 1. Possible Spanish battle axe plowed up in his field by William A. McCallum of Dorcas, Okaloosa County, Florida, either in late 1800s or early 1900s. Photo by Ira Brock, Pensacola News Journal (Pensacola, Florida), 26 February, 1967, Sun, Page 43. Used with permission.

If so, it lay for a long time in untilled soil, beaten down by the **weather, until dug up by Martel's** grandfather 86 years ago. The deputy has become convinced that the axe was made of bronze instead of brass. He based that conclusion upon tests with a knife blade which showed the metal was especially hard. He has thought a lot of late about trying to have scientists or historians determine beyond a doubt exactly what the origin of his prized possession was.

"But I wouldn't know where to start," he sighed. "and I don't have the time nor the money, to under-**take that project." Just knowing** that he is the owner of a possible Spanish battle axe centuries old is sufficient pleasure for Martel McCallum.⁵ (See photo, figure 1).

Although Martel stated in the article that when his father gave him the axe, he requested that he always keep it in the family, that is not what Martel did. Sometime after publication of the article

Martel donated the axe to the Smithsonian Institution, and presumably, that is where it remains today. Juan Martel McCallum died on 19 August 1985 at the young age of 63 never having fulfilled his

desire to learn the axe's origin. Pam McCallum Pursley, Martel's niece, inherited from her uncle the role of care taker of the axe's history. She now owns the property where her great grandfather found it. She lives across the road from the site and says she knows the exact spot on the property where the relic was found because her grandmother drilled it into her head as a child.

The property is located in section 35, township 4 north and range 22 west, in the community of Dorcas, Okaloosa County, Florida. A part of Walton County until creation of Okaloosa in 1915, the deed records of the property before that year remain in Walton County's official records housed at the courthouse in De Funiak Springs.

There was, of course, no Walton County when Ayala's expedition passed through the area in 1693 but its path may very well have taken it near where the axe was found. It should not be assumed that the expedition was the source of the axe, although it could have been.

⁵ Brock, Ira, *William McCallum Find May Be Spanish Relic*, (Pensacola News Journal, Pensacola, Florida, 26 February 1967), 43-44. Used with permission.

According to the journal of Ayala, members of the expedition included 30 Spanish infantrymen. Among their armaments were muskets and pistols. The sword also was a common side arm of soldiers at the time although no mention of them or the battle axe appears in expedition accounts. In 1693, the 17th century was coming to an end whereas the McCallum style battle axe had seen its heyday in the 14th through 16th centuries in old world countries. Battle axe was a generic term for several subcategories **of poled weaponry. McCallum's version was known as** a halberd, which:

consists of an axe blade topped with a spike mounted on a long shaft [or pole]. It always has a hook or thorn on the back side of the blade for grappling mounted combatants [and dragging them off their horses onto the ground]. In length it was usually 5 to 6 feet long. Troops who used the weapon were called halberdiers [alabardero in Spanish].⁶

An account and illustration of halberdiers comes from:

Tercio, a type of Spanish pike and shot infantry unit known for its numerous victories on the battlefields of Europe during the 16th and first half of the 17th century, and was a major development of early modern combined arms warfare.⁷

The leader of the Tercio was known as Maistre de Campo, or Field Master; appointed by the king. His bodyguard consisted of 8 halberdiers who accompanied him everywhere he went. Pikes (as distinguished from halberds) were 15-foot-long poles tipped with metal spear points. Pikemen, or piqueros in Spanish, wielded them in battle. A company of them numbered 150. Supporting them were up to 100 arquebusiers, or arcabuceros. Muskets later replaced the arquebuses, making those wielding them musketeers. The company also included a number of swordsmen whose job it was to dispatch enemy combatants escaping the pikemen and musketeers. **Spain's Tercios won their last major victory of the 17**th century against the French at **the Battle of Valenciennes in 1656.** Ayala's expedition took place 37 years later. Possibly, halberds from the Tercios made their way **into the hands of Ayala's** infantrymen, one of whom conceivably left his on the trail at Dorcas for William **McCallum to plow up. McCallum's halberd intact with spike and shaft would have** appeared as depicted in the image of a Tercio halberdier in figure 2.8



There remains one aspect of McCallum's relic for which no clear explanation was found in historical accounts researched. Martel states in the Pensacola Journal article that he thought the artifact was made of either bronze or brass. It was probably bronze as history identifies that as the metal most often used in making old world weaponry during a certain era. Iron and steel technology were contemporaneous with late era bronze technology which extended well beyond what is historically known as the "Bronze Age." What favored bronze as the metal of choice was that iron, and especially

⁶ Halberd, <u>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Halberd</u>, accessed 9/29/2020

⁷ Tercio, <u>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tercio</u>, accessed 9/29/2020

⁸ Ibid.

⁶

steel, were much more expensive for use in weaponry. Information from the sources researched do not specify the type metal of which halberds of the 16th and early 17th centuries were made. But due to its lower cost, it is entirely possible some halberds were still being made of bronze rather than steel at that point in time. Alternatively, the shelf life of bronze protected from corrosive elements is unknown. In view of that, the Spaniards may have retained bronze halberds in their arsenals for many hundreds of years beyond their manufactured dates. Such variables would seem to render almost impossible assigning a date of fabrication or use to the McCallum find.

Regardless of whether the McCallum halberd came from Ayala's expedition, an attempted plotting of his path across the Florida panhandle using landmarks identified in his and Friar Barreda's journals indicates they may have passed through the area. County maps depicting what may be the approximate path follow. The expedition continued on through today's Okaloosa and Santa Rosa counties and accomplished its goal of reaching Pensacola Bay in early July 1693.

