



WALTON RELATIONS

Volume 7, Issue 1

Walton County Genealogy Society

October 2015

Genealogy Events This Month

Friday, October 9, Milton: Genealogy and Local History Fair sponsored by the Santa Rosa County Library System at the Milton Library, 5541 Alabama Street, from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Over 15 local genealogical societies, historical societies, lineage societies, and other local organizations will share information and displays about how those interested can be involved. Door prizes include books and annual subscriptions to several online websites. The Fair is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Margaret Chatraw at 850-981-4066.

Sunday, October 18, Freeport: Dedication Ceremony for Phase II of Hatcher Cemetery, which adjoins the original cemetery on West Co. Hwy. 83-A, at 2:00 p.m. Hatcher Cemetery has served the Portland-Freeport area since 1852 and is one of the largest rural cemeteries in the south. It has few burial plots left, so Phase II is needed. Larry Mathews of GLMCO, the company that restored the Confederate Monument, plotted the nine acres of Phase II.

Saturday, October 24, Panama City: Bay County Genealogical Society Fall Seminar at the Forest Park United Methodist Church, 1401 W. 23rd Street, from 8:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Session topics include Scratching for the Elusive Ancestor, Using the Whole Google Website, Strange Websites for Family History Research, and Courthouse Records. There is a fee (\$30.00 for non-members) that includes lunch. Registration: www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flbcgs/seminar/fallseminar2015.pdf.

Please note that is the same day as the Walton County Heritage Association's meeting in Eucheeanna featuring **Bruce Cosson**. See www.waltoncountyheritage.org.

Genealogy Meeting

The Walton County Genealogy Society will meet on Saturday, October 17, at 10:00 a.m. at the Walton County Heritage Museum. Everyone interested in genealogy is welcome to attend. The Society will not meet in November or December.

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

Deaths at Vicksburg

By Diane Merkel



In late June, when my husband Chuck and I were returning from a week in Fort Worth, Texas, we decided to stop by the Vicksburg (Mississippi) National Military Park. As is usual for us, we first stopped by the bookstore/gift shop to watch a film about the battlefield and were pleased to learn that we qualified for the Senior Pass.¹ For \$10 (each), we now have lifetime access to all National Parks. What a deal!

My husband is a professional historian and avid book collector, and I doubt we have ever left a bookstore without a purchase. On this trip, a large spiral-bound book caught my attention, *Confederate Roll of Honor: Known Confederate Dead, Vicksburg Campaign, January 1862-July 1863*.² I was certain I had read that at least one of those listed on the Walton County Confederate Monument was killed at Vicksburg, so I bought it. Our “stop” at Vicksburg ended after spending the entire day there. We lost track of the time and were briefly locked inside the park (they have an automated rescue gate for people like us) and we could have spent another day there. We highly recommend getting the audio tour and taking the 16-mile drive through the park.

Since Chuck is not only my husband but also my chauffeur, I used the trip home to check my new book against the 2012 newsletters³ that listed the names and information about the men listed on the Confederate Monument. No, I am not so crazy that I take copies of the newsletters with me on trips; I was able to access them from my cell phone. The small print was a bit challenging, but it was worth it when I discovered the Walton County man, J. Nelson.

To quote from Mark Curenton’s research:



Nelson, J., 1st Florida Infantry Regiment, Co. E

1860 Walton Co. Census - Joseph Nelson, Page 29, Family # 190, 21 years old. farmer.

Biographical Rosters - Page 108, Nelson, Josiah (b. 1839) enlisted 3/1/62 at Camp Walton. He was captured 10/11/62 in Harrodsburg KY and exchanged at Vicksburg in late 1862. He was 6', grey eyes, light skin & hair. He died 1/31/63 in a Vicksburg Hospital and was buried in a local Confederate cemetery, potter's field grave #724m in the North West Quadrant, Section B.

Soldiers of Florida - Page 67, Nelson, Josiah died at Harrodsburg, Ky., February 28, 1863.⁴

The book lists him as Pvt. Joseph Nelson, Co. E, 1st Florida Infantry, who died on 31 January 1863 in the City Hospital at Vicksburg, but he is not buried in a potter’s field, which implies a grave for an indigent person. He has a headstone in Cedar Hill Cemetery, the Confederate cemetery in Vicksburg, although this photograph appears to have him in Company N.⁵ He did not die in Kentucky.

I recently resumed my Nelson research. I found, if family trees are to be believed, his full name was Josiah Joseph Nelson although he is listed on the monument as simply J. Nelson. He was born in 1837 in Conecuh County, Alabama, to Leonard T. Nelson and his wife, Lurena Elizabeth Hudgens Nelson, who were both from Georgia. Josiah had three brothers and three sisters, all of whom were born in Alabama, except the youngest girl Sarah who was born in Florida about 1846. The family appeared in Santa Rosa County in the census of 1850,⁶ the year Leonard died. By 1860, the year their mother Lurena and brother William died, they were living in Eucheeanna in Walton County.⁷ It is reasonable that Josiah Joseph Nelson would have enlisted at Camp Walton in 1862, so I believe this is, in fact, the man listed on the Walton County Confederate Monument.

While researching Nelson, I may have discovered another Walton County resident who is buried in the same Cedar Hill Cemetery in Vicksburg. The Confederate Monument lists him simply as “J. Ward.”

Isaac W. Ward was born in Walton County to David Ward (1797-1863) and Mary Rutha Kirkland Ward (1807-1895). The 1860 census⁸ for Eucheeanna does not list David but shows Rutha with ten others between the ages of 1 and 29, including Isaac.

The *Confederate Roll of Honor* lists Isaac W. Ward as a Private in Company D of the 1st Florida



Infantry who died on 23 December 1862 in the Vicksburg Hospital. He is listed as being buried at Soldier’s Rest, which is another name for Cedar Hill Cemetery. His military records (accessed on Fold3.com) show he enlisted at Camp Walton on 28 February 1862 and was taken as a prisoner of war in Munfordville, Kentucky, on 22 October 1862. He was transported to Cairo, Illinois, the following month and was most likely part of a prisoner exchange, ending up in the hospital at Vicksburg as so many did.

This marker has the name as “J. W. Ward” from Company D of the 1st Florida Infantry.⁹ The only “J. Ward” listed in the *Confederate Roll of Honor* was in the Louisiana Heavy Artillery Battalion. Findagrave.com has a listing for Pvt. Isaac W. Ward, who is buried in Cedar Hill Cemetery, but it does not include a photograph. I believe the “J.” on this gravestone and the “J.” on the Confederate Monument should have been “I.” instead.

To confuse matters all the more, there is another listing for a burial of an Isaac Ward in the Potters Field in Canton, Mississippi, that is linked to an Ancestry.com fact sheet on Isaac W. Ward. That man died five days after the Walton County Isaac Ward and, according to the “fact” sheet, he was buried almost a year before he died – poor fellow!

This research project is another reminder to be careful with “facts” you have not been able to support with primary sources. The more I attempted to research these two men, the more confused I became. I feel fairly confident in stating that Josiah Joseph Nelson and Isaac W. Ward are the men on the Walton County Confederate Monument, but I welcome any conflicting theories and information.

Endnotes:

¹ See “Overview of the Senior Pass” at <http://store.usgs.gov/pass/senior.html>.

² Gary W. Webster, comp. *Confederate Roll of Honor: Known Confederate Dead, Vicksburg Campaign, January 1862-July 1863* (Vicksburg: “Ole Sow” Publications, 2009). Available online at “Confederate Interments,” <http://www.nps.gov/vick/learn/historyculture/confederate-interments.htm>.

³ See the January-June 2012 issues of *Walton Relations*: <http://www.waltoncountyheritage.org/GenSoc/newsletters.htm>.

⁴ Mark Curenton, comp. “Names Listed on the Confederate Memorial on the Courthouse Grounds at DeFuniak Springs, Florida.” *Walton Relations*, Vol. 3, No. 7, May 2012, p. 4. <http://www.waltoncountyheritage.org/GenSoc/NL2012May.pdf>.

⁵ Photograph from <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=19189111&ref=acom>.

⁶ United States of America, Bureau of the Census. Seventh Census of the United States, 1850. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1850. M432, Page 241, Image 462.

⁷ United States of America, Bureau of the Census. Eighth Census of the United States, 1860. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1860. M653, Page 956, Image 427.

⁸ United States of America, Bureau of the Census. Eighth Census of the United States, 1860. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1860. M653, Page 990, Image 461.

⁹ Photograph from <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=19189191>.

6th Florida Infantry Regiment

Mathew Sterman has written an extensive, thoroughly researched article for Wikipedia about the 6th Florida Infantry: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/6th_Florida_Infantry_Regiment. Walton County had many men in that regiment, including many who are honored on the Confederate Monument. Sterman discovered we were looking for additional information about the McSween brothers back in June 2012, and that piqued his interest because Robert McSween served in the 6th Florida Infantry. We hope to bring you more information about the McSween brothers in a future issue. In the meantime, he located this portrait of 2nd Lieutenant Robert D. McSween on [Florida Memory](#).



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