



WALTON

RELATIONS & HISTORY

Volume 15, Issue 8

Walton County Heritage Association

August 2024



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
Phone: 850-401-2060**

Website: <http://www.waltoncountyheritage.org/#>

Email: heritagemuseum@brighthouse.com

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Vice President: Carolyn Brown

Treasurer: Vacant

Secretary: Susan Horaist

Public Relations

Vacant

Museum Docent Coordinator

Carolyn Brown

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

Cover Design: Sam Carnley

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 Floralia 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:

- 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 varying amounts for donors as shown on attached Annual Donor/Member Application for 2024. Donor logos are also shown on the attached Donor page in the monthly newsletter.

Annual Member/Sponsor Application 2024; See attached.

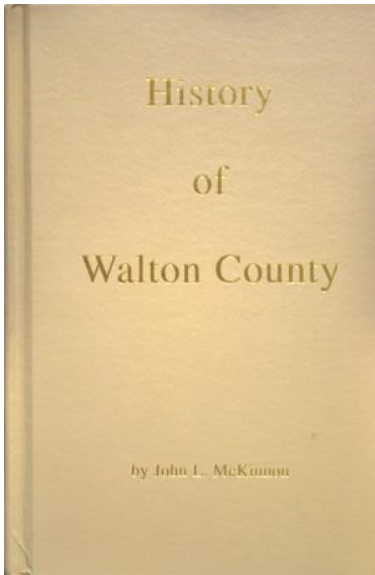
Member Benefits:

- 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.

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From the Museum Gift Shop

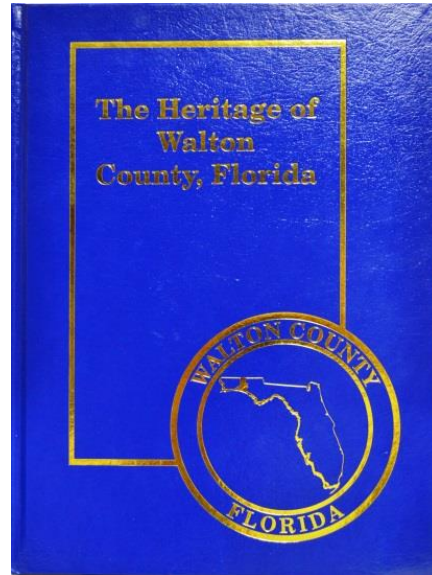
Our most popular books



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 at these links;

<https://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/georgiabooks/pdfs/gb0503.pdf>, and <https://www.alibris.com/booksearch?mtype=B&keyword=history+of+walton+county&hs.x=0&hs.y=0>



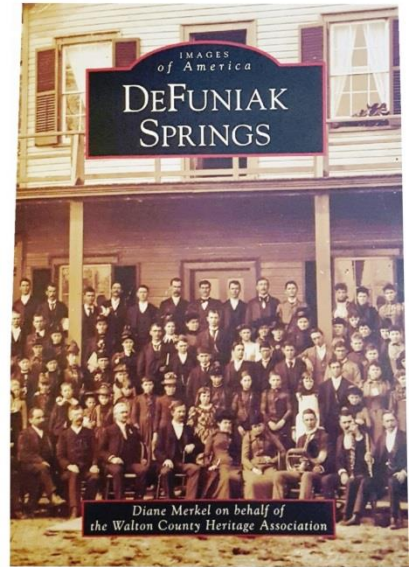
The Heritage of Walton County, Florida. Item code B13.

Price: (Reduced) \$40.00

Tax: 2.80

Shipping: 8.00

Total by mail **\$50.80**



Images of America, DeFuniak Springs. Item code B06.

By Diane Merkel. Price, including tax,

\$23.53.

MAIL ORDER FORM

Walton County Heritage Association
1140 Circle Drive
DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435

Customer Name: _____

Address: _____

Ph./Email: _____

Quantity	Description	Item Code	Price Each*	Amount
	The Heritage of Walton County, Florida	B13	50.80	
	Images of America, DeFuniak Springs.	B06	31.53	

*Price includes tax at 7% and shipping of \$8.00 per item.

Total

Sorry, credit cards not accepted. Please send check or money orders only. Do not mail cash. Please allow two weeks for delivery.



Walton County Heritage Association, Inc.

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Website: <http://www.waltoncountyheritage.org>

Email: HeritageMuseum@bighthouse.com

ANNUAL MEMBER/SPONSOR APPLICATION 2024

Name:

Individual/Family _____

Sponsor/Business/Company _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Member/Sponsor Category:

() Individual \$25.00, () Family \$40.00, () Sponsor \$100.00, () Silver Sponsor \$500.00, () Gold Sponsor \$1,000.00, () Platinum Sponsor \$2,000.00, () Additional Gift \$ _____ * Total Enclosed \$ _____ *Gift earmarked for: _____

Our Mission

The Walton County Heritage Association is a nonprofit organization that was organized for four main purposes:

1. To promote the preservation and restoration of buildings and other landmarks of historical interest within Walton County;
2. 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;
3. To foster and enhance the development, education, and sense of history which is unique to Walton County; and
4. To secure cooperation and unity of action between individual citizens, businesses, and other groups as may be necessary to fulfill these purposes.

* Additional gift of over \$2,000.00 (any amount in excess of that number) would be greatly appreciated. You may earmark this gift for a specific expense/purchase of gift items for our museum.

• All donor categories are entitled to membership in the museum and Genealogy Society and 10% discount on museum gift shop purchases.

• For all levels of Sponsorship, the Walton County Heritage Association, Inc. will acknowledge sponsors on our website, in our newsletter and on a permanent plaque in the Museum. Sponsorships are on an annual basis from January to December. This is an acknowledgement of your gift only and does NOT constitute advertisement or the promotion of any individual, business or organization by the WCHA.

Please mail your check and this form to:
WALTON COUNTY HERITAGE ASSOCIATION, INC. 1140 Circle Drive, DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435.
THANK YOU!!!

The Walton County Heritage Association, Inc., is a 501(C)(3) charitable organization as defined by the IRS Code. Gifts may be tax deductible as defined by the Federal Income Tax Regulations. To request a receipt for your tax-deductible membership in the WCHA, or donation, please contact us.

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. REF: WALTON COUNTY HERITAGE ASSOCIATION, INC., DTN3054584, CH52108.

OUR SPONSORS for 2024

We dedicate this page to our sponsors in recognition of their generous support of our mission.

SPONSORS (\$100-\$499.00)

David Bludworth-\$100.00
Grace L. Marse-\$100.00
Ken & Gator Little-\$100.00
Sally Merrifield-\$100.00
Sam and Nell Carnley-\$100.00
Marie G. Hinson-\$100.00

SILVER SPONSORS (\$500 to \$999.00)

(None at present time)

GOLD SPONSORS (\$1,000 to \$1,999)

(None at present)

PLATINUM SPONSORS (\$2,000 and up)

City of DeFuniak Springs



In the past the city has generously supported us with cash donations of \$2,000.00 annually, but due to changing budget priorities, was unable to do so in recent years. We wish to recognize the city's generosity however, for its **in-kind** donation of the RR depot which serves as the Walton County Heritage Association, Inc., Museum and administrative facility. The city provides maintenance and up-keep on the facility, and payment of electrical, water and waste disposal services as well. The value of this facility to us is far in excess of \$2,000.00 annually, for which we are deeply appreciative. Thank you, City of DeFuniak Springs.

A Note From the Editor

Our New Walton County History project is going more slowly than we anticipated. Consequently we do not have another chapter ready for this newsletter. As in the past when that happened, we substituted material from other sources for our newsletter. Our August article is about members of the Bowers family from the Heritage Book, pages 109-110. As always, in the interest of making our articles as factual as we can to the extent of our knowledge, please let us know of any errors, mistakes, etc. you find in them. Thank you.

Sam Carnley

Eliud Bowers Family Heritage

**Submitted by
Charlot Evon Bowers Lindsey**

**Transcribed and edited by
Sam Carnley**

Our family records show that Edward Bowers was born abt. 1790 in VA. He was married to Rebecca, last name unknown. Of this marriage was born 3 children, 1. Giles Bowers, born 06-06-1814 in Colleton District, SC. Died, 01-15-1876 in Walton County and is buried in Euchee Valley Cemetery. Married Christian Curry McKinnon in 1845. 2. James Edward Bowers, born 03-04-1817, in Laurens Co., Georgia. Died 12-13-1899 in Walton County and is buried in Euchee Valley Cemetery. 3. John Wesley Bowers (my Great- Great-Grandfather), born 08-26-1819, in Laurens Co., Georgia. The history records show that he came to Walton County sometime before 1845 because his first child, Michael Bowers was born 08-28-1845. He later moved to Texas before 1880. Died 02-25-1899 in Rusk Co., TX and is buried in Old Prospect Cemetery, Rusk Co., TX. He married first to Sarah McCaskill, born in SC in 1825. Died on 06-24- 1870 in Walton Co. Buried in Euchee Valley Cemetery # 331. After her death John Wesley married Frances Providence Rigdon.

My name is Charlot Evon Bowers, Lindsey. John Wesley Bowers and Sarah McCaskill, Bowers are my Great- Great- Grandparents. Michael was my Great Grandfather. He and 2 of his brothers (William L. And Fenley A. Bowers) remained in Walton County when John Wesley moved to Texas.

Children born to John Wesley and Sarah Bowers: 1. Michael Bowers, born 08-28-1845 in Walton County, FL.

Died 09-16-1924. Buried in Euchee Valley Cemetery (#336); 2. William L. Bowers, born 1847. Died 1875. Buried in Euchee Valley Cemetery. Married Nancy M. McLeod; 3. Fenley A. Bowers, born 1849 in Walton Co. FL. Buried in Euchee Valley Cemetery (#332); 4. Giles Wesley Bowers, born 03-1852 in Walton Co. Died 1905 in Panola Co., TX. Married the first time to Laura Susan Johnson on 02-03-1881. His second marriage was on 05-02-1901 to Leila Polk; 5. Belle Anne Bowers, born abt. 1854. Married on 01-19-1881 to E. J. Evans; 6. Mary Jane Bowers, born 1856, died 1901, buried in Panola Co., TX. Married to W. J. Thomas; 7. Fatima Bowers, born abt. 1859. Died on 03-30-1881. Buried in Panola Co., TX.

Michael Bowers married first to Abbie (maiden name unknown). She was born in 1847, in FL. Died 01-13-1891 in Walton County, FL at age 44. She now rests in the Euchee Valley Cemetery (#337). Michael married the second time to Martha A. "Massie" Linton.

Children born to Michael and Abbie Bowers (my great-grandparents) (1) Daniel Bowers (2) M. T. Bowers, born 1870 (3) K. A. Bowers, born 1872 (5) Carrie Bowers, born 1874 (6) Eliud Bowers (my Grandfather), born 02-02-1877, died 10-10-1965. Buried in Euchee Valley Cemetery. Married Quittie Moore in 02-1909 and now rest beside Granddaddy in Euchee Valley Cemetery. (7) Lewis E. Bowers, born 1879. (8) Giles Bowers, born 1882. (9) Sara "Abbie" Bowers, born 1885. (10) Wesley Bowers, born 11-1887, died before 1960. (11) Jessie Bowers, born 07-1888, died before 1960.

Children born to Eliud and Quittie Bowers: 1. Clarence Bowers (my Father), born 05-03-1918, at home in Ponce de Leon, Florida, He died on 01-02-1982 and now rest in the Red Bay Cemetery in Walton County, Florida. Married my Mother, Alma Lee Odom of Red Bay, FL.; 2. Mary Louise Bowers, born 06-18-1919, died 11-21-1925. Buried in Euchee Valley Cemetery.

My early memories of my Grandfather (Eliud

Bowers) are of the years when we lived with him in a log cabin off Morrison Springs Road in Ponce de Leon. I remember the cabin well. There was only one main room with a kitchen lean-to added on. There was no electricity, just an oil lamp for light. There was a fireplace with a stick and dirt chimney, Granddaddy would sit by it to read his Bible. Mother cooked on a wood stove, which felt good in the winter but was awful hot during the summer. We would wash dishes in dishpans with water drawn from a picture pump, and throw the water out the kitchen window onto some red canna lilies that Mother had planted outside. I can remember the windows being just an opening in the wall and having large shutters to close at night. There was so many of us kids that it was wall to wall beds, all in the same room along with Daddy, Mother and Granddaddy. When our cousins came to visit we would have to sleep sideways in the bed to have room. There was a small barn out back with a corn crib up top. Us kids used to play in the crib. I can still remember the muskey smell of dry corn and the weevils getting in our clothes and tickling. Oh! How I loved to be in the crib when it rained on the tin roof. There were huge persimmon trees in the front of the cabin that bore fruit and tasted quite good when ripe, but sure turned your mouth "wrong side out" when they were green. We discovered that if we cracked a seed open carefully there would be a perfect "spoon and fork" inside. We never wore shoes around the house and persimmon squashing up between your toes feels pretty nasty.

Granddaddy was a very religious man and he would set and read the Bible a lot. I can see him now in a straight chair in the doorway, with his Bible in his lap. He was "Church Of Christ" by faith and he believed in going to church if he had to walk. He loved to sing gospel songs and sometime would get up in church and speak a little when he was at a church without a pastor and the men would take turns speaking. I remember going to church with him up toward Prosperity and as a child it seemed like it was a very

long way up there from Morrison Springs.

The only income Granddaddy had was a monthly welfare check for \$81.00. Mother said he lived off it and manage to save some. He bought the land where the cabin sat and paid a little each month out of his check. He farmed the land and lived off what he grew. I have heard Mother say that he had to have greens cooked almost every meal, and he would not allow anyone to go into his green patch. He would give a "mess" to anyone but he would have to do the picking. I can remember, just plain as day, how he walked behind our plow horse "Molly". He worked acres of corn with a single blade plow. I can remember the bad job of stripping fodder for the cows and molly to eat all winter.

As the years passed, Mother and Daddy built the "big new house" where mother lives today. Granddaddy moved in with us to his room in back and as I remember he was the first one to tell me the story of Jesus. I feel like the faith I have today, began with his teaching. In the later years he developed hardening of the arteries and started having seizures and eventually lost his mind and couldn't speak. Granddaddy passed on, but his spirit still lives with all of us. He was a kind, gentle man but according to Mother, he had some peculiar ways. It took some persuading to get him to allow her a small garden space to plant as she pleased.

Grandmother passed on before Mother and Daddy were married. I am sad to say that we don't have any memories of her. My Mother has told me that she was a quiet woman that pretty much did as Granddaddy ask. He would never let anyone go in his green patch and she didn't go in it herself.

Submitted By: Charlot Evon Bowers Lindsey, 230 East Indian Creek Ranch Rd., DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435