



The Waldo Phoenix



☞ FREE - TAKE ONE!

Volume Six - Issue 5, July, 2015

A 501(c)3 Non Profit Organization

Published by Waldo Historical Society, Inc.

www.WaldoHistoricalSociety.YolaSite.com

Like us on Facebook



April M. Griffin



Eileen F. Roy



Gunnar F. Paulson



Leanetta McNealy



Robert P. Hyatt

Alachua County School Board



150th Year Observance of the Waldo Confederate Parole By Judy Donaldson

A mustering out ceremony was held on Saturday, May 23, 2015 at Waldo's Veterans' Park.



J.J. Dickison and Fred Donaldson

It commemorated the May 20, 1865 Waldo paroling of Confederate soldiers 150 years ago. Three Confederate companies were paroled: Companies H and B of the Florida 2nd Cavalry, led by Capt. J. J. Dickison, and Company H of the 5th Florida Cavalry.

The reenactment was represented by five Sons of Confederate Veterans Camps from Gainesville, Trenton, Old Town, Melbourne and Travares. Fred Donaldson of the Gainesville SCV

camp was the chairman of the event, as he was when Waldo held the reenactment of the same event 50 years ago.

Herman Bowers welcomed everyone to Waldo and led us in prayer. Archie Matthews, usually dressed as a Confederate at events and Commander of the Military Order of Stars and Bars, portrayed the Union officer issuing the paroles. Bobby Grenier, author of six books on Florida history, was the Union soldier standing guard with his rifle. Clement Lindsey, an SCV Brigade Commander, portrayed Captain Dickison, who commanded the troops at Camp Baker here in Waldo.



The ceremony was solemn as was the actual event in 1865. Those Confederates with weapons and flags were ordered by the Union officer to surrender them, which they did. Each soldier came

forward to swear allegiance to the Union and signed the parole slip. Commander Lindsey, acting as Capt. Dickison, gave a speech at the end to the paroled Confederates as Dickison did in 1865. The ceremony ended with the salute to the American flag and was followed by the singing of Dixie.

Waldo Community School News



Principal Holly Burton

Shell News and Information

Make an informed decision! We hope you take a moment to visit Shell Elementary before making a final decision about fall placement for your child. The staff is welcoming and friendly and would love to meet you. Call 352-481-1901 to schedule a tour!

The following teachers and staff will be making the transition to Shell Elementary:

- *Mrs. Burton
- *Ms. Harris
- *Mrs. Whitten
- *Mrs. L. Powell
- *Mrs. Castronover
- *Ms. Brooke
- *Mrs. Mary Williams
- *Ms. Courtney
- *Mrs. Sylvia
- *Ms. Keith
- *Mrs. Ankney

Please note that for students being re-zoned to Lake Forest Elementary, principal Lacy Redd would like to extend a personal invitation for you to visit the school. Please call her at 352-955-6710 to ask questions or to schedule a time to tour the school.

Summer feeding program at WCS!

Our cafeteria will be open to provide free breakfast and lunch this summer. Children ages 0-18 are eligible for free meals. Breakfast will be served at 7:30 and lunch at 11:00. The summer meal program will run Monday through Thursday from 6/9-7/16 (closed on 7/1 and 7/2).

**Lady With a History
by Mary Baxla**

Ruth Dees, a direct descendent of Thomas Jefferson as recognized by the Smithsonian Institute and the Montecello Association, was born and raised in Waldo and just recently celebrated her 93rd birthday.

Ruth grew up in Waldo the railroad town at a time when the



town included a bank, grocery stores, a bakery, restaurants, even a doctor and a lawyer plus a drug store with a soda fountain. She attended Waldo school from the first through tenth grade but graduated from Summerland Institute in Bartow, Florida, where she lived for a while to help out her older sister. As a youngster she remembers playing paper dolls on the concrete wall surrounding the railroad "turn-around" in Waldo and later playing basket ball and other "completely non-electronic" games with the Harden, Desha, Womeldorff, Weisner, and other local family children. A ton of memories to cover 93 years but don't go picturing a "granny Ruth"

leaned back in a rocking chair because she is one very active lady. Picture her instead out mowing her lawn, raking and burning leaves, driving her husband to dialysis treatment or other medical offices at least 4 days out of every week. But still she finds time for friends, family and the other two loves of her life, her church and her Eastern Star.

The Order of the Eastern Star, first given that title by Dr. Rob Morris, Poet Laureate of Masonry, in 1793, is the largest fraternal organization in the world to which both men and women may belong, with an approximate million members throughout the world. The organization is founded on the beautiful and inspiring heroines of the Bible, whose stories portray heroic conduct, moral values and noble principles conducive to a belief in God and the precepts of charity, truth and love. The purposes of the Order, much like the Masonic organization, are charitable, educational, fraternal and scientific, The Order's structure is divided into the world-wide "General Grand Chapter", U.S. states' and other countries' "Grand Chapters", and local "Subordinate Chapters", like the chapter in Waldo and in other communities around the world...

Ruth Dees is the wife of Clyde Dees, a Navy veteran of WWII and retired University of Florida electrician, and she is also a current and long time member of the Waldo No. 120 Chapter of the Eastern Star. Her mother, father, 2 sisters and 2 brothers were all active in Eastern Star. Ruth was too young to join the Star but she was always involved in church and Star activities with her family. Her

**NEW CITY HALL HOURS
Effective June 1, 2015:
7:30am to 6:30pm
Monday thru Thursday,
Closed Friday.
Closed for lunch
12:00n-1:00pm
After Hours Water or Sewer
Emergency 352-258-3110
or 352-258-6921**

mother, Susie Griffin, was one of the forty-one charter members in the 1920 start up of the Waldo chapter, her father, Hugh Griffin, was also a member and they both served at some time as Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron of the Waldo 120 chapter. Sister Ida Bridges and Brother J.R. Boring were the very first Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron of the new Chapter.

Ruth has fond memories of helping her mother prepare for their Star meetings long before the current Masonic Lodge behind the Library was erected. The Chapter met then in the upstairs of the old bank building and she remembers that the meeting place had no running water--**no bathroom facility**--and the ladies went to a near-by member's home for bathroom privileges. Said she didn't know if the men went next door or just behind the building.

When Ruth told her father, in early 1943, that she wanted to marry Clyde Dees, her father said that was fine, providing that she joined Eastern Star first, because the Star was so much a part of their family life. So Ruth was initiated into Waldo Chapter #120 on February 12, 1943 and she and Clyde were married the following day, February 13, 1943,

In later years the Masons and Stars alike and their families all worked long and hard to raise enough money for the Lodge to build their own building. Two of the Star members, Sister Della Green, Worthy Grand Matron of Florida in 1936, and her husband, Brother Leo Bryson, had donated adjoining land parcels, one to the Waldo Masonic Lodge and one to the Waldo Star Chapter, (which the Chapter later deeded to the

Lodge). Ruth said that her father left home many mornings way before daylight to go all the way to Cedar River to get fish for still another fish fry. And when the actual building activity actually started, it seemed like not just the Masons and Star families but just nearly everyone helped in some way to get the new Lodge built, (some of the other Charter members of Waldo Chapter 120 included.

Last month the Waldo Chapter hosted an Official Visit by Sister Betty Beasley, the current Worthy Grand Matron of the Florida Grand Chapter of the Eastern Star. During her visit to the Chapter Sister Betty publicly recognized Sister Ruth Dees and commended her for her **72 years** of loyal and dedicated service to the order and presented her with a silver number one and two numeral that had been affixed to the 70 Year pin presented to Ruth two years ago by the Chapter,

In a lifetime much of dedicated service Eastern Star, Ruth knows, and can recite and teach the ceremonial pieces of every Star officer's station and has held every office in the Waldo chapter with the exception of those exclusively for men and secretary and organist and has filled repeatedly in nearly every position in other local district chapters in this and surrounding counties. She currently fills the station of Associate Matron in the Waldo Chapter. When asked how she has managed to continue such a faithful dedication, she said that it has always been a major part of her life and that she feels the same way as she does about her church. That is, if you listen and pay attention to what is being said,

you learn and understand more and more about the Bible.

Ruth and her husband Clyde have two children, plus several grandchildren and great grandchildren. Their son Bill Dees and his wife Carolyn, live in Plant City, Florida and their daughter Betty Peters and her husband Pete live in Gainesville.

What Is The Waldo Historical Society? By Millie Keirnan



The Waldo Historical Society is a group of former, recent and living men and women who wish to preserve the history of Waldo for the current and upcoming generations.

We also write, print and donate the Waldo Phoenix to the community.

There are many interesting stories, items and people who should never be forgotten. Such as those in the Civil War, the Waldo school, how people survived, how are we now serving as Waldo is being torn apart by the railroad closing, Fire Department ten by the County, Police Department closed.

The group is trying to obtain a place to show the many items, stories and future historic history of our town of Waldo. We are working with the Mayor, the City Manager, the City Council, to set up the Caboose as a tour for the history of the railroad.

Come join the WHS (a 501(c)3 organization for only \$10/year. You are welcome and needed to assist on any fundraisers, information, etc.

You are also welcome to donate whatever you feel comfortable with to the WHS. \$\$\$, buildings that can be made a museum, historic items, stories.

Please join us and be proud of Waldo. Work with WHS to keep our town as a community, and the history of how great Waldo is, was, and will be.

A LITTLE BIRD TOLD ME by Lucy Roe Cook

With sorrow bursting in air, the people of Waldo fight on. Sometimes when all seems at its worst people rally round the flag and bravery shows itself in so many facets of life. The children are out playing and laughing and this little bird is fluffing his feathers in joy. Somehow we will weather this storm.



Fallen tree. God felled this tree in Waldo. It is an extra large tree and fell as to hurt no one or any property.

Vera Mauldin has returned home from her visit to Georgia to be with her brothers and sisters. She tells of the good times and the good feelings. She was gone from Waldo and her family here on Cracker Hill. Her Grandchildren are happy to have her home. I think

the Mauldin family is going to need to build onto the home due to all of the children they keep bringing into their family. God bless them.

This Little Bird hears that the original Little Bird, who I am named after is coming to Waldo for a quick visit. Lucy Roe Cook is very happy.

The Kitchen by Randy Burnham



CHARACTERS: James & Lucy Marconi, their son, Jay (age 12)
Mark & Mary Wilson, their son, Tim (age 11)

Roof & Matty Baker, their son, Matt (age 11)
Unk Powers (who lives with James and Lucy Marconi)

The year was 1900. Three families lived within a mile of each other deep in the bayou of southern Mississippi. The Marconis, the Wilsons and the Bakers. The Marconi family have lived here since the late 1700's. The first Marconi escaped from a prison work detail outside of New Orleans and found his way there. It was about a day and half trip through the bayou to the Pearl River, a strip of dry land three hundred yards wide and a mile long. He changed his name and later bought an Indian girl that he took for his wife. They had three children and made a life there in the bayou. The details died with him. Things like what his real name was and why he was in prison and where he came from.

Lucy met James at the trading post where the bayou meets the river. She was traveling in the company of men moving supplies up and down the Pearl

River. It was a rough life to put it mildly. As James watched her that first day going about her chores, he saw a woman trapped. Something inside of him said, 'she's a good woman. She just needs a chance.' James offered her a way out. To come and live with him. It wasn't about love, he needed a woman for a companion, and she wanted out of her predicament. He offered her a better life. She figured it would be easier satisfying one man than a whole crew so she took it and they slipped away in the night. She grew to love him. He was a good man and she knew he was very fond of her. He treated her with respect from the start. Something she had never had before. He never mentioned her past or asked her any questions. It was like two lives, the first one dead and buried. They had three children, but only one survived, a son named Jay.

Ten years earlier, James had found a man floating in the water while on his way to the trading post. He had been shot and stabbed in the back. He was barely alive. James stayed with him for three days until he was able to travel. He brought him home. Jay called him Uncle Powers. It got shortened to Unk. Unk never said why he got shot or how he got there in the swamp and the Marconi's never asked. He became part of the family.



q70093 www.fotosearch.com

The Marconi house was made of logs and it was built in sections. The first section was for sleeping. They cooked and ate outside under a shed. Another part of the house was built later for more bedrooms. After his parents died and his sister ran off with a fur trader, there wasn't a big need for bedrooms so James turned the first section into a kitchen. He put in a hand pump for water and built a brick stove. It was more like a fire place.

Lucy cooked everything in pots hanging over an open fire. James made the bricks himself. The only thing Lucy asked for was a screen door and a porch with a top on it coming into the kitchen.

The kitchen was the hub of their home. Everything happened there. Lucy loved her kitchen. She did all the cooking and cleaning. "I don't work outside and you don't work inside." she told James. She took pride in her cooking and in her kitchen. She thanked her God every night for this life that she had because she never let herself forget where she had come from.

Unk slept in a shed built onto the side of the barn and he liked it there. "Got my privacy." he would say. He kept all his personal things there and he always washed and dried his own clothes. "I'll eat your cookin, cause I can't cook, but I can do everything else for myself. Don't want to be no bunch of trouble to you Miss Lucy."

Jay was 12 years old. He had black hair and black eyes with a dark complexion. Lucy called him her little injun boy. He was the only child to survive. Both his bothers died. If anything ever happened to Jay, the Marconi's would cease to be.

Lucy was up early getting breakfast for her family. It was a couple of hours till the sun came up but the moon was bright and she could see her husband getting ready to take his furs to the trading post. This time he had two gator hides and that was always a bonus. It meant he could buy more things they needed.

"Comin in the house," James said as he opened the screen door.

"Come on in." Lucy said as she brought him a cup of coffee. "Here you go, fresh and hot." She hung the Dutch oven on the hanger and pushed it over the fire. "Well, I got the biscuits on, think I will just sit here with you and drink my coffee too."

James looked at her and said, "guess what I found out?"

She looked at James, "You know I don't like to play that game."

He laughed, "well, after all these years, I found out how the Bakers and the Wilson's got here."

"The heck you say! Are you jokin me?" she asked.

"When me and Mark was over at Roofs place the other day helping him cut down a tree. Matty came out with some lunch, and for some reason they got to talkin about it." James put his cup to his mouth and drank some coffee and then rolled a cigarette.

"You gonna tell me?" she asked.

"Why yeah, if ya interested." he said.

"You know I am, so let's have it." she said.

He grinned. "Give me time to light my cigarette." He took a puff on the cigarette and sipped his coffee. "Wilson said his

grandpa was a rounder and he traveled all over these parts trappin and huntin. Served as a scout for the Army. He took a Choctaw woman for his wife and she traveled around with him.

Anyway about 1830 he was in Fort Smith Arkansas and a drunk soldier was trying to take advantage of her. His grandpa stuck him with a knife and killed him. The Army didn't take kindly to that so they chased him to Baton Rouge.

He had done some trappin here in the past and got to know my grandpa, so he came here lookin for a place to hide out for awhile and he wound up stayin. I always figured there was some kind of connection with his folks and mine."

Lucy sat back in her chair and put both hands on the table. "Well, I swear!" She stood up and went over to check on the biscuits then sat back down at the table. "So how bout them Bakers?" she asked.

"How about some more coffee first." he said. She filled his cup and returned to her chair.

"Seems that Roof and Matty were slaves. They lived on a plantation just north of here. They was owned by a man named Baker. That's how they got their name Baker and Mr Baker always called him Roof cause he would climb up on the roof of the barn.

So everybody called him the roof boy and the name stuck. Roof and Matty got married. Mr. Baker's son got killed in a battle during the civil war and soon after Mr. Baker himself died. His wife just gave up and sat rockin on the front porch. She told the overseer to sell everything and everybody.

Two men on a wagon came and bought Roof but not Matty. When they left the two white men sat on the seat and Roof was on the back of the wagon. Roof saw Matty following them. She stayed back just far enough to keep out of sight. The two men started drinking from a jug of whiskey and was talkin and laughin not paying no attention to Roof.

When they got about five miles from the plantation he just slid off the back of the wagon and stood there till they got out of sight. When Matty caught up with him they took to the woods headin south. He said they stole clothes off peoples clothes lines and food from their gardens. They even took a couple of blankets off somebody's back porch and an axe from a wood pile. they took a boat and floated down the river. When they saw the trading post they hid out till it got dark and paddled into the bayou.

Like he said, it was just pure luck and good luck at that."

Lucy got up from the table and went to the dutch oven. "I'm glad they did come, they are good folks alright and hard workers too."



James sipped more of his coffee then said, "They was here three days before my pa found em. I was about 14 years old. Us and the Wilson's helped them build a log cabin and showed em how to catch crawfish and skin a gator."

James leaned back in his char, "them was some good ole days alright. Heck, Matty was only a couple of years older than me, and Roof was a couple of years older than her. Me, Mark Wilson, Roof and Matty played together like the younguns we was. That

dang Matty could outrun all of us." Lucy smiled and said, "She probably still can."

Part 2 coming in August

Camellia Antiques & Estate Sales

**Owner: Camille Huie
Hoch21@bellsouth.net**

I have just opened a new Antique shop beside the post office in Earleton on CR 1469. I formerly owned Camellia Antiques in Gainesville and have also been conducting downsizing/estate sales for the last 15 years. I am a Florida Native here since 1958.

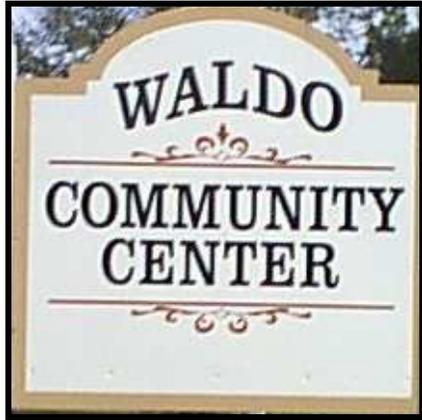
Shop Hours are Thursday - Saturday 10-5:30 (unless I am hosting an estate sale that week-end).

Because I live close by, I am also open "by chance or appointment" on other days. Call me at 352-871-0743 if you find me closed and would like to see something.

I specialize in all sorts of antiques and mid century art, jewelry, furniture, glass, dishes, silverware, native American, etc items but I even have some shabby chic, garden items, fishing items, books, clothing, etc. Please come by & check us out!

"You have to love a nation that celebrates its independence every July 4, not with a parade of guns, tanks, and soldiers who file by the White House in a show of strength and muscle, but with family picnics where kids throw Frisbees, the potato salad gets iffy, and the flies die from happiness. You may think you have overeaten, but it is patriotism."

-- Erma Bombeck



**Community Center News
by Thelma Bay**

We are busy at the Community Center. Lisa Hill's Summer Camp for Kids is bursting at the seams and Thelma and the Seniors are doing just fine. We all work together to make sure as many kids and Seniors as we can get are taken care of.

Senior programs are put on hold until the middle of August, but we have some great things coming up.

We have health care programs, exercise sessions, Bingo, Dominos, craft classes and maybe even some sewing classes.

If you are 60 years or older, you can sign up for a free noon meal at the Center. A few questions are asked and you're good to go.

Call the Center at 468-2336 and I'll answer any questions you have. Hope to see you there.

Why is there so much pressure to spend Independence Day with other people?

Information Please!

Waldo Phone Numbers You Might Need (Cut Out and Place By Your Phone)

City Hall	468-1001
After Hours Water Emergency	258-3110
Poison Control Center	1-800-222-1222
Police or Fire Emergencies	911
Police or Fire Non-Emergencies	955-1818
Power Outages	1-800-468-8243
Waldo Library	468-3298
Waldo Community Center	468-2336
Waldo Post Office	468-1970
Waldo Community School	468-1451
Waldo Phoenix	468-1910
Windstream Phone Repair	1-800-347-1991

July Birthdays

1 Jenny Kimber	19 Nicholas Scott
3 Bianca Gutierrez	20 Eldred Bivins
5 Chris Ankney	21 Melba Hill
5 Oscar White	24 Roland Wise
7 Virginia McLendon	24 Betty Brooker
10 Carlton Davis	25 Kelli Juszak
13 Andrew Mitchell	27 Henrietta Armitage
13 Roosevelt Green	29 Alisa Andrijanoff
16 Leon Brookins	29 John Kimber



Subway of Waldo

Present this coupon for \$1 off a FOOTLONG™
OR \$.50 off a 6" SUB!

Located on NE HWY 301 next to Dollar General
Call 352-468-1163 or fax 352-468-1153

Have Brush Will Travel



Gifford's Painting
Residential & Commercial
Power Washing
Free Estimates



Scott Grady

352-494-7501

Philadelphia Missionary Baptist Church Services

Rev. James W. Ramsey - Pastor
2nd and 4th Sundays 11:00 am
Mid-week service
every Wednesday 6:00 pm
taught by Minister Bernard Carter
Awesome Sunday School
every Sunday 9:45 am
taught by Bro. Bobby Hill
or Minister Bernard Carter for adults
and Sis. Josie "Jackson"
& Sis. Monique Taylor for the children.
Men's Day service will be held
on the 4th Sunday in July at 11:00 am

Always remember that
Man is Mighty but God is Almighty

First Baptist Church, Waldo Hwy 24

352-468-1721

Sunday Schedule



9:15 - 9:45 Refreshments

9:45 Bible Study (all ages)

11:00 am & 6 pm Worship

11:00 am & 6 pm Children's Worship

6 pm Youth Praise and Worship

Wednesday Schedule

5:45 - 6:15 pm Dinner

6:30 pm Children's, Youth, Adult
Programs

Waldo Self Storage

352-468-1042

17842 N.E. Hwy 301

P.O. Box 698

Waldo Florida 32694

Electronic Security Gate & Video Surveillance

Office Hours Mon — Sat 9 to 5 & Sun Closed

www.waldoselfstorage.com

**PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS. THEY SUPPORT US
AND HELP MAKE THIS NEWSPAPER POSSIBLE**

The Genuine. The Original.



Overhead Door Company of Gainesville
POST OFFICE BOX 568
GAINESVILLE, FL 32602
OFFICE: (352) 468-2733
FAX: (352) 468-1453

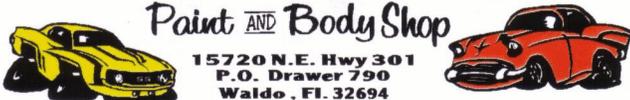


**Waldo Phoenix
Advertising Rate Sheet**
(effective date: March 1, 2010)

Size	3 Months	6 Months	12 Months
Business Card	\$60.00	\$90.00	\$120.00
Quarter Page	\$120.00	\$180.00	\$240.00
Half Page	\$240.00	\$360.00	\$480.00
Full Page	\$480.00	\$720.00	\$960.00

Your 8-1/2" x 11" or smaller flyers will be inserted @ \$25.00/250 per month. We will work with you to create your ad. We can add clip art, photos or your logo. Call 352-468-1910 - Advertising Editor
email: HistoricWaldo@gmail.com

MINNIX'S Free Estimates



Harold Minnix Jr.
20 Years Experience
Auto Collision Repair
Custom Paint and Fabrication

15720 N.E. Hwy 301
P.O. Drawer 790
Waldo, FL 32694

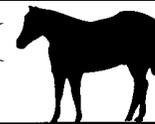
Bus (352) 468-1234
Fax (352) 468-1234

Tom's Cypress, Inc.

Cypress, Epoxy Resin
& Clock Motors

15455 NE US Hwy. 301
P.O. Drawer L
Waldo, Florida 32694
Phone/Fax 352.468.2357
www.tomscypressinc.com

Highway 301
North of Waldo



352-468-2255

**WALDO
FARMERS &
FLEA MARKET**

Billing Address:
P.O. Box 142817
Gainesville, FL 32614
FAX: (352) 375-3198

17805 NE US Hwy 301
Waldo, FL 32694

Clyde's Tire & Brake - Waldo
352-468-1140

~ July Special ~

Buy 4 New Tires

Get a Free Wheel Alignment

- Or -

Free Oil Change (up to 5 qts.)

Does Not Include Synthetic Oil

Thank You for Supporting Your Waldo Historical Society