

Svea, FL 1918

Baker Block Museum

North Okaloosa Historical Association

Newsletter

Hope McDonald, Tommie Simon

Canoe Community, Church, ca 1920

Pyron Chapel Community, 1915

Bakerblockmuseum.org Corner Rt 189 & SR 4 (850) 537-5714 bakermuseum@aol.com

Website Stats:

Month	# of requests	#of page requests
Apr 2012	46,041	7,551
May 2012	75,236	10,815

Contents:

- ◆ Family Heritage Wall of Honor Induction Ceremony, 2 June 2012
- ◆ Crestview Historic Preservation Board's FIRST historic marker!
- ◆ Special THANK YOUs
- ◆ Local surnames: Wells, Golden
- ◆ Special Coming Events



Representing the Okaloosa County Board of Commissioners, Mr. Bill Roberts presented the Proclamation of June 2 as Family Heritage Wall of Honor Day.

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1st Annual

BIO Vignettes . .

Family Heritage Wall of Honor NOHA & Baker Block Museum



Opal B. Hogg Enzor.

Opal taught at Baker School before her marriage to Dr. Rhett. She was awarded many honors for her work in the community. She served as President of Crestview Garden Club.



Margaret Gebauer.

She kept the Okaloosa county Book Mobile going for many years. She was a beloved school teacher in the county.



W.A. Jake Jernigan.

Northwest Florida chair for the successful U.S Senate campaign of George Smathers. Founded 1st National Bank, Crestview. Served on Crestview City Council. Founding member of the Okaloosa Island Authority. Successful Washington lobbyist.



Velma Jones Conyers.

She cooked for the Carver Hill School lunchroom. The Eastern Star Chapter in Crestview was renamed in her honor in 2000. She is a Deaconess at Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church.

Nathan & Linda Helms Chessher



Linda worked for Southern Bell Telephone 36 yrs. Nathan, member of Muscogee Nation of Florida, has served on NOHA Board of Directors for many years.

George Henry Price.

George farmed 300-400 acres in Okaloosa County for over 40 years. He was the first farmer in the area to plant soybeans. Owned, operated tractor supply in Baker. Raised 13 children. "You need to give back to your community because your community gives so much to you".



Dora Catherine Steele Cadenhead

Dora was 14 when the first of her 12 children was born. At the time of her death, there were 5 generations living. She used wild 'pepper grass' to season greens; made 'vinegar butter' for sauce and grated corn to make her own cornbread. All were cooked on the top of a pot bellied stove. In 1982 the FSGS certified her as an Okaloosa County Pioneer.



Charlie & Clyde Powell.

Clyde helped deliver babies at Enzor Hospital, "I have children all over town," she'd laugh with good humor. Charlie had 27 yrs. Civil Service at Eglin, AFB.



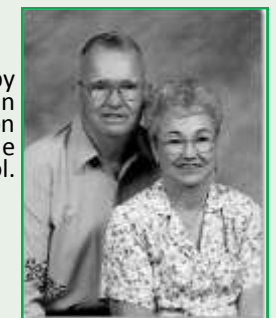
Leon Charles & Mildred Johns.

Mildred has long coordinated the Holt Senior Fellowship. Leon's family was a founding member of the Holt Assembly of God church. Leon left school to fight in WWII. Then, returned to graduate from Baker High School. They are active members of the Holt Ruritan Club.



Ronald & Carolyn Jeffries Senterfitt.

Ron grew up on a farm first settled by his ancestors in 1861. He served in the National Guard. Carolyn & Ron were a major force in getting the book, "Okaloosa County Heritage, Vol. I" written and published.



**Read the complete BIOs
in the museum's
research library. . .**

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1st Annual

Family Heritage Wall of Honor

NOHA & Baker Block Museum, (cont.)



The North Okaloosa Historical Association wishes to honor individuals of our county

who have been recognized by their grateful family and friends for their contribution to the history, formation and positive stories of our

County. This year we placed eleven names on the wall which can be viewed inside the museum. Each year we will add more names as they are nominated.



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The ceremony was held in the museum's park. A Commemorative Program and individual

certificate was presented to those nominated. A reception followed inside the museum.

It was a magical moment when Harvey Fleming sang the popular song, "Glad To Be An American" - everyone stood up. Later, someone was overheard to say, "How can you not show respect when you hear the words of that song?!"

George Henry Price.

Nominated by
*Lucille Price King
Larry Price
Margaret Price Queen*



Charlie & Clyde Powell.

Nominated by
Linda Powell Parker



Margaret Gebauer.

Nominated by
Faye Shaw

Dora Catherine Steele Cadenhead

Nominated by
*Vivian Cadenhead Harrelson
Vicki Cadenhead Livingston*
Not pictured

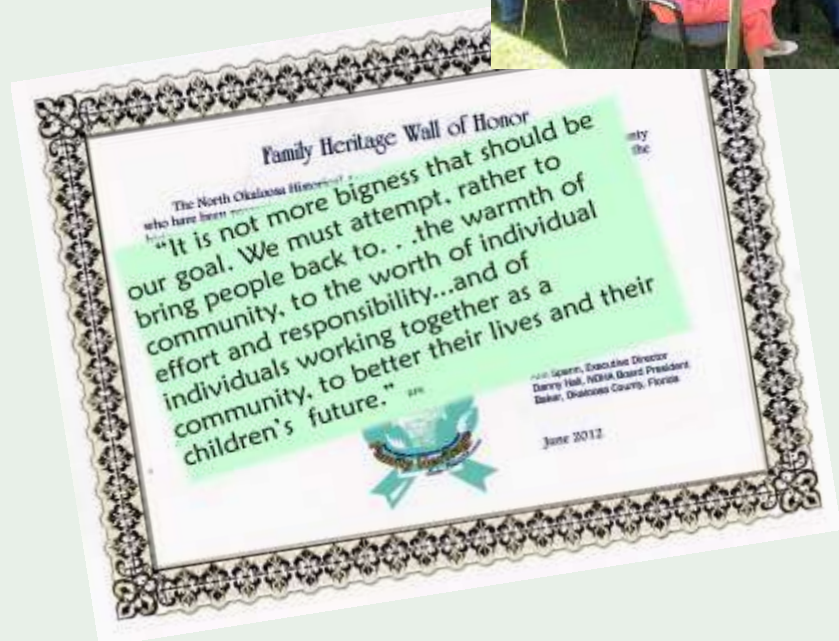


Ronald & Carolyn Jeffries Senterfitt.

Nominated by
Nathan Chessher


Nathan & Linda Helms Chessher.

Nominated by
Carolyn Jeffries Senterfitt




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Our Sponsors helped make
the Induction Ceremony a
beautiful and enjoyable
success:



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harveyfleming@cox.net
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Fort Walton Beach, FL
850.862.8413



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**Membership in the
North Okaloosa Historical Association, Inc.**

NOHA is the governing body for the Baker Block Museum

Circle the type annual membership:

Family	\$25.00
Individual	\$12.00
Student	\$ 5.00
Business	
Professional	\$25.00
Life Time	\$125.00

Name _____ email _____

Address _____

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Mail to: NOHA/Baker Block Museum,
PO Box 186, Baker, FL 32531
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J.R.L. Conyers Masonic Lodge, June 6, 2012 celebrates the unveiling of the Crestview Historic Preservation Board's first historic marker.

The lodge, a member of the Most Worshipful Union Grand Lodge, Prince Hall Affiliated, of the black Masonic order received its charter in 1904, 12 years before the city of Crestview was incorporated. The lodge's first hall was erected at the corner of Edney and Booker Streets, three blocks from the present location, to which it relocated in 1941. In 1944, after a two-year lull



while many of its members left to fight in World War II, the lodge reopened in its present building on McDonald Street. District Deputy Grand Master and Conyers Lodge historian Malcolm Haynes Sr. said, "You can go almost anyplace in the world and find Masons who have gone through this lodge because of the base (Eglin Air Force Base). The lodge has a long history and a rich history."



For the unveiling, Masons and their Eastern Star sisters attended the unveiling of the marker. They dressed in their respective regalia of office. Velma Conyers, past worthy matron of the Eastern

Star chapter that now bears her name was in attendance—James R.L. Conyers, for whom the lodge is named, was her late husband. Mrs. Conyers had this to say, "The Lord has kept me all these 90-some years and I'm glad to be here," she said. "I'm so proud this day has come. I've been belonging to this chapter ever since I was 18 years old. I was matron of this chapter for 46 years and I'm still here. The Lord has blessed me."

Throughout its history, the lodge has served as an emergency shelter, a USO hall, a soup kitchen, a community meeting hall, a Head Start center, a classroom during the construction of Carver-Hill School, and a Sunday school classroom for Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church, which is next door.



Deputy Grand Master Walter Gully Jr., visiting from the Most Worshipful Union Grand Lodge regional headquarters in Jacksonville, lauded the lodge's brothers for their service to the people of Crestview. "That marker that you have decided to place at this building today, it speaks volumes about the work this lodge exemplifies in the community of Crestview," Gully said. "As I see different ethnic groups here this morning, this speaks volumes of this lodge's place here. I was so touched that this lodge has been used in so many capacities for this great city."

"We're very appreciative of what this lodge has meant for the city of Crestview," Mayor David Cadle said. "It's a wonderful legacy to have." Velma Conyers and her son, Past Master James Conyers, led the assembly out to the warm June sunshine, where they removed the blue cloth covering the marker that shares the lodge's history. "This is the first marker we've placed, and hopefully there will be many more," Historic Preservation Board member and former city council member Linda Parker said.

"It was very exciting to see this landmark structure honored as a historical building, and the fact that it is the first such designation



in the city makes the recognition even more memorable," said Graham Fountain, a Crestview native and commissioner on the Florida State Historical Commission, after the ceremony. "Hopefully our history will speak for itself, and hopefully our children will see that marker and say, 'I know someone who passed that way,'" Haynes said.



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Local Surnames:

We were honored to give Mrs. Jewell Wells Golden and her son, Curtis, the grand tour at the Baker Block Museum during the month of May. Mrs. Golden descends from a South Santa Rosa County pioneer family and recently celebrated her 100th birthday.

She was born Jewell Frances Wells on April 16, 1912 at Prairie Creek , near East River to William and Lovie Wells, who pioneered the Holley-Navarre area. Her son, Curtis Golden served as the State Attorney for the First Judicial Circuit for 37 years, retiring in 2005.

Her late brother, William James Wells recorded the history of South Santa Rosa County and it's pioneer families in his book, "Pioneering In The Panhandle", which is available in our library.



"This museum better portrays life of pioneers in this area than any I have visited, it's quite impressive," Curtis Golden, said.



Old Time 4th of July Celebration

at

**Baker Block Museum
Corner of Hwy 189 & Rt. 4**

4 pm - 6:30 pm

Carnival games;

sack races;

egg toss;

cake walk;

Hot dogs, ice-cream & cold drinks

850.537.5714 for more info

*"If we don't preserve the history and culture of our families and community heroes,
who will?"*