

Albert Carlton and family were early advocates of county division of DeSoto County. On March 13, 1907, Albert Carlton, Charles J. Carlton, and five others were selected in a mass meeting held in the opera house in Wauchula to push county division before the coming legislature. The committee, chaired by A. G. Smith, collected data and presented it to the legislature. The candidate favoring county division, however, was defeated in the May 19, 1908 election. Not until April 23, 1921 was DeSoto County divided to form the counties of DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Glades, and Charlotte. Wauchula, which had been named the temporary county seat, was in an election held on December 30, 1921 chosen as permanent county seat of the newly created Hardee County.

Albert Carlton was a member of New Zion Baptist Church, which was originally located north of present day Fort Green Baptist Church, but was in 1873 relocated by its pastor, Rev. John W. Hendry to about seven miles west of present day Ona. In 1876 Fort Hartsuff Baptist Church was organized with Rev. John W. Hendry as pastor and charter members: Albert Carlton, Lewis Carlton, Edward F. Bostick, Zachariah F. McEwen, Lodusky McEwen (Mrs. Milton McEwen), and Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Cason. Albert Carlton was chosen as church clerk. Martha Carlton was also an early member. As Rev. Hendry, a circuit rider, was often away, the pulpit was frequently filled by Rev. William Penn McEwen, a circuit riding Methodist minister. According to Tommy Underwood, church historian, the church's name was changed in 1887 to Harmony Baptist Church, however, in the Fifth Annual Session of the Manatee Missionary Baptist Association, convened at Mt. Moriah Church on November 12, 1880, Harmony Baptist Church, post office Fort Green, sent a delegation, which had as its clerk, Albert Carlton. The church in 1889 became the First Baptist Church of Wauchula. Albert and Martha were members until their deaths.

Albert Carlton died September 1, 1925. Martha Carlton died August 6, 1944, Wauchula. They are buried in Wauchula Cemetery.

SOURCES: Family records of T. Mabry Carlton, Mrs. Herbie Kay, Mrs. Iva Monies, Mrs. Mattie Saunders; Milton D. Wilson, "Pioneer Families of Polk County and South Florida", Polk County Historical Commission, Bartow; Richard Livingston, "Alderman Carlton", South Florida Pioneers, #8, April 1976; 1850 Hillsborough County and 1860 Manatee County censuses; Co. B military record of Albert Carlton; D. B. McKay, editor, Pioneer Florida, Volume 3; Margaret Stringer, Watch Wauchula Win; Gene Plowden, History of Hardee County; Tommy Underwood, "A Brief History of the First Baptist Church of Wauchula", 1976; "Manatee Missionary Baptist Association, 1880", South Florida Pioneers, #15/16; Wauchula Cemetery.