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Baldwin County Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 108, Foley, Alabama 36536

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Baldwin County Genealogical Society Presents *DYLAN TUCKER*

Cultural Resource Specialist with Fort Morgan State Historic Site
“Known Deaths and Burials at Mobile Point”

February 10th, 2018 ~ 10 a.m. Meeting Room, Foley Public Library

Dylan Tucker’s program will concern the “Known Deaths and Burials at Mobile Point”; burials and funeral process for the enlisted men on the site of Mobile Point. The dates of burials range from 1812 through 1910 and vary with the inhabitants of the Point.

Mobile Point is the apex of a long, low, narrow, sandy peninsula between the Gulf of Mexico on the south, Bon Secour Bay and Navy Cove on the north. The point is the eastern limit of the entrance into Mobile Bay, which it partially encloses. It is located in Baldwin County, Alabama. At its western tip is Fort Morgan, which faces Fort Gaines sitting across the inlet to the Mobile Bay, on Dauphin Island. Along the point is the unincorporated community of Fort Morgan, Alabama. Obviously, Mobile Point played and still plays an important part of the history of this area.

Dylan, originally raised in a small town in central Alabama called Kansa, attended the University of North Alabama where he received his Bachelor’s in History. He interned a year at Fort Morgan, returned to UNA on a Graduate Assistantship for Master’s in Public History. Dylan currently works as Cultural Resource Specialist with Fort Morgan State Historic Site

All meetings are open to interested public

REFRESHMENT HOSTS FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS

Please, pick a month the signup sheet at meeting. Simple refreshment to accompany the provided drink, coffee.
February 10th Maureen Lee and Tina Graham ~ March 10th ? ~ April 14th ? ~ May 12th ? ~ June 9th ?



Check us out on Facebook and ‘like’ our page!

Baldwin County Genealogical Society General Meeting January 20, 2018

President Tina Graham called the Baldwin County Genealogical Society January 20, 2018, meeting to order in the FPL Meeting Room at 11:00 a.m. Tina welcomed 23 member and 8 guests.

Vice President Maureen Lee introduced Gayle Underwood. Gayle is a Gettysburg Shriver House Museum tour guide in Pennsylvania. Gayle’s presentation was open to questions the entire time. Information was provided on several major topics—number of men and women killed, date of the Gettysburg Address, number of Confederate Soldiers left on the battlefield and the fact that there are still bodies buried on the battlefield. As a living historian, Gayle splits her time between Florida and Pennsylvania.

After a break for refreshments provided by Mary Adams and Peg Power the business portion of the meeting resumed. Treasurer May Alanko reported a balance of \$1,082.78 as of January 20, 2018. Report will be filed in the FPL research room.

Reports: Sunshine Committee: No cards sent. Obituary Committee: Work to do, working 1st and 3rd Thursday at 9:30 a.m. Corresponding Secretary: All speakers have been thanked for their presentation.

Acquisitions: Request the library purchase "Salute to the Veterans of Etowah County, Alabama."

Old Business: Tina thanked all who participated with the Heritage Park Christmas display.

New Business: Alabama Genealogy Society meeting March 24, 2018 in Birmingham, AL – Spring Seminar.

Meeting adjourned: 12:01 p.m.

Peg Power, Recording Secretary, January 22, 2018

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FOLLOWING THE PAPER TRAIL by Dot Brown

Dorothy "Dot" (Skipper) Brown, a Florida "Cracker" (native), having been doing genealogy and historical research for many years, is co-founder of the Baldwin County Genealogical Society, long time member of the West Florida Genealogical Society, and has held various offices in both organizations numerous times. She is "podium" speaker, an advocate for documenting family history and has given workshops through the years on genealogy. Dot was a reporter for many years with the *Pensacola New Journal*, wrote a column on genealogy and is very knowledgeable on which subject she speaks.

FAMILY GROUP SHEET makes it easy to record the information you collect about one man, his wife, and children. If during the course of his life, the man has six wives (like Henry VIII) you will record each marriage on a separate Family Group Sheet. Ergo, the man will have six Family Group Sheets.

Use a pencil as you collect data, you might find that old Aunt Tilly gave you the wrong dates and/or the wrong names. You can erase the pencil marks and write in the correct information without too much trouble.

Print the entire name. Record the name as given at birth. No initials. Nicknames should be enclosed in quotation marks: Justin "Gator" BOURDREAUX.

Record a woman by her maiden name. Period. That's the end of it. No: Mrs. Erenstine Clementine JOHNSON MILLER. No: Mrs. James Miller. None of that. Give the woman on your chart the name on her birth certificate. O.K., if your great-grandmother had four husbands before she married your great-grandfather, record her name: Mary Jane BROWN, WHITE, GREEN, BLACK. You can put her maiden name BROWN in parenthesis: Mary Jane (BROWN) WHITE, BROWN, GREEN, BLACK.

Do record spelling variations, name changes or translations. Pay attention: John Jacob ASSBENOVITCH/ASBEN. Or: Heinrich ZIMMER/CARPENTER. Or: Marie GERBERT/TANNER. Or: Wayne REAGAN/RHEAGAN/RAGAN/RAGIN.

Record dates in a European style. Use the numeral for the day, then the three letter abbreviation for the month and then use numerals for the year. May, June and July are usually not abbreviated. Do not use the apostrophe to stand for number in the year. When you have many pages of data and see '43 you will not know if that is 1843 or 1943.

Record place names. Write the smallest locality first, then the next largest, then the next largest and on ad infinitum. Example: Baker's Landing, Smallville, Washington Co. FL., USA. I only add foreign countries.

Record the place name as the place was at the time of the event. Towns appear and/or disappear. County names and boundaries change.

Put question marks around any fact you do not know absolutely positively. John ?Jasper/Jackson? HEATHROW. Born ?4? Jul 1776

Continued..

Use common abbreviations. Circa - ca. *or* c. About - abt Probably - prob. County - Co (Not Cty) Before - bef. After - aft. Township - twp.

Pedigree Chart is a road map. It shows you your direct blood line. You can see at a glance what names you know. You can also see the blank spaces on your chart. You are number 1. Your father is number 2. Your mother is number 3. Males are even numbers. Females are the odd (what's new???) The father of number 8 is number 16. The mother of number 8 is 16 plus one or 17. When you fill chart No. 1, then No. 8 on Chart 1 become No. 1 on Chart 2.

This and that.....

The Onlooker (newspaper) Foley, Alabama, January 28, 1932:

Elberta – At the “**schlachfest**” and dance given by the Elberta Farmers Club at their hall in Elberts last Saturday night a large and happy crowd gathered to participate in the good eats, drinks, dancing and merry-making which lasted until early dawn. Prof. Scheer's band was at its best. The Farmers' Club thank any and all who contributed to the success of the night's frolic.

The above news item may bring up question what is a “Schlachfest/Schlachtfest”? (*if you have weak stomach, warning, the following may be a bit graphic in description*)

Hogen blog from village Hofen in Southern Germany: “Home slaughters are also referred to as “slaughtering fetes” (Schlachtfest) ... Obviously killing and processing a whole pig is quite a big task, Which is made easier by plenty of people to help. And there is a lot to celebrate: the pig finally hanging, the o.k. from the veterinary, the belly being cooked, the stomach being filled, the sausages going into the massive pot, the sausages coming out, the end of a long day..... It's a very enjoyable day where the social take place around shared work....”

Danube Swabian Heritage: Das Schlachtfest “The Slaughter Festival” a tradition that still lingers among the Donauschwabian today. The pig was a main source of food and a source for many other products, there was absolutely no waste, everything from the first drops of blood to the last hair on the tail and in between was used. The list of the products made from the pig and its uses is a long one, starting with the much loved ”Schweinebraten” (port roast), bacon, ham, the famous Donsuschwaben “Bratwurst,” to the making soap and brushes. It provided food not only during the winter months and well into spring and early summer, especially or our farmers who needed all the protein to do the cultivating and harvesting. *Das Schlachtfest The Slaughter Festival: by Hans Kopp*

Elberta native: the town of Elberta, (Baldwin County, Alabama), a German settled community, is my hometown, lived here thus far of my life. Regardless being considered by my family “old as dirt,” I remember the cold days in January when my grandparents, dad and his brothers, their wives, all came together to butcher three or four hogs, often a young steer, while the women cooked the meat and rendered the lard. Everyone but the very youngest worked and my job as a kid was to stand on chair, a big apron pinned to me, and stir the huge pot on the stove with the hog fat cut into cubes, heating to become lard... *the crispy remains were great to eat unless you ate too many.* I remember my horror of little German Gramma making her recipe for “hogshead cheese “ or ”souse.” But it did not take away from the great smell.

I can still see in my mind's eye the women with Gramma supervising, placing cooked meat in big stone crocks, covering in it with the hot lard to cool and seal, to preserve. These crocks were lined up in the “washhouse” outside, the weather cold as a witch's cold. It is amazing to think today of that time of limited refrigeration.

The smell and taste of fresh bacon and ham frying anytime much less for breakfast is an amazing wakeup call but my favorite was my mother frying trips of pork and the brown gravy juices over my grits... yep, over my grits! My father was German but my mother a wonderful ‘Heinz 57’ of Southern lineage. What a combination of German and Southern foods I have been so fortunate to have as my heritage.

It was indeed hard work. The day's end would see good food, home brew, wine, laughter and a time of sharing. It seems sad that while we may no longer have the Schlachtfests, or maybe the need for it, the time of of ‘day's end’ sharing with all its benefits seems on a decline.

Live here, work here, play here... that's my motto, mantra, way to live. *Contributed by Jeanette Bornholt*

House Genealogy???? Social History and Genealogy????

The folks that collect statistics say each of us will move seven times in our lifetime. If that's true, then yours truly is in fourth house 'move' nearly forty years. I won't have to worry about moving again as my husband has already warned before he moves ANY of this 'stuff' I've collected these past forty years, he'll burn the house down! So much for statistics.

But have you ever wondered about the history/genealogy of the house you live in? Of course if you built the house, you are the one starting the history/genealogy. What if you lived in the old family house? Did you buy a house you just loved or felt 'at home' in? (no pun meant)

In family history research, we pay particular attention to land deeds and probate records. You learn to read the land, so why not the house, the outbuildings, to look at the environment in which these homesteads were located. Was it, is it near a river? Located near a migratory trail, stage or railroad line?

Every ethnic group, whether German, Irish, Italian or Polish or Heinz⁵⁷ had two factors in common no matter when they immigrated in America. Sharon DeBartolo Carmack, C.G.R.S. tells, "on arrival, free people initially settled with friends and relatives from the homeland. Secondly, often the first generation continued with as many of their native customs as American society would allow." (Ancestry, Nov/Dec 95)s

The architecture of house can often tell the story of what kind of people lived there. It has been credited to Henry Glassie speaking of people of Virginia, "they left no writing, but they did leave all those houses." (Ancestry Mar/Apr 1999)

Traditional or 'folk houses' in Alabama were generally modifications of European rural dwellings introduced in American Colonies. A small but chocked-full-of-information book, *A Guide to Rural Houses of Alabama*, by Eugene M. Wilson, describes homes such as the British single room; a 'one-bay' cottage constructed of logs, a building method learned from German settlers. The long history of folk houses is based on forms that are part of the West European agricultural group. 'Dogtrot' style homes had open central hall; 'saddlebag' had a central chimney; double-house had side chimneys and no central hallway. These homes with modifications were built until about World War II. In *Alabama Folk Houses*, author Eugene Wilson takes you through three generations of houses. The pioneer cabin is considered the first generation, the dogtrot, saddlebag home, an oblong floor plan with attention given to workmanship. In Alabama, these were built from 1800 to about 1840.

After the Civil War in the 1870's, pyramid style roofed houses with square floor plan appeared. The 'bungalow' house came after turn of the century, early 1900s. Second generation houses with smaller square rooms were built between about 1840 and 1880 and continued to about 1940. Third generation houses, from about 1875 to 1920, tended to be built like the previous generation but of different materials, generally weather-boarded wood frame. Metal and other roofing materials began replacing shingles. (Remember the 'ranch style' houses? And don't forget the 'mobile home'.) Housing styles depict regions of the United States. In southern Alabama, the French, British and Spanish played a part of the style of homes....and bespeaks the genealogy of the house.

For many years as one traveled on US Highway 90 in Alabama east toward Florida state line, you would see three stone steps sitting slightly askew in the middle of a cow pasture. Nearby was an old magnolia tree, nothing else. But each year in early spring, daffodils bloomed in neat rows on either side of the steps. Did someone pass on a love for daffodils to another generation somewhere from the house/home that once stood there? Makes you wonder, doesn't it?

Continued

Immigration patterns, house history, and social histories combine to tell a story about your ancestor. An example, Jacob Frank immigrated at age of 12 with his widowed mother and two older sisters coming in at Ellis Island, and leaving behind in Romania two younger brothers. Social histories tell us that it was common for newly arrived immigrants to settle near friends and relatives, for them it was Chicago, IL in a German neighborhood. Census records would show this evidence. He moved to south Alabama after his mother was enticed by German businessmen selling homesteads. This, again, to a settlement of mostly German folks. He was introduced to a young German neighbor girl whose family also traveled from Chicago to homestead in Elberta. They were Catholic in the 'old country' so were one of earliest couples married in the new built Catholic Church according to its marriage records.

Family names are also in the Catholic cemetery a few miles down the road. Obituaries can be found in the local newspaper as well as items of interest in the town's 'gossip' column contributed by a well-versed person of the neighborhood. You can find congrats on births and birthdays here. For many years Jacob and his wife received a newspaper written in German from Chicago, many saved and later found in an old closet in the house. One man's junk, another's treasurer.

Germans did not give up their beer and sauerkraut, or the goulash. Jacob and his wife Katherine continued the food habits considered dear to the heart and stomach. The next generation, their children, also continued the cultural habits of their parents' homeland "over the water". These family recipes may come with stories and you may want to collect both recipe and stories and print a book such as Carrie Gamble did with *Grandmother's Cookbook*, a cookbook laden with simple foods, wildflowers and remembrances that pay tribute to her family.

Combining the knowledge of an ancestor's food that did not change from old country's, with that of an oral history, you can gather wonderful information. Jacob and family butchered their own farm animals, preserved the meats, making sausages from old recipes. Ate virtually no fish even though they lived in a fisherman's paradise. Garlic was preferred with onion coming in second as seasoning. Lots of breads, eggs, strong coffee and jellies. Lived to their eighties. So much for cholesterol and caffeine statistics, but are you getting a mental picture of this family?

Many a find has been made in the attic of an old house, in an old trunk forgotten, that will yield a story of a family who lived there, through clippings, mementos, a bundle of letters, photographs. Often overlooked in probate, estate and will records at the county seat are the inventories of family member at a certain time, the home culture so to speak: a grey serge suit, old horse drawn plow, and 6 gallons of scuppernong wine. Another mental picture, huh?

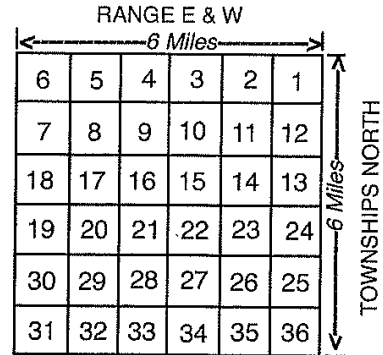
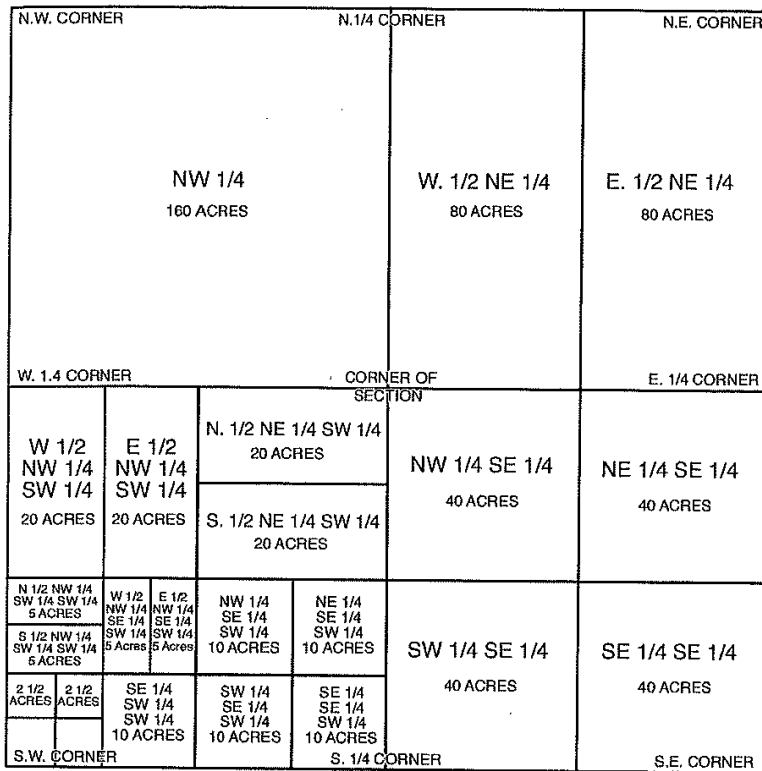
House-blessing rituals expressed our fondest hopes for our homes and our families, writes Allison Engel in "Traditions". House blessings have a long, colorful history and are found in most cultures and religions around the world. In America, house blessings have always been popular. Anne Wall Frank's research into home blessings has resulted in a book, *Bless This House*. Frank says in same way many personalize their wedding vows, personalized house blessings have "taken hold." Jews attach a mezuzah, a small holder to hold quotes from Deuteronomy for outside the front door to remind all of the presence of the Lord. (*Traditional Home, Nov 97*) Luck charms such as horseshoes. Orientals scattered rice around the new home. Wheat and corn are symbols of abundance in farming; planting a tree, shrub or flower from the old homeplace to a new home. Do you have evidence of house blessings, housewarming traditions?

Elaine Greene and her husband chose an old house for warmth and comfort as part of human chain, discovering worn stair treads, evidence of a room off the kitchen, a family roster in the walls, "Mysteries that are as satisfying as the recoverable history," she says. (*House Beautiful Mar 97*)

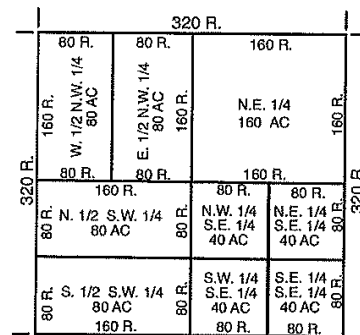
If there have been several moves for your ancestors, try marking them on a map and follow the trail of land...and houses. Try combining house genealogy and social history in ancestry research.

A SECTION OF LAND - 640 ACRES

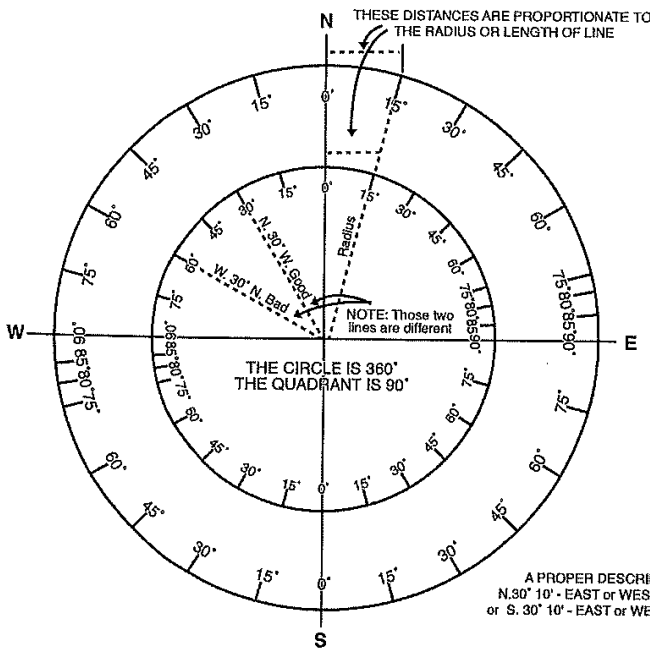
Quarter Sections and Subdivisions Therefore



CONGRESSIONAL TWPS NUMBERING of SECTIONS



SUB-DIVISIONS of SECTIONS



ANGLES IN SURVEYS

CONVERSION TABLE

RODS	FEET
1	16.5
2	33.0
3	49.5
4	66.0
5	82.5
6	99.0
7	115.5
8	132.0
9	148.5
10	165.0

1 MILES = 320 RODS = 5280 FEET
 1/2 MI = 160 R. = 2640 FT.
 1/4 MI = 80 R. = 1320 FT.
 1 ACRE = 160 SQ. ROD = 43,560 SQ. FT.
 LINEAR FEET X 0.0606 = LIN. RODS
 AREA IN SQ. FT X 0.000023 = ACRES
 AREA IN SQ. RDS X 0.00625 = ACRES

IN OLD DESCRIPTIONS

THE CHAIN WAS 4 RODS
 THE LINK WAS 0.04 ROD
 POLE, PERCH & ROD EACH = 16.5 FT.
 A SECTION CONTAINS 640 ACRES
 A QUARTER SECTION IS 160 ACRES

EXAMPLE:

RODS	FEET
100	1650.00
30	495.00
7	115.50
0.8	13.20
0.04	0.66

TOTAL = 2274.36

ALL DESCRIPTIONS MUST GIVE DIRECTION & LENGTH OF ALL LINES - ALL ANGLES MUST BE FROM MERIDIAN-STANDARD SYMBOLS - DEGREE, 30' - MINUTES, 25' - SECONDS, 45" - IN CASE OF DOUBT, CONSULT ANY ENGINEER OR SURVEYOR.

