

YORE LORE

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

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Baldwin County Genealogical Society Presents



Christmas Through the Ages: How Our Ancestors Celebrated

When: Saturday, December 8 at 10:00 a.m.

Where: Foley Public Library, 319 E. Laurel Avenue, Foley

For centuries, people have found reason to celebrate at the beginning of winter. In honor of the season, genealogist **Virginia Shelby** presents a look at the Christmas traditions of our forebears and the ways the customs have changed over the years.

Following the presentation, guests are invited to join society members for light refreshments and discussion of research tips and brick walls. **Meetings are free and open to the public.**

REFRESHMENT HOSTS FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS

Please, pick a month, signup sheet at meetings. Simple refreshments to accompany the provided drink, coffee.

Dec 8 Everyone brings a treat ~ Jan 12, **2019** ~ Feb 9th ~ March 9th ~

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

December 8th : Virginia Shelby “*Christmas Through the Ages*” ~ January 2019: Baldwin County Archives ~ February: Jeanette Bornholt, “*Legends, Myths and Mysteries in Baldwin County.*”



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

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BALDWIN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MINUTES GENERAL MEETING NOVEMBER 10, 2018

The BCGS meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. by Auriette Lindsey, V. President in absence of President Tina Graham with 24 members & guests in attendance. Guest speaker was Max Mateer who presented an excellent program, History in Performance "Remembering History's Unsung Heroes".

Thanks to new members BARBARA Lee Thompson & Melanie O'Donnell for providing bountiful refreshments this month.

REMINDER- Everyone brings treats for our December Christmas refreshment break.

Announcements:

BCGS meeting Dec. 10th: Virginia Shelby Presentation - Christmas Through the Ages.

Magnolia cemetery, Mobile, Nov. 10th - last 2 hour walking tour of the year through the historic cemetery.

Ft. Morgan, Nov. 12th, 2 pm: WWI & Ft. Morgan presented by Dylan Tucker

Baldwin County Historical Society – Sunday November 18th 2p.m. Speaker, Harry King – "The Indian Canal at Gulf Shores" at the Baldwin County Training School Life Ed. Museum, 1000 Main St., Daphne, Alabama.

Acquisitions: none by BCGS members. Others noted in the Yore Lore monthly newsletter.

Reports:

Treasury: As reported by May Alanko. Report filed in research room.

Minutes: October Minutes approved as printed in Yore Lore.

Obit Committee: JoAnn McKay- one meeting cancelled because of storm alert.

Correspondence: Dot Brown reported birthday card signed by many BCGS members will be sent to our long-time member, Margaret Kirk who has moved out-of state to be closer to family.

OLD BUSINESS: Don Ouellette & Maureen Lee reported that the FPL Halloween Extravaganza booth had a good turnout & treats all handed out by 7 p.m. Thank you to volunteers Tina Graham, Dot Brown, Tally Burkhead, Don & Pauline Ouellette, Maureen, Lee, Barbara Lee Thompson, & others who donated treats.

NEW BUSINESS: Genealogy breakthroughs: discussed by Virginia Shelby (autosomal DNA); Dot Brown & Mike Glass discussed breakthroughs linked to DNA centimorgans & segments.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m. Respectfully Submitted by: Maureen Lee, Acting Secretary

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Did you know this about Christmas traditions.....???

In 1823 the famous poem 'A Visit from St. Nicholas' or 'T'was the Night before Christmas', was published. Dr Clement Clarke Moore later claimed that he had written it for his children. (Some scholars now believe that it was actually written by Henry Livingston, Jr., who was a distant relative of Dr Moore's wife.) The poem describes St. Nicholas with eight reindeer and gives them their names. They became really well known in the song 'Rudolph the Red nosed Reindeer', written in 1949.

*Did you know that **Rudolph and Santa's other reindeers** might well be all girls!? Only female reindeer keep their antlers throughout winter. By Christmas time most males have discarded their antlers and are saving their energy ready to grow a new pair in the spring.*

Mince Pies, like [Christmas Puddings](#), were originally filled with meat, such as lamb, rather than the dried fruits and spices mix as they are today. They were also first made in an oval shape to represent the manger that Jesus slept in as a baby, with the top representing his swaddling clothes. Sometimes they even had a 'pastry baby Jesus' on the top!

The custom of **burning the Yule Log** goes back to, and before, medieval times. It was originally a Nordic tradition. Yule is the name of the old Winter Solstice festivals in Scandinavia and other parts of northern Europe, such as [Germany](#). The Yule Log was originally an entire tree, that was carefully chosen and brought into the house with great ceremony. The largest end of the log would be placed into the fire hearth while the rest of the tree stuck out into the room! The log would be lit from the remains of the previous year's log which had been carefully stored away and slowly fed into the fire through the [Twelve Days of Christmas](#). It was considered important that the re-lighting process was carried out by someone with clean hands.

***Boxing Day** takes place on **December 26th** and is only celebrated in a few countries; mainly ones historically connected to the UK (such as Canada, Australia, South Africa and New Zealand) and in some European countries. In Germany it is known as "Zweite Feiertag" (which means 'second celebration') and also "Zweiter Weihnachtsfeiertag" which translates as Boxing Day (although it doesn't literally mean that)!*

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:1-7

The Christmas story is one of good news and great joy, but it is also quite a short one. There are 27 books in the New Testament part of the Bible, but the story is only told in the books written by Matthew and Luke, two of Jesus' followers and friends. In Matthew, the story is told in two out of the 28 chapters and in Luke, it is told in two chapters out of 24.



