

YOURE LORE

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

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Baldwin County Genealogical Society Presents

JOYCE CAUTHEN

Way Down in Alabam': Finding Old-time fiddlers & Tunes



Saturday, June 8, 2019 @ 10 a.m.

Foley Public Library Meeting Room

In early 980s **Joyce Cauthen** began seeking old time fiddlers in Alabama who had learned to play by ear from their kinfolks and neighbors, who knew archaic tunes and had not had opportunity or felt the need to become polished and improvisational as many did after World War II.

She and her husband would find that fiddler and be rewarded with good tunes and wonderful stories. In this talk, Cauthen will profile fiddlers from across the state, share their stories. She and Jim will perform a tune they learned from each one.

Joyce Cauthen is a member of the Road Scholar program and appears with the support of the Alabama Humanities Foundation.

All meetings are free and open to interested public

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**REFRESHMENT HOSTS FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**June 11<sup>th</sup>** Peggy Power, Gloria & Alan Grigg ~ **July 8<sup>th</sup>** Kristina Clever ~ **August 13<sup>th</sup>** Zenobia Hahn and Auriette Lindsey ~ **Sept 14<sup>th</sup> ?**  
~ **Oct 12<sup>th</sup> ?** ~ **Nov 9<sup>th</sup>** Melanie O'Donnell & Barbara Thompson ~ **Dec 14<sup>th</sup>**, Everyone brings treat.

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

BCGS June 8, 2019: *Way Down in Alabama: Finding Old-Time Fiddlers and their Tunes*, hosted by Baldwin County Genealogical Society and Foley Public Library, Saturday 10 am to 12 pm Foley Public Library Meeting Room. In 1980s Joyce Cauthen began seeking old-time fiddlers in Alabama who had learned to play by ear and gather them together.

Foley Public Library Thurs, July 11 at 2 p.m. Meeting Room: *Understanding Robert E. Lee*, program presented by David C. Lambert, graduate of Georgetown University, Washington, DC; served as Marine Corps officer during Operation Desert Storm; is a lifelong Civil War student and enthusiast.

BCGS July 13th "What's new in DNA" presented by Kristina Clever – DNA test companies recently unveiled new tools for helping you understand your DNA matches and use them in your research.

BCGS August 10th BCGS presents "The Revolutionary War in Baldwin County??" program by Jeanette Bornholt, Librarian, Alabama, Local History & Genealogy Collections, Foley Public Library. Before it became Baldwin County, Alabama, the area was hot property wanted by French, British, Spanish, America and a host of others. We had our own 'Paul Revere' here in south Alabama.

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### **BALDWIN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING MAY 11, 2019**

Vice President Auriette Lindsey called the Baldwin County Genealogical Society May 11, 2019 meeting to order in the FPL meeting room at 10:05 a.m. Auriette welcomed members and guests.

Our guest speaker Dr. Richard Thomas presented an interesting insight into 'The Life and Time of Doc Holiday'. Dr. Thomas is a collector of memorabilia connected to Doc Holiday and brought many of his items for guests and members to view. Doc Holiday is best remembered as one of the gunmen at the O.K. Corral shootout in Tombstone AZ. Questions at the end of the presentation were many and varied.

REPORTS: Treasurer's report: \$1,055.22

Minutes of April meeting approved as printed in Yore Lore.

Obituary Committee meets the 3d Thursday of each month at 9:30 a.m. at FPL.

NEW BUSINESS: Slate of officers for July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 presented. Vote will take place at June 8 meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: New members were welcomed.

Auriette thanked Tally Burkhead and JoAnn McKay for refreshments. Door prizes were awarded.

Meeting adjourned 11:37 a.m. Submitted by: Peg Power Recording Secretary – May 20, 2019

#### DONATIONS:

##### From Carol Warren, Plano, Texas:

*The Vestry Book of St. Paul's Parish, Hanover County, Virginia, 1706-1786* transcribed, edited by C.G. Chamberlayne

*Some marriages in the Burned Record Counties of Virginia* compiled by Virginia Genealogical Society

*Ireland, land, people, history* by Richard Killeen

*A list of Emigrants from England to America 1682-1892* transcribed from the original records at the City of London Record Office by Michael Ghirelli

*Revolutionary Soldiers in Kentucky* compiled by Anderson Chenault Quisenberry

*Pensioners of Revolutionary War Struck Off the Roll* with an added index to states, originally published Washington, 1836, reprinted Genealogical Publishing Company, 1969

*Estes Trails, an Estes Family Newsletter*

*Lineage Book of the Charter Members of the Daughters of the American Revolution* (revised) by Historian General Mary S. Lockwood 1890-1891

*Pulaski Past*, Pulaski County Historical Society (Kentucky) quarterly

*York County, Virginia, Deeds, Orders, Wills, Etc., No. 8 part one 1687-1691* abstracted, compiled by John Frederick Dorman

*The Alexander Walker Family of James City County, Virginia 1662-1999* by Carolyn Hutchinson Brown

##### From Dot Brown:

*Huxford magazine* (quarterly) a continuing donation from Dot

#### Did you know.....

...From the Baldwin Times newspaper, June 11, 1936, front page: **Baldwin's Oldest Woman Found in Shell Bank Mound**

**Dr. Walter B. Jones**, state geologist reports the discovery at Shell Bank in the bay shore of Baldwin County, of an Indian woman's skeleton estimated at from 1,000 to 3,000 years old. It was found while the geologist was directing a party of CCC workers, making archeological excavations in one of the aboriginal shell mounds, and to have been started before the arrival of the red man on these shores; specimens having been found deep in the mounds that indicate Aztec origin. The body of the woman had been buried in an upright position which was not the custom of the Indians found in this county by the first white explorers.

....**House genealogy and social history**.... For many years as one traveled US Highway 90 in Baldwin County, Alabama east toward Florida state line, you would see three stone steps sitting slightly askew in the middle of a cow pasture on north side of the highway. Nearby was an old magnolia tree, nothing else...except the pasture. But each year in early spring, daffodils bloomed in neat rows on either side of those stone steps. Did someone pass on their love for daffodils for another generation by planting them beside the steps to the house/home that once stood there? Makes you wonder, doesn't it? And smile.

....**Recording dates in European style makes it easier in research.** Use the numerals for the day, the three letter abbreviation for the month, use numerals for the year. Only exception: May, June and July are usually not abbreviated. Do not use the apostrophe to stand for the numbers in year. When you have many pages of data and see '20, you will not know if that is 1720, 1820, 1920 or 2020.

....**In the spring of 1905 a young Swede by the name of Oscar Winberg**, living in Chicago, was told about the settlement of **Silverhill** in Alabama, about its wonderfully mild climate and fertile soil. He decided to investigate. Consequently he took a trip down, and, finding things to his liking, he bought 160 acres of land. As his first task, he took a compass and an ax. went out and blazed a trail from Silverhill to another settlement. This became the first road laid out in the south of Baldwin County. *Excerpt from 'Down in Alabama' by Eric T. Winberg*

...**In researching Immigration records, there are several resources other than ship passenger lists.** Don't overlook Oaths of Allegiance; Alien registrations; Vaccinations; Naturalization papers and, especially, Declarations of Intent, application to become a naturalized citizen. On Declarations of Intent, you often find dates of births, places of births, family members and their birthdates, ships they arrived on, etc. On some of the Naturalization papers, a photo may be attached to certificate. In my grandfather's case, a photo was attached and it was also noted he had his birth date tattooed on the knuckles of his hand. And he did.

....**In trying to find elusive birth documentation, think of this.** Of course, you want the complete Birth Certificate, but there may be Delayed Birth Certificate; Doctor/Midwife Record; Church Records (birth/baptismal); Census, Federal and State; Newspaper Announcement; School Record, Social Security Application and Job Application (Federal, Local)

...**No** DNA testing can "prove" an individual is American Indian and/or Alaska Native, or has ancestry from a specific tribe. There are no unique genes for individual tribes or American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) ancestry in general. *Excerpt from 'Tribal Enrollment and Genetic Testing' by Jessica Bardill (Cherokee), PhD (from) Native Indian & Alaska Native Genetics Resource Center.*

## Attention, Cavalry Men.



Having by special favor obtained permission from Colonel Powell, Commander, Second Brigade, to raise my Company above the maximum number, and having now only five members, I would receive twenty-five or thirty able bodied men, with good horses. The present location of the Company is one of the most salubrious in the South, with good quarters, stables, and excellent water. Application may be made at M. D. Grinnell's, corner of Daughlin and Commerce streets, to Lieut. Hanson, who will remain in the city for a few days.

E. T. ALKIR GIBSON, Commanding City Troop.  
Camp Withers, Aug. 15, 1863. aug18 1w

Camp Withers, Baldwin County, Alabama

The name “Withers” is an Old Norse term for “warrior.” It is as appropriate perhaps for the Huntsville native **Jones Mitchell Withers** who participated in three wars and rewarded with high rank for his performance. **Camp Withers**, a cavalry outpost guarding the land approach to Fort Morgan, southern peninsula of Baldwin County, Alabama, was located near today’s Hwy 59 and Fort Morgan Road intersection. The Camp was named after Brigadier General **Jones Mitchell Withers**, a former mayor of Mobile, Alabama, although there is no evidence he ever served at the outpost named for him.

Withers was born Jan 1814 in Huntsville, Madison County, Alabama, died in March 1890 Mobile, Mobile County, Alabama. As a Civil War Confederate, Withers was given charge with defense of the state’s gulf coast in January, 1862, while maintaining headquarters at Mobile.

Some records say Camp Withers was established in May 1862, which served as central point for coordinating picket duties, observing Federal troop maneuvers along the Alabama Coast and as a station for Alabama’s Seventh Cavalry Regiment. It also housed the Home Guard, City Troop A. There is a letter noted with date of January 29, 1861 from **Camp Withers, Alabama**, from **Dr. George Little** (1838-1924) to **John Little, Jr.** (1841-1919) with the University of Alabama Libraries’ Digital Archives.

And the newspaper *Charleston Courier*, in January 1862, stated: “The Fight on the Coast of Baldwin – the Mobile Register of the 24<sup>th</sup> instant says: We are permitted to make the following extract from a private letter received in city from a member of the “city Troop”: Camp Withers, January 21, 1862, Dear Sir; The City Troop has had its maiden fight. Yesterday, we warned the Yanks up some. The schr. (*schooner*) Wilder from Havana, was running the blockade and got into hot quarters. The Captain beached her opposite the mouth of the Lagoon ...”

By August, 1863, an ad was placed in *Mobile Register* newspaper “Attention, Cavalry Men, Having by special favor obtained permission from **Colonel Powell**, Commander, Second Brigade, to raise my Company above the maximum number and having now (?) five members, I would receive twenty-five or thirty of able bodied men with good horses. The present location is one of the best s(?) in the South with good quarters, stables and excellent water ... “. It was signed by Commanding City Troop Leader, Camp Withers, Aug. 15, 1863.

Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies has letter with following excerpt, “Two companies of Cavalry at Camp Withers, this side of Bonsecours Bay, are still there...”, signed by **Asboth**, Brigadier-General, Brig. Gen **Charles P Stone**, Chief of Staff.

Baldwin Countian **Sibyl Ryan** says her families, the **Callaways**, **Wallaces** and **Nelsons**, lived in this area since before the Civil War. Prior to the time Fort Morgan Highway was built, c1935-36, the old “sand road” to Fort Morgan ran right through Camp Withers, and the family had to pass that way going to and from nearby town of Foley. During the 1930s, **R. L. Kirkland**, Sr. of Foley, had a turpentine still on the location of the Camp. Once the completion of a paved highway to Fort Morgan, the old road was abandoned and the area has grown up in underbrush.

Those known from Baldwin County to have served in Camp Withers are Cpl. **Samuel Nelson**, Pvt. **John Ewing**, Pvt. **C.T. Pope**, Pvt. **George W. Wallace** and Pvt. **John Childress**. **Samuel Nelson**, (1841- 1931) married May 1863 to **Margaret Catherine Nelson** (1845-1929) and is buried in Shell Banks Cemetery in Fort Morgan. **John Ewing**, (1844-d1918), married in 1880 to **Alabama Styron** (1855-1913), is also buried in Shell Banks Cemetery.

The oldest son of **Allan Lupton Wallace** (1825-1861) and **Anna (Grice) Wallace** (1825-1878), **George Washington Wallace** (1846-1923) joined the war at Camp Withers, was with Company G, 6<sup>th</sup> Alabama Cavalry Regiment. George, married to **Easter Styron** in 1870, is buried in Miller Memorial Cemetery on Fort Morgan peninsula. **John Childress** (1829-1901), married to **Eliza Rosetta Nelson** (1830-1920) in 1868, is also buried in Miller Memorial Cemetery. **C. T. Pope** enlisted in Greene County, Alabama, served with Co B, 7<sup>th</sup> Alabama Cavalry at Camp Withers, was captured July 22, 1864, died of pneumonia on Dec 6, 1864 in Elmira Military Prison, Elmira, New York. Pope is buried in Woodlawn National Cemetery in Chemung County, New York.

On Nov 20, 1982, a highway marker, erected as memorial to Camp Withers and the Confederates who fought and died for the South, was purchased and dedicated by the Fort Morgan Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy.

Sources: *Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table*; *Findagrave.com*; Thread: *Alabama CW Camp List*; *UDC magazine*, Nov 2009, *The Lost Camp*, Barbara R McCamish, Barbara C Jenkins; *GenealogyBank.com*: *Charleston Courier* newspaper, 1864; *Miscellaneous Documents of the House of Representatives for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Congress, 1892-'93*, pgs 229-230; *The Alabama Review*, April 2019, pag123-124; *The War of the Rebellion, Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, *Florida expedition*, Jan Nov 186; *Historical Society of Baldwin County*, part 10 of part 10, pg 83 *Camp Withers*, Mrs. Carl (Sibyl) Ryan; *United Daughters of the Confederacy*, vol V, *History*, pg 106-107; *University of Alabama Libraries' Digital Archives*; *Fold3.com*. Compiled by J Bornholt

## Some of Alabama's cemeteries



Old Church Street Cemetery, Mobile Co. Oakey Streak Church/Cemetery, Butler Co. New Cahaba Cemetery, Old Cahaba, Dallas Co.

### Church Street Graveyard, Mobile County

Founded in Mobile in 1819, Church Street Cemetery was influenced by the traditions of old New England churchyards, wherein bodies were buried inside a walled enclosure next to a house of worship. This is not surprising, considering that so many of Mobile's early American settlers came from that portion of the country. A municipal cemetery, it was never affiliated with a church but churchyard influences can be found in the surrounding brick wall (erected in 1830) as well as in the variety of headstones carved by New England artisans. Officially closed in 1898, it encompasses five acres of burials set within an aging brick enclosure off Mobile's Government Street.

In the Graveyard is a tombstone marked: "Oldest Jewish grave in Alabama." The cemetery is also the site of burial of **Joe Cain** of the infamous Joe Cain Day which begins its parade from cemetery through streets of Mobile. During the War Between the States, and the occupation of Northern troops, **Joe Cain**, a town wit, revived the carnival celebration known as Boeuf Gras in Mobile prior to the Civil War. Dressed as a chief of the Chickasaw tribe, Cain paraded through town on a festooned coal wagon. Everyone was supposed to understand the mystic meaning... the Chickasaw Nation had never been defeated in battle. So Mobile's Mardi Gras was revived under the noses of the Union troops who were probably laughing too hard to care.

Cain who died in 1904 was buried in coastal village of Bayou La Bate until the 1960s when arrangements for Cain's remains were moved to Church Street Graveyard and interred next to his parents. In 1967, jazz funeral for Cain's bone revitalized the Old Slac Parade which began a parading tradition for anyone who wanted to join including a number of "Joe Cain Widows" who dressed in black and would wear heavy veils.

The Graveyard is said to be haunted by a wrongly accused man who was hanged outside the cemetery wall. On May 11, 1833, **Charles R.S. Boyington**, an out-of-work printer, was seen walking near the graveyard with **Nathaniel Frost**. When Frost was later found stabbed to death in the cemetery, Boyington was accused, tried, found guilty of the murder and sentenced to hang, but he continued to declare his innocence. To back his claim of innocence, Boyington said an oak tree would grow from the location of his heart at his burial site.

After his hanging and because of his conviction for murder, Boyington body was refused burial in the graveyard and he was buried just outside the cemetery wall where, today, a huge oak grows. Its appearance was seen by some as evidence that the wrong man was hanged.

### Oakey Streak, Butler County

On a desolate road in the rural Butler County community of Red Level located at the intersection of Halso Mill Road and Oakey Streak Road is a picturesque white clapboard church and an adjoining cemetery that look too peaceful to be the subject of urban legend. Yet the internet is filled with tales of haunting at Oakey Streak Cemetery. What makes this cemetery so spooky is possibly the dozens of unmarked graves of slaves and early pioneers, or perhaps the numerous graves of unnamed infants.

The earliest ancestor of The **McCarter** family, **James L. McCarter** born in 1845, settled first in the Oakey Streak community. It appears that **James L.** was married to **Amy Rosanna Skipper** during the early 1870s. Amy was born in 1855, and both lived until 1931. Both are buried in the Oakey Streak Church Cemetery near where they had resided and farmed with their family.

The Oakey Streak Methodist Church as seen many funeral services within its doors then to have the funeral cortege make its way to Oakey Streak Cemetery nearby. Oakey Streak Methodist Episcopal Church, on the National Register of Historic Places, was organized in 1831, and the land where the current church sits was given to the church in 1851.

The community of Oakey Streak was so named for the abundance of oak trees that grew in the immediate vicinity. In this community between Georgiana and Brantley, the church sits abandoned today. But you may see a little boy playing with a ball outside the church. Beware if he rolls it to you as rolling it back to him means death. When you drive down the church driveway, you may see a little girl skipping down the road. Your car will not go past her; if you try, your car will stop until she gets ahead of you again. Don't stay

too long because it angers the driver of a 1960s black Ford truck who will try to make you wreck. Such are the stories of urban legend and Oakey Streak Church and Cemetery.

### **New Cahaba Cemetery, Old Cahawba, Dallas County**

It's in the newest section of the graveyard but New Cahaba Cemetery is still more than 160 years old. Many markers are missing in this cemetery located in the ghost town of Old Cahawba, once a bustling city and Alabama's first capital. Today, only two buildings, some ruins and many graves remain to tell the history of the town, Old Cahawba which is maintained as a historical site.

Buried here are some of the most distinguished Masons of those early times, and in the Cahaba cemetery also rest the mortal remains of **Thomas A Rogers**, first Secretary of State.

Haunted stories claim the grave site of **Col. John Bell**, who was killed in 1856 along with his son in a shootout on Cahaba's main street was spurred by the actions of the Bells' slave, **Pleas**. The murderers were never convicted and the Bell family noted its bitterness on John's grave with this inscription: "No murderer hath eternal life abiding in him."

Burials date from 1818 to 1847. As you walk into the cemetery, shaded by magnolias, oaks and pines on a slight knoll, a marble monument to "**George R. Evans**, born Jan. 1 1807, died June 18, 1856," with inscription on top of his vault "None named him but to praise him." Another vault proclaims "**Jn A**, son of **Jn. A. and M.M. English**. Born June 3, 1844. Died March 17, 1848"

Cahawba (or Cahaba) served as Alabama's first capital from 1820 until 1825 when the capital was moved to Tuscaloosa with many Cahawba residents following. The town had two graveyards, the first one called Cahaba or Old Cahaba, and another opened in 1851 called New Cahaba. The Civil War, floods, and the loss of the railroad caused the town's residents to depart, and by 1900 it had become a ghost town. Today the Alabama Historical Commission is the caretaker for the Old Cahawba Archeological Site.



Brook Cedron Cemetery, near Barnwell Community, Baldwin County

### **Brook Cedron Cemetery, Baldwin County**

Near Barnwell Community in south Baldwin County, Brook Cedron Cemetery is located on five acres of land donated from **Rev. Joseph Nelson, Jr.**'s farm for a cemetery that is to 'forever be opened to whoever needs it.' Named Brook Cedron (Kedron) from Scripture as "brook Kidron," a torrent which ran through the Valley of Jehoshaphat on eastern side of Jerusalem between city and Mount of Olives."

First opened by **Rev. Nelson** in 1842 to bury his beloved wife **Sarah (Sally) Lyons** who had died suddenly, later, Joseph, his second wife, **Margaret Isabella Miller**, and third wife, **Cornelia Alford**, would be buried there, as well as children and grandchildren. When Joseph had freed his slaves, many refused to leave him and so as they died, they were buried alongside his family.

In 1916, at Brook Cedron cemetery near Fish River, a meeting gathered for the purpose of cleaning and beautifying the cemetery for the purpose of unveiling a monument to Rev. Joseph Nelson. It was noted as "largely attended" in the local newspaper. Pioneer families buried in Brook Cedron include **Styron, Bishop, Underwood**.

One such burial in Brook Cedron cemetery was that of **James Slocum, Jr.** in 1916, his death was stated as "exceedingly tragic event". He was at work at the time about 14 miles east of Robertsdale in the employ of the Alabama-Florida Tie company, which was pulling dead-head pine logs out of Blackwater River and cutting them into railroad ties. "In this work they use an engine and cable and it seems that young Slocum jumped toward the drum around which the cable was being wound to throw up the cable which was "riding" the already wound strands and in doing so stepped on a crowbar which tripped him causing him to fall into the gear driving the drum, crushing his side and causing death in a few moments." The funeral services were in charge of Rev. **Mathew Brewster** of the Episcopal Church of Mobile and the Masons of Greeno Lodge, No. 598, of Fairhope of which the deceased was a member as well as his father and grandfather. Young James was the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. **C. W. Slocum** of Barnwell. He was married and left a wife and two children.

There are at least 72 graves in Brook Cedron which are unmarked or marked only with flowers or blank concrete slabs according to **Jan Allison** and **Mary Jo Bassham** in surveying, photographing, compiling of cemeteries for the Baldwin County Cemetery Project, a cooperative effort of the Baldwin County Genealogical Society, Baldwin County Historical Society, Alabama Cemetery Preservation Alliance and the Foley Public Library.

Sources: excerpts from article "9 of Alabama's Spookiest Cemeteries" by Kelly Kazek; Encyclopedia of Alabama; Findagrave.com; Rootsweb.com; Bible study tools.com/dictionary; 'Andalusia Star-News', "McCarter family settle, farmed in Oakey Streak" by Curtis Thomasson; Heritage of Baldwin County, Alabama; Baldwin County Cemetery Project, Cemeteries of Baldwin County, by Jan Allison and Mary Jo Bassham; Newspapers.com: Arizona Daily Star, The Lafayette Sun, The Montgomery Advertiser, The Greenwood Commonwealth, Alabama Journal, The Anniston Star, The Selma Times-Journal, Fairhope Courier; Foley Public Library. Compiled by Jeanette Bornholt